REPORT

ON STATE DEFENCE POLICY
AND ARMED FORCES
DEVELOPMENT

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

REPORT

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Published by:
Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia
K.Valdemāra 10/12, Rīga, LV–1473, Latvia
www.mod.gov.lv

Designed by T. Folks

Photos: A. Kukemilka, M. Zemgalietis, A. Rikveilis, U. Davidovs

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CHAPTER 1

LATVIAN HISTORIC EXPERIENCE

Latvian national security, economic welfare and development opportunities are determined by its geographical position, historic relations with neighbouring countries and nations, status of national economy, culture traditions and defence capabilities. There are several reasons related to the Latvian history, why the Latvian security should be viewed within the context of becoming a member of the international security and economic systems – European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

At the end of World War I Latvia managed to win the battle for its independence. Latvian soldiers were known for a great experience and praised for their courage and military skills.

Despite the successful establishment of the Latvian state, the further history of Latvia proved that the policy of neutrality and abdication from the military resistance to the occupation powers did not ensure the existence of the state and preservation of the nation's physical strength and self-respect.

Insufficient armament and lack of military cooperation agreements signed between the Baltic States together with the international political situation were the causes of extermination of the Latvian armed forces of almost 20, 000 men who were forcefully exploited to serve the interests of the Soviet and fascistic occupation powers. In addition, these powers have illegally conscripted over 200, 000 Latvian residents of Latvian and other ethnical backgrounds to their occupation forces. A large part of them were killed in the battles, a part emigrated to the West and a part were deported to the "death camps" in Siberia. This is how the Latvian military potential and traditions accumulated during the first half of the 20th century were lost.

After the Latvian independence was re-established in the early 90-ies of the 20th century, it was necessary to substantially reform all the state administration institutions. Establishing of the national defence system was particularly complicated due to the lack of the defence concept, armament and relevant infrastructure, and what was of the greatest importance – lack of the experienced military personnel. These were the consequences of the Soviet occupation, which halted the national military system for half a century.

Remembrance of the Barricades of January 1991 in Riga, January 2003

For providing the national security and defence of the newly re-established Latvia, it was necessary to involve the civil society. A public voluntary self-defence formation – the National Guard – was established in autumn 1991. It can be considered the first kind of the National Armed Forces, which still has an essential role in the

Latvia from the height of the bird's flight

2004

national defence system. The Ministry of Defence, other types of armed forces and their military units, recruitment of which is still based on the professional and the conscript service, were established a little later.

Taking into account the lessons learned from the history, the Latvian initial security and defence policy was based on the concept of the territorial defence with a strategic goal to become a full member of the NATO. The new security situation and international co-operation gave opportunities to train the military and civil experts of the national defence system, which are now people who develop the Latvian military capabilities and build the NATO-compliant armed forces.

As a result, during the Prague Summit on 21 November 2002 NATO Heads of State and Governments officially invited Latvia to start accession talks to join the NATO. The invitation internationally acknowledged the achievement of Latvia to have become a legal, stable and democratic country, which has established a successful national defence system. In spite of that, Latvia still continues to work intensively and demonstrate its commitment to put an equal share for achievement of the Alliance's goals, as well as the regional security.

Also, the Referendum of 20 September 2003, when most of the Latvian citizens voted yes for joining the European Union, demonstrated the willingness of Latvia to join the democratic and economically developed European countries, as well as its commitment to assume responsibility for providing the peace and stability within Europe.

29 March 2004 can be considered a symbolic landmark between the historically inherited insufficiency of security guarantees and the prospects of stability and security never experienced in the Latvian history. After becoming a full-fledged member of international organisations, Latvian state and population can be confident about their future and contribute to the development of the country with determination.

CHAPTER 2

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF LATVIAN NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

2.1. Basic Principles of the Latvian Defence Policy

Joining NATO brings essential changes to the Latvian Defence Concept, as Latvia becomes a part of the joint collective defence system and participates in joint activities to facilitate security in the world. After becoming a NATO member, Latvia inevitably receives security guaranties, though it also has to assume the co-responsibilities for the international security processes including the real participation in the international security activities.

Thus, the activities and development of the National Armed Forces are aiming to achieve the three main tasks: provide the Latvian defence, fulfil the obligations of the NATO and the EU states, and participate in the international military operations.

Historic experiences and current international security environment form reality of the Latvian security. It cannot be viewed out of the international security context, which is characterised by increased expansion of asymmetrical threat – international terrorism, expansion of NBC-weapons, ethnic conflicts. This threat goes beyond the national borders, and the key to its elimination is the mutual co-operation capabilities of the countries. With the purpose to give its contribution to the strengthening of the international security environment and elimination of threat, Latvia continues to develop its defence and anti-terrorism capabilities for participation in the international operations.

The full membership to NATO has motivated to review and approve by the Government and the Saeima (Parliament) the National Defence Concept, which defines the basic principles of the Latvian defence and the guidelines for the development of the defence capabilities in the new security situation. The Concept states that the basis of the national defence is the collective defence within NATO and EU, professional armed forces, as well as a close co-operation between the armed forces and the society.

The principle of the collective defence creates a prerequisite for Latvia to concentrate its efforts and resources to achieve the military capabilities, which fulfil the obligations of the allies, ensure the Latvian participation in the international operations, as well as increase its defence capabilities.

Currently, the development of the Latvian defence system is defined by:

– necessity of the modern command and control systems, development and security of the communications and data transmission systems;

– provision of the efficient military combat capabilities, sophisticatedly equipped and armed units;

Minister of Defence Atis Slakteris meeting the NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, 11 March 2004

– defence enhancement to fight the NBC-weapons;
– readiness of units to participate in the international military and peace-keeping operations;
– necessity to establish modern training bases.

For ensuring the compliance to the NATO requirements and for receiving the ad hoc support from the allies, Latvia continues to improve its host-nation's support system.

Necessity to have professional armed forces is a prerequisite for a gradual transition to fully professional armed forces by 2006 by dismissing the conscript service. MoD's and NAF's experts have produced a concept to implement this transition. It will allow to utilise resources required for the numerically small Latvian armed forces in a more efficient way.

Recruitment of motivated people to the national defence is essential for establishing and developing of the armed forces, which are based on the professional military service. Therefore, the systems of recruitment and military conscription are being improved in order to create interest in people and ensure competitiveness in the labour market.

Principle of co-operation between the armed forces and the society is a key prerequisite for achieving the goals and tasks of the national defence. The public awareness about the national defence system, armed forces and their principles form a solid support to the national security and defence. Due to the limited resources, as well as the participation in the collective security system Latvia does not need to build a massive mobilisation system. However, the co-responsibility of the publics for the national defence is preserved through the National Guard.

The armed forces' capabilities allow them to professionally clear the natural and unnatural catastrophes, carry out the explosive ordnance disposal, search and rescue operations, as well as ecological monitoring. There is a similar co-operation between the public and the civil institutions for carrying out the military tasks – they provide civil expertise, mobilisation resources and host-nation's support.

Principle of international military co-operation envisages an expanded international co-operation, including co-operation with the NATO and the Baltic States, co-operation with the EU and the Baltic Sea region countries and co-operation with the NATO partner countries.

After joining NATO, Latvia retains its current international bi-lateral co-operation projects,

Pre-mission training in Denmark for the Latvian contingent BALTSQN-9 soldiers, February 2004

though it will also define new fields of co-operation with the NATO states to ensure efficient integration to NATO.

After NATO integration, the Baltic States should continue to develop and enhance their joint military projects, thus ensuring efficient utilisation of resources and improvement of the joint military capabilities.

Latvian goal in respect of the European security and defence policy is to facilitate the stability and security within Europe, strengthen the EU crisis management capabilities and contribute to the transatlantic co-operation.

Co-operation with the NATO partner countries, including Russia, is a way to facilitate trust, security and stability within Europe. NATO membership gives an opportunity to Latvia to co-participate in and contribute to the further development of this co-operation by sharing its experiences with the CIS and the South-East European countries, thus facilitating the process of democratic reforms in these NATO partner states.

2.2. Declaration on the Work of the Cabinet of Ministers

The main goals stated in the Chapter on National Defence and Security of the Government's Declaration, adopted on 9 March 2004, are the following:

– by the end of 2006, Latvia will only maintain a professional army. Provision of enhancement of professionalism of the National Armed Forces (NAF) and cancellation of the compulsory military service. Creation of an efficient system for selection and training of personnel, as well as ensuring a competitive salary system and a social guarantees programme for soldiers of the professional military service;
– further progress of the defence system reforms and ensuring compatibility of the armed forces with the NATO. Remaining a reliable ally in the Trans-Atlantic Alliance and participating in its collective defence system and operations;
– re-structuring of the National Armed Forces by 2004 in order to ensure settlement of Latvia's obligations with regard to the collective defence system and quality-driven development of the NAF according to the development aims set by Latvia itself and the NATO;
– further allocation of 2% of the gross domestic product for defence needs also ensuring planned and sound use of the funds;
– through assistance of other NATO Member States, ensuring full control and defence of our air space;
– enhancement of the military infrastructure in order to be able to accept NATO's military assistance in case it is needed;
– development of the Latvian brigade in order to ensure permanent participation of one battalion in NATO's operations. Development of specialised units – military medical specialists, military policemen and sappers according to the development aims set by Latvia itself and the NATO;
– active participation in formulation and implementation of the Common European Defence Policy, further work on the Baltic military co-operation projects and assistance to those countries intending to develop their military forces according to the principles of a democratic country;
– completion of the state security bodies' reform, ensuring protection of classified information according to the NATO requirements;
– development of the Home Guard or Zemessardze in order to ensure fulfilment of the collective defence tasks;
– by 2004, re-consideration of the basic principles of the mobilisation and crises control system according to the new defence system;
– provision of efficient strategic management and planning by preventing functional overlapping between the Ministry of Defence and headquarters of the National Armed Forces;
– provision of the National Armed Forces with modern equipment and outfit (weapons for anti-aircraft and anti-tank defence, communication systems, armour, sea observation systems and other equipment);
– support to education that enhances loyalty to the country and patriotism, physical training and support and development of the Youth Guard or Jaunsardze;
– active use of the potential of the Latvian science for attaining the aims set for the national defence system;
– provision of discipline in the National Armed Forces;
– improvement of public procurement for military needs and enhancement of its efficiency;
– until transition to professional military service, improvement of opportunities for alternative military service.

