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FOREWORD

After we have published the last White Paper, two events of enormous historical importance took place: in 2004, after more than a decade of hard and dedicated work, Lithuania became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the European Union (EU).

For a long time we have already been acting as true members of the Euro-Atlantic community. We have firmly adhered to democratic principles while implementing reforms, have taken an active part in international operations and confidence building measures, and have contributed to the spread of Euro-Atlantic stability. In 2004, our achievements received due acknowledgment. Membership in NATO and the EU provided us an opportunity to participate in the decision making process on Euro-Atlantic security matters and the collective defence guarantees embedded in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty.

Collective defence guarantees also imply certain commitments to the Alliance. Membership in NATO brings more security but also more challenges: our nation is now committed to ensure the security and welfare of our Allies, just as our Allies will defend Lithuania. In an insecure world, there cannot be more intimate and stronger bonds among sovereign states than that of a mutual commitment to defend freedom and other common values.

The current security environment is fluid and changes rapidly, therefore we must constantly adapt the guidelines of Lithuanian defence policy, foresee the challenges that lie ahead and find ways to overcome them. Membership provides a firm foundation to develop relations with NATO Allies and EU member states, as well as with Partner countries in other regions. Membership in NATO and the EU solidifies the image of Lithuania as an open society that cherishes democratic values and is a credible partner for free trade and financial investment. Most importantly, membership in NATO reinforces Lithuania's readiness to deal with security challenges, and, if necessary, to militarily confront these challenges together with Allied forces in defence of common values.

We must continue reforming the Lithuanian Armed Forces (LAF) and developing military capabilities in accordance with the contemporary requirements and needs of NATO, in this way strengthening Lithuania's own defence. At the end of the day, we must make sure that the Lithuanian society could be proud of and confident in its Armed Forces, and that our Armed Forces are well respected and trusted within the Alliance and the international community.

Taking into account all these important, even historic changes in the life of Lithuanian state and the Lithuanian Armed Forces, we are happy to present you a new Lithuanian Defence Policy White Paper.

Gediminas Kirkilas

1. CHANGING GLOBAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

In the beginning of the 21st century, contradictory strategic trends prevail in the world. On the one hand, globalisation brings about many positive changes – strengthening international economic and political cohesion, openness of foreign policy and economy of states, scientific and technological progress, and growing international trade. On the other hand, globalization can also be blamed for the rise of new transnational threats. Although the probability of a major inter-state war is diminishing, threats stemming from rogue states, non-state formations and terrorist groups are becoming more imminent and less predictable. The likelihood of a terrorist group or a rogue state acquiring and using weapons of mass destruction is causing especially serious global danger.

Although new unconventional security challenges are replacing traditional threats of armed aggression against the territory of sovereign states, the use of military force is not declining. Terrorist attacks in different countries and regions have reached such a level that the only way to prevent them is to use military force. The nature of conflict itself is changing. Contemporary conflicts are more asymmetrical, open combat is more intense although shorter in duration, and battlefields are shifting from an open space into densely populated cities. Conventional military forces of NATO countries are forced to fight an unpredictable enemy who uses unconventional fighting methods.

Despite some promising trends of political and economic integration, disintegration tendencies that fuel territorial and ethno-religious conflicts are still widespread. Often, military force is being used to resolve these conflicts. Ethnic tensions, armed conflicts, or civil wars continue in many regions of the world: Europe (the Balkans, the Northern Caucasus), Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Since the mid-1990s, the number of such conflicts has started to grow. There is a high probability that in the future, due to a growing economic differentiation between countries, social unrest or resistance to democratisation processes by authoritarian regimes, civil wars and ethnic clashes may impact entire regions. The international community will have to respond by launching new peacekeeping and crisis response operations, as well as combat operations against terrorist networks and against those governments that sponsor terrorism, that seek to acquire and use the weapons of mass destruction, and that pose a threat to international security.

◀ Lithuanian soldiers patrolling in the Ghor Province of Afghanistan

▶ Lithuanian peacekeepers attending the coalition-led Operation Iraqi Freedom in the British area of responsibility

The present need for security is universal – no state can be completely isolated from the new security challenges. No state – its size, geopolitical situation, form of government, or religion notwithstanding – is fully protected from the threats posed by international terrorism or the use of the weapons of mass destruction. Lithuania, like any other member of the international community, can become a target of terrorists or a state that sponsors terrorism. Lithuania's security is closely linked with the stability and security of distant regions. Conflicts in the Middle East, Central Asia, the Balkans, or the Caucasus may have an impact on Lithuania. Non-military challenges, like organised crime, illegal trafficking of arms, drugs and people, and uncontrolled migration stem from these conflict-ridden regions. In certain cases, using military force to successfully counter these challenges may be necessary.

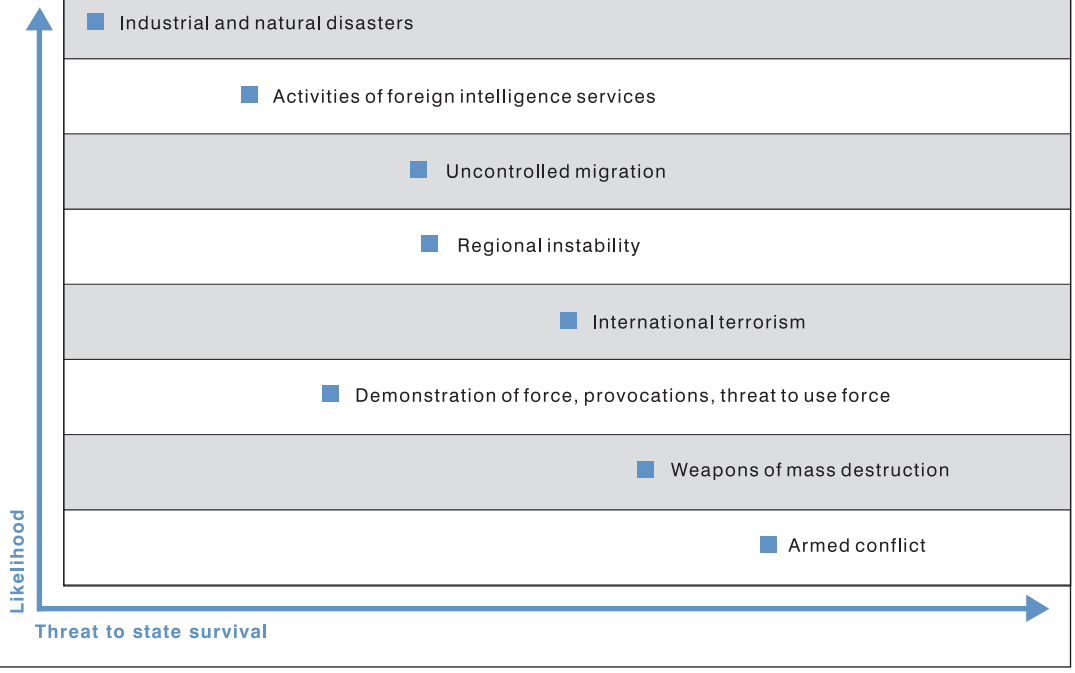
1.1 A NEW SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

- Fewer wars between states
- More unconventional threats: terrorism and WMD
- More frequent use of military force: increasing importance of armed forces

NATO borders the unstable regions that are impoverished by internal conflicts caused by political, ethnic, or religious discord and intolerance. Crisis situations in these regions may become unmanageable, spread, and have negative consequences for the security of NATO member states. Currently, no state or group of states can pose a direct military threat to the Alliance and thus, Lithuania. Nonetheless, in the immediate security environment of Lithuania there are certain states that do not exert full democratic control over disproportionately large military forces, due to a lack of progress towards a democratic constitutional order. For this reason, a likelihood of provocation, demonstration of force or threat to use force against Lithuania, albeit insignificant, still exists.

Lithuanian military personnel patrolling in Chaghcharan, the capital of the Ghor Province of Afghanistan.

1.2 THREATS TO LITHUANIAN SECURITY



Exercising is part of daily life of military personnel serving in international missions

2. NEW ROLE AND NEW MISSIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES

The contemporary security environment is very dynamic – the likelihood of some threats is diminishing, that of others is increasing. For this reason, modern armed forces must be organised in ways that would enable a flexible and rapid response to rising challenges. In the 21st century, the armed forces of democratic states will have to carry out new missions and meet new operational requirements. Until recently, the mission of a sovereign state's armed forces has been to deter a potential enemy from possible use of military force and defend its territory in case of attack. Deterrence remains an important role of today's armed forces, however the nature of this deterrence is changing because the enemy is different: the main source of threat is no longer the armies of other states but non-state groups and terrorist networks, often supported by authoritarian regimes and employing unconventional fighting methods. Such methods are no longer directed against the territories of states, not even against military objects, but against vulnerable civilian objects (embassies, airports, bus and train terminals), strategic economic infrastructure (oil extraction terminals), or directly against the civilian population (places of mass gatherings, stadiums etc.).

The changing nature of threats poses a dual challenge for the LAF, which are now a part of NATO forces. The internal role of the armed forces within a country is changing. Apart from the traditional mission to protect its territory from external aggression, the armed forces now must pay more attention to the tasks that used to be of somewhat secondary importance: to aid civilian institutions in case of a terrorist attack in Lithuania, to assist in responding to natural disasters, and to protect objects of national importance such as Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant. When it is necessary to ensure the welfare of society, the military must be ready to react to the kinds of non-military threats that surpass the capabilities of civilian agencies to take necessary measures.

Contemporary global threats thrive in the regions of political instability and conflicts, therefore much higher requirements are set for soldiers - to participate in multinational operations of various types and intensities far away from home. Well prepared expeditionary forces are needed in order to manage such complex operations. These forces must be able to deploy and successfully accomplish the mission even in the most hostile and extreme environment. In the case of a grave threat to the security of NATO, Lithuania, along with its allies, may need to initiate preventive actions against certain states or groups within such states.

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The campsite of the Ghor Provincial Reconstruction Team

Mass conscript armies served their purpose for NATO countries when preparing for long conventional wars and for a slowly moving front line. Modern threats may arise anywhere and anytime, therefore they can only be eliminated by well-equipped, mobile, professional, rapid response forces. These forces must train not only to manage an ongoing crisis but also be able to project preventive actions, including intense combat. To prepare such a force, larger financial investments are needed. By seeking to reform their armed forces, many NATO countries have to reduce or abandon their unnecessary territorial units, reorganise reserve forces that were designed to fight a total war into effective, specialised and modern reserve units, temporarily suspend or eliminate universal conscription duty, and dispose unused infrastructure and outdated military equipment.

Today, a modern army of a NATO and EU member state has to be prepared not only to "extinguish" fires within a country but also be able to perform threat prevention in any place around the world. Threats to Lithuania's national security arise far beyond the country's borders; hence, training of the armed forces must primarily focus not on territorial defence but on the ability to respond to crises anywhere in the world. Lithuanian soldiers have to travel to hot spots before the consequences of conflicts reach the homeland. Participation of Lithuania in international operations is one of the main and most effective ways to ensure the country's security.

2.1	IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE NEW TASKS IN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, EVERY MODERN SOLDIER OF NATO AND LITHUANIA MUST BE PREPARED TO:
	■ Wage asymmetrical warfare with no front lines: this fight may take place in real or virtual space; traditional deterrence methods do not affect the enemy; the enemy may be ready to employ weapons of mass destruction
	■ React rapidly to any type of threat, participate in operations of any type and intensity, and be able to shift from combat to peacekeeping operations
	■ Act effectively as part of an Allied multinational force in international operations
	■ Be able to interact and cooperate with local communities despite a hostile environment in international operations
	■ Work effectively with the civilian authorities and police structures within the country (as in the case of a terrorist attack against a civilian object, if the police do not have a full capacity to react)

New missions call for a qualitatively new image of the soldier: today's soldier not only has to be prepared militarily, but also must have relevant education, understand international politics and be proficient in foreign languages, in other words, be an all-around professional. Lithuanian soldiers, serving in international operations as part of a multinational force, must match fellow allied soldiers in morale, preparedness and type of equipment used.

