



The Lithuanian Armed Forces

**In Service for
Peace**



The Lithuanian Armed Forces

have changed completely since the country regained its independence in 1990. Lithuania has been put to the test in the establishment and development process of its Armed Forces. Within this process, two basic challenges have already been met, and the Armed Forces are still facing the third.

The first challenge was taken up during the earliest years of the re-established independence. At that time, Lithuania was striving to set up new structures and to develop a military capability in order to be able to ensure the territorial defence of the country.

The newly born Armed Forces gained confidence and international recognition after their first mission abroad in 1994, when a platoon served as part of the UN protection force in Croatia.

With the decision to seek membership of NATO, the Armed Forces accepted the second challenge, to adapt to the requirements set for NATO membership.

It took almost ten years to turn gradually into an interoperable Alliance force able to participate in NATO-led and other international operations. It was also a time for learning and adapting to the collective defence thinking and planning.

At the present time, the Armed Forces are facing their third challenge, transformation. National efforts at transformation are directed towards the preparations for state defence and expeditionary warfare.

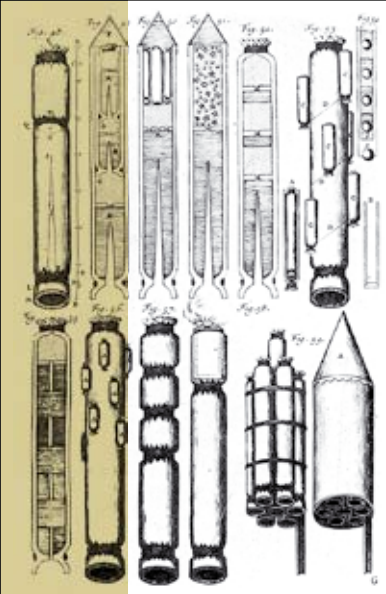
While the transformation of the Armed Forces is a continuous process, our vision is to have motivated, capable and modern forces, which will defend Lithuania, and, moreover, contribute to the collective security of the whole transatlantic area.

The Lithuanian Armed Forces

**Modern \ Supportive \ Deployable \ Professional \
Educated \ Dynamic \ Flexible \ Versatile \ Ready to React**



Up to the Present Day



THE PAST

The first written mention of Lithuania's name occurred in the year 1009. Since then, Lithuanian history has been marked with impressive victories, unexpected alliances, defeats and painful occupations. Indeed, each period has left its mark on the country's military history.

In the middle of the 13th century, Duke Mindaugas (who was later crowned king), taking advantage of the favourable circumstances and using force and diplomacy, united some Baltic tribes and created a state. The state devoted much attention to warfare.

The 13th and 14th centuries saw constant struggles between Lithuania and the Livonian Order in the north, the German Order in the west and expansionist campaigns in the east. By employing cunning tactical ruses, impressive victories were achieved at the Battle of Saulė in 1236 and the Battle of Durbė in 1260.

Lithuanian cavalry manoeuvres during the Battle of Žalgiris (Grünwald) in 1410, when the combined forces of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania defeated the German Order, showed that the quality of the Lithuanian army had increased. The victory over the Order, which also employed knights from West European countries, could be defined as a victory of military potential and thinking.

Meanwhile, the expansion of Muscovy, which began at the end of the 15th century, forced Lithuania to look for new methods of warfare and new types of armament. In the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, professional auxiliaries appeared, although not in large numbers. Artillery

The Lithuanian Armed Forces:
Deployable,
Versatile,
Professional



"Developing a system able to resist aggression from the West, over 150 years Lithuania made significant progress in warfare, military equipment and organisation, becoming one of the most outstanding military monarchies in Europe."

Professor ALFREDAS BUMBLAUSKAS
Department of History, Vilnius University

Left: Soldiers wearing replica 14th-century armour perform guard of honour duty on solemn state occasions and other important events in the life of the Armed Forces

Centre: In his book *Artis magnaе artilleriae*, published in the mid-17th century, Kazimieras Semena-vičius (Siemienowicz) developed the theory of multi-stage rockets

Vilnius' 14th to 15th-century Upper Castle held out against the attacks of the German Order

Right: *The Battle of Žalgiris* was painted by Jan Matejko in 1878

played an ever-increasing role, and in 1551 a gun foundry opened in Vilnius. With the help of Polish units, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania defeated the Muscovite army, even though it was twice its size, at Orsha in 1514.

In 1569, following the Lublin Union, the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania merged into the Commonwealth of Two Nations, although the states' borders, executive powers, treasuries and armies remained separate. In the 17th century and at the beginning of the 18th century, an auxiliary army predominated in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which won several important victories (in 1605, the 4,000-strong army of the grand duchy, under Jonas Karolis Chodkevičius, defeated the 12,000-strong Swedish army, led by King Charles IX).

The long wars with Muscovy, Sweden, the Great Northern War and internal strife exhausted the state. Attempts to reform the army and the state in the second half of the 18th century failed and after the Third Partition of the Commonwealth in 1795, Lithuania came under Russian



rule for the next 120 years. However, the Lithuanians would not reconcile themselves to this, and, in 1812, together with the Poles, organised military units to help Napoleon during his campaign against Russia. In 1831 and 1863 there were two popular uprisings in Lithuania and Poland, but they were suppressed.

BETWEEN THE WARS

On 16 February 1918, the Act of Independence was signed, and the state of Lithuania was restored, but the real restoration of the army did not begin until the end of the First World War. November 23, 1918, is regarded as the day of the restoration of the Lithuanian Armed Forces. On that day, the Prime Minister signed Order No 1, establishing the Defence Council. The first temporary statutes were adopted, and military were prohibited from participating in politics. By the beginning of March, there were already some 3,000 volunteers, and during the first mobilisation, the creation of the military force gained momentum. In 1919 and 1920, volunteers fought for Lithuania's freedom against the Bolsheviks, the White Russians, the disbanded German army and Poland.

From 1921 to 1934, the Armed Forces averaged 20,000 military personnel (in case of war, up to 200,000 could be mobilised). Between 1935 and 1938, the state finally completed the legal basis for obligatory military service and carried out reform of the armed forces. The troops were better trained and used modern weaponry.