Minister of Defence A. Slakteris handing the Defence Minister's Award "Medal of Honorary Recognition" to Lieutenant A. Robežnieks, Iraq, May 2004

2004

2.3. Latvian Membership to NATO

Latvia considers the membership to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to be the most efficient way to secure its sovereignty and security. Besides strengthening the security of the Baltic States, the NATO membership also facilitates the security, stability and welfare within the whole Baltic Sea region.

A lot of purposive preparatory work to join the Alliance has been done since 1995, when NATO membership as the goal of the Latvian foreign and security policy was first set in the Latvian Foreign Policy Concept. Efforts have been made to develop the armed forces, comply with the NATO requirements, implement the relevant planning and budgeting system, strengthen the information security system, modernise the armed forces' equipment and do other relevant tasks.

Latvia together with other aspirant countries was invited to start the accession talks for joining the Alliance in November 2002 in Prague. Since the Prague Summit of November 2002, Latvia has completed several essential tasks on its road to NATO: accession talks have been completed, the Reform Implementation Plan has been produced and adopted by the Government in March 2003 and the Annual National Programme 2004, which is the last report of this type, has been produced. According to the Protocol of Accession ratified by all NATO states, Latvia joined the Alliance on 29 March 2004.

Besides being the most efficient way to ensure the national sovereignty and security, the NATO membership is also an opportunity never experienced in the national history to:

– fully participate in the decision making for forming the European and global security policy;
– join the family of countries united by the values of democracy, observance of legal principles and interests of sovereign countries;
– contribute to the security and stability within the North European region;
– facilitate the settling of relations with Russia;
– increase the internal political stability and economic growth, as well as help to attract the investment;
– build and develop the modern armed forces;
– purposively and efficiently utilise resources allocated to the national defence.

CHAPTER 3

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

3.1. Mission of the Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence is the leading state administration office in the field of national defence. Its mission is to elaborate and implement the national defence policy, plan and submit recommendations about the financing required for the enhancement of the defence capabilities of the National Armed Forces and co-operation with the NATO and other international security and defence organisations in the field of national defence, as well as to manage the defence personnel and provide their military training. In accordance with the procedures defined in the legal documents, the Ministry of Defence is to co-operate with other state administration institutions in order to elaborate and implement a unitary national policy.

Based on the goals set by the Declaration on the Work of the Cabinet of Ministers, the Ministry of Defence implements the national defence policy as defined by the Government and the Ministry of Defence. The Ministry of Defence produces the Annual Activity Plan in order to implement the defence tasks set by the Government. Activities covered by the Plan are co-ordinated with the Annual National Programme for NATO Membership, Reform Implementation Plan for NATO Membership and priorities and tasks set by the Minister of Defence, which are implemented by the Ministry of Defence, institutions subordinated to it, and the National Armed Forces. It is the competence of the Ministry of Defence to produce the Military Threat Assessment, National Defence Concept and National Defence Plan.

3.2. Personnel Policy of the Ministry of Defence

One of the key tasks of the personnel policy is to improve the MoD structure and increase its administrative capacity.

The purpose of the MoD enhancement is to provide the most efficient implementation of the tasks entrusted to the Ministry. Therefore, the Plan and NATO Integration Department was re-organised in 2003 to create two new departments: the Defence Policy and Planning Department and the

Staff of the Ministry of Defence visiting the Mobile Infantry Battalion, April 2004

Integration Department.

The State Agency for Properties of Defence subordinated to the Ministry of Defence was established in 2004 in order to improve the work of the MoD in the field of procurement and provision. Since 2004, the Agency has been managing all the national tenders in the field of defence. The MoD

Procurement Department has been transformed into the Provision Policy Department, and elaboration of the procurement policy is now within its competencies.

In order to implement the Youth Military Education Concept, the Youth Military Education Section was established in the Ministry in December 2003. There is a decision made to establish the Centre for Military Education of Youths, which will be subordinated to the MoD.

The total number of MoD staff in 2004 is 196, as well as 26 defence attachés and representatives abroad.

It is very important to have a qualified staff in order to provide the efficient work of the MoD, especially during the increased work load conditions and during times when a part of the MoD's civil servants is transferred to work abroad in different NATO structures.

Increase of the MoD's personnel qualification level is based mainly on academic study programmes. The most popular fields of MA or second degree studies of the MoD staff are political science, legal studies, management and economics. Each year MoD staff has an opportunity to study for the MA in Global Security or MA in Defence Resource Management in the UK or USA.

Besides, MoD staff attend diverse courses and seminars in both Latvian training centres, e.g., State Administration School, and abroad on regular basis. Part of MoD employees expand their knowledge at the military course for civil servants organised by the BALTDEFCOL.

Employees nominated for the diplomatic service abroad are sent on a special training course, which is organised by the Attaché Department in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Great attention is paid to foreign language teaching, mainly English and French, to the MoD's personnel. Foreign language training courses are held both in the Ministry and at the language schools abroad (Canada, UK, Slovenia, Luxemburg and Hungary). Good language skills is one of the criteria set to the applicants who want to work at the Ministry. In 2004, the MoD has to teach English to 60 of its civilian employees so that they obtain the Level 3 of NATO STANAG 6001.

The main emphasis in the development and enhancement of the personnel management system in 2004 will be put on the personnel training to:

– improve their foreign language skills (English and French) in Latvia and abroad;

Parade of the NAF units at 11. Novembra krastmala, 18 November 2003

Inauguration ceremony of the Defence Attaché in Denmark, Norway and Iceland, Commander Senior Grade V. Dreimanis, April 2003

– maintain and extend their professional knowledge (MoD takes advantage of training opportunities provided by the Latvian training centres; the co-operation with the foreign training centres should be extended to use more short-term training programmes);
– acquire courses in general security policy, general communication, resource management, legislation etc.;
– acquire introductory course in the military field (short-term course provided by the NDA and military course for civil servants provided by the BALTDEFCOL).

In 2004, one of the priorities of the MoD personnel policy is to improve the personnel career planning system. This is an essential factor in personnel management because it allows to see the eventual development of their career. The career development plans for the MoD civil servants and employees are produced on the basis of their performance and its assessment. These data ensure unbiased assessment of each employee's professional skills and knowledge.

The rotation of the MoD personnel in 2004 is mainly related to their transfer to temporary posts at the international organisations. The admission criteria include their knowledge, skills and current contribution to the Ministry's work.

3.3. Aspects of Information Security

Protection of the classified information in Latvia is co-ordinated and controlled by the Constitution Protection Office (CPO), which is also the Latvian national security institution.

Protection of the classified information is stipulated by the LR Law on National Secret and Regulations of the LR Cabinet of Ministers on the National Secret Protection and Regulations on the List of National Classified Objects. The system of legal documents in effect stipulates the protection of the key classified information units – personnel security including a detailed personnel clearance/control procedure, physical security, information transmission security and personnel liabilities in case of classified information leakage. It is based on "necessary to know" principle. The legal documents stipulating the security of the transmitted data are produced in accordance with the development of the information technology.

State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence E. Rinkēvičs (to the right) and Director of the US National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Lieut.-Gen. J. Clapper at the International Geospatial Information Symposium in Riga, May 2004

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All the defence institutions work in accordance with the MoD reglement and instructions on protection of classified information. The NATO and EU classified information protection systems are being improved. Sub-registers and control points of the NATO and EU classified information are being established at the Ministry of Defence and the NAF. The relevant amendments have been produced by the inter-ministerial working group in order to harmonise the legal documents stipulating the classified information protection with the requirements of NATO and EU. The process of signing bilateral co-operation agreements on exchange of classified information with foreign countries still continues.

Special attention is paid to train the personnel for working with the NATO classified information. The staff of the defence system has been introduced to the requirements and standards of the NATO security regime. There is a Latvian security officer working at the Latvian Mission to NATO (Brussels). Intense personnel training in the information security field and issues related to the national, NATO and EU classified information exchange has been carried out. In order to implement quality training of personnel on the information security issues, experience is obtained from other countries.

3.4. Consolidation of the Legal Base

A legal base relevant to the principles of a democratic country stipulating the defence field is one of the prerequisites for the NATO membership. Many legal documents stipulating the national defence field were produced in the early 90-ies, when Latvia had just started to develop its international co-operation and national defence system. Military concepts, principles and structure experienced a rapid development during the last decade, and the enhancement of the legal stipulation still continues. Latvia has significantly improved its military legislative system in order to ensure the compliance of the legal documents stipulating the national defence with the principles of democracy present in the NATO states.