An ever-changing international security environment of the 21st century and new threats oblige NATO Allies to re-examine the organisational structures of their armed forces as well as their military strategies and doctrine. They must also invest more in the procurement of new military technologies. There is increasing attention to the development of special operations forces and light- and medium-sized military units. Modern command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence (C4I) systems are necessary to guarantee effective interaction between multinational forces. In an effort to avoid civilian and military casualties during conflicts, NATO Allies are procuring the newest military equipment, such as long-distance precision guided weapons, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), etc. Only a fully coordinated interaction between all these elements can give the allied force an edge in the fight against contemporary threats. Lithuania's soldiers will have to be able to adjust to and effectively perform within such a force.

Lithuanian and US soldiers looking for direction in the coalition-led Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Polish area of responsibility

3. THE MAIN DIRECTIONS OF LITHUANIA'S DEFENCE POLICY

In developing its defence policy, Lithuania assumes that security is indivisible and the countries of the Euro-Atlantic community can overcome modern transnational threats only by working closely together. To help ensure a secure environment for long-term development of society, Lithuania has joined NATO and the EU in 2004. As a member of these organisations, Lithuania develops and implements its defence policy by working and consulting with the Allies to resolve the most pressing security problems.

3.1 MAIN DIRECTIONS OF LITHUANIA'S DEFENCE POLICY

Building a secure environment:	Ensuring a reliable military defence:
■ Strengthening Euro-Atlantic security	■ Collective defence commitment
■ Crisis prevention and promotion of stability	■ Building modern armed forces
■ International defence cooperation	■ Strengthening civil-military relations

The main objective of Lithuania's defence policy remains unchanged – to ensure the security of Lithuania's vital interests as defined in the National Security Strategy: the sovereignty of the Republic of Lithuania; its territorial integrity and democratic constitutional order; respect to and protection of human and civil rights and freedoms; and peace and welfare of the state. Now, however, the security, democratic governance, and welfare of other NATO and EU members are also among the primary security interests of Lithuania. By becoming a member of these organisations, Lithuania has assumed a common responsibility to assure the security of the entire Euro-Atlantic area: Lithuania's security interests have become the security interests of NATO and EU, while the interests of these organisations have become the security interests of Lithuania. Lithuania's defence policy will continue to be open, transparent, and never directed against the rightful interests of any state. Being a full-fledged member of the Euro-Atlantic community, however, Lithuania cannot remain on the sidelines of global processes. Lithuania, while projecting its defence policy, takes into account the new global security environment, the new threats and the new role that the armed forces have to undertake.

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Lithuanian soldiers serving in the coalition-led Operation Iraqi Freedom in the British area of responsibility

3.1 Strengthening Euro-Atlantic Security

Taking into consideration the new trends in the security environment and the new missions of the armed forces, NATO has modified its organisational structure. NATO is in the process of building modern capabilities and rapid response forces while it has increased the volume and expanded the geographical boundaries of its international operations. The EU is also seeking to contribute to transatlantic security by strengthening its security and defence policy and creating new military capabilities. Until recently, Lithuania has been situated at the periphery of the Euro-Atlantic security area, but now, with the accession to both NATO and the EU, Lithuania has become an integral part of this area. Lithuania has acquired a completely new foundation – collective defence guarantees – to develop its defence policy. Hence, Lithuania has actively been engaged in the processes of NATO transformation and the development of EU security and defence policy.

3.2	STRENGTHENING THE TRANSATLANTIC LINK
■	Strategic NATO-EU partnership
■	The principle of non-duplication of capabilities
■	New capabilities instead of new structures
■	Larger contribution of the EU to international security

A Strong Alliance. Lithuanian membership in NATO is based on several key principles that contribute to strengthening the security of the whole Alliance:

- **Active Membership.** Lithuania seeks to be an active member of the Alliance by meaningfully contributing to the political and military activities of the Alliance, assuming and properly implementing commitments to the Alliance, participating in NATO international operations.

- **Collective Decisions.** A spirit of collectiveness and political unity of the Alliance is the foundation of security of the whole Euro-Atlantic community. Lithuania will always support collective decisions and actions of the Alliance as the best response to security challenges faced by NATO countries in an insecure strategic environment. Considering the unpredictable nature of contemporary threats, Lithuania will seek to make both the NATO and national decision-making and implementation processes more flexible, enabling fast and timely decisions.

- **Effective Defence Planning.** Lithuania will strive to optimise the effectiveness of the Alliance's defence planning process. The most important condition for success of the Alliance is implementation of the commitments assumed by its members. Aiming for effective work of the Alliance, NATO members

must share the tasks, costs and responsibilities in proportion to their potential. Lithuania will reduce or even eliminate those capabilities that can only be used for national purposes and do not contribute to the collective defence of the Alliance. A priority of NATO defence planning is the development of forces that can be deployed and sustained in NATO operations anywhere in the world. The Alliance has set the following usability targets for Land Forces: at least 40 percent of the Land Forces of each Ally should be structured, prepared and equipped for deployed operations, and at least 8 percent planned for or undertaking sustained operations at any time.

■ **Collective Capabilities.** Lithuania will seek to strengthen the Alliance's collective defence and readiness to respond to new security challenges. The Alliance must expand collective capabilities such as NATO's air defence system, ground surveillance system, early warning and air control system, and the NATO Response Force (NRF). With these capabilities, the Allies will be able to react rapidly to crises and ensure the Alliance's common interests. Lithuania actively seeks to participate in Alliance-wide projects and assigns its units to the NRF. Lithuania also contributes to the implementation of the 2002 Prague capabilities commitments, aiming to strengthen capabilities that the Alliance lacks.

The US Secretary of State Condollezza Rice greeting Lithuanian soldiers preparing for an international mission

Strong Europe in the Alliance. The EU must assume a greater responsibility for strengthening European security. Lithuania actively contributes to the development of the European Security and Defence Policy as a way to build up readiness of the Euro-Atlantic community to deter contemporary threats. A strong transatlantic link between the US and Europe is an essential precondition to the long-term security of Lithuania, therefore Lithuania promotes the formation of multinational NATO and EU forces according the following principles:

- **A single force for two organisations** – Lithuania supports the principle of non-duplication of NATO and EU assets and procedures by assigning and using the same units to fulfil commitments to both organisations.
- **Coordination of force planning and operational planning** – Lithuania does not consider it necessary for the EU to develop structures and capabilities that NATO already possesses, and perform functions (such as collective defence), which are successfully undertaken by NATO. The EU and NATO must take into account each other's planning processes. Member states should not face a dilemma of which organisation's mission to participate in or how to allocate forces between the two organisations.
- **Decision-making coordination** – In seeking to effectively fight various threats, NATO and the EU countries must closely coordinate decision-making on issues of vital importance to the Euro-Atlantic community.

Lithuania seeks to participate actively in the decision-making and implementation processes of the European security and defence policy; therefore Lithuania fully supports the European Defence Agency, which aims at strengthening military capabilities of the EU member states. Lithuania also actively contributes to the development of the EU battle group, consisting of Polish, German, Slovakian, Lithuanian and Latvian troops.

3.2 Projection of Stability

Lithuania and its armed forces directly contribute to the efforts of the Euro-Atlantic community to expand the sphere of stability through participation in international operations, arms control regimes, security and confidence building measures, support for the Alliance's open door policy to aspiring candidate countries, and active contribution to the Alliance's defence cooperation with NATO partners, such as Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and other countries in the South Caucasus, the Central Asia, and the Balkans.

International Operations. Lithuania's defence policy is based on the assumption that a threat to the Alliance or to any of its members constitutes a threat to Lithuania. Seeking to prevent crises where they are likely to arise, Lithuania will continue to be actively engaged in international operations and, when needed, together with the Allies, take preventive actions against the potential sources of danger. Lithuania supports NATO aspirations to take greater responsibility for international security and, in the future, even more actively engage in peacekeeping, peacemaking, and when necessary – participating in combat missions anywhere in the world.

During the last ten years, more than two thousand Lithuanian soldiers have participated in ten international operations and two missions of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Lithuania is increasing its input to international operations annually. In 2005, the number of Lithuanian soldiers constantly sustained abroad reached an average of 230. Also in 2005, Lithuania assumed leadership of a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Afghanistan as a part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Lithuanian soldiers assist the central government of Afghanistan to extend its reach into the Ghor province, perform security sector reform, and maintain dialogue between the central government, international organisations, and local leaders. Lithuania will also continue participating in the coalition-led operation and NATO-led training mission in Iraq. From the end of 2004, Lithuania has commenced participation in the EU-led operation "Althea" in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and continued participation in the NATO-led peacekeeping mission in the Kosovo province (KFOR). In 2005, Lithuania has also assisted Pakistan in the aftermath of a disastrous earthquake and deployed its troops as part of the NRF.

Active participation in operations enables Lithuania to assert its position in international organisations and have more influence in setting their agendas. In addition, real-time operation experience is essential to ensure adequate preparation of Lithuanian troops to act together with allied forces and defend the common values and security interests of Lithuania and the Alliance.

In the future, in order to carry out its NATO commitments Lithuania will have to increase its contributions to international operations. Lithuania is gradually implementing the established objective of enhancing the efficiency of its participation in international operations. Lithuania aims at deploying larger, self-sustaining units, while reducing the number of missions. By establishing clear priorities, Lithuania will be able to offer a greater and more meaningful contribution to separate operations, gain more experience of deploying larger units, and utilise ever-limited funds more efficiently.

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Lithuanian, NATO and the EU flags raised
at the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence.

Any decision to send Lithuanian troops to participate in international operations depends on several criteria:

- Consistency of the goals of the international operation with the state's security and foreign policy interests;
- Importance of the region where the operation is taking place to Lithuania as a member of NATO and the EU;
- Leading organisation of the operation – a priority is given to NATO and EU-led operations, while the positions of strategic partners and Allies is taken into account;
- Ability to provide required military capabilities and availability of financial resources;
- International mandate to execute the operation;
- Political (state's international status, relations with partner states) and military (increased military experience, professionalism, interoperability with the Allies) benefits of participation in the operation.

Security Objectives in Other Regions. Lithuania seeks to ensure that the Euro-Atlantic integration process continues. The vision of a whole and free Europe is not yet complete: there are countries in Europe where democratic values, stability, and welfare are not yet well established. For these reasons, Lithuania actively contributes to the promotion of Euro-Atlantic values and the projection of security and the sphere of stability to other regions. Lithuania's defence policy towards its Eastern neighbors assumes that the transatlantic security framework will only be complete by involving Ukraine, Moldova, and countries of South Caucasus and Central Asia into the activities of Euro-Atlantic institutions, and strengthening constructive dialogue with Russia. This direction of Lithuania's defence policy is based on two core principles:

- **Multilateralism** – Lithuania will share its experience of defence cooperation in the Baltic Sea region with regions that are interested in such cooperation. Within NATO and the EU, Lithuania will promote a more active engagement with the countries of the South Caucasus, the Central Asia and the Balkans in order to strengthen transparency, trust and stability in those regions. Lithuania will also support multilateral efforts to accelerate the resolution of "frozen" conflicts in Moldova, Georgia and Nagorno Karabach.
- **Practical Initiatives** – Lithuania will contribute to security projection in neighboring regions through concrete practical initiatives: sharing experiences in regional defence cooperation projects; aiding the creation of modern armed forces as a constituent part of civil society; and fostering interoperability with NATO forces in international operations. Lithuania's support to the countries of the South Caucasus, the Balkans, Moldova, and other NATO partners includes: training and studies at the Baltic Defence College and Lithuanian Military Academy; bilateral and multilateral consultations on defence reforms, integration into NATO and other security issues; and financial and material aid. Lithuania will continue to provide practical assistance to Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries, in particular by training their security forces.