The Lithuanian
Armed Forces:
**Deployable,
Versatile,
Professional**



"Lithuanian Armed Forces Day [November 23] contains history and the present, the memory of those who died in action, and the responsibility for the Lithuania we are building today."

VALDAS ADAMKUS
President of the Republic of Lithuania

Left: The 1st Hussar Regiment on parade in Kaunas in 1929

Centre: Lithuanian troops enter Vilnius on 29 October 1939

Tanks in 1936

Right: ANBO training and reconnaissance aircraft, which were designed and built by Brigadier General Antanas Gustaitis (centre), were well known in Europe in the 1930s

The country constructed its first light aircraft and embraced flying. Brigadier General Antanas Gustaitis designed ANBO training and reconnaissance aircraft. In the early 1930s, a group of pilots led by him flew around Europe in three ANBO-IVs, covering a distance of more than 12,000 kilometres.

Alas, Lithuania found itself caught between the territorial ambitions of the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany. The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and hesitancy on the part of the Lithuanian political and military leadership sealed the country's fate. In the summer of 1940 the Soviet Union occupied and annexed Lithuania, and during the occupation disbanded the Lithuanian military and deported many officers to Siberia or executed them.

Since with the outbreak of the Second World War Soviet positions weakened, in June 1941, Lithuanians instigated an insurgency against the existing government and managed to form the Lithuanian Government, thus denying both myths that Lithuania voluntarily joined the Soviet Union and was liberated by Germany. In a few days the German army occupied Lithuania.



THE WAR AFTER THE WAR

By 1944 the tide had turned. The Soviet Union reoccupied the country, signalling the start of the anti-Soviet armed resistance. This partisan war continued for nearly ten years (until 1953), and more than 20,000 freedom fighters (*žaliukai*) were killed during this period. During this time, the partisans numbered about 50,000 fighters and had about 50,000 active supporters. These were former military in the armed forces, who fought alongside farmers, students and teachers. Partisan units wore the uniforms of the interwar Lithuanian armed forces, established a central command and prepared military and political documents, which stated that “the ultimate goal of the struggle was an independent Lithuania.” The partisan war disproved the lies spread by the Soviets about the voluntary accession of Lithuania to the Soviet Union.



The Lithuanian Armed Forces:
**Deployable,
Versatile,
Professional**



“Independence was not created in offices. It was in the strength of the people who stood outside the building of the Seimas. Without the defenders of freedom, we would not have what we have now.”

JONAS GEČAS

Former Commander of the National Defence Volunteers

Left: Freedom fighters in the east of Lithuania around 1948

Partisans in west Lithuania having a brief rest

Centre: After the restoration of independence in 1990, the state emblem, called Vytis, came back into use

The first national defence volunteers

Right: The Sajūdis movement was started in the late 1980s, and aimed to reestablish independence

INDEPENDENCE

After the restoration of independence on 11 March 1990, the state needed armed forces in order to ensure its independent existence. On 25 April, the National Defence Department was set up, which had to develop and implement the concept of national defence and create a national defence system.

However, immediately after the events of 13 January 1991, when the Soviets resorted to military force and killed 14 peaceful civilians, the Voluntary National Defence Service was founded, and the volunteer activity was legitimised by law.

After the failure of the August Putsch in Moscow, and with international recognition, on 16 October 1991, the Lithuanian Government established the Ministry of National Defence.

An active process of the building of the Armed Forces and their integration into the Euro-Atlantic structures began. It was crowned by the country’s accession to NATO and the EU in 2004.

Defence Policy



The most important objective of the country's defence policy is to safeguard the vital interests as defined in the National Security Strategy: the sovereignty of the Republic of Lithuania, its territorial integrity and democratic constitutional order; respect for human and civil rights and freedoms; and the peace and prosperity of the state. The safety of NATO and EU countries, and their democratic order and prosperity, are equally important, since Lithuania's security interests have become NATO's and the EU's interests, and vice versa.

Today no state can be secure on its own, as the dangers of international terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, natural and industrial disasters, illegal migration and other threats no longer recognise state borders.

The role of the Armed Forces is increasing and changing. Apart from the traditional mission to defend its territory from external aggression,



The Lithuanian Armed Forces:
**Modern,
Dynamic,
Supportive**



"We follow a principle of unity: it is the same troops for Lithuania, NATO, the European Union and other international organisations."

JUOZAS OLEKAS
Minister of National Defence

Left, below: Condoleezza Rice, the US Secretary of State, with Lithuanian troops in Vilnius in 2005

Centre: Lithuania became a member of NATO in 2004

The Lithuanian Armed Forces use modern means of communication, such as Harris radios and locally manufactured Radmor 3501UHF sets

the Armed Forces are prepared to participate in the full spectrum of international operations.

Membership of NATO and the EU has provided Lithuania with an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process on Euro-Atlantic security matters and collective defence. In solving common security issues together with countries of the Alliance, Lithuania forms and implements its defence policy, taking on its obligations.

As in many NATO countries, a transformation is also taking place in the Armed Forces of Lithuania. It is aimed at creating capabilities which would make them ready to take on present and future challenges and threats, as well as future tasks not known today but which have to be fulfilled if the security situation changes.

International Cooperation



CONTRIBUTION TO COLLECTIVE DEFENCE

In striving to create a secure environment, Lithuania is preparing its Armed Forces for collective defence and participation in a full range of NATO missions on and beyond the Alliance's territory, to strengthen the Alliance's European pillar and the transatlantic security link as the basis for Euro-Atlantic peace and stability. Lithuania participates in international crisis response operations, contributes to crisis prevention measures, and develops international cooperation.

The Lithuanian Armed Forces:
**Professional,
Flexible,
Ready to React**



"In the military sphere, this means special forces and logistics units. On the political side, it is partnership with non-NATO countries. Our experience and expert advice to the countries that we know best are most valued: Ukraine, the South Caucasus and Moldova."