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the new By-law on the Ministry of Defence in April 2003. It defines the functions, tasks, competence and structure of the Ministry of Defence, as well as the competence of its officials. The By-law states that Military Enrolment Centre, Military Intelligence Service, State Agency for Properties of Defence and Latvian War Museum are institutions subordinated to the MoD. The MoD is a state share-holder of the non-profit organisation, state limited liability company "Tēvijas Sargs" ("Guard of Motherland").

In order to eliminate obstacles for the Latvian membership to NATO, the specialists of the Ministry of Defence made great efforts to harmonise the Latvian legal documents in 2003. In May 2003, the Saeima (Parliament) adopted the Amendments to the National Security Law. The purpose of this law produced by the Ministry of Defence was to broaden the circles of people who can be involved in the building of the national security system by stating that besides the Latvian citizens, also representatives of the foreign and international organisations (especially NATO) can participate in the above work.

Amendments have been produced to the Law on Status of Foreign Armed Forces in the Republic of Latvia, which defines procedures for making a decision on transit of the foreign troops through the land territory of the Republic of Latvia, as well as procedures for foreign troops to transit the land territory of the Republic of Latvia.

The Ministry of Defence has elaborated amendments to the Law on International Agreements of the Republic of Latvia in order to simplify the procedures of internal harmonisation and procedures for signing the agreements about participation of the Latvian NAF in international operations or joint military exercises abroad, and still observing the Law on Participation of the Latvian National Armed Forces in the International Operations and Law on Status of Foreign Armed Forces in the Republic of Latvia.

The Military Service Law stipulating the progress of service for the military personnel came into effect in July 2003. The Law includes several delegations to the Cabinet of Ministers and the Minister of Defence who should define the detailed procedures for the implementation of the above Law.

The Cabinet of Ministers has adopted the Regulations by the Ministry of Defence, which define different provision, remuneration, social security and other aspects for the soldiers.

Due to the Latvian membership to NATO, one of its main legal tasks of 2004 is to ensure that Latvia joins several Agreements binding to the NATO member states, which cover the most diverse fields, e.g., personnel status, information security etc. Joining is related to a sound analysis of the Latvian legal documents in order to eliminate eventual discrepancies between the local and the international laws.

Due to the fact that Latvia has planned to dismiss the conscript service, it is important to continue the legal assessment of the subject and start to produce amendments to the respective legal documents.

Soldiers of the Mobile Infantry Battalion during exercise, January 2004

CHAPTER 4

DEVELOPMENT OF STRUCTURE FOR THE NATIONAL ARMED FORCES

4.1. NAF Development Plan, Priorities and Structure

Latvia's membership in NATO provides not only the Alliance's collective security guarantees, it also sets a requirement to consistently develop the national military capabilities in order to meet the joint security goals of the NATO.

Taking into account these benefits and goals, Latvia has in 2003 reviewed the National Defence Concept and prepared a new structure for the National Armed Forces. The draft Structure was reviewed in a separate NATO Defence Review Committee (DRC) meeting at the end of 2003 and concluded to be appropriate for the Latvian abilities.

Joining NATO will bring essential changes to the national defence strategy and defence system development planning. National Defence Concept, Basic Principles for the Latvian National Defence System and Development Guidelines have been adjusted for the NATO membership. Participation in the collective defence, establishment of the professional armed forces, co-operation between the armed forces and the society and the international military co-operation are defined to be the basic principles of the defence.

Coast Guard Ship Flotilla Kristap class patrol boat KA-08

Membership to the Alliance determines that Latvia should transform from the territorial defence model to the collective defence model. Therefore, the structure of the NAF should be altered in order to ensure the mobility, professionalism and high combat readiness of the armed forces' units.

One of the preconditions for enhancing the NAF combat capabilities is transition from the conscript service to the professional military service. Should the Saeima (Parliament) make such a decision in 2004, the reform is expected to be completed by 2006 as defined by the NAF Professionalisation Concept.

In compliance with its participation in the collective defence system, Latvia has reviewed the role of the National Guard in the defence. The future tasks of the National Guard will include providing support to the NAF and the National Civil Defence system, as well as the foreign armed forces.

The future development of the NAF is directed towards its readiness to participate in the NATO, EU and other international operations and contribute to the strengthening of the international security. The NAF capabilities are increased by expanding, maintaining and improving its efficient combat capabilities. The host-nation's support capabilities are being developed as well. However, as stated earlier, participation in the collective security system sets specific requirements to the national defence system.

During the preparation to the NATO membership, Latvia received 57 Force Proposals from the Alliance on 24 June 2003. It is the NATO's vision about which military capabilities should be developed by each NATO state. NAF have reviewed the submitted NATO Force Proposals. 30 of them have been fully accepted, 19 have been partly accepted, one has not been accepted, and 4 are still being reviewed by the NAF. 22 Force Proposals (FP) must be implemented in 2005, 13 FP must be implemented in 2006, 3 FP must be implemented in 2007, 11 FP must be implemented in 2008, 3 FP must be implemented in 2009, and 2 FP must be implemented in 2010.

The implementation of the new NAF structure will require consistent reforms throughout several years. The NAF development priorities will in the long run be defined by the international security situation and joint tasks of the NATO states. However, the goals of the Latvian national defence activities, structure and military capabilities' enhancement will still remain the same: defence of the Latvian territory, conduct of the national security, and defence activities and participation in the NATO military operations.

The NATO membership, the experience obtained during the building of the national total defence system after Latvia had regained its independence, the national funds and resources allocated to the national defence, as well as the experiences obtained during the previous years, will allow a realistic and reasonable assessment of the expected NAF development efficiency.

The goals of the total mobilisation plans and the nationwide reserves system should be dismissed in order to speed up the NAF military capability improvement and increase the return of resources allocated to the NAF. The approach of the previous century, as well as the Cold War experiences must be substituted by the collective defence solutions relevant nowadays. In the future, the Latvian defence system must be able to provide a complete deployability of the new NAF units, as well as provide them with a well trained personnel. It means that the reserves must be professional and highly motivated. The National Guard will have the main role in achieving this goal by clarifying its own goals and missions, which should efficiently be integrated to the NAF activities.

In order to ensure a substantial increase in the readiness of the NAF professional and support units to respond to the threat of the 21st century, as well as to reduce the manifestations of terrorism in Latvia, the enhancement of the NATO-compliant

Shooting exercise, Ādaži, May 2003

2004

combat capabilities of relatively small and quickly deployable units, will became an essential priority during the next few years. These units must be appropriately trained, equipped and available to the collective security operations within the NATO, EU, UN or allied forces.

All the above confirms the invariability of the NAF mission:

– Latvian national sovereignty, territorial integrity and defence of its population against military aggression;
– high combat readiness, capability to participate and stay on its own during the international operations;
– efficient Command and Control;
– continuous modernisation of NAF and improvement of the professional combat training;
– co-operation with the state civil institutions and the society; Provision of support in cases of natural disasters and emergencies.

Following the Order of the Minister of Defence of December 2003 on the Structure of the National Armed Forces, the NAF is to consist of the NAF Joint Headquarters, Land Forces, Naval Forces, Air Forces, National Guard, Logistics Command,

Training and Doctrine Command, Communications and Information Command, Military Police and Security Service.

Command of the armed forces is carried out by the NAF Commander who is directly subordinated to the Minister of Defence. The NAF Commander defines the strategic aspects of the armed forces and is responsible for the NAF command and control.

The NAF Deputy Commander and the NAF Headquarters are responsible for the implementation of the national and international tasks, training of the units and their readiness for the international military missions at the operation command level.

Kinds of the National Armed Forces carry out the tasks of the tactic command. Commanders of the kinds of armed forces, National Guard, Military Police and Commands are responsible for training and combat and operation readiness of their units, as well as for preparing the units to participate in the national and international operations.

Logistics Command is responsible for the provision and logistics of the NAF, as well as training and combat and operation readiness of their units.

Training and Doctrine Command is responsible for developing of the military doctrines, recruitment of personnel, individual training and education.

The new NAF structure does not have a separate structure for war and peacetime, as it was before. The efficiency of the new structure is characterised by an ability to command and if needed – to activate the NAF units in peace, threat or war situations without any structural changes.

The quality of the peacetime tasks of the armed forces is very much dependant on its structure. Structure determines the efficiency of command, co-operation, planning and resource expenditure.