An important objective of Lithuania's defence policy is strengthening mutual trust and promoting a good neighborhood spirit with countries that do not belong to NATO or the EU, and do not seek membership in those organisations, namely Russia and Belarus. Russia's participation in confidence and security building measures and arms control regimes increases the stability in Lithuania's immediate neighborhood. A renewed and stronger partnership between NATO and Russia serves the interests of Lithuania. Lithuania will continue to pursue equal and mutually beneficial military cooperation with Russia through active participation in the NATO-Russia Council and in common military exercises. In addition, new forms of cooperation will be sought that would not be limited to political consultations, but would bring tangible practical results and strengthen mutual trust between the two sides.

Defence cooperation with Belarus has thus far been limited to the implementation of confidence and security building measures, however, in the future Lithuania will seek a more active military cooperation with this country. A long-term strategic interest of Lithuania is the consolidation of democracy in Belarus. Belarus' international isolation does not encourage democratization and does not build trust between NATO and Belarus. Lithuania will foster an open dialogue between the military of both countries, organise common and mutually acceptable military events, and support the implementation of NATO interoperability requirements in the Belarusian armed forces.

Arms Control. Implementation of international agreements on arms control, disarmament, and arms export/import controls is another important means to promote security and stability. Given the nature of modern threats, special attention must be directed at preventing and fighting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. To this end, Lithuania actively participates in:

- activities and initiatives of international organisations that seek to eliminate any possibility of illegal arms trafficking;
- initiatives of international organisations that limit the proliferation of small and light arms in developing countries;
- agreements that prohibit the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Adapted Conventional Forces in Europe (A-CFE) Agreement, signed in 1999 by the OSCE, remains an important pillar of European security and stability. Lithuania will consider acceding to this agreement after it is ratified.

Confidence and Security Building Measures. The implementation of confidence and security building measures encourages the creation of a secure and stable environment in Europe, helps prevent unexpected aggression, and avoids the use of military forces as a means of political pressure. As its contribution to military transparency and confidence building, Lithuania provides the OSCE with data on it's armed forces, military equipment, defence budget and scheduled military exercises.

3.3 International Defence Cooperation

After becoming a member of NATO and the EU, Lithuania continues to actively participate in the most important regional and international cooperation forums, while its activity and attention to particular projects depend on their importance to Lithuania's security interests. Lithuania pursues an active multilateral and bilateral defence cooperation policy by paying particular attention to those multilateral projects that strengthen security and the readiness of the whole Alliance to respond to new threats and challenges.

3.3.1. Multilateral Defence Cooperation

Trilateral Cooperation of the Baltic States. Cooperation projects among the three Baltic States have been essential in symbolic, political and practical terms on their way to NATO membership. The Baltic States continue to hold trilateral consultations on different levels and cooperate on the most important defence issues, however, most of the trilateral projects have been implemented or are in the process of being integrated into relevant NATO structures. In 2003, the Baltic Infantry Battalion project (BALTBAT) was terminated. The Baltic countries air surveillance network (BALTNET) is being integrated into NATO's integrated air defence system. The Baltic States have agreed to cooperate in ensuring support for the NATO Air policing mission covering all three countries and acquire the necessary equipment to monitor and control this regional airspace. The Baltic mine counter measures squadron (BALTRON) is considered a good base for preparing the Baltic mine counter measures ships to integrate into the Standing NRF Mine Counter Measures Group (SNMCMG). Academic programs of the Baltic Defence College (BALTDEFCOL) have been brought up to NATO standards. In the future, Lithuania will continue to develop this trilateral military cooperation to benefit the whole Alliance and help build military capabilities.

A drill formation of participants attending the international military exercise Amber Hope, hosted by Lithuania, lines up on the parade grounds of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Algirdas Mechanised Infantry Battalion

Northern Europe. Lithuania supports a closer cooperation between Northern European countries (Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland) and the three Baltic States (NB-8), and encourages its development and strengthening. Nordic and Baltic countries could pursue common projects designed to improve military capabilities in defined areas (e. g. in science and technology, peacekeeping, logistics, special operations forces), and cooperate in projecting the sphere of democracy and stability in the Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. In addition, cooperation between Nordic and Baltic countries helps maintain close defence relations with Sweden and Finland, which are not NATO members.

Lithuania also promotes the development of military cooperation between Nordic and Baltic countries and the USA. Maintaining continuous attention of the USA in the Baltic region, continuing practical defence cooperation with the US Government, and promoting a US military presence in the region are among the priorities of Lithuania's defence policy. The US-proposed Enhanced Partnership in Northern Europe (E-PINE) initiative, which, among other things, aims at strengthening cooperative security in the region, could be a good prospective base for strengthening multilateral security cooperation.

The Vilnius Process. The Vilnius Group (V-10) activities have been an important factor, which helped the Central and Eastern European countries to coordinate their NATO integration efforts. The Vilnius Process, as a means to bring the candidate countries closer to the Euro-Atlantic community, should continue and encompass not only Macedonia, Croatia and Albania, but also Ukraine, countries of the South Caucasus, and, in the long-run, other NATO partners. As the initiator of the Vilnius Process, Lithuania will continue to be its active supporter.

The United Nations. Lithuania is planning to further develop relations with the United Nations (UN), and as a member of this organisation, will put in more effort to strengthen international security. Lithuania belongs to the UN Stand-by Forces system and has assigned its units to the Standy-by High Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG).

Orgnization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. The OSCE and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council are the largest institutions of transatlantic cooperation, encompassing 55 and 46 members respectively "from Vancouver to Vladivostok." Lithuania will seek that existing opportunities would be exploited fully to strengthen international stability. The activities of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council should bring practical benefits to its members not only through consultations, but also through improving interoperability between the forces of NATO Allies and partners, offering joint military exercises, and involving partners in Alliance's operations. The OSCE arms control regime and confidence and security-building measures also remain important. Lithuania will continue to prompt the OSCE to apply more effective pressure methods on the countries that disregard or gravely violate international arms control agreements.

3.3.2. Bilateral Defence Cooperation

Lithuania takes part not only in the activities of international organisations and other multilateral cooperation forums but also actively pursues its goals in the area of bilateral defence cooperation. Most of this cooperation takes place with NATO members, neighboring countries, and other states that are strategically important to Lithuania's national security. Developing Lithuania's relations with the USA, Lithuania's strategic partner, is one of the main priorities of Lithuania's defence policy and a condition for ensuring long-term security. Lithuania also has close defence cooperation ties with Poland, Denmark, and Ukraine.

The United States of America. Until Lithuania's accession to NATO, defence and security cooperation with the USA was based on a partnership charter signed between the Baltic States and the USA in 1998. US political support and military aid has greatly facilitated Lithuania's integration into NATO. Lithuania's membership in the Alliance has raised its cooperation with the USA to a higher level. In the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks against the USA, Lithuania has joined the international coalition to fight terrorism. Lithuanian troops participate in coalition and NATO-led operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Lithuania supports the efforts of the USA, as leader of the democratic world, to strengthen peace and stability in the world, fight terrorism and regimes that support terror, and prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The USA on its part continues to provide military aid to Lithuania: every year, through the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) program, the USA provides Lithuania with funds to procure modern military equipment and weapons. Through the International Military Education Training (IMET) program, each year some 60–70 Lithuanian military and civilian personnel study in the USA. American advisors work at the Ministry of National Defence. The USA also provides substantial support to Lithuanian troops participating in operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. In the future, Lithuania will seek to expand and strengthen bilateral military cooperation with the USA in solving important security problems of mutual interest inside and outside the Baltic Sea region. In order to keep the USA involved in the Baltic Sea region, Lithuania will organise common military exercises, training, and pursue other military cooperation projects.

Poland. Poland has also provided significant support to Lithuania in preparing for NATO membership. Lithuanian-Polish bilateral cooperation is manifested by constant consultations, mutual support, and combined exercises. The most visible practical result of this cooperation has been the establishment of the Lithuanian-Polish battalion (LITPOLBAT). Lithuanian troops participate in international operations in Kosovo and Iraq as part of the Polish contingent. Lithuania will continue active military cooperation with Poland. It has been decided to reorganise the Kosovo-based Lithuanian-Ukrainian battalion (POLUKRBAT) into a trilateral Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian battalion (POLUKRLITBAT), where the Lithuanian contingent would be expanded from a platoon-size unit to 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.

Denmark is a traditional partner of Lithuania. Denmark has practically and politically supported Lithuania's strategic goals – membership in NATO and the EU – and has been providing substantial material aid. There

are a number of ongoing intensive projects, particularly focusing on training and bringing Lithuania's armed forces up to NATO standards and requirements. One of the most important long-term projects is the Lithuanian brigade project (LITBRIG). It aims at developing a combat-ready Motorised Infantry Brigade (MIB) "Iron Wolf" and enabling it to fully participate in NATO military activities and operations.

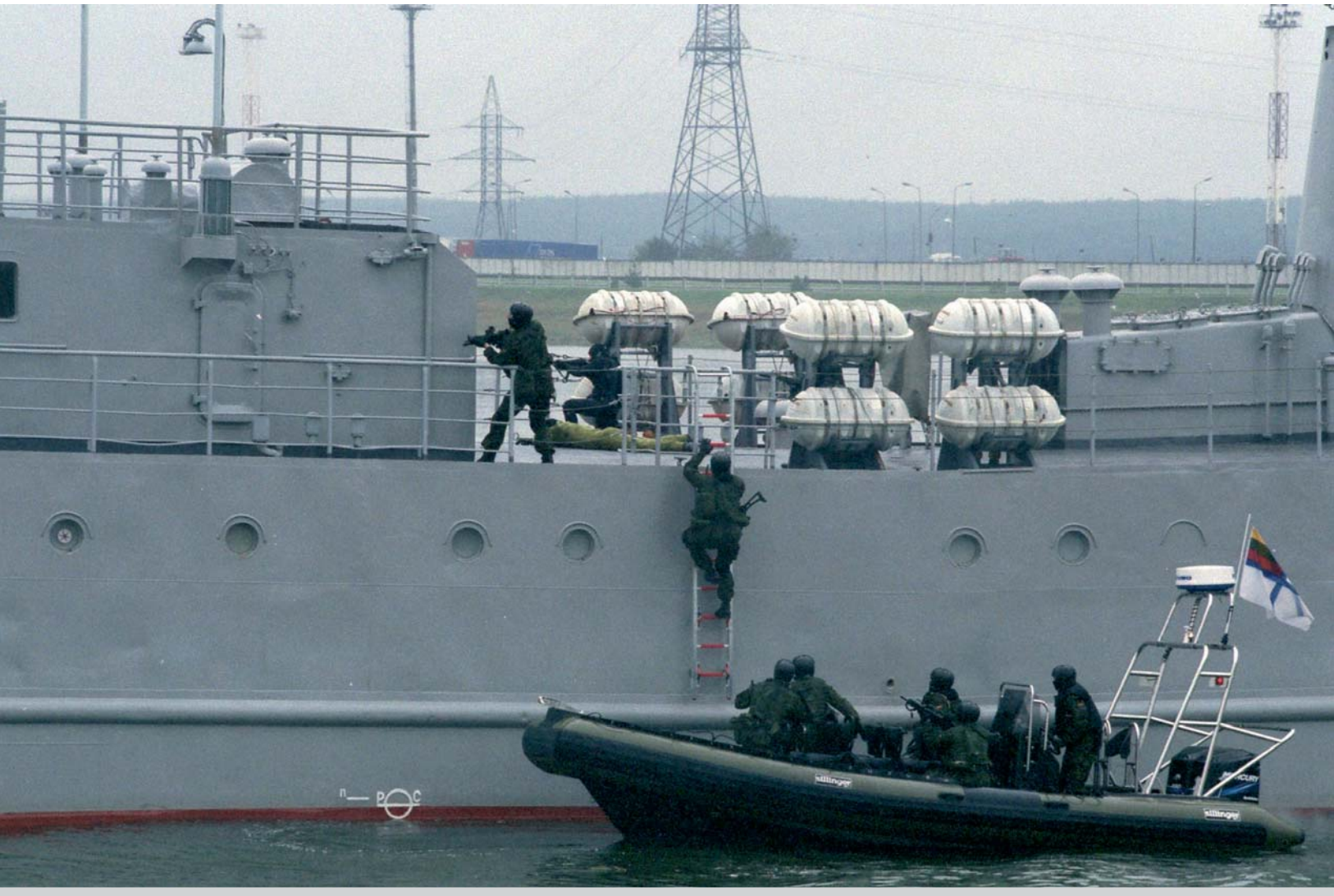
In the summer of 2005, Lithuania and Denmark have signed a letter of intent aimed at eventual affiliation of the MIB "Iron Wolf" with the Danish division. According to this agreement, joint military exercises will be conducted and Lithuanian officers will be provided an opportunity to work at Division headquarters. Such cooperation will greatly accelerate the integration of LAF into NATO military structures.