LINAS LINKEVIČIUS, Ambassador to NATO

BALTIC SOLIDARITY

Most trilateral defence cooperation projects among the three Baltic States have been implemented or are in the process of being integrated into the relevant NATO structures. In the meantime, the Baltic Air Surveillance Network has been integrated into NATO's integrated air defence systems, which makes it possible to monitor more effectively NATO's airspace surveillance over the Baltic region. The Baltic Mine Countermeasures Squadron is considered a good basis for preparing ships to integrate into the Standing NRF Mine Countermeasures Group. The academic programmes of the Baltic Defence College have also been brought up to NATO standards.

BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

Defence cooperation with the USA, Lithuania's strategic partner, is one of the main priorities of Lithuania's defence policy for ensuring long-term security, as well as close bilateral cooperation with other NATO members, neighbouring countries and states which are strategically important

Centre: With Polish troops

Lithuanians serve in the Ghawr Province of Afghanistan side by side with their counterparts from Croatia, Denmark, the USA and other countries

Right: Since Lithuania joined NATO, its airspace has been guarded by the Alliance's fighter aircraft

to Lithuania's national security. Lithuania has extensive bilateral defence cooperation ties with most NATO and EU countries.

It maintains a strategic partnership with Poland: Lithuanian troops participate in the international operation in Kosovo as part of the Polish contingent. It has also been decided to reorganise the Kosovo-based Polish-Ukrainian Battalion into a trilateral Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian Battalion, in which Lithuania will field a company-size unit. Together with Germany, Slovakia and Latvia, Lithuania will join the Polish-led EU Battle Group by contributing one infantry company with support units. It will start its duties in 2010.

The Lithuanian Brigade Project with Denmark aims at developing the combat-ready Iron Wolf Motorised Infantry Brigade (MIB), which is participating fully in NATO military activities and operations. The Iron Wolf MIB is affiliated with a Danish division.

In supporting the Alliance's open-door policy, Lithuania does this through training and studies at the Baltic Defence College and the Lithuanian Military Academy, consultations on defence reform, integration into NATO, and financial and other assistance.

International Operations and Missions



WHEN THE WORLD NEEDS HELP

The participation of Member States in NATO, EU, OSCE and UN international operations and missions is of fundamental importance to these organisations. Through participation with its troops in crisis response operations, Lithuania, as an active member of the international community, contributes to the world's security and stability.

Lithuanian troops have been taking part in international peacekeeping operations since 1994, when the first military unit was sent to the United Nations Protection Force in Croatia. During the process of joining NATO, Lithuanian troops were deployed within multinational units to crisis regions in Central and South Asia, the South Caucasus and the Balkans. Ten years later, in 2004 Lithuania became a fully fledged member of NATO. Through membership in the Alliance, Lithuania has not only acquired a collective defence guarantee, but has also taken upon itself the responsibility to deal with threats arising to its Allies, as it is vital to national security. Since 1994, more than 3,000 Lithuanian military personnel have served in NATO, EU and coalition-led missions and operations, UN-led peace and humanitarian operations, and OSCE training and observation missions. The geographical range of military deployments has spread from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro to Georgia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan.

Around 300 Lithuanian military and civilian personnel are currently deployed in international operations. About ten per cent of the country's defence budget is allocated to international military commitments.

The Lithuanian Armed Forces:
**Supportive,
Deployable,
Versatile**



"We have been impressed by the commitment of all our new Allies to bring as much as they can to the table. Some countries are really punching above their weight class, like Lithuania, which runs its own Provincial Reconstruction team in Ghowr Province in Afghanistan."

VICTORIA NULAND, US Ambassador to NATO

Lithuania has led the Provincial Reconstruction Team in the Ghowr Province of Afghanistan since 2005, helping to restore and stabilise the province

Lithuania is increasing the size of the units it sends to operations abroad, by reducing the number of operations troops are involved in. Such an approach allows for the consolidation of national contributions, the more efficient allocation of resources, and a better testing of capabilities. Commanding and staff officers will be offered better opportunities to serve in higher positions, and troops will be able to gain more experience. The Lithuanian military units currently deployed in operations have been supplied with advanced equipment and have received good training, which ensures interoperability within multinational contingents in areas of operations.

AFGHANISTAN

Lithuania was the first among the newest NATO members to take command of a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), in Ghowr Province in Afghanistan. Since 2005, this has been the most important mission for the Armed Forces, as Lithuania has been entrusted with the independent command of the province as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

Around 150 Lithuanian military and civilian personnel currently serve

Participation: Time Line

1994–1996, Croatia

The 32-strong Lithuanian Platoon was deployed to the UN Protection Force operation. A total of 90 military personnel served in this mission. They assisted in maintaining public order, patrolled the area of responsibility, stood duty at control posts, and guarded facilities.

Since 1996, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo

About 800 Lithuanian troops served in the international NATO-led Peace Implementation Force, and Peace Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their tasks were to assist in maintaining public order, to patrol the area of responsibility, to stand duty at checkpoints, to render assistance to humanitarian organisations, and to guard facilities.

In 1998 and 1999, three military observers took part in the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission to observe how the then Yugoslavia was carrying out its obligations to settle the conflict in Kosovo.

From 2001 to 2003, an An-26 Air Force cargo aircraft carried out supply missions for NATO troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. The aircraft performed more than 1,000 flights, carrying 13,000 military personnel and 360 tonnes of cargo.

Since 1999, 30 military personnel have been participating in the NATO-led KFOR

operation Joint Guardian within the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion in Kosovo. Two military medics served within the Czech-Slovak Battalion. From 2003 to 2006 about 200 troops served in the Baltic squadron within the Danish Battalion.

Since 2004, Lithuania has taken part in the EU-led operation Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

1999, Albania

Ten military medics participated in the NATO humanitarian operation Allied Harbour.

Since 2000, Georgia

Eight officers participated in the OSCE mission in Georgia monitoring the Russian Federation-Georgian border, and in the OSCE Training Assistance Programme for Georgian border guards.

Since 2007, two officers joined the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, monitoring the party separation line between the Republic of Georgia and Abkhazia.

Since 2002, Afghanistan

From 2002 to 2004, the Special Operations Squadron and staff officers took part in the US-led international Operation Enduring Freedom. Four medics participated in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force,

serving in Czech and German field hospitals.