The mission of the NAF structure in peacetime is to prepare the troops for conducting the military operations to defend the national land territory, airspace and territorial waters. After joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, this mission will be extended to include participation in the international operation abroad as a part of the Alliance's contingent. There is as requirement set to the NATO states to have at least 40% of their national military personnel and units prepared to participate in the international operations abroad within the NATO forces. Therefore, there are units included in the NAF structure who are envisaged to be ready to participate in the collective security activities and military operations abroad as requested by NATO. By 2010, Latvian NAF should have professional troops with high level of readiness, who are 60–70% prepared to participate in the international opera-

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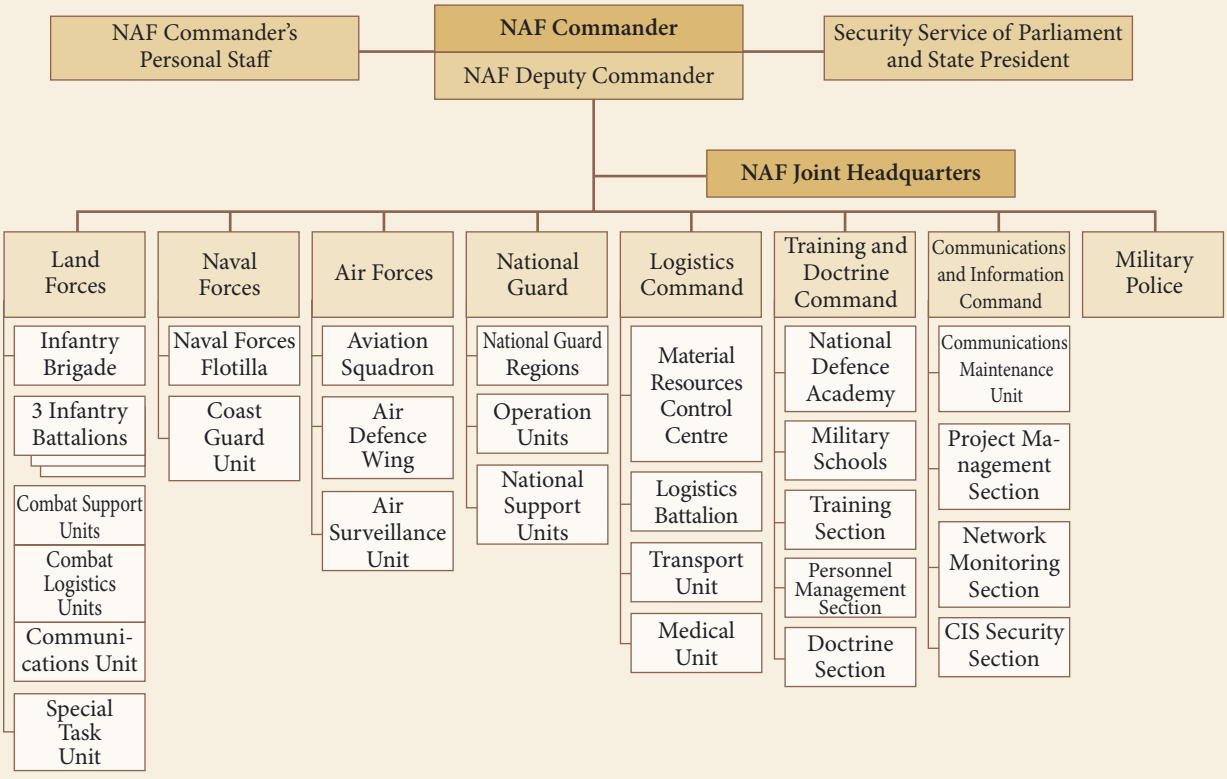
Structure of the National Armed Forces



tions. However, the reason of such high readiness is not just a necessity to participate in operations abroad. If needed, these skills will be applied in the defence of the Latvian territory.

Being a NATO member state, Latvia will in the event of threat receive the military support of the allies, as stated in the security guarantees defined by the NATO Treaty. In order to be able to host the Alliance's troops in the Latvian territory, it is necessary to provide a system for host-nation's support. It means that the readiness of the Latvian military forces must be NATO-compliant also when operating within the Latvian territory and receiving the assistance of the troops of other countries, when they are deployed, operate or transit the territory of Latvia. The Host-nation's Support Plans and the National Capability Catalogue (database containing information on available host-nation's infrastructure and its capabilities) must be produced for this purpose.

At the same time, the NAF units prepared for these tasks will also be able to provide support to the state institutions, municipalities and the ordinary public in the events of natural catastrophes and emergencies.

In 2004, special attention will be paid to the establishment of the Infantry Brigade, defining the responsibilities for the National Guard Regions, specialisation of the National Guard Battalions, further enhancement of the Logistics Command, and the Training and Doctrine Command, as well as establishment of the Communications and Information Command.

In order to ensure that the goals of the new NAF structure are achieved, the administrative capabilities of the defence system must be comprehensively enhanced, the current NAF command and control system must be optimised and the quality of the information exchange and its security must be improved. The tasks of the NAF units must be clarified, their performance must be evaluated, and the personnel management and training system must be improved, especially within the National Guard. The modernisation of the armament and equipment, the enhancement of the mobility capabilities and improvement of the procurement system and infrastructure must be commenced in 2004.

It must be stressed that the basis of the successful implementation of the NAF new structure is the guaranteed availability of the national funds for the next 3–4 years.

Main priorities of the National Armed Force development: (separately)

– continue the integration to NATO;

2004

NAF Language School

Meeting of the NAF Headquarters' Senior Officials, August 2003

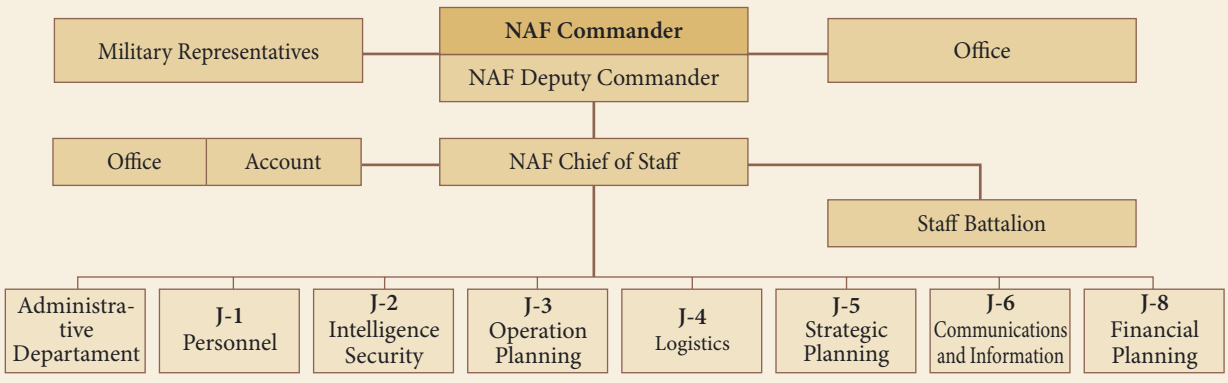
2004

– modernise the command and control system, armament, training, provision and logistics systems;
– improve the air-defence, air surveillance and control systems;
– develop the NAF units and be prepared to deploy them to the locations of operations;
– develop and find opportunities for the joint co-operation of the Baltic States in order to develop and enhance the military capabilities required for the collective defence;
– improve the host-nation's support capabilities.

4.2. NAF Joint Headquarters

The institution providing the Commander with an opportunity to carry out continuous command and control functions is the NAF Joint Headquarters. Its mission is to prepare the information, documents and proposals required for making decisions on the defence policy, and to control the implementation

Structure of the NAF Joint Headquarters



Functions of the NAF Headquarters by Departments

NAF Joint Headquarters

Operation Planning	NAF Development Planning
J-3 Operation Planning • Elaborate Operation Plan for the national defence • Elaborate the NAf Activation Plan • Plan and co-ordinate the NAF operations • Plan and co-ordinate the joint international exercises • Provide operation of the NAF command posts • Plan, co-ordinate and control the establishment and development of engineer, defence, NBC-weapon, environmental protection and civil-military co-operation services	**J-5** NAF Development Planning • Elaborate concepts • Plan development • Implement assessment and reporting systems for the NAF units • Organise bilateral co-operation • Plan co-operation of the Baltic States • Elaborate economic substantiation for the NAF development • Elaborate and control the implementation of the NATO integration related documents • Coordinate and control implementation of the NATO co-operation goals
J-2 Intelligence • Perform intelligence activities • Organise internal security activities • Support Attaché Service	**J-6** Communications and Information • Elaborate concepts and technical policies • Programme management for Communications and Information systems • Planning and management of military frequency spectrum usage • Information security measures
	J-1 Personnel • Personnel planning • Personnel recruitment for units • Personnel accounting • Elaborate legal documents • Assess and sertify
	J-4 Logistics • Plan logistics • Plan support of the host-nation • Establish national support element • Develop medical service
	J-8 Financial Planning • Elaborate the NAF Budget • Assess the financial resource expenditure
	Administrative Department • Organise administration and operation of the NAF Headquarters • Organise protocol events • Solve legal issues

of the orders and instructions passed by the NAF Commander.

The NAF Joint Headquarters consists of 8 departments:

– J-1 Personnel Department;
– J-2 Intelligence Department;
– J-3 Operation Planning Department;
– J-4 Logistics Department;
– J-5 Strategic Planning Department;
– J-6 Communications and Information Department;
– J-8 Finance and Budgeting Department;
– Administrative Department.

The structure of the NAF Joint Headquarters can be divided into two parts according to its functions:

1. NAF Development Planning

The NAF development planning is carried out by the Strategic Planning Department in co-operation with the J-1, J-4 and J-8 departments. The main task of these departments is to elaborate the NAF development plans by defining the NAF development priorities and tasks, personnel policy, and material and financial resource allocation.

2. NAF Operation Planning

The NAF operation planning is carried out by the Operation Planning Department (J-3) in co-operation with the J-2 and J-6 departments. The main tasks of these departments are to develop and implement the Command, Control and Operation Planning System for the NAF units, as well as to provide the development planning and co-ordination of the NAF combat and combat support fields/services.

CHAPTER 5

KINDS OF NATIONAL ARMED FORCES, COMMANDS OF NATIONAL ARMED FORCES AND SPECIALISED UNITS

5.1. Land Forces

In 2003, the Land Forces (LF) continued to implement the reforms, which were started in the previous years. After a repeated review of the LF structure, the reform plans were amended in 2003 while the main task of the reorganisation was kept unchanged – enhance the command and control system for the LF units and professionalisation of the 1st Infantry Battalion.