Lithuanian and Danish soldiers also constantly participate in joint exercises. Lithuanian units are a part of Danish contingents in Iraq and Kosovo, while Denmark contributes troops to the Lithuanian-led PRT in Afghanistan.

Ukraine. An ever-growing partnership is developing between Lithuania and Ukraine. Europe's security system would not be complete without involving Ukraine in the activities of European and transatlantic institutions. For this reason, Lithuania will actively support Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration efforts, continue bilateral meetings at all levels, consult on integration-related questions, and strengthen cooperation in military education and training. Lithuania considers Ukraine ready for the Membership Action Plan and for actual membership in NATO, once it fulfils all the necessary requirements. In the future, Lithuania will also seek to strengthen the trilateral defence cooperation with Poland and Ukraine.

Intensive bilateral defence cooperation with the UK, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Canada, and Turkey also significantly helps Lithuania to develop its military capabilities and complete its integration into the Alliance's structures.

The NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer welcomes participants of the Informal High-Level NATO-Ukraine Consultations in Vilnius



4. DEFENCE REFORM: BUILDING MODERN ARMED FORCES

A changing global security environment, new missions, tasks and requirements for the armed forces are the main causes of the reform of the LAF. A review of the LAF is a part of the process that encompasses the entire Alliance. In carrying out the defence reform Lithuania faces a two-fold challenge: while reorganising and modernising its own armed forces, Lithuania must also constantly monitor and react accordingly to structural and functional changes taking place within NATO and the EU. The main goal of the reform is to prepare LAF to effectively respond to the new security threats that the Alliance and Lithuania face. To accomplish this goal Lithuania needs forces that would be ready to respond rapidly to threats today and tomorrow. These forces must be adequately trained and equipped. They must be mobile and capable of acting together with NATO forces to ensure the defence of the Alliance and Lithuania, and to contribute to a wide spectrum of NATO operations outside the borders of Lithuania. In addition, LAF will have to continue performing certain important functions inside the country. The armed forces have to be ready to protect objects of national importance and assist civilian authorities in times of crisis, when civilian institutions lack or do not have necessary capabilities.

4.1. Shifting from Territorial to Collective Defence Principles

NATO membership brought a major change in the assumptions of Lithuania's defence planning – collective defence guarantees. This is the essential difference between Lithuania's defence policy before and after becoming a member of NATO. Article 5 of the North Atlantic treaty, stating that "an armed attack against one or more of them (NATO members) in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all," creates a new situation for Lithuania's defence and security. Today and in the nearest future no single state or group of states will be capable to threaten the Alliance militarily.

◀ Soldiers from the Special Operations Forces preparing to withstand a terrorist attack

▶ The Norwegian fighters F-16 performing the NATO's air policing mission in the Baltic airspace, accompanied by the Lithuanian Air Force aircraft L-39

Considering this new security condition, Lithuania has reviewed anew some of its total and unconditional defence principles that until recently constituted the core of Lithuania's deterrence and defence strategy. This does not mean that Lithuania does not require credible armed forces or that Lithuania is not going to be prepared to ensure an effective homeland defence, or that resistance against an aggressor will not be total. Lithuania reviewed those principles of national defence (such as territorial defence, large numbers of conscript and reserve forces, a mobilization system prepared for total war, and civic preparedness for guerilla warfare) that are no longer relevant in the present security environment and no longer consistent with Lithuania's – as a NATO member – armed forces development plans. In establishing new requirements for the armed forces, it has been assumed that in case of a large military threat, LAF will not be left alone in defending the homeland, and will participate in a NATO collective defence operation.

Possessing limited resources, Lithuania cannot at once maintain territorial forces and properly participate in the Alliance's operations. This all comes down to faith in the guarantees of collective defence. For 40 years NATO has successfully deterred the Soviet Union from possible aggression against Western Europe. Thus far, only twice have the Alliance members asked for security consultations in accordance with Article 4 of the Washington treaty, (both consultations were requested by Turkey, due to conflicts in the Persian Gulf). Article 5 has only been used once – after the September 11 terrorist attacks against the US. Lithuania's membership in NATO has raised the effectiveness of deterrence to a level that Lithuania would not be able to achieve alone, however the membership cannot be and is not the only condition of deterrence. Mobile and well-prepared LAF will be capable to manage a small-scale crisis on its own, such as border violations or a military provocation. It is assumed that in case of a large-scale military conflict, NATO forces would be deployed to Lithuania before the beginning of any aggression.

Collective defence guarantees create conditions for the Alliance members to specialise in building NATO capabilities. Taking into account the resources, opportunities and experience that the Allies possess in certain areas, NATO develops the Force Goals – specific capability requirements that every country is asked to develop and commit for the Alliance. Having joined the NATO force planning process, Lithuania has begun to develop capabilities that are needed for strengthening of the whole Alliance, while refraining from developing capabilities that NATO as a whole has in abundance. Sharing risks, responsibilities and tasks is the essence of the Alliance's spirit of collectiveness. The NATO air policing mission in the Baltic States is the best proof of credible collective solidarity. NATO members, on a rotational basis, provide their jets, pilots, and supporting personnel for the NATO air policing mission in the Baltic States, which do not possess air policing capabilities. On their part, the Baltic countries are not procuring jets, instead they are investing their resources in other areas important for NATO. For example, Lithuania trains units that specialise in water purification, mine counter measure, explosive ordnance disposal, etc.

4.1 LITHUANIA IN THE ALLIANCE

- A threat to Lithuania is a threat to the Alliance
- Lithuanian Armed Forces must prepare for the collective defence of the Alliance – the defence of the Alliance is the defence of Lithuania

4.2. New Missions and Requirements for the Lithuanian Armed Forces

New missions. Changes in Lithuania's strategic environment and new security threats prompt new tasks for LAF. Lithuania's new military strategy outlines new military missions for LAF:

- to ensure a reliable deterrence in cooperation with the Allies; in case deterrence fails, to defend Lithuania's sovereignty, territory, territorial waters and airspace in cooperation with the Allies and counter any military aggression;
- to ensure the collective defence commitments assumed by Lithuania;
- to participate in NATO-, EU-, and UN-led international operations and other, coaltion-led operations that contribute to the goals of these organisations;
- to implement confidence and security building measures and participate in arms control regimes;
- to ensure homeland and Alliance security by responding to threats of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- to participate in neutralising the activities of foreign intelligence services and ensuring protection of classified information;
- to provide assistance to national and local institutions by responding to threats of a non-military nature and terrorist attacks.

Lithuanian soldiers are equipped with up-to-date communications and control equipment

4.2 MAIN TASKS OF THE LITHUANIAN ARMED FORCES

COMPONENTS OF THE LITHUANIAN ARMED FORCES		MAIN TASKS		
		Deterrence and Collective Defence	International Operations	Assistance to civilian authorities
MIB "Iron Wolf"	Land Forces	All Armed Forces	Battalion Task Group	MIB units
National Defence Volunteers	Land Forces		Infantry Company, specialized units	Specialized units
Engineer Battalion	Land Forces		Engineer Platoon, EOD Platoon	Battalion units
Special Operations Forces			Special Operations Squadron	Special Operations Squadron
Navy			Naval special warfare unit, mine countermeasure ship	Division of patrol ships, group of cutters
Air Force			Transport aircraft	2 helicopters on stand-by, Air Defence Battalion's platoon at Ignalina Nuclear Power plant
Logistics Command			Logistics battalion, specialized units	Specialized units

New Requirements for the Armed Forces. LAF, including its Active Reserve, are tasked with the following requirements that correspond to the requirements set by NATO ministers for Alliance forces:

- **Efficiency** – all units must be well prepared and equipped with modern weaponry and equipment, capable to act as part of multinational units. All forces must constantly maintain their assigned level of readiness and be prepared to react rapidly to any threat in Lithuania or outside its borders. By assessing intelligence data, the forces must be able to utilize sufficient combat power against any enemy. Accurate intelligence data and targeting on the contemporary battlefield are becoming necessary conditions for success.

- **Deployment** – all combat units together with combat support and combat service support units must be prepared for international operations outside the borders of Lithuania and ready to deploy by land and strategic air- and sea-lift. Lithuania must be capable to deploy its forces whenever or wherever there is a need, in order – together with the Allies – to manage a crisis and prevent it from escalating.

- **Sustainability** – the logistics system must enable the deployed forces to sustain themselves for a defined period of time and rotate smoothly afterwards. Deployed units must be able to sustain themselves in conflict zones even without any host nation support. Adequate transportation and logistics capabilities are vital for troop survival in remote conflict zones.
- **Multi-role** – all combat units must be able to participate in all kinds of operations, and react to all kinds of threats, crises and disasters in Lithuania and beyond its borders. The forces must be able to shift rapidly between combat and peacekeeping actions.
- **Survivability** – deployed units must have adequate protection from nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. Since the use of such weapons in modern crises is possible, individual protection equipment is a necessity.
- **Effective Command and Control** – units must be able to ensure a smooth functioning of modern, interoperable, and mobile command, control, and communications systems. Maximum interoperability between these systems and respective NATO systems is a necessary condition for Lithuanian military units to act with Allied forces in an effective manner.

4.3. Review of the Armed Forces Structure

Defence Reform Principles. To ensure that LAF are ready to act in the modern security environment, meet its high requirements and implement its tasks, a of review of LAF structure is carried out. Structural overview is a complex and long process, encompassing the reorganisation, merging, or dissolution of military units, personnel downsizing, and disbandment of unnecessary military infrastructure. This process is crucial in order to maintain and improve the effectiveness of the national defence system.

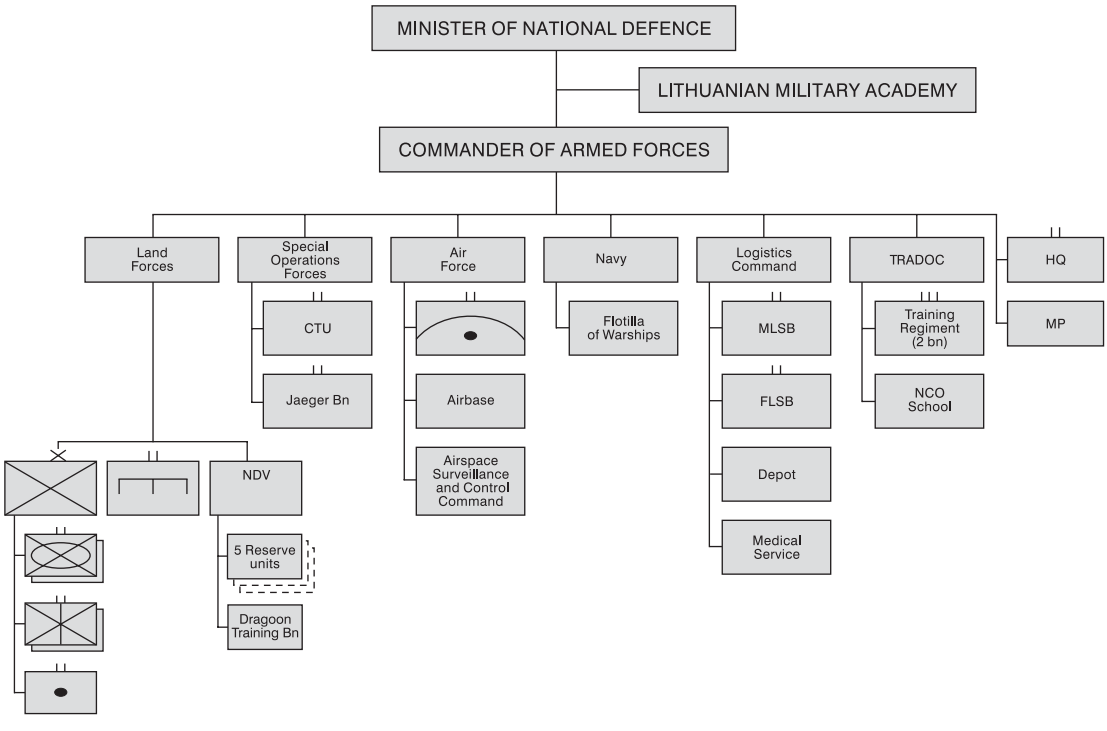
In carrying out the defence reform, the emphasis and priorities of defence planning have shifted from large military units designed for territorial defence to the development of capabilities necessary for the collective defence of the Alliance and Lithuania. According to this principle, Lithuania has abandoned plans for building up Land Forces consisting of three infantry brigades prepared for territorial defence. In 2003, after abandoning the doctrine of territorial defence, the Eastern Military District was disbanded, and in 2004, the Western Military District was disbanded. Two infantry battalions were reorganised into logistic battalions. Lithuanian The Grand Duke Kęstutis Motorised Infantry Battalion was moved to the MIB “Iron Wolf.” The First and Second Air Force Bases were merged into one Air Force Base in Šiauliai.

