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## **AZERBAIJAN MAKES STRATEGIC ADVANCES ALONG KARABAKH'S NORTHERN, SOUTHERN FLANKS**

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20.10.2020

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Jamestown (19 October 2020)

By: Fuad Chiragov

On the morning of September 27, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense announced that Armenian forces in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan had attempted to attack Azerbaijani positions; in response, Baku launched a large-scale counter-offensive up and down the Line of Contact (LoC) in Karabakh. Within the initial 24 hours of military operations, the Azerbaijani military said it liberated six villages in the Fuzuli and Jabrail districts, located on the southern flank of the frontline (Report.az, September 27).

From the opening days of the renewed clashes, it became clear that the Azerbaijani counter-offensive would proceed in two main directions      and south. Along the northern frontline, Azerbaijan's forces consist mainly of the 1st Army Corps, headed by Major General Hikmat Hasanov (Azvision.az, October 4). In the south, operations are conducted by units headed by Major General Mais Barkhudarov (Azxeber.az, September 28). Both of these commanders belong to a younger generation (compared to generals educated in the Soviet Union), born in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and forced to flee their homes when they were quite young.

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