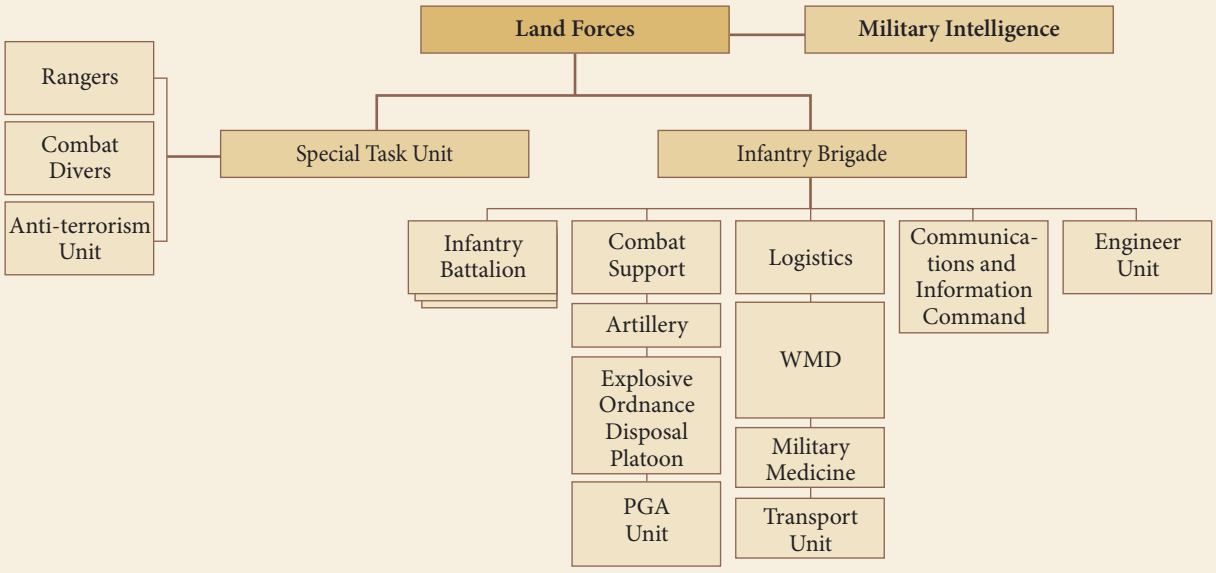
According to the new NAF structure, the main units of the Land Forces will be the Special Task Unit and the Infantry Brigade. The Infantry Brigade will be a unit, which will provide a comprehensive combat training for the national battalions and combat support and logistics units. The above units will be NATO-compliant and ready to operate within the NATO High Readiness Forces. A working group was established in 2003 with a purpose to plan the development of the Brigade and elaborate the personnel and equipment schemes for it.

The 2nd Infantry Battalion was established in 2002 and since 2004 has been a part of the LF. The mission of the Battalion is to prepare the soldiers of professional military service for participation in the international missions. At the same time, the Battalion must provide the training of the conscript service soldiers.

The mission of the LF is:

– defence of the national land territories;
– command and control;
– combat and mobilisation readiness;
– participation in the international operations;
– participation in the crisis management;

Structure of the Land Forces



Shooting exercise of the 2nd Company of the 27th Battalion of the National Guard, March 2004

– explosive object disposal.

Achievements of 2003:

– the 1st Infantry Battalion (LATBAT) has been developed in accordance with the Concept on Battalion's Development;

– conscript service soldiers of the Battalion's combat support company have been replaced by the soldiers of career service;

– participation in the international operations has been provided;

– development planning of the Infantry Brigade has been commenced.

Plans for 2004:

– develop the Land Forces in accordance with the NAF development plans and NATO Force Proposals;

– continue the development of the 1st Infantry Battalion in accordance with the NATO requirements;

– train units in accordance with the LF Tactical Doctrine ATP-35B;

– by July 2004, establish the Infantry Brigade (LATBRIG) Staff and produce the LATBRIG Development Concept;

– by December 2004, produce the Tactical Doctrine on the Baltic States' Land Operations in collaboration with the Land Forces of Estonia and Lithuania;

– by December 2004, prepare the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Platoon for its participation in the international operations;

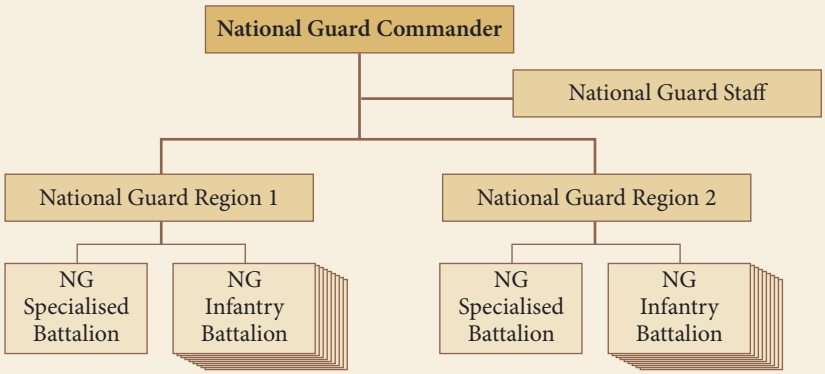
– continue the modernisation of the Artillery Wing and the training of personnel;

– continue the development of the NAF Special Task Unit.

5.2. National Guard

After Latvia becomes a member of the collective defence system, the refinement of the total territorial defence methods and the retention of the optimal proportion of them in the national defence system will become topical issues. Also, the activities for developing the structure of the National Guard (NG) commenced in 2001 were determined by the lack of resources required for qualitative provision and training of the NG units. In spite of these problems, the National Guard has and will have an important role and tasks in the national defence. The structure of the National Guard should certainly be transformed in order to achieve its optimum. This process was commenced in 2002, and its purpose was to reduce the bureaucracy of NG administration and substitute it with an efficient command and control system. Proposals have been made for enhancing the structure of the National Guard, which will ensure the performance of its new tasks. The purpose of these measures is to provide the future to the National Guard, develop its traditions, keep the public motivated to partici-

Structure of the National Guard



2004

pate in the national defence activities and build the NAF reserve system.

The implementation of the new structure of the National Guard and clarification of its tasks must be completed in 2004. The goal of the National Guard is and will remain the involvement of the Latvian citizens in the national defence.

According to the new structure of the National Guard, it will have the following tasks:

– perform the tasks of the national territorial defence all alone or by supporting the NAF professional units;
– ensure combat and mobilisation readiness;
– perform the support tasks of host-nation;
– guard objects of national importance in the event of war or threat;
– clear consequences of emergency situations;
– support the society and the Youth Guard movement.

The National Guard consists of the National Guard Staff and two Regions. Each Region has 8 Infantry Battalions and 2 Specialised Battalions, which are specialised in the air defence and the host-nation support.

Achievements of 2003:

The reorganisation of the National Guard has been continued:
– the number of the National Guard Battalions has been reduced from 24 to 20;
– two National Guard Regions have been established;
– the specialisation of the battalions has been commenced;
– the NG Special Task Unit "Vanags" (Hawk) has been merged with the NAF Special Task Unit.

Plans for 2004:

Continue the reorganisation of the National Guard in order to provide capacity to perform the following tasks:
– guard the objects of national importance, participate in crisis response and clearance operations, co-ordinate the co-operation with the National Borderguard etc.;
– provide support to the foreign troops transferring or arriving at the Latvian territory;
– establish combat support and logistics units in the fields of transportation, civil-military co-operation, logistics, engineer and air defence.

5.3. Naval Forces

The first units of the Naval Forces (NF) were

National Guard's engineers during the explosive ordnance disposal, August 2003

established in 1991. Naval Forces have been continuously developed and enhanced and now can successfully perform all the tasks entrusted to them.

One of the key development priorities for the Naval Forces is to develop the surveillance system. Its purpose is to ensure the defence of the national sea border and control of the exclusive economical zone. Other priorities include the extension of the Naval Forces' participation in the Baltic Naval Squadron BALTRON and development of the infrastructure with the main emphasis on the building of the docks in Riga.

Mission of the Naval Forces is to:

– defend the national sea and inland waters;
– monitor and survey the national exclusive economical zones, territorial and inland waters (except rivers and lakes);
– provide the combat and mobilisation readiness of units;
– lead and perform the search and rescue operations at sea, ecological monitoring and catastrophe clearance;
– search for explosives at sea and dispose them.

Naval Forces consist of the War Ship Flotilla (WSF), Coast Guard Ship Flotilla (CGSF), Coast Guard Battalion (CGB) and Search and Rescue Coordination Centre (SRCS).

2004

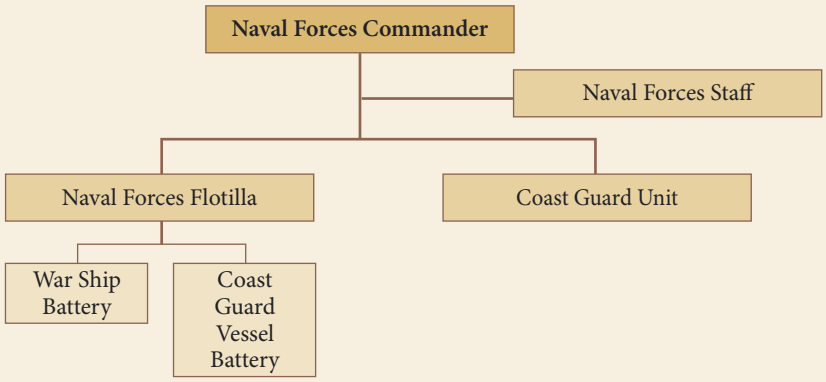
Achievements of 2003:

– the professional skills of personnel, the combat ship and staff command and control capabilities have been enhanced:
  – planning and commanding of the mine clearance operation "MCOPLAT 03";
  – participation in the mine clearance operation "OPEN SPIRIT 03";
  – participation in the international and local sea and staff exercises;
– drills of crews have been increased:
  – participation in the working groups on the NATO war ship armament;
  – participation in the BALTRON project;
– a mine laying vessel of VIDAR Class has been procured (on duty as a command and logistics vessel within BALTRON);
– updating of the Submarine Database has been continued;
– participation in the MOST (Maritime Operation Sea Training).