Upon the completion of these reforms, Lithuania will be able to field armed forces that will be able to react more rapidly, be more mobile, easier to deploy, better equipped, and better trained to be able to contribute to any kind of NATO-led or other operation inside or outside the country.

National Level of Ambitions. The MIB “Iron Wolf” will consitute the main combat power of the Lithuanian Armed Forces. It will be well-trained and fully equipped with modern technology and weaponry and fully interoperable with NATO forces. Battalions of the MIB will be ready to participate in the full-spectrum of

NATO operations. On rotation basis, the MIB will generate one battalion-size task group with all its combat support and combat service support elements, ready to be deployed and sustained wherever Alliance and Lithuanian security interests will be at stake. In addition to their specific missions and tasks, other services of the armed forces will be prepared to provide all-around support for the deployable battalion task group, including combat support and combat service support. Logistical battalions and other relevant units will ensure smooth deployment of the task group and its sustainability, and will contribute to NATO higher level formations, (e.g. movement control and deployment support teams, water purification unit).

4.3 2006 LITHUANIAN ARMED FORCES STRUCTURE[1]



Note: Bn. – Battalion

[1] In accordance with the Law on the establishment of the principal structure of the Lithuanian Armed Forces in 2006, and planned principal structure of the armed forces in 2011.

The National Defence Volunteers (NDV) will augment the regular units and be ready to provide specialists to perform specific tasks in international operations. Units of the Special Operations Forces (SOF) will be able to act autonomously and perform separate missions. The Air Force will provide support to international operations and will ensure tactical air transportation forLAF units. The Navy will contribute to NATO's mine counter measure activities. Lithuania, through the NATO force planning process, has also assumed a commitment to the Alliance to provide other specialised units (see table 4.4.). This future vision underpins the reforms that have been already taking place in most of the Armed Forces units.

Upon completion of the current defence reform, Lithuania will project to have at least 50 percent of its Land Forces[2] structured, prepared and equipped for deployed operations and at least 10 percent planned for or undertaking sustained operations at any given time.

▲ A formal formation of the Guard of Honour Company of the Lithuanian Armed Forces

[2] According to the NATO definition, the land forces consist of the units that are capable of carrying out combat, combat support and combat service support tasks on the land and other related tasks. The following units of the LAF correspond this definition: Land Forces (MIB "Iron Wolf", Engineer Battalion, and National Defence Volunteers), Special operations forces, Forward Logistics Support Battalion, Main Logistics Support Battalion, Medical Service, Military Police, Training and Doctrine Command and Headquarters Battalion.

4.4 LITHUANIA'S COMMITMENTS TO NATO

Units	Implementation timeline	Forces generating the deployable unit
Battalion-size Task Group	1st Battalion Task Group ready since the end of 2005; 2nd Battalion Task Group ready by the end of 2009; By 2015 - brigade size unit ready to ensure full rotation cycle of one Battalion Task Group	MIB „Iron Wolf“, Engineer Battalion, Logistics Command, National Defence Volunteers, Military Police
Special Operations Forces Squadron	Ready since 2005; assigned to NRF-5[3] and NRF-6	Special Operations Forces
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team	Ready by the end 2007	Engineer Battalion
Movement Control Team	Ready by the end of 2006	Logistics Command (Movement Control Center)
Mine Counter Measure Ship	Ready by the end of 2006 assigned to NRF SNMCMG by the end of 2007	Navy Flotilla
Water Purification Unit	Assigned to NRF-4; took part in NRF humanitarian relief operation in Pakistan in 2005; fully ready by the end of 2006	Logistics Command
CIMIC Group	Ready by the end of 2006	National Defence Volunteers

[3] The units assigned to NRF are rotated every 6 month: the units have to undergo a 6 month training, followed by 6 months on stand-by and 6 months for rehabilitation. Each rotation cycle is attributed an appropriate number of sequence.

Improving Management of the National Defence System. In the process of transforming LAF from territorial defence forces into modern deployable forces, corresponding changes are necessary in the national defence command and control system. The goal of management reform is to create a modern and effective management system that would match the new force structure and ensure an effective decision-making process when dealing with new security threats. In attempting to prevent a terrorist act, some military provocation or a natural disaster, it is essential to be able to make fast and competent decisions. The main task of the reforms is to clearly define and distinguish between the strategic, operational and tactical levels of command. Such separation would allow for a better allocation of resources and a better distribution of functions and responsibilities. In addition, there will be less duplication of functions and the decision making process will be smoother and faster.

On the strategic level, the Ministry of National Defence will be responsible for: the formation of security and defence policy; preparation of strategic plans, programs and budget; management of resources; personnel policy; and implementation of procurement policy.

On the operational level, a Joint Staff will be responsible for operational planning and execution, and for implementation of tasks set in the strategic plans.

On the tactical level, armed forces units will be responsible for maintaining combat readiness and generating capabilities for operations. The supply and administration of units will also be carried out at this level.

A reformed management of the National Defence System will guarantee the implementation of tasks that are envisioned in strategic and planning documents and the fulfilment of international commitments. The reform of the National Defence Management System is projected to be completed by 2007–2008.

Ministry of National Defence

The Ministry of National Defence is responsible for the implementation of defence policy; for the readiness of the armed forces and other national defence institutions for the collective defence of Homeland and the Alliance, and for preparations to carry out international commitments.

The Ministry of National Defence plans and executes international defence cooperation with other states, organises cooperation between the armed forces and civilian institutions and public organisations, manages the defence budget, procures and maintains equipment for the armed forces, and plans mobilisation.

Land Forces

Land Forces make up the core of Lithuania's defence force, therefore, in reforming LAF, most of the attention and financial resources are directed to the development of the Land Forces. Land Forces consist of the MIB "Iron Wolf," the Engineer Battalion, and the National Defence Volunteers. Lithuania is determined to restructure the armed forces so that from the end of 2014, one tenth of the Land Forces could at any given time be deployed for international operations, while half of the Land Forces would be prepared to be deployed outside Lithuania's borders.

The deployment and sustainability capacity of the Land Forces is still hampered by partially outdated weaponry and limited combat support and combat service support capabilities. Hence, in the beginning of 2005, the Land Forces were not sufficiently ready to participate in the full spectrum of international operations. Seeking to overcome these shortfalls and bring the forces up to NATO standards, current efforts are focused on equipment and armaments modernisation, enhancement of operational effectiveness and combat training. In the future, the Land Forces will have to participate in ever more diverse and more complex international operations, therefore the number of professionals in the Land Forces will continue to grow in order to ensure force mobility and its adaptation to a changing environment.

Soldiers form the Lithuanian Land Forces at an exercise

MIB "Iron Wolf"

The MIB "Iron Wolf" consists of: 2 Mechanized Battalions (Lithuanian Grand Duke Algirdas Battalion in Rukla and King Mindaugas Battalion in Panevezys): 2 Motorised Infantry Battalions (Grand Duchess Birutė Battalion in Alytus and Lithuanian Grand Duke Kęstutis Battalion in Tauragė); the General Romualdas Giedraitis Artillery Battalion in Rukla, Headquarters and support units: Headquarters, Reconnaissance and Signal companies.

In the future, MIB "Iron Wolf" will also have Air Defence and Anti-tank companies, which will ensure the brigade's sustainability during operations.

One of the main priorities of the defence reform is the complete preparation of the MIB "Iron Wolf" for collective defence and international operations. Since the end of 2005, the first battalion task group based on the Algirdas Battalion is ready to participate in any kind of NATO operation outside Lithuania. A second battalion task group must be prepared for such operations before the end of 2009. By the end of 2014, MIB "Iron Wolf" will have to achieve a full operational capability and ensure a full rotation cycle of one battalion-size task group for international operations.

In striving to achieve these goals, special attention is being paid to the armament of the brigade. In accordance with available financial means, the weaponry and equipment that are outdated, unreasonably expensive to maintain, or do not match NATO standards, are being replaced or modernised. To this aim, the new medium-range anti-tank defence system "Javelin" has been already acquired and an agreement has been signed to acquire the new short-range air defence missile system "Stinger". New rifles, signal equipment, and protection equipment from nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons are also in the process of procurement.

MIB "Iron Wolf" uses US-made M-113 armoured-tracked vehicles. In the future, a shift to wheeled vehicles will be considered. MIB "Iron Wolf" has started using HMMWVs, which are exceptionally durable under various exploitation conditions. Once MIB "Iron Wolf" is modernised, its battalions will be ready to participate in the full spectrum of operations – from peacekeeping to combat operations.

Soldiers from the Motorised Infantry Brigade "Iron Wolf" at an exercise

Engineer Battalion

Engineers are responsible for de-mining, construction of pontoon bridges, detonation tasks, underwater engineering tasks, and participation in search and rescue operations.

The Juozas Vitkus Engineer Battalion will contribute to Lithuania's international commitments by assigning one engineer platoon to each deployable battalion-size task group. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Platoon will be ready to participate in international operations autonomously. In the future, there will a nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) protection unit in the structure of the Engineer Battalion.

A pontoon ferry built by military engineers transports military equipment

National Defence Volunteers

The NDV are a constituent part of the Land Forces. In the beginning of 2006, the NDV consisted of 7 units, the Lithuanian Grand Duke Butigeidis Dragoon Training Battalion and two Aviation Squadrons.

Until membership in NATO, the main function of the NDV was territorial defence. In accordance with new requirements, the current units will be reorganised into 5 units organised on a territorial-functional basis. National Defence Volunteers will be responsible for the administration, management and training of active reservists.

When this reform is complete, the NDV units will consist of active reservists (volunteers), professionals and civil servants. The NDV units will have to meet the same requirements as the rest of the armed forces: to be interoperable with the Allies in combat and crisis response operations of varying scope, type and intensity inside and outside the borders of Lithuania; and to carry out other assigned tasks inside the country. This reform will ultimately enable the creation of the armed force based on a single model: any soldier will now first be a soldier, regardless whether he serves in the regular force or the active reserve.

The NDV will have to carry out the following tasks: augment the regular units that will be deployed in operations; augment regular units when they shift to a higher level of readiness; train and send individual specialists to operations of various types; train and send up to company-size infantry units to operations; assist civilian authorities; and assist in providing host nation support for Allied forces.

