

# CSTO rapid-reaction force to hold exercises in Kazakhstan in fall

By [Global Research](#)

Global Research, March 18, 2009

[RIA Novosti](#) 17 March 2009

Region: [Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#)

The joint rapid-reaction forces of a post-Soviet regional security bloc will hold military exercises in September in Kazakhstan, the Russian defense minister said on Tuesday.

The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which comprises Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, agreed in early February to set up the rapid-reaction force.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said later on Tuesday that the force should be well-organized and equipped to counter a variety of threats.

"These are units that we should be able to rely on in dealing with the most difficult problems, including terrorist and military threats," he said.

The Russian president also said the CSTO was open for cooperation with the United States in the fight against terrorism in Central Asia.

The rapid-reaction force, which Medvedev has said "will be just as good as comparable NATO forces," will be used to repulse military aggression, conduct anti-terrorist operations, fight transnational crime and drug trafficking, and neutralize the effects of natural disasters.

Moscow has stressed that collective forces will not interfere in the domestic conflicts of the bloc's member countries.

The original source of this article is [RIA Novosti](#)

Copyright © [Global Research](#), [RIA Novosti](#), 2009

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Global Research](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are

acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)  
[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)