Plans for 2004:

– integration of Latvian countermine vessels to the unified countermine vessel unit of NATO, which is a part of the Mine Counter Measures Force North (MCMFORNORTH);
– by December 2004, certify the locations of storing the NATO classified documentation at the Naval Forces' Staffs, units and vessels, which will participate within the NATO forces;
– by December 2004, procure the NATO-compliant encrypting equipment to be used in the ultra-short wave communications network;
– within the BALTRON project continue the vessel and staff personnel drills;
– participate in mine clearance operations and NATO-led exercises;
– implement the NATO requirements on protection of mine-clearing vessels against NBC-weapons (NBC) and inspect the current NBC systems;
– by July 2004, implement the NATO requirements on physical fields of the mine-clearing vessels and perform their de-magnetisation;
– by December 2004, commence procurement of active impact trawls for countermine vessels;
– continue to update the Submarine Database;
– build docks in Riga (Daugavgrīva);
– by December 2004, produce the technical specifications and announce a tender for establishing of the Naval Surveillance System;

Structure of the Naval Forces



Naval Forces during the mine clearance exercise MCOPLAT 03, May 2003

– test the vessel m-03 at MOST (Maritime Operation Sea Training);
– review options to procure an oil clearing vessel;
– review options to build ships;
– continue the professionalisation of NF.

5.4. Air Forces and Air Defence

One of the key missions of the Air Forces is the implementation of the BALTNET Project. The goal of the project is to create a unitary air surveillance system of the Baltic States, which would be integrated in the NATO air surveillance system in the future. Regional Air Surveillance Co-ordination Centre (RASCC) in Karmevala, Lithuania, and national centres in Latvia – at the Riga airport – and Lithuania and Estonia have been established within the BALTNET Project. RASCC covers two operative elements – surveillance and co-ordination. International crews of the three Baltic States are on duty at the Regional Centre. The task of the national centres is to detect the violations of the territorial air space and to react on them, as well as to integrate the information of all the national surveillance active resources and the RASCC.

In 2003, the 3D long-range air surveillance radar TPS-117 was set up in Rēzekne and the 2D medium-range radar ASR-7 was set up in Ventspils. Fitting of the radars was an essential contribution to the increase of the Latvian defence capabilities because they will ensure a full surveillance and control of the Latvian air space. Both radars have substantially increased the Latvian air surveillance capabilities, search and rescue operation efficiency and flight safety, especially in the events of aircraft equipment failure. Radars ASR-7 and TPS-117 are integrated into the unitary air surveillance system BALTNET and provide a full coverage of the Baltic air space.

Mission of the Air Forces is to:
– provide for the control and defence of the national air space;
– provide combat and mobilisation readiness for units;
– participate in people and object search and rescue operations;
– perform air transportation duties;
– provide air defence.

Air Forces consist of the Aviation Squadron, Air Defence Wing and Air Surveillance Squadron.

Achievements of 2003:
– development of the NATO adequate and com-

2004

Air Forces during exercise at the Šķēde base, May 2003

pliant Air Command and Control System has been commenced in order to integrate it to the NATO Integrated Air Defence System;
– the 2D medium-range radar ASR-7 has been set up in Ventspils radio-technical post and connected to the BALTNET system;
– the 3D long-range radar TPS-117 has been set up in Rēzekne radio-technical post and connected to the BALTNET system;
– agreement on procuring of two Helicopters Mi-8 has been signed;
– transportation of the NAF soldier contingent to the locations of international missions has been provided;
– AF helicopters have participated in several search and rescue operations at the Baltic Sea;
– training of aircraft crews by participation in local and international military exercises has been provided.

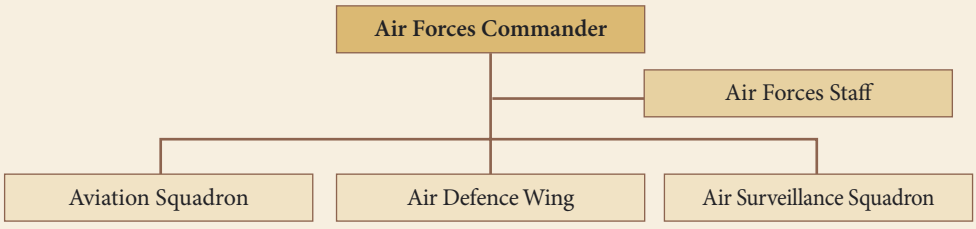
2004

Plans for 2004:
– establish joint Allied Forces Northern Europe – AFNORTH – and Latvian Air Forces working group to facilitate the integration to the NATO Integrated Air Defence System (NATINADS);
– enhance the Air Command and Control (C2) system, Operation Concepts and Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) in order to ensure the integration of BALTNET into NATINADS system, set up and upgrade the required devices and equipment; By December 2004, complete the certification of the BALTNET security system compliant to the NATO classification level "Classified";
– in collaboration with the civil aviation and other state institutions, continue to enhance the military air traffic control process in order to ensure a flexible usage of the air space for air patrolling operations;
– conduct flights of specially equipped NATO aircrafts with the purpose to assess the radiation coverage of the military radars in the Latvian air space;
– start to develop the ground-air-ground (GAG) ultra-short wave radio network, set up the NATO-compliant navigation and identification equipment;
– enhance the national air defence concept in accordance with the national and NATO requirements; enhance the communications network at Air Defence units, and establish a communication line between the Air Defence Wing and the national Air Support Operation Centre (ASOC); continue to enhance the infrastructure of the Air Defence Wing in Lielvārde and the live shooting-range of Šķēde;
– commence the procurement of the mobile air defence weapon system RBS-70 by procuring one RBS-70 battery every year in order to provide one wing by the end of 2006.

5.5. Training and Doctrine Command

Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) was established in 2002. By creating a centralised system for military doctrine and training, the NAF education planning and coordination has been improved, thus improving the whole military education and

Structure of the Air Forces



training system. Training and Doctrine Command is the contact and co-ordination unit in all fields of military doctrines, education and training.

Training and Doctrine Command is going to take over the personnel recruitment functions in the future. The personnel individual training will be enhanced and the reglements for the combat tactics at the platoon, company and battalion levels will be implemented. The implementation of the NATO standards in all fields of training and education will be continued.

Mission of the Training and Doctrine Command:

– personnel selection and recruitment;
– individual personnel training;
– development and implementation of the individual training programmes and standards;
– evaluation and control of the individual and collective training;
– elaboration of doctrines;
– development of manuals and reglements related to training and education;
– development of training standards.

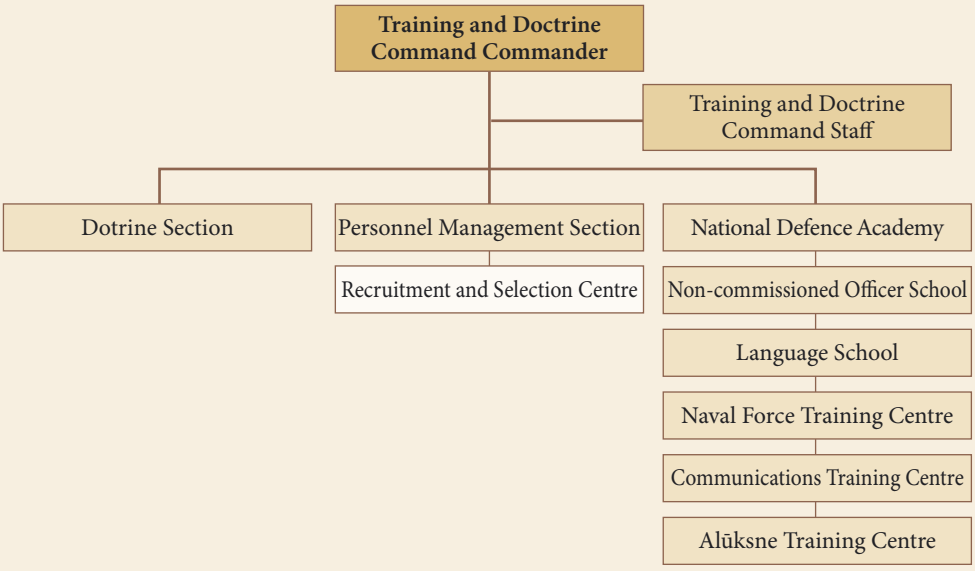
Training and Doctrine Command will consist of Training and Doctrine Staff, Recruitment and Selection Centre, National Defence Academy, Non-commissioned Officer School, Language School, Naval Force Training Centre, Communications Training Centre and Alūksne Training Centre.