After the reform, the active reserve will be organised on a voluntary basis and consist of active reservists serving in the NDV. The service members, who have completed their conscription duty or received other military training and satisfied necessary requirements, become eligible to serve in the active reserve. Others will have to go through the primary training course of a soldier and combat training in the NDV units. Only those who will complete the primary mandatory training and meet all requirements will become eligible to be deployed for international operations.

Combat training of active reservists will be reorganised. This program will consist of training and exercises in both the NDV and regular units, and courses given by the Lithuanian Grand Duke Butigeidis Dragoon Training Battalion, the Combat Training Centre and other military education institutions. Collective training will take place in the NDV units, however those active reserve units that will augment the regular force will also train with appropriate regular force units.

Although the reform is not yet completed and the NDV lack some necessary capabilities to carry out all assigned tasks, the volunteers have already successfully participated in international operations in the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Special Operations Forces

The SOF have been established in 2004, when special operations capabilities came under the command of a single headquarters. The nucleus of the SOF consists of the Counter Terrorist Unit (CTU) and Vytautas the Great Jaeger Battalion, while the Naval Special Warfare Unit and the Air Force Special Operations Group are under the command of the SOF at the operational level. The structure of the SOF is flexible, enabling formation of mission-tailored squadrons.

One of the main missions of the SOF is counter-terrorist operations beyond the territory of Lithuania. The SOF also carries out other special missions: direct action, special reconnaissance, rescue of hostages, and protection of VIPs. The SOF can be called upon inside the territory of Lithuania when law enforcement agencies lack or do not have necessary capabilities to react to terrorist attacks.

Since Fall 2005, conscripts do not serve in the SOF. The force is formed exclusively of carefully selected, motivated and specially trained professionals.

SOF squadrons served in the US-led Operation “Enduring Freedom” in Afghanistan from 2002-2004. Excellent preparedness and execution of tasks by the SOF squadrons have been especially noted by the coalition partners. NATO has also accepted Lithuania’s offer to include SOF squadrons in NRF-5 and NRF-6 rotation cycles.

▶ Soldiers of the Special Operations Forces are among the best-trained and equipped troops of the LAF

Air Force

Lithuania will continue to develop its Air Force, which will be responsible for airspace control and surveillance, air defence of important national objects, air transportation of personnel and cargo, search and rescue tasks, support for special operations and host nation support to Allied forces. The Air Force consists of the Headquarters, the Air Base, the Armaments and Equipment Maintenance Depot, an Airspace Surveillance and Control Command, an Air Defence Battalion, and a Training Centre.

When Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia became NATO members, their airspace became NATO airspace. Given that the Baltic States do not possess fighter jets necessary for safeguarding their airspace, NATO Allies contribute fighter jets on a rotational basis to carry out NATO's air policing operation over the Baltic airspace. Sharing tasks and responsibilities with the Allies, the Lithuanian Air Force provides host nation support to the NATO force conducting this Air Policing mission. NATO jet fighters assigned to the Air Policing mission are deployed to the Air Base at Šiauliai. Under the Host Nation Support Program, radar for precision approximation and a TACAN – Tactical Navigation System – have been positioned at the Air Base, and mobile hangars, equipment for the maintenance of the take-off and landing strips, and other equipment were purchased. The Baltic States have committed themselves to fully take over all host nation support tasks for NATO forces carrying out the Air Policing mission by the end of 2006 (excluding technical maintenance of the fighter jets).

The BALTNET is connected to the NATO Integrated Air Defence System (NATINADS). Currently the main unit of the Baltic Airspace Surveillance System is the Regional Airspace Surveillance Coordination Centre (RASCC), based in Karmėlava. This unit gathers radiolocation information from the radar systems of all three Baltic States, creating a common air image of the Baltic States and exchanging this picture with other NATO centres. It provides a constant surveillance of Lithuanian airspace and its immediate neighbourhood, ensuring a smooth execution of the Air Policing mission. The Baltic States have jointly procured the equipment necessary for the control of air missions so that it would be possible to control the fighter jets safeguarding the Baltic airspace from the RASCC. This equipment is of crucial importance to ensure adequate host nation support to the Allied forces. The Baltic States have committed themselves to take over the control function of the fighter jets by the end of 2006. The current trilateral RASCC has been reorganised into a NATO Command and Reporting Centre (CRC).

For successful control of fighter jets, both modern equipment and personnel qualified in accordance to NATO standards are needed. With the assistance of NATO specialists, Lithuania has started preparing fighter control operators.

Another priority area for the Air Force is tactical air transportation. The tactical air transport fleet will be renewed with the aim of strengthening capabilities that ensure adequate execution of air transportation tasks, including logistical support to units deployed in operations. Air Force aircraft will be able to transport

military personnel, conduct medical evacuation, and deliver supplies to a battalion-size task group deployed in an operation.

Lithuania's Air Force has experience in international operations. An-26 aircraft with crew have been deployed to Napoli (Italy) for two years in support of the NATO Stabilisation Force operation (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the KFOR operation in Kosovo.

Lithuania's Air Force also has extensive experience in search and rescue tasks both on land and at sea. In order to strengthen search and rescue capabilities, the helicopter fleet will undergo modernisation in the near future.

Lithuania is also strengthening its Air Defence Battalion. The main tasks of this battalion are protecting the airspace above important national objects, (in particular the Ignalina Nuclear power plant), and defending the country from possible air attacks. In 2004, the Air Defence Battalion has been equipped with the short range missile system RBS-70 (donated by Norway) and the radar system "Giraffe". Having acquired the RBS-70 system, the Air Defence Battalion now has both artillery and missile systems. In the future, RBS-70 systems will be modernised.

4.5 AIR FORCE

Air Force units	Functions
Headquarters	Command over the Air Force
Air Base	Reception of Allied Reinforcements; Host Nation Support for the NATO Air Policing Mission Tactical Transportation (tactical aircraft) Search and Rescue (helicopters) Medical Evacuation (aircraft, helicopters) Training of Fighter Control Operators, and in the future, the training of Forward Air Controllers
Weaponry and Equipment Maintenance Depot	Repairs, Maintenance and Modernisation of Air Force Weaponry and Equipment (aircraft, trainers, air defence weaponry, radio-electronic equipment, special ground equipment)
Airspace Surveillance and Control Command	Lithuanian Airspace Surveillance and Control Aircraft Control (in the future, control of the aircraft carrying out the NATO Air Policing mission) Training of Fighter Control Operators
Air Defence Battalion	Defence of Airspace above objects of national importance
Training Centre	Training of Air Force Personnel

Navy

Lithuania seeks to develop and maintain a well prepared, NATO interoperable Navy that will ensure the protection of national interests in Lithuania's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone, conduct mine search and mine counter measure (MCM) operations, search and rescue tasks, and special operations.

The Navy consists of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the Flotilla, a Sea and Coastal Surveillance Service, Logistics Service, a Training Centre, and Naval Special Warfare Unit. The Flotilla of Warships is the basis of the Navy's capabilities. The Flotilla consists of a Division of Warships, a Division of Mine Counter Measure Ships, a Division of Patrol Ships, and a Division of Cutters.

Having become a member of NATO, Lithuania specialises in the area of MCM and develops appropriate capabilities that will be a part of NATO's MCM force. The Baltic MCM Squadron is a good basis for the integration of Lithuanian Navy's MCM ships into the SNMCMG. However, due to a lack of modern ships, the Navy cannot yet sustain MCM capabilities during prolonged operations. The Navy plans to modernize the "Lindau" class MCM ships and MCM equipment from 2006–2009. By the end of 2007, one MCM ship will be assigned to the SNMCMG on a rotational basis.

◀ Lithuanian naval personnel attending a mine clearing exercise in the Baltic Sea

From 2008, 2 “Grisha III” class frigates of the Division of Warships will be disbanded from the Navy. According to plans, the functions of protecting ports and coastline and patrolling territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone, which are currently carried out by the frigates, will be taken over by the patrol ships. The patrol ships will be modernized. In the future there are plans to reinforce the Division of Patrol Ships by acquiring multifunctional ships to carry out national tasks, particularly patrol and search and rescue operations.

In times of crisis, the Navy will be ready to provide host nation support to Allied forces. Klaipeda seaport has to ensure smooth debarkation of incoming Allied forces. In the future, in order to ensure constant surveillance and control of Lithuania’s territorial waters and exclusive economic zone, the equipment of the Sea and Coast Surveillance Service will be modernized and the infrastructure of Coastal Surveillance Posts will be improved.

4.6 NAVY

Navy units	Functions
Headquarters	Command over the Navy
Flotilla of Warships	Mine Counter Measure Operations (MCM ship) Patrolling of Territorial Waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone (a ship on stand-by) Search and Rescue (a ship on stand-by)
Sea and Coastal Surveillance Service	Surveillance and Control of Territorial Waters and Exclusive Economic Zone
Logistics Service	Host Nation Support to NATO Forces Logistics Support to Navy Units
Training Centre	Training of Navy Personnel
Naval Special Warfare unit	Special Operations De-mining Operations
Headquarters Company	Protection of Military Objects in Peacetime

Logistics Command

Before membership in NATO, Lithuania's military logistics system was being developed to serve the purposes of territorial defence, limited supply operations, and transportation functions. For full-fledged participation, sustainment and rotation of LAF units in NATO operations, mobile and rapid reaction logistics capabilities of a high technical level are necessary.

Creating an effective and single armed forces logistics system is one of the top priorities of defence reform. In developing the logistics system, particular importance is attached to those capabilities that enable uninterruptible actions of armed forces units conducting national and international operations.

The core of the logistics system consists of the Logistics Command, the Main Logistics Support Battalion, and the Forward Logistics Support Battalion. The Main Logistics Support Battalion is responsible for general support to LAF during peacetime, crisis or war and provides appropriate host nation support to Allied forces in Lithuania. The Forward Logistics Support Battalion supports the MIB "Iron Wolf". The Logistics Command also commands the following units and organisations: the Department of Material Resources, the Movement Control Centre, the Medical Service, the Depot Service, the Military Cartography Centre, the Maintenance Service of Rukla Garrison, and the Arsenal.

Units of the Logistics Command and individual military medics have been successfully participating in international operations in the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Nonetheless, in trying to meet new requirements and missions related to international operations, the Logistics Command still lacks experience and qualified personnel. For this reason, training and development programs for logistics specialists will have to be improved. In addition, tactical logistics equipment will have to be acquired in order to develop the capabilities of the Logistics Command.

A Water Purification Unit of the LAF deployed as part of the NRF humanitarian operation in Pakistan

The Logistics Command will have to prepare specialised units for NATO operations and, when necessary, will also have to arrange strategic transportation of armed forces units to the area of operations (by purchasing services from civilian companies or by contracting the armed forces of other countries).

4.7 LOGISTICS COMMAND

Logistics Command units	Functions
Headquarters	Tactical command over the Logistics Command
Main Logistics Support Battalion	General logistics support to LAF Host Nation Support to NATO Forces Preparation of specialized units for international operations
Forward Logistics Support Battalion	Forward logistics support to the Battalion-size Task Group outside Lithuania and the MIB "Iron Wolf" inside Lithuania Participation in international operations
Department of Material Resources	Logistics of the centralized procurement Distribution of weaponry and equipment to units and its maintenance Standardization of outfits and gear
Movement Control Centre	Convoying and protection of military transport in Lithuania Organisation of transportation of military cargo and units Movement control of armed forces units
Medical Service	Healthcare of troops in peacetime Medical support to armed forces units in crisis and war time Participation in international operations
Depot Service	Accumulation and disposition of mobilisation assets (ammunition, fuel, food) Administration and control of the depots of the armed forces
Military Cartography Centre	Preparation and production of topographic and special maps Accumulation of geodesic, topographic and cartographic information about the territory of Lithuania, its neighbours and other countries
Maintenance Service of Rukla Garrison	Maintenance of territories and infrastructure assigned to Rukla; Organisation of catering and other services to servicemen
Arsenal	Supply of ammunition and weapons to the units of the armed forces Safeguarding of weaponry

Training and Doctrine Command

The Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) is responsible for individual combat training of service personnel in the institutions of military education of the LAF.