Since June 2005, Lithuania has led the Ghawr Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Since 2007, one officer has been serving in the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. The Special Operations Squadron has been participating in the ISAF.

2003, Macedonia

One officer served in the EU-led military operation Concordia.

Since 2003, Iraq

In April 2003, during the active phase of the operation in Iraq, Lithuania sent four military medics and eight logistics specialists. Lithuanian military units, staff officers and military specialists have been participating in the coalition-led operation Iraqi Freedom since 2005 and in the NATO Training Mission in Iraq.

2005, Indonesia

Two observers from the Ministry of National Defence took part in the EU-led civil crisis management operation.

2005–2006, Pakistan

In the aftermath of an earthquake, a water purification unit served as a part of the NRF.



Lithuanian troops in the Ghawr Province of Afghanistan carry out humanitarian work: this is their key to maintaining friendly and open relationships with local communities



in Ghawr Province. The military personnel carry out the assigned tasks on a six-month rotation basis. About 70 military and civilian personnel, from Croatia, Denmark, Georgia, Iceland, Ukraine and the USA, have served in this multinational mission.

The Lithuanian Special Mission to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has been carrying out political, economic, humanitarian and social functions in both Kabul and Ghawr Province.

The main tasks of the PRT are to help the Afghan authorities to consolidate their efforts to bring stability to the province, and to ensure a safe environment and favourable conditions for its reconstruction.

Lithuanian military personnel contribute to the training of local policemen and the provision of necessary equipment. In Ghawr Province, with the European Union's assistance, police stations are being built, and new buildings for the prosecutor's office and a court will be erected.

Ghawr is one of the poorest provinces of Afghanistan, where 80 per cent of the population are illiterate, and the health care system is practically non-existent. Social and development projects are of the utmost importance to the ISAF mission in Ghawr Province.

The PRT's military doctors, who are working in field hospitals, provide life-saving services to local civilians when necessary. Lithuanian medical personnel reach the most remote areas in order to provide critical medical aid.

In 2008, Lithuania allocated 2.3 million euros to civilian projects in Afghanistan. These funds are used to assist the local administration and



communities in building schools and orphanages, training centres, power plants and facilities. Additionally, each year Lithuania allocates 15 million euros for participation in the operation in Afghanistan.

The establishment of the Lithuanian-led PRT in Ghowr Province has become an important driving force behind Lithuania's own defence reform and transformation. International operations, especially in Afghanistan, serve as a testing ground for the Lithuanian Armed Forces' acquired military capabilities.

IRAQ

Lithuanian military units have been participating in the operation Iraqi Freedom since the very beginning in 2003. Officers serve in different multinational operational headquarters. Since 2005, Lithuanian military personnel have been participating in the NATO Training Mission in Iraq.

The tasks assigned to the force in Iraq range from ensuring the protection of communications, guarding the infrastructure and institutions of the highest importance, and the maintenance of public order to rendering support to humanitarian relief organisations. Lithuanian military, together with local police, carry out patrols on the Iraqi streets and assist them in training. In five years, more than 800 Lithuanian military personnel have been deployed in Iraq.

KOSOVO

Since 1999, Lithuanian peacekeepers have been serving in the NATO-led operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo Province. The Lithuanian platoon

The Lithuanian Armed Forces:
**Supportive,
Deployable,
Versatile**



Left and top: Lithuanian military units take part in the operation in Iraq

Centre: Lithuanian military doctors serve local communities in Afghanistan

Right: A Lithuanian peacekeeper on guard in Kosovo

fulfils its duty at the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) control post on the border with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It performs patrol, rapid response and other important functions.

NATO AND EU RAPID RESPONSE FORCES

Lithuania contributes to NATO Response Force (NRF) and European Union rapid reaction Battle Groups.

In 2005, after a severe earthquake in Pakistan, Lithuania deployed a water purification unit as a part of the NRF humanitarian operation in the north of Pakistan. This national contribution to the NRF gave valuable experience in terms of deployment to the area of operations and its redeployment back home. The lessons learned helped Lithuania in planning its future participation in the NRF.

Lithuania has been participating in the Standing NATO Response Force Mine Countermeasures Group with its minehunter the *Sūduvis*, which joined the group in 2007.

Together with Germany, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia, Lithuania has signed an agreement to form a joint EU Battle Group. It will start its duties in 2010. Lithuania will send about 200 troops.

Additionally, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are establishing the Baltic Battalion, which, together with Danish military personnel, will start to serve in the NRF in 2010.

In the Country's Defence



PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

The main tasks of the Lithuanian Armed Forces are:

- In cooperation with the Allies, to ensure reliable deterrence; in the event of failure of deterrence, to defend Lithuanian sovereignty and territory in cooperation with NATO Allies and counter any military aggression;
- To ensure collective defence commitments assumed by Lithuania;
- To participate in NATO, EU or UN-led international operations and missions including ad hoc coalition-led operations that contribute to the goals of these organisations;
- To implement confidence and security-building measures and participate in arms control regimes;
- To contribute to ensuring the security of the state and the Allies by responding to the threats of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- To provide assistance to national and local institutions in the event of natural disasters or other cases under the provisions of the law.

The Lithuanian Armed Forces:

**Ready to React,
Flexible,
Modern**

THE STRUCTURE OF THE ARMED FORCES

The Lithuanian Armed Forces consist of the following:

- Land Forces
- Air Force
- Navy
- Special Operations Forces

"Speaking of defence capabilities, as a representative of the Lithuanian Armed Forces, I am fully confident that small forces (both to a national and an international extent), equipped and trained in accordance with modern standards, are superior to more numerous but poorly equipped forces."

Lieutenant General VALDAS TUTKUS, Commander of the Lithuanian Armed Forces

The Lithuanian Armed Forces consist of the Land Forces, Air Force, Navy and Special Operations Forces

Other Units:

- > Logistics Command
- > Training and Doctrine Command
- > Headquarters Battalion
- > Military Police

Lithuania aims to have modern, well-equipped, mobile, deployable and sustainable armed forces, which could serve national needs and ensure the implementation of international commitments. It is developing its armed forces in order to be able to sustain an infantry battalion with all combat support and combat service support elements and a special operations squadron in one operation outside the country, or three combat units no bigger than company-size within a larger multinational military unit in three operations. At the same time, the Lithuanian Armed Forces also keep developing military capabilities which could be designated to protect objects of national importance and to assist the civilian authorities in times of crisis, when civilian institutions do not have the necessary capabilities.