Achievements of 2003:

– the NATO Land Forces Tactical Doctrine ATP-35 (B) applied in the training process has been translated into Latvian;
– evaluation and revision of the training programmes has been done in order to ensure that individual training at the NAF Training Centres is conducted in accordance with the unitary standard procedures; over 20 individual training programmes have been evaluated and developed;
– organisation and equipment schemes have been developed and introduced in the NAF;
– language training and its evaluation has been conducted in the NAF Language School; over 800 students have been trained at different levels;
– the training programmes for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) School have been completed; the qualification upgrade and pre-mission training of the EOD personnel has been commenced;
– the basic training course of 1570 soldiers has been completed at the Motorised Infantry Training Centre;
– 25 cadets of the National Defence Academy have completed one-year basic officer course, 83 cadets have completed the three-year officer course, 21 officers have completed the junior staff officer course, and 23 officers have completed the company commander course;
– 390 soldiers have completed the communications course at the NAF Communications Training Centre;

2004

Structure of the Training and Doctrine Command



– 271 soldiers have completed the junior private course at the Naval Force Training Centre;
– over 60 students of the Baltic States have completed the counter mine activity course at the Diver Training Centre of the Baltic States.

Plans for 2004:

– in July 2004, complete the reglements for the combat tactics at the platoon, company and battalion level, and include them in the training programmes;
– by December 2004, commence to develop the training programme and doctrine for the peacekeeping operations;
– by December 2004, commence to develop the "Soldier Skill Levels" and standardisation for all military grades;
– provide the language training at the NAF:
  – enlarge and specialise two training sections of the Language school for con-commissioned officer training and start the course in military English;
  – evaluate the English language skills in accordance with STANAG 6001;
  – train 856 students at all levels in accordance with STANAG 6001;
– in 2004, train the non-commissioned instructors at different level courses, complete the implementation of the instructor course at the Non-commissioned Officer School;
– in April 2004, implement the innovations in the training programmes of EOD School;
– by December 2004, review and upgrade the communications course at the NAF Communications Training Centre to comply with the NATO standard operation procedures;
– by December 2004, start to establish the Combat Support and Riflemen Weapon School and develop the training programmes for it;
– produce the Tactical Manuals:
  – "Tactics of Infantry Platoon" – May 2004;
  – "Tactics of Infantry Company" – August 2004;
  – "Basics of Infantry Company Command" – October 2004;
  – "Command and Tactics of Infantry Battalion" – December 2004 (Draft);
– by December 2004, produce the working material for developing of the manual for peacekeeping and crisis response operations.

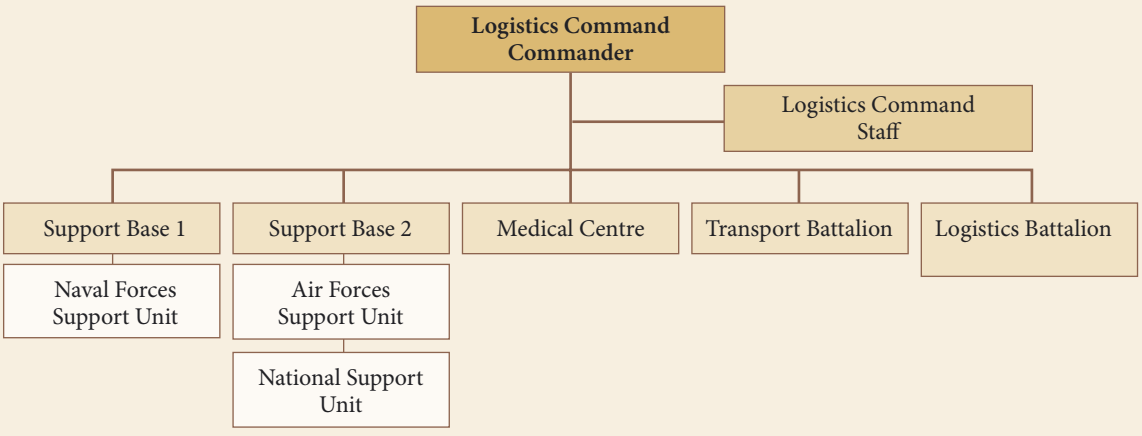
2004

5.6. Logicstics Command

Reorganisation process of the Latvian NAF includes establishment of the NATO-compliant logistics system. The NAF Logistics Centre was established in 2002 with the purpose to centrally provide the NAF units with the material resources and services. The enhancement of the NAF logistics system will be continued after Latvia joins NATO. The Logistics Centre is being transformed into the Logistics Command with the new logistics tasks defined, which are related to the collective defence and participation in the international peace-keeping operations. Besides the current tasks (centralised provision of the NAF units with materials, procurement, storage, maintenance and repair of materials, transportation of personnel and materials, provision of medical care, maintenance of base infrastructure etc.), the Logistics Command will also have to provide the NAF units for the international peace-keeping operations, provide the national support, provide the host-nation's support and prepare and train the logistics units.

Logistics Command will continue to provide the

Structure of the Logistics Command



logistics support to all the NAF units within the Latvian territory to ensure that they are able to perform their tasks during the peace, crisis and wartime.

Logistics Command consists of Support Bases 1 and 2, Military Medical Centre, Transport Battalion and Logistics Battalion.

Achievements of 2003:

– logistics systems of AF, NF and Riga Garrison have been taken over;
– fitting and improving of the repair workshop in Ādaži has been carried out in co-operation with the Swedish armed forces;
– depot economy has been developed;
– infrastructure for material reserve accumulation has been developed;
– re-arming of NAF units with riflemen weapons has been completed;
– NAF has received the following material aid from US, Denmark, Norway, Poland, Switzerland, Germany and Sweden in 2003:
  – armament, equipment and vehicles for one infantry battalion;
  – armament, equipment and vehicles for one engineer company;
  – armament, equipment and vehicles for one staff company;
  – explosives, vehicles, weapons, spare parts to vehicles and weapons, as well as weapons and vehicles to be disassembled in spare parts;
  – personal equipment for soldiers and English study lab;
  – hardware for the automated logistics management and information system CONCORDE, search and rescue equipment for the Air Forces, vehicles and equipment;
  – divers equipment, ship engines, equipment for Naval Forces depots;
– a Standardisation Section has been established at the Logistics Centre within the logistics management and information system CONCORDE;
– codification of materials has been continued, administrators and users of the CONCORDE system have been trained;
– personnel of the Baltic Logistics Group has been taken over, and establishment of the National Logistics Planning Group has been commenced;
– national Logistics Concept has been produced;
– the following activities have been carried out in co-operation with the J-4 Department of the NAF Headquarters:
  – development of the database for the Allied Deployment and Movement System (ADAMS) has been continued; information on the Latvian port, airport, road and railway system facilities has been collected;
  – Latvian facilities for the air and sea transportation have been identified; market research has been conducted in order to identify the civil transportation companies which would be able to support the Latvian armed forces.

Military tattoos of the Special Task Unit, Alūksne, August 2003

Plans for 2004:

– develop the Reglement of National Logistics Element (NLE); establish NLE management and co-ordination group;
– establish the UVA co-ordination section;
– by May 2004, establish the Transportation Control Centre;
– develop the procurement system, improve the material testing and quality control systems;
– enhance the movement capabilities of the NAF units (deployment, reinforcement, support, rotation and re-location) by conducting the strategic movement with the assistance of the commercial companies in accordance with the agreements between the Latvian NAF and partner states;
– implement and enhance the new structure of the Logistics Command; by December 2004, develop the Logistics bases for Defence Regions

1 and 2, Logistics Battalion, Medical Battalion and Transportation Battalion;
– enhance the Depot of the Latvian NAF Logistics Command and the material storage, maintenance and repair system;
– by December 2004, complete the implementation of the automated logistics management and information system CONCORDE;
– by august 2004, complete the standardisation of the riflemen weapons;
– receive material aid from the USA, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland.

5.7. Communications and Information Command

Communications and Information (CIS) Command will be a structure to provide the work of the NAF communications and information systems. It will start to operate as a separate command in 2007.

Mission of the CIS Command will be to:
– provide the planning, development and operation of all the stationary and mobile network communications, radio communications, satellite communications and information systems of the NAF;
– monitor and control the NAF CIS including the network administration and monitoring, repairs and maintenance;
– implement the CIS projects in accordance with the NAF plans (including the procurement management within projects);
– train the CIS personnel;
– provide the Military Frequency Control in co-operation with the State Electro-communication Inspection (SEI);
– provide the CIS security, including distribution of encryption keys, Communications Security (COMSEC) and Computer Security (COMPUSEC) functions;
– provide the operation of the internal CIS at the NAF Headquarters and the Command and Control Centre;
– provide the operation of the NAF stationary and mobile network communications, radio communications, satellite communications and information systems;
– provide the CIS support to the NAF activities for the operation tactical level (operations, missions, exercises);
– provide the CIS support to the NAF Mobile Command and Control Centre;
– control the electromagnetic spectrum within the national territory.

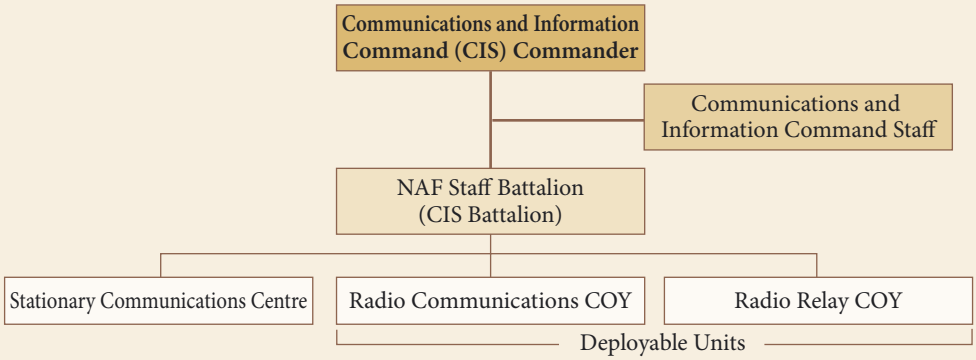
5.8. Security Service

The Security Service of the Parliament and the State President is a unit of the National Armed Forces with a mission to provide security to the Parliament and the State President and to guard objects, institutions and persons of national importance. The Security Service must also provide security of the foreign officials under their visits at the Ministry's of Defence and NAF objects.