TRADOC commands the Grand Lithuanian Hetman Jonušas Radvila Training Regiment, The LAF Division General Stasys Raštikis School for Non-commissioned Officers (NCO), the LAF General Adolfas Ramanauskas Combat Training Centre, the Lithuanian Armed Forces Central Polygon, the Reconnaissance School, and the School of Military Engineering.

In accordance with set goals, TRADOC prepares combat training doctrines, programs and methodical materials; organises courses for non-commissioned officers and officers in the institutions of military education, polygons and training centres; and organises the military education of the students form higher education schools in the Commanders' training courses.

Upon completion of defence reform, TRADOC will prepare individual training plans for personnel of the National Defence System, control their implementation, and coordinate the preparation of training programs of service personnel by the training institutions of the National Defence System. The Lithuanian Military Academy, Training Regiment (consisting of two Training Battalions), the NCO School and other specialised institutions of military education will act in accordance with priorities and guidelines set forth by TRADOC.

Headquarters Battalion

The Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas Headquarters Battalion is under the direct command of the Commander of the Armed Forces. The Battalion ensures all the support necessary for the Commander to carry out his duties, organises logistical support of the staff of the Armed Forces, ensures communications and protection, and performs representational tasks of the LAF. The Battalion consists of the Guard of Honour Orchestra, the Guard of Honour Company, the Headquarters Company, Logistics Company, Signals Centre, and the Operational Command Group.

The Guard of Honour Orchestra and the Guard of Honour Company represents the LAF during visits of high ranking foreign officials in Lithuania.

From 2010, LAF will start establishing a new unit – the Signals Battalion. This battalion will be established on the basis of the current Signals Centre of the Headquarters Battalion. In the future, the Signals Battalion will provide command, control and communications support at the strategic and operational level to the Ministry of National Defence, Joint Staff and other units of the National Defence System.

Military Police

The main tasks of the Military Police (MP) are: the prevention of crime and other violations of law, their detection and investigation; the search for service members, who are under investigation or criminal prosecution, who have deserted or are missing; detention and convoying of arrested personnel.

The MP are also responsible for public order, assisting commanders in ensuring discipline of service personnel in military territories and enforcing military transport traffic safety.

The MP will carry out tasks both inside and outside Lithuania. It is planned to assign an MP platoon to each battalion-size task group deployed in international operations.

A military police soldier on duty

4.4 Personnel Management and Training

In building modern armed forces, much attention is being paid to personnel selection and proper training. For this reason, a legal basis that regulates personnel management has been improved and a new military specialties code system will be implemented. This code system will create an opportunity to determine demands for certain military specialties, evaluate military preparation levels, select personnel for studies in an optimal manner, and plan careers for service members with the intent of giving equal opportunities to all. After the defence system reform will be implemented, a centralized personnel management and training system will be created to ensure more effective administration of military and civilian personnel.

4.8 2005 NATIONAL DEFENCE SYSTEM PERSONNEL

Personnel	Actual Number (2005 September)	Limit determined by LR Seimas for 2011	Limit determined by the Parliament of Lithuania (Seimas) for 2006
Generals	7	8	10
Colonels and Navy Captains	23	32	42
Other officers	2364		
Total officers	**2394**		
NCOs, sergeants, privates	4967		
Total professionals	**7361**	**7800**	**8420**
Lithuanian Military Academy cadets	225		
Cadets in foreign military schools	33		
Total cadets	**258**	**240**	**200**
Conscripts	**3258**	**3210**	**2000**
Total personnel (without active reserve)	**10877**	**11250**	**10620**
Active reserve servicemen	**7500**	**7000**	**6500**
Civil Servants (statute)	127	170	200
Civil Servants (career)	501		
Contracted civilian personnel	1698		
Total civilians	**2326**		

The personnel of the National Defence System will continue to consist of professional service members, conscripts, active reservists and civilians. The Active reserve will be reduced to 6500 service members; the number of conscripts will be reduced to 2000, while the number of professionals will see a moderate increase to 8420. By 2011, some 19850 military and civilian personnel, including the active reserve, will serve in the LAF. In order to ensure appropriate readiness of the military units, gradual downsizing of the conscript number will be accompanied by a gradual increase in the number of professionals.

The main priority in developing the military training system is the implementation of modern training programs that match the quality and level of corresponding programs of other NATO Allies. The main goal of training is the proper qualitative preparation of each soldier to meet the complex tasks and requirements set for the LAF. Considerable attention is given to international military exercises and training, the teaching of official NATO languages, and improving officer qualifications. To make sure that the LAF match high readiness standards, all combat training is based on NATO doctrine, while the programs are prepared in cooperation with other NATO countries.

LAF are trained under the following combat training programs:

- soldier's basic training;
- individual and specialist training;
- sergeant and NCO training;
- officer training;
- collective training.

▶ Soldiers perfecting firing skills at the Lithuanian Military Academy

LAF units undergo collective training during field exercises, headquarters exercises, live-fire exercises, and in simulation centres.

At the Grand Lithuanian Hetman Jonušas Radvila Training Regiment, conscripts must undergo an 11-week soldier's basic training course. During this course, they study national defence statutes, topography, first-aid basics, NBC protection, signals and tactics, and learn how to use weapons. In the future, all the active reservists will have to go through basic training at the Training Regiment. Professional soldiers also attend courses organised by the Training Regiment for physical training instructors and M-113 drivers. This centre also organises 10-week courses for graduates of higher education schools. The Training Regiment Airborne Training Centre organises airborne training for professional soldiers. Specialised military training institutions, such as the School of Military Engineering, the Lithuanian Grand Duke Butigeidis Dragoon Training Battalion, and the Reconnaissance School, offer training in a variety of military specialties. The NCO School trains leaders from the corps of sergeants and NCOs, specialist-leaders, and specialists of rare professions.

The General Jonas Zemaitis Lithuanian Military Academy is the main academic institution for officers. The Academy trains officers according to 4-year bachelor's studies programs. The academy also hosts 6-month Captains' Courses, 18-month Personnel Management master's degree program, and a 24-month part-time studies program. International programs are also prominent at the academy. International Captains' courses, English, Russian language courses, seminars and conferences are offered by the Academy for officers from the South Caucasus, Ukraine, and other countries.

General Adolfas Ramanauskas Combat Training Centre organises headquarters exercises, training for international missions, gun fire commanders, and environment protection courses.

Lithuania, together with the other Baltic States, trains future battalion commanders, commanders of armed forces services and higher-level staff officers at the Baltic Defence College.

4.5 Defence Resources

Possessing limited resources, Lithuania strives to achieve a balance between planned defence capabilities and available human, financial and material assets. Defence is planned by taking into account rationally calculated capacities of the state.

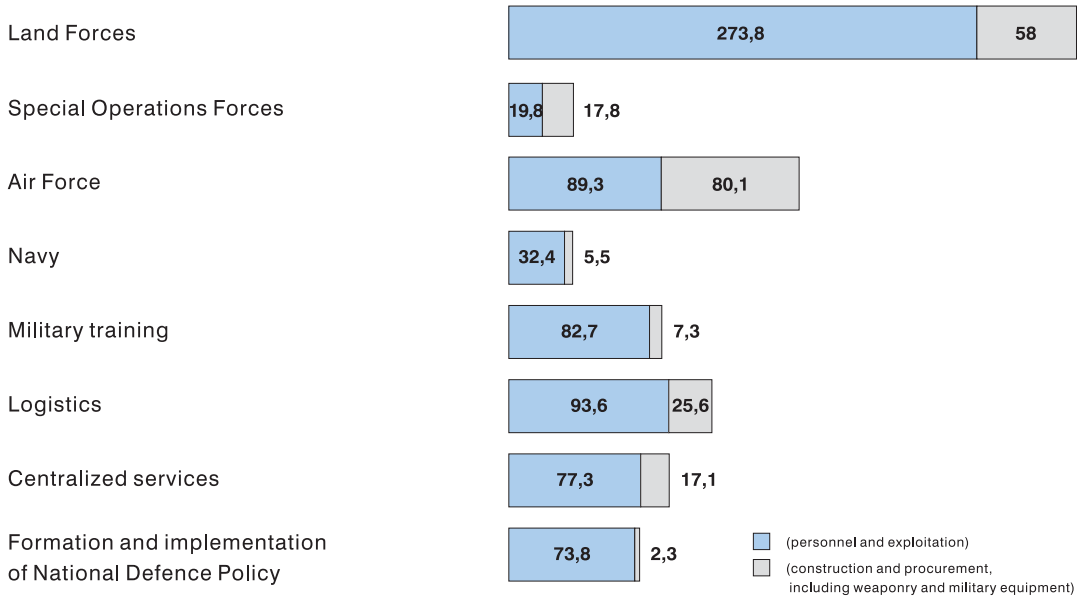
In accordance with the NATO definition of defence expenditure, defence expenditure consists of funds allocated to the Ministry of National Defence and funds allocated to administer conscription and mobilisation at the local government level. In 2006, overall Lithuanian defence expenditures stands at 961.1 million litai (lt), or 1.28 percent of GDP (the projected GDP for 2006 is 75,218 million lt); allocations directly for the Ministry of National Defence amount to 956.5 million lt, or 1.27 percent of GDP.

The budget of the Ministry of National Defence, (i.e. expenditure directly related to the preparation of the LAF for collective defence tasks) will have to increase for Lithuania to successfully continue its defence

reforms and build up of modern capabilities. The modernisation and professionalisation of the LAF and implementation of international commitments, in particular meeting NATO force goals and participating in international operations, will depend directly upon the growth of the defence budget.

In 2006, as much as 82.2 percent of the budget of the Ministry of National Defence is allocated to six programs (Land Forces, SOF, Air Force, Navy, Logistics and Military training), which have a direct effect on the build up of defence capabilities. The rest of the budget is devoted to programs that enable the implementation of material and informational support for the National Defence System, its smooth functioning, and assistance to the civilian authorities in preparing for crisis prevention and crisis management.

4.9 2006 EXPENDITURES OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE BY AREA



Total	965,5 mln. Lt

Personnel. The welfare of service personnel and their families is a key factor in seeking to attract and maintain qualified personnel in the National Defence System. Hence, while planning defence resources, it is important to ensure proper military provision of personnel, healthcare, social and other military service-related guarantees. A lot of time and funds are devoted to the professional development of military personnel. In Lithuania, as well as in other NATO countries, expenditures for personnel constitutes the biggest part of the defence budget. Taking into account the military needs and economic conditions

of the country, Lithuania will seek to maintain personnel expenditures at no more than 50 percent of the defence budget. Nonetheless, personnel expenditures cannot be cut at the expense of quality of life. In reforming the armed forces, the numbers of conscripts and active reservists are being reduced and the career system of professional service members is being reassessed. Other cost-saving measures are also being considered.

Infrastructure. At this initial stage of LAF modernisation, the highest priority has been given to the education and training of service personnel, and in particular, the improvement of quality of life and quality of service.

Until 2000, considerable investment was made to the development of infrastructure. Modern service and living conditions were created for the units of the National Defence System. A modern training infrastructure was established, including the building or reconstruction of new barracks, catering facilities, training blocks and firing ranges.

In the future, the main priorities of infrastructure modernisation and development programs aim at improving the infrastructure of each military service in the following ways: the Land Forces – continuing the reconstruction of barracks, training and leisure facilities, garages, depots and engineering hubs; the Air Force – developing the Air Defence Battalion and the Air Base; the Navy – improving coast surveillance posts; and the Logistics Command – improving logistics arsenals and depots. The program also aims at infrastructure improvements of logistics battalions, the institutions of military training, the central polygon training base, the system for supplying fuel to armed forces units, the general logistics system and other projects.

In order to use resources in the most efficient way, priority will be given to extending the exploitation time of existing infrastructure, adapting it to changes in the structure of the armed forces, modernising and renewing it. Unnecessary infrastructure will be transferred to civilian authorities. In the future, infrastructure investment should not exceed 3-5 percent of the defence budget.