THE LAND FORCES

The Lithuanian Armed Forces, which were initially intended as the sole defender of Lithuanian territory, have now been developed into a force capable of acting as an integral part of NATO forces.

The Land Forces form the backbone of the country's defence force; therefore, in reforming the Armed Forces, most attention and financial resources have been directed to the development of the Land Forces. In bringing them up to NATO standards, current efforts focus on upgrading equipment and armaments, enhancing their operational effectiveness, and combat training.

The Land Forces consist of the Iron Wolf Motorised Infantry Brigade, the Engineer Battalion and the National Defence Volunteers, numbering 4,000 regulars and 4,500 volunteers.

The Motorised Infantry Brigade (MIB) makes up the core of the Land



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THE LITHUANIAN
LAND FORCES



"Volunteers and ordinary people defended democratic values in Lithuania. Our modern Armed Forces are ready to defend the country and to help our NATO partners overcome the threats to world safety in other countries."

Brigadier General ARVYDAS POCIUS
Former Commander of the Land Forces

Training is an everyday obligation, whatever the time of year

Centre: A tense moment: a half-tonne aviation bomb, a legacy of the Second World War, found in the centre of Kaunas, is defused

Left, below: Recruits on their first field exercise

Forces, and includes two mechanised, two motorised battalions and an artillery battalion.

The Engineers are responsible for mine clearance, the construction of pontoon bridges, unexploded ordnance detonation tasks, underwater engineering and participation in search and rescue operations. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Platoon is ready to participate in international operations.

Starting in 2008, the Lithuanian Armed Forces launched a 10-year-long project continuing mine cleaning on Lithuanian territory of explosives left after the First and Second World War, and in former Soviet military bases.

As an integral part of the Land Forces, the National Defence Volunteers have been developing since the beginning of the national movement for independence. The volunteers act smoothly together with the Allies during military operations and have been assigned new missions: to augment the regular forces, to deploy individual units and specific capabilities for international operations, to assist host nation support and to support the civilian authorities.



THE AIR FORCE

The surveillance and control of the country's airspace, the ground-based air defence of vital civilian and military objects, the air transportation of troops and cargo, search and rescue, support for special operations, and host nation support to Allied Forces, are all the responsibility of the Lithuanian Air Force.

It is developing into a mission-tailored service with modern weaponry and equipment manned by well-trained professionals. About 1,300 professional troops and civilians currently serve and work for the Air Force. It has 15 aircraft, with units deployed all over the country.

The Air Force consists of the Airspace Surveillance and Control Command, the Air Base, the Air Defence Battalion, the Armaments and Equipment Maintenance and Repair Depot, and the Training Centre.

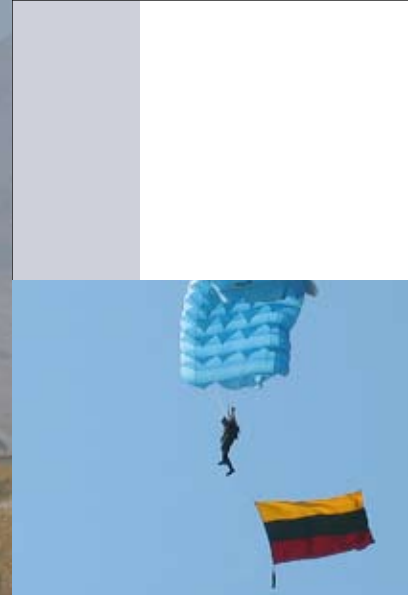
Lithuania's National Airspace Control Centre is a constituent part of the Baltic Air Surveillance Network (BALNET), which is an integral part of the NATO Integrated and Extended Air Defence System. Located in Lithuania, the internationally staffed Control and Reporting Centre for the three Baltic States is designed to conduct air surveillance and weapons control operations.

Lithuania is a part of NATO airspace, and its integrity is protected in accordance with the Alliance's standards. Since the Air Force lacks its own fighter aircraft capable of executing air patrols, other NATO members provide combat aircraft and personnel. The NATO air policing mission in the Baltic States contributes to the security and integrity of NATO airspace and

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THE LITHUANIAN
AIR FORCE



"I would like to point out that through investment in the international train of the NATO Alliance, Lithuania benefits in collective security, including the NATO-integrated air defence structure. I really appreciate the importance Lithuania attaches to air defence; therefore, NATO will proceed with the air policing mission for as long as is necessary."
General RAYMOND HENAULT, Chairman of the NATO Military Committee

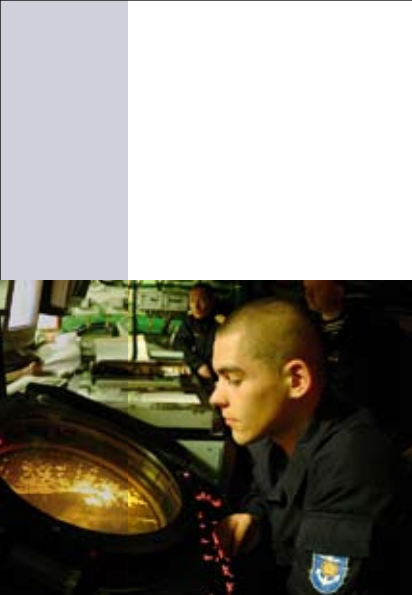
Left: Lithuania's AF C-27J Spartan, landing at Chagcharan airport, is used for transportation tasks to units deployed in operations worldwide

Centre: A festive event for troops
Air Force helicopters often take part in search and rescue operations

is a good example of solidarity among NATO members. The mission is conducted on a rotational basis, and host nation support is provided by the Air Force base near Šiauliai.

Another responsibility of the Air Force is tactical air transportation. The fleet of transport aircraft is being upgraded to strengthen its capabilities for transportation tasks, including troops and cargo transport to units deployed in international operations. The Air Force has experience in this field, since it has contributed to the NATO Stabilisation Force operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the NATO operation in Kosovo by assigning one An-26 tactical transport aircraft in the period 2001 to 2003. The state-of-the-art C-27J Spartan military transport aircraft are the latest acquisition for the Lithuanian military air fleet.

In order to strengthen its search and rescue capabilities, the helicopter fleet is being modernised. The Air Defence Battalion is also being strengthened, as its main tasks are protecting the airspace over important national objects and supporting ground troops with surface-to-air firepower.



THE NAVY

The Lithuanian Navy is tasked with a wide range of missions: the protection of national interests in territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone, explosive ordnance search and disposal operations, coordination of search and rescue operations, support of special operations, the control and protection of lines of communication, fisheries, and pollution control.

The Navy consists of the Warship Flotilla, the Sea Coastal Surveillance System, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Divers Team and the Naval Logistic Service. The Flotilla is the core component of the Navy, and consists of the Frigate, the Mine Countermeasures Squadron, the Patrol Ships Squadron, and the Harbour Boats Group. The Navy's personnel strength is currently 700 officers, NCOs, junior ratings and civilian employees.



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THE LITHUANIAN
NAVY



"Accession to NATO heralded a new era for the Lithuanian Armed Forces in general, and the Navy in particular. Changes in the Navy's scope, objectives and tasks were profound but not revolutionary. The main shift was made towards integration into the NATO Response Forces – SNMCMG 1."

Rear Admiral KĘSTUTIS MACIJAUSKAS, Chief of Defence Staff

Left: Saving people is a common search and rescue exercise

Centre: Continuous radar surveillance is necessary for the defence of territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone, as well as for the coastline and navigation

Sonars are lowered into the water in the search for mines and other ammunition, as well as in underwater defusing operations

As part of NATO, Lithuania now specialises in the area of MCM operations, and sustains and develops the appropriate capabilities for its contribution to the Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group 1 and the NATO Response Force (NRF).

The Lithuanian Navy (along with Estonia and Latvia) contributes one of the two minehunters and a command and support ship to the Baltic Mine Countermeasures Squadron. Its main task is to conduct MCM operations and to train the crews of the attached Mine Countermeasures Vessels.

The principal development guidelines of the Lithuanian Navy are: upgrading the existing fleet; boosting MCM capabilities; host nation support at the Klaipėda Seaport facilities; the further development of sea and coastal surveillance.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES

The Lithuanian Special Operations Forces (SOF) emerged in 1995 as a small counter-terrorist unit and have developed into a separate branch within the Lithuanian Armed Forces. The SOF were established in 2002, when special operations units came under a single command.

The nucleus of the SOF consists of the Counter Terrorist Unit, the Jaeger Battalion and the Combat Divers Unit. The Air Force Special Operations Forces Wing is under the command of the SOF at the operational level. The force is formed from carefully selected and specially trained professionals.

The structure of the SOF is flexible and task-oriented, enabling them to operate in task groups that have their own organic planning cells,



The Lithuanian Armed Forces:
**Ready to React,
Flexible,
Modern**



THE LITHUANIAN
SPECIAL OPERATIONS
FORCES



"However, for me the most important thing is that we did a lot of hard work together with other nations side by side, and we did it in the best way to represent Lithuania properly, to follow the traditions of our national military history, as our warriors had done throughout the ages."

A Lithuanian SOF operator after a mission in Afghanistan

Special Operations troops are strongly motivated and specially trained, and can act individually and in small groups

and, depending on the mission, vary in size, equipment and combat formation.

The main SOF tasks are special reconnaissance, direct actions and military assistance. They also include other specific tasks: from VIP protection in peacetime to guerrilla-style warfare and other unconventional fighting techniques in wartime.

The SOF can be called upon inside Lithuania when law enforcement agencies do not have the necessary capabilities to react to terrorist attacks. Because of their capabilities, the SOF are the country's main response force for maritime counter-terrorism operations in Lithuanian territorial waters.

SOF task groups served on a regular basis in the US-led international Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan from 2002 to 2004, and since 2007, as part of the ISAF. The SOF were also on standby for the NATO Response Force.

Ready and Prepared



Mobile and rapid reaction logistics capabilities of a high technical level are necessary to ensure the fully fledged participation, maintenance and rotation of Lithuanian military units in all kinds of operations. The Lithuanian military logistics system has been further developed to comply with the standards of modern deployable military logistics forces and to be capable of supporting the military units deployed.

The military logistics system is currently being transformed into a significantly smaller, capability-based, deployable and interoperable unit with NATO partners. That means a static infrastructure of a smaller extent, a lower amount of on-hand stocks, more long-term procurement contracts, more outsourcing, etc.

In developing the logistics systems, particular importance is attached to the capabilities which enable uninterrupted actions of military units involved in operations at home and abroad. Deployed units must be able to sustain themselves in areas of operation without any host nation support in place. The logistics system of deployed units must enable the forces to sustain themselves for a defined period of time and to be revamped smoothly afterwards.

The Logistics Command of the Lithuanian Armed Forces is developing specialised units for NATO operations, and, when necessary, plans the transportation of armed forces units to the area of operations.

The Logistics Command comprises:

Main and Forward Support Battalions; Material Resources Department; Movement Control Centre; Military Medical Service; Depot Service and the Arsenal; Military Cartography Centre; Rukla Garrison Support Service.

The Lithuanian Armed Forces:
**Professional,
Supportive,
Deployable**



"Everything is possible in logistics, but logistics is not everything. Only when operators and logistics experts interact is everything possible in logistics."

Lieutenant Colonel OVIDIJUS EITMINAVIČIUS
Commander of the Logistics Command

The Land Forces are equipped with G-36 automatic rifles, M-113 armoured personnel carriers, HMMWV light utility vehicles and Land Rovers

Apart from the military personnel, with 1,500 regulars, the Logistics Command also employs civilian personnel.

The Main Support Battalion is charged with ensuring overall supply to all the Armed Forces during peacetime, crisis or war. The Forward Support Battalion supports the Iron Wolf Motorised Infantry Brigade. The Logistics Command is also ready to provide host nation support to Allied forces on the basis of bilateral and multilateral agreements.