Weapons and Military Equipment. Taking into account Lithuanian commitments and the recommendations of NATO experts, expenditures on weapons and equipment procurement and modernisation and the improvement of combat effectiveness will grow. Lithuania aims at spending at least 20-25 percent of its defence budget on procurement (including procurement and modernisation of weapons and equipment).

From 2000-2005, the majority of weaponry modernisation projects were devoted to the provision of the Land Forces and in particular the MIB “Iron Wolf” by procuring mid-range anti-tank weapons (“Javelin”), combat and other forms of transportation, various light infantry weapons, mine search and de-mining equipment, collective and individual NBC protection, and other necessary weaponry and equipment.

In the nearest future, plans are for the Land Forces to be equipped with anti-aircraft weapons (short range air defence system “Stinger”), light weaponry and transportation means, and collective and individual protection from weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

Although the provision of the Land Forces and the MIB "Iron Wolf" in particular remain a priority, in the future more attention will be given to other services. In the next few years, the Navy's MCM ships will be provided with more modern equipment and two MCM and multifunctional ships that meet NATO standards will be acquired. Plans are also in place to renew tactical air transportation fleet and the helicopters fleet, modernise long range radars, and implement other projects.

In the current security environment, Lithuania has to maintain such capabilities as anti-tank defence and de-mining. In the future, however, the importance of anti-air defence, protection from NBC weapons, and other modern capabilities will grow. Logistics support capabilities is another very important area that needs to be considerably enhanced for Lithuania to be a full-fledged participant of NATO endeavours.

4.10 THE MAIN LONG TERM PROCUREMENT PROJECTS OF THE LITHUANIAN ARMED FORCES

Weaponry and military equipment	Units
Medium and long range anti-tank weapons	MIB "Iron Wolf"
Rifleman's arms: automatic weapons, grenade launchers, machine-guns, pistols	MIB "Iron Wolf" Special Operations Force
Rifleman's equipment: surveillance devices, armoured vests, helmets, individual NBC protection	MIB "Iron Wolf" Special Operations Force Logistics Command
Fire support weapons: heavy machine-guns, howitzers, mortars	MIB "Iron Wolf" Special Operations Force
Combat equipment: tracked armoured vehicles, engineering and repair armoured vehicles	MIB "Iron Wolf"
Transport vehicles: cross-country vehicles, trucks, tow tractors, fuel supply trucks, trailers, semi trailers	MIB "Iron Wolf" Special Operations Force Logistics Command
Logistics equipment: containers, forklifts, mobile repair shops, cranes, tents, camouflage tents, generators	Logistics Command
Tactical mobile signals system: radio sets, wire communication equipment, batteries, terminals	MIB "Iron Wolf" Special Operations Force Logistics Command
Short range anti-aircraft weapons	MIB "Iron Wolf" Air Force

Modernization of radars, equipment to maintain TRML radars	Air Force
Radio communication system "Air-surface-air": radio sets, distance control and information crypto equipment	Air Force
Protective means for strategic communication network and informational systems	Centralized Services
Transport aircraft and helicopters	Air Force
Mine counter measure (MCM) ships	Navy
Multifunctional ships	Navy

Development of a Scientific-Technological Basis. The success of developing defence capabilities is also dependent upon the ability of state institutions to cooperate with scientific and industrial establishments and use their potential. The investment of the Ministry of National Defence into scientific research and practical implementation of the research results may help keeping the LAF in line with the progress of military technology. In 2001–2004, the Ministry of National Defence allocated some funds for the modernisation of the scientific-technological base and for prospective fundamental and applied research projects. In this vein, the Ministry has contributed to the provision of the Vilnius University Centre of Laser Research, Kaunas University of Technology, the Semiconductors Physics Institute and other scientific institutions with new technological equipment. These investments are already paying off: the scientists of the Kaunas University of Technology have developed, researched and practically applied projects on training and combat technologies; laser rifle trainers created by the Defence Technologies Institute of Kaunas University of Technology are used in the Lithuanian Military Academy and the Training Regiment; and successful mortar simulation try-outs were carried out in Lithuania's polygon training bases.

NATO and the EU are also prompting Lithuania to get involved in defence technology research and development activities of these organisations. Lithuania is among the leading NATO countries in terms of per capita receipt of NATO funds for scientific research and development. The Ministry of National Defence financially supports the participation of Lithuanian scientists in the activities of the NATO Research and Technology Agency. Cooperation between the defence, science and industry sectors is beneficial and should be strengthened as it creates conditions to improve the quality of defence capabilities, at the same time giving economic benefits to national industry as well as fostering scientific progress.

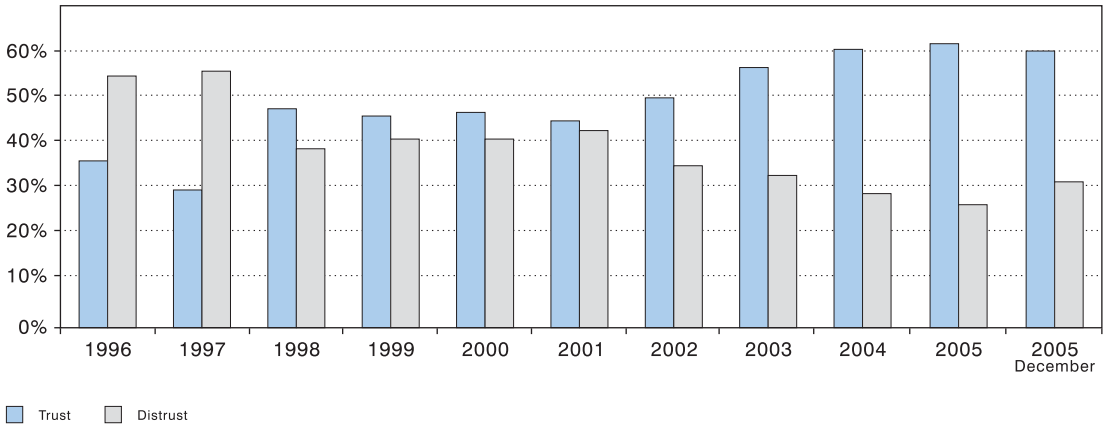
In the future, Lithuania will have to maintain a proper balance between current and future needs, by taking into account changes in the security environment, today's threats, possible challenges of tomorrow, and resources that are projected in the future.

4.6 Defence and Society

The LAF are a constituent and indispensable part of society. The armed forces serve the state and the interests of its citizens. Lithuanian citizens ensure democratic control over the armed forces through elected democratic institutions – the Parliament (Seimas), the President, and the Government, which determine missions for the armed forces, provide the funds and oversee their use. Close cooperation between society and the military is essential for an effective defence of the country. Society is thoroughly informed about the armed forces and defence reform, and constantly kept updated about important issues concerning Lithuania's defence policy agenda and the activities of the National Defence System. Cooperative links are being built between the military and society, in particular involving the youth organisations, local municipalities, educational institutions and non-governmental organisations.

Public support and trust is a major precondition for the armed forces to properly train and prepare to execute assigned tasks and honourably represent the country in international operations. Lithuanian society's confidence in and support for the armed forces have been constantly growing in recent years. Society's supportive opinion toward the armed forces is the best evidence that defence policy and the preparation of the armed forces have been moving in the right direction. A constantly active public relations program has helped to achieve the support of almost two thirds of Lithuania's population. Open and transparent cooperation with society helps increasing the confidence and support of Lithuanian citizens for their armed forces.

4.11 PUBLIC TRUST IN NATIONAL DEFENCE



The source: Data of the Lithuanian and British market and public opinion research company "Baltijos tyrimai" (data at the beginning of each year).

Society gets information about national defence through various means: the Ministry of National Defence webpage (www.kam.lt); various publications (brochures, fliers, posters, etc.); informational films; photography exhibitions; periodical military literature ("National Defence," "Soldier," "Sword," "Volunteer," "Cadet," "Mindaugietis"); and work with non-governmental organisations. Various events and festivals are being organised: Partisans Remembrance Day, Unity of Armed Forces and Society Day, and Lithuanian Armed Forces day.

The Lithuanian Riflemen's Union is an important intermediary organisation between the armed forces and society. It is a voluntary public organisation of civil self-defence that promotes citizenship values and national self-consciousness of Lithuanian citizens and youth in particular. The Lithuanian Riflemen's Union has some 10 000 members, including more than 6 000 young riflemen of high school age. Among other social activities, the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union annually organises summer camps for children. In the future, cooperation between the armed forces and the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union will be developed further.

▶ Celebrating the Day of the Unity of the Armed Forces and the Society

LITHUANIA

5. NEW AGENDA OF LITHUANIA'S DEFENCE POLICY

- **Active membership in NATO:** Lithuania will be a reliable ally strengthening the Alliance's collective spirit, while LAF will be prepared to participate in all types of NATO operations anywhere in the world.
- **Participation in European Security and Defence Policy:** Lithuania will strengthen the Alliance's European pillar and the transatlantic security link as the basis of the Euro-Atlantic security system.
- **Defence cooperation:** Lithuania will strengthen and develop close relations with the USA, Poland, Denmark, Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia and other important Allies and partners.
- **Contribution to fighting terrorism:** Lithuania will actively contribute to the international community's efforts to respond to the biggest threats of the 21st century – international terrorism, regimes supporting terrorism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- **Participation in international operations:** in seeking to contribute to strengthening global security and stability, Lithuania will participate in NATO-, EU-, UN-, OSCE-led or coalition-led international operations.
- **Good neighbourhood policy:** Lithuania will lead an open, non-confrontational defence policy and pursue a dialogue that is based on mutual understanding with all its neighbouring countries.
- **Regional cooperation:** Lithuania will seek to develop initiatives of regional security and defence cooperation in the Northern Europe, the Central and Eastern Europe, and the Baltic Sea region.
- **Projecting stability outside the region:** Lithuania will actively contribute to projecting the area of stability and security to the South Caucasus, the Central Asia, the Middle East, and other regions and countries.
- **Modern Armed Forces:** Lithuania will build a strong, well-equipped and well-trained armed forces, which will be able to react rapidly to any threat against the Alliance and Lithuania, and of which Lithuanian citizens can be proud and the Allies – confident.

◀

Members of the Ghor Provincial Reconstruction Team maintain friendly relations with the locals

Abbreviations

A-CFE – Adapted Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe

BALTBAT – Baltic Battalion

BALTDEFCOL – Baltic Defence College

BALTNET – Baltic Air Surveillance Network

BALTRON – Baltic Mine Counter Measures Squadron

C4I – Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence

CIMIC – Civil and Military Cooperation

CRC – Command and Reporting Centre

CTU – Counter Terrorism Unit

EOD –Explosive Ordnance Disposal

E-PINE – Enhanced Partnership in Northern Europe

EU–European Union

FLSB – Forward Logistics Support Battalion

FMF – Foreign Military Financing

HQ – Headquarters

IMET – International Military Education and Training

ISAF – International Security Assistance Force

KFOR – Kosovo Force

LAF – Lithuanian Armed Forces

LITBRIG – Lithuanian Brigade

LITPOLBAT – Lithuanian-Polish Battalion

MCM – Mine Counter Measure

MLSB – Main Logostics Support Battalion

MP–Military Police

NDV – National Defence Volunteers

NATINADS – NATO Integrated and Extended Air Defence System

NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

NBC Protection – Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection

NB-8 – Nordic Baltic Eight

NCO – Non-comissioned officer

NRF – NATO Response Force

OSCE – Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

POLUKRBAT – Polish-Ukrainian Battalion

POLUKRLITBAT – Polish-Ukrainian-Lithuanian Battalion

RASCC – Regional Airspace Surveillance and Control Centre

SFOR – Stabilisation Force

SHIRBRIG – Stand-by High Readiness Brigade

SNMCMG – Standing NRF Mine Counter Measures Group

SOF – Special Operations Forces

TACAN –Tactical Navigation Sysytem

TRADOC–Training and Doctrine Command

UAV – Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

UN – United Nations

V -10 – Vilnius Ten Group

WMD – Weapons of Mass Distruction