Members of the Logistics Command have already gained experience of participation in international operations, and they have served successfully on missions in the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

One such example is the container system-based field camp for the Lithuanian-led Ghawr Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan, established at the end of 2007. This was the first project, and in implementing it the Lithuanian Armed Forces used their own equipment to set up a complete military camp at the site of operations.

Weaponry and Technology



PROCUREMENT

While carrying out procurement, the Lithuanian Armed Forces seek to ensure that the weapons and military equipment to be acquired are reliable, modern and correspond to NATO requirements and modern defence technologies used around the world. Priority is given to developing deployable military units with modern capabilities, especially in line with the Allies in communications systems and intelligence. Lithuania allocates no less than 20 per cent of its defence budget to the procurement and modernisation of its arms and military equipment. The improvement of education and training systems and supporting scientific research designed to strengthen the Lithuanian Armed Forces are also of great importance.

It was not easy for procurement specialists to gain recognition from the Allies as equal partners, since the Lithuanian Armed Forces had to start from scratch by rebuilding the destroyed infrastructure left behind by the withdrawing Soviet army in 1993. From the very beginning, the Lithuanian Armed Forces received a great amount of weaponry and equipment from the USA, Denmark, Sweden and Germany.

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

The development and enhancement of the Security of Strategic Communications and Information System of National Defence is a priority at all times. Much attention is also paid to the implementation of the appropriate security measures.

The Lithuanian Armed Forces:
**Versatile,
Modern,
Ready to React**



Among the air defence weaponry used are the Stinger anti-aircraft rocket complex (left) and the RBS-70 anti-aircraft weapons systems (top)

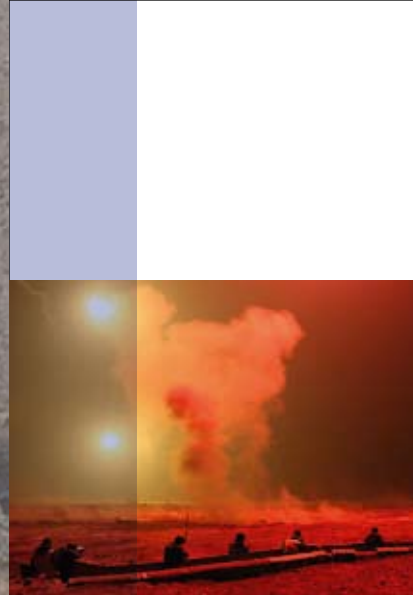
"We have the ability to cooperate with NATO and EU partners in the field of high technology, implementing research and development projects on heavy armaments, aviation, naval and aerospace equipment."

Professor ALGIMANTAS FEDARAVIČIUS
Director of the Institute of Defence Technologies

Lithuanian specialists, together with the military, have worked out the Tactical Automated Command Control Information System, which is one of the most sophisticated among NATO systems. In order to strengthen advanced communication, information and intelligence capabilities, Lithuania is planning to launch a number of initiatives, including the possible creation of a unified Network Enabled Capability (NEC) system and an integrated Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) system.

ARMAMENT

The standard service assault rifle of the Lithuanian Armed Forces is the Heckler & Koch G-36 KA4, and the standard pistol is the Glock 17. The Special Operations Forces are equipped with a variety of weapons, including MP-5 submachine guns with various modifications, G36K carbines and sniper rifles. The Lithuanian Armed Forces are also equipped with machine guns, including the GPMG MG-3, the FN MAG, and the 12.7mm (.50 cal.) M-2 QCB. They also employ AT-4 and Carl Gustav



anti-tank grenade launchers, H&K GMG high-velocity grenade launchers, and low-velocity AG-36 under-the-barrel grenade launchers, in addition to light and heavy mortars and Howitzer M-50s.

Lithuania continues to maintain anti-tank defence (Javelin) and mine clearance capabilities. The importance of air defence and protection against nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and other capabilities will not decrease in the future.

The short-range Stinger Air Defence Missile System has replaced the SA-7. The contract covered eight vehicle-mounted launchers and 69 RPM/Block 1 international missiles. Portable radar systems were included, as well as training and logistics support.

Other ongoing projects that deal with fleet and aircraft modernisation include the procurement of patrol vessels, mine countermeasure ships and further C-27J transport aircraft. They also include the improvement



**The Lithuanian Armed Forces:
Versatile,
Modern,
Ready to React**



The Armed Forces employ only the most reliable and advanced weapons and equipment

Left, below: A Lithuanian cadet in training on a German ship

of airspace surveillance capabilities and the planned purchase of G/A Radio, Navigation and Meteo Systems.

TRANSPORTATION

The Iron Wolf Motorised Infantry Brigade is equipped with M-113 armoured personnel carriers and high-mobility HMMWVs. Another project which is under way covers the procurement of wheeled personnel carriers, which will replace tracked vehicles. In 2006, custom-made high-mobility Land Rover Defenders, adapted for special operations, reached the Special Operations Forces. In 2007, the Lithuanian Armed Forces acquired 50 Finnish-made high-mobility 8x8 multifunctional SISU E11T combat support armoured trucks.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The renewal and modernisation of the infrastructure goes hand in hand with the changing tasks and needs of the Lithuanian Armed Forces. The improvement of barracks, engineering hubs and the living and service conditions of the troops have always been a top priority. Another important ongoing infrastructure project focuses on the further development of Šiauliai Airbase, which is important for ensuring host nation support for NATO's Air-Policing Mission over the Baltic States.

Highly Trained Personnel



Much attention is also paid to the improvement of career, planning and rotation policy. Individual career models and a variety of possibilities to attain high-level military qualifications are being developed.

The morale of the military personnel deployed on operations abroad is an extremely important component of fighting power.

MILITARY EDUCATION

The intensity and complexity of modern operations demand personnel with special skills and capacities to fight in the international and joint environment. The education of personnel has always been a priority.

Recruited personnel undergo three-month initial military training in the Rukla Training Regiment, except for individuals with univer-

THE TOP PRIORITY

The modern military is not only soldiers in military terms. As a member of society, they have the right training, speak foreign languages, have a knowledge of international politics, and are true professionals. In developing the Lithuanian Armed Forces, much attention is paid to our personnel.

Though advanced military technology has a crucial role to play in operations, the military and civilian personnel employed in the Armed Forces remain our highest priority. Without the devotion, the strong sense of duty and the professional preparedness of our personnel, it would be difficult to succeed and implement the tasks assigned.

In the spring of 2008, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania accepted that it would be expedient to move from conscription to solely professional armed forces, as until 2008 the Lithuanian Armed Forces had consisted of mandatory initial military servicemen.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

In the process of transition to fully professional armed forces, the recruitment, motivation and retention of the most qualified personnel face a demanding challenge. A variety of financial incentives, including pay and pensions, compensatory allowances for living accommodation, etc, have been established to improve the retention of personnel. The provision of medical care services and social-cultural incentives ensure the quality of life of personnel and also help to retain the most qualified and skilled personnel in the military.

The Lithuanian Armed Forces:
**Educated,
Professional,
Dynamic**



"The requirements for the quality of the training of officers are constantly increasing, especially after Lithuania's accession to NATO and the EU. Modern officers are expected to be able to react properly to the challenges and changes, and to integrate into military life upon graduation from the Academy."

Colonel ARŪNAS BALČIŪNAS, Head of the Jonas Žemaitis Lithuanian Military Academy

Left: Cadets at the Lithuanian Military Academy take the final test

Centre: In order to join the Special Operations Forces, troops must have exceptional qualities

Most officers in the Lithuanian Armed Forces are graduates of the General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania

sity degrees, who complete a shorter six-week initial military training. Specialised service training is pursued on a single service or unit basis.

The General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania is the main source of officers for the Lithuanian Armed Forces. Its aim is to prepare commanders-leaders. The academy also has international courses for giving officers other possibilities to improve their military qualifications at Lithuanian and foreign military education institutions. Personnel for highly demanding specialities, such as information technologies, in the Armed Forces are recruited from graduates of universities or other civilian education institutions. Sergeant and NCO training is carried out at the Lithuanian Armed Forces NCO School. The NCO School provides a wide spectrum of training capabilities, of which the most important are training programmes for sergeants and NCO commanders, specialists and instructors.

High-quality individual training is essential for ensuring fighting capabilities and the morale of military personnel. Education at all levels and areas addresses the attitudes, knowledge and skills which help accomplish the needs of the Lithuanian military today and in the future.

Ready to Serve



IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY

The Lithuanian Armed Forces are reliable in times of all kinds of disaster. When a real danger arises to people or nature, troops, which react fast and are well trained and equipped with modern technology, can save many lives.

Troops remove explosives which are still found in considerable numbers when roads or buildings are built, and which also rise to the surface of the sea. Every year bomb disposal squads defuse an average of 2,000 mines and aviation bombs. The Armed Forces also help in searching for missing people. Air Force helicopter crews provide emergency support by transporting patients and donor organs.

Troops also assist in extinguishing fires. In 2006, military from different units and Air Force pilots with helicopters took part in putting out the raging fire, which was called the “fire of the century”, in the forests of the Curonian Spit. Assistance is required almost every year by the people in the Nemunas Delta, when floods cut their farms off from the rest of the world.

Hence, it is not surprising that people’s trust in the Armed Forces has doubled since their restoration, and the defence establishment is held in extremely high esteem by civilians.

THE MILITARY AND THE PUBLIC

The best way to understand how other people live is to experience it yourself. One of the greatest priorities of the Lithuanian Armed Forces is attention and openness to all members of society. Anyone interested in military life can find ways to try it.

The Lithuanian Armed Forces:
**Supportive,
Ready to React,
Educated**



Centre: Dealing with children is easy

The army’s contribution to extinguishing the “fire of the century” on the UNESCO-protected Curonian Spit was invaluable

Right: A concert given by Lithuanian artists provides entertainment for troops serving in Afghanistan’s Ghowr Province



“Close relations between the Armed Forces and the public, and mutual trust and respect, are signs of a strong state and strong democracy. Today in the democratic world troops are looked upon not only as an expression of physical force but also as defenders of fundamental human, moral and legal values.”

Professor ALOYZAS SAKALAS, Member of the European Parliament

In the last month of summer traditional four-day marches in the Training Regiment are organised. Hundreds of volunteers of any age come to try what soldiers’ life is by walking together all day and spending nights in barracks. Every year more and more foreigners take part in the marches.

In summer thousands of schoolchildren spend part of their holidays in camps organised by the military and municipal authorities. Children can not only see, but also try military discipline.

The military cooperates with many various NGOs and the Riflemen’s Union, a voluntary civil defence organisation which focuses on national and cultural values, education, physical training and sports.

Since the interwar period the Lithuanian Armed Forces have been celebrating the Day of Unity of the Military and Society. Everybody interested can talk with soldiers, share their concerns, learn the latest news or try military equipment and armaments. Usually, on that day all units and detachments have an Open Doors Day.

The Lithuanian Armed Forces never make secrets where they do not exist, but know how to keep them if necessary.



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Cover: Contributing to a more peaceful world: Lithuanian troops serve in the Provincial Reconstruction Team in the Ghowr Province of Afghanistan

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NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT THE LITHUANIAN ARMED FORCES HAVE TAKEN UP THE CHALLENGE OF TRANSFORMATION, WE ARE PROUD OF OUR PROFESSIONAL, MODERN, FLEXIBLE, DEPLOYABLE, VERSATILE AND READY TO REACT MILITARY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you wish to know more about the Lithuanian Armed Forces, visit the website of the Ministry of National Defence

www.kam.lt or www.mond.gov.lt

YOU CAN FIND RELATED INFORMATION AT:

Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Lithuania to NATO

<http://nato.mfa.lt>

The General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania www.lka.lt

Baltic Defence College www.bdcol.com

Vytautas the Great War Museum

http://muziejai.mch.mii.lt/kaunas/karo_muziejus.en.htm

Lithuanian Aviation Museum www.lam.lt

Lithuanian Military Ordinariate www.lcn.lt/en/bl/kitoshs/mo

Weaponry Fund of the Republic of Lithuania www.lgf.lt

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