When performing their tasks, the Security Service maintains active co-operation with the State President's Chancellery, Riga Municipal Police and other municipal institutions. While providing the security of high-level officials in Latvia and abroad, the Security Service co-ordinates its activities with the respective foreign security services.

Mission of the Security Service is to:
– provide security (guarding) for the Members of the Parliament, the Presidium of the Parliament and its affiliated institutions (objects) in accordance with procedures set by the Presidium of the Parliament;

Structure of the Communications and Information Command



– provide security of the State President, his/her family members, the State President's Chancellery and Residence in accordance with procedures set by the State President;
– provide security to foreign officials and representatives of international organisations during their official visits to Latvia in accordance with procedures set by the Cabinet of Ministers.
The Security Service of the Parliament and the State President has received new tasks in 2003 related to the improvised explosive device disposal (IEDD) operations.
The Security Service of the Parliament and the State President consists of the Staff, the Parliament's Security and Staff and Logistics Company.

Achievements of 2003:

The Security Service of the Parliament and the State President provided for the following activities in 2003:
– security of the LR highest officials during their foreign visits – 28;
– Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) operations (28), improvised explosive device disposal (IEDD) operations (2) and object security clearance operations (76) – 106;
– sets of security measures for different level foreign official visits to Latvia Republic – 23;
– other activities (Parliament meetings security, escorting of officials, monitoring of demonstrations, tours to the Parliament and the Riga Castle) – 378.

Plans for 2004:

– provide security to the LR Parliament's highest officials, the State President and his/her family members, stationary objects of the LR Parliament and the State President, as well as security to the foreign officials and representatives of the international organisations invited by the MoD and the NAF;
– carry out the IEDD operations nationwide in co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior, NAF Air Forces and other NAF units;
– implement the personnel recruitment programme;
– implement the technical modernisation programme;
– co-operate with the civil service experts of the NATO and the Western armed forces for raising the qualifications of the Security Service personnel;
– train the personnel of the IEDD Platoon in IEDD specialities (underwater, chemical, biological and nuclear IEDD training programmes);

Guarding the Parliament is one of the tasks of the Security Service

A soldier of the Military Police

– train cynologists;
– improve the material and technical resources of the IEDD Platoon.

5.9. Military Police

Military Police (MP) was established in 1997. It is a unit to provide the military discipline and legality with the rights to perform cognition and operative activities.

Mission of the Military Police is to:

– provide assistance to the commanders (chiefs) of the military units during the security activities of military events, military discipline, law and order, and prevent malfeasances and criminal offences;
– guard objects and officials defined by the Commander of the National Armed Forces in accordance with the military reglements;
– provide the traffic control for military vehicles, escorting of officials and security of the military cargos;
– search and detain the defendant or convicted soldiers who avoid their trials or penalties, as well as soldiers who have deserted or are in lawless absence or missing;
– detect criminal offences conducted at the military service or their locations, which are performed by soldiers, national guards or civilian employees and are related to abuse of their status of service or performance of their duties;
– provide the escort and security for detained soldiers who have been detained as suspects or to whom the security measures of the house arrest or imprisonment have been applied.

MP consists of the MP Staff, Staff and Logistics Platoon, MP Company and Cognition Section.

Achievements of 2003:

– seminars and lectures to the soldiers of the career service and CS about observance of the military discipline in the NAF units have been carried out;
– traffic control for NAF military vehicles has been provided at irregular schedule;
– MP instructors have prepared and carried out the pre-mission training of KFOR and OIF military policemen in co-operation with the Training and Doctrine Command's Staff;
– guarding function has been commenced at different military objects;
– escort of high officials and important cargos has been conducted for 204 times;
– order has been provided in the NAF events including patrolling and security reinforcement for 86 times (MP has co-operated with the Road Police during the patrols);
– 49 legal cases have been taken to court, 16 service investigations have been carried out and 6 administrative protocols have been made.

Plans for 2004:

– develop the training programme and commence the training of two military policemen sections to participate in the NATO operations;
– select and prepare MP soldiers to participate in the KFOR and OIF international operations;
– provide security during the exercises Cooperative Nugget, Medceur/Rescuer and Second Step;
– continue to comply the MP with the NATO standardisation agreements;
– commence qualitative operation of courier post for NATO;
– develop the international co-operation with the Baltic States, Italy, Denmark, Poland, Ireland and Croatia.

CHAPTER 6

NAF COMMAND AND CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS, COMPUTERS AND INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS, PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

6.1. Command and Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence Systems

The purpose of the command and control, communications, computers and intelligence systems (C4I) is to provide the information exchange required for the NAF command, control and cooperation during the peace and wartime. Modern and NATO standards compliant C4I system is one of the key prerequisites for a successful NATO membership. Taking into account the rapid development of the information technologies, procurement of modern communications devices and equipment has become one of the NAF priorities. Special attention is paid to the NATO-compliant communications equipment, as well as its security in the work with the classified information.

Achievements of 2003:

– The Baltic Command and Control Information System (BALTCCIS) has been developed:
  – central and national support servers have been installed;
  – server rooms have been equipped in accordance with the NATO Security Standards;
– Defence Telecommunications Network (DTN) has been connected to the units at the battalion level, the encrypted Internet Protocol (IP) for the command system has partly been implemented;
– Latvian units deployed to the Afghanistan, Iraq and KFOR missions have been provided with the INMARSAT satellite equipment;
– deployable units have been equipped with the HARRIS – FALCON II radio stations;
– Naval and Land Forces' short-wave radio network with the data transmission option has been established through the FALCON II encrypting system;
– provision of the NAF units with handheld radio stations has been commenced;
– in accordance with the NATO Joint Frequency Agreement (NJFA) the basic spectrum has been harmonised, and the spectrum control system has been implemented.

Plans for 2004:

To continue the development of the BALTCCIS:
  – train programmers at the German Air Force Programming Centre;
  – complete the installation of software and hardware, as well as the connection of clients to the system;
  – in December 2004, complete the project security accreditation;
  – by October 2004, establish and equip premises for processing and storage of the national and NATO classified information;

Radar TPS-117 in Audriņi of Rēzekne district

Soldiers of the Cēsis Non-commissioned Officer School during shooting exercise, summer of 2003

– by December 2004, partly implement the Project of NAF Information System Support (NISS);
– by December 2004, procure and certify the encrypting equipment for the NAF;
– develop the Defence Telecommunications Network (expansion, management and establishment of the Training and Command Centre);
– by December 2004, provide the NAF deployable units with the FALCON II radio systems;
– commence the establishment of the field tactical communications system (FTCS);
– develop the NAF frequency management:
– by June 2004, complete the establishment of the spectrum monitoring system by using the top class equipment, and settle the national military spectrum in accordance with the NATO Joint Frequency Agreement;
– by October 2004, install the Spectrum Data Processing System (MDMS) and software "Spectrum XXI".

6.1.1. Cartography and Geographic Information

For successful implementation of their tasks, the National Armed Forces require relevant topographical maps, city maps, sea and air navigation maps, special cartography products for conduct of diverse military tasks, and other spatial information. Therefore, the Ministry of Defence and the NAF have to pay more attention to the development of the cartography and geographical information fields, as well as applying of the new technologies.

In 2003, the Ministry of Defence continued its co-operation with the State Land Service on the basis of the Agreement on Establishment of the National Cartography System, signed in 2000. For enhancing the technological development of the field, modern technological equipment was procured to increase the production quality and technological abilities of the maps, as well as the technical potential of separate military users.

Achievements of 2003:

– The work in collaboration with the State Land Service to develop the cartography products has been continued:
  – military topographical maps at the scale of 1: 50 000;
  – total operations maps at the scale of 1:250 000 (land and air versions);
  – military topographical maps at the scale of 1: 25 000 samples of scale topographical maps;

– the technology for producing of the city maps and the prototype of the military map of Riga city has been developed;
– NATO standards for producing the maps and digital geographical products have been clarified;

– participation in several international key events in the field of military geography – NATO/PfP Geographical Conference, working group of the NATO Standardisation Agency, annual Baltic military cartography conference;
– co-operation in the field of bilateral relations with the National Imagery and Mapping Agency of the USA's Department of Defence, military geography structures of the Baltic States, Czech Republic and other countries; the Memorandum of Understanding On Co-operation in Mapping/Geodesy and Exchange of Geographical Materials has been prepared for signing between the LR Ministry of Defence and the Agency of Geographical and Satellite Surveillance of the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
– training course in the UK and France has been completed: one NAF officer has obtained the MA in Military Geographical Information Systems, and another NAF officer has obtained the qualification in satellite image processing and analysis technologies.

Plans for 2004:

– continue to develop the military topographical maps at the scale of 1: 50 000, the total operations maps at the scale of 1: 250 000 and the military maps of cities;
– develop the structure of the military geographical information – fill the respective positions with the staff of appropriate qualifications;
– continue the current bilateral co-operation, improve contacts between the military geography experts of the Baltic States by providing opportunities for them to participate in international conferences and working groups;
– organise training seminars to geographical information users on opportunities of the geographical information usage and potential of the new technologies.

6.2. Personnel Management

Professional staff and efficient personnel management system is one of the key prerequisites for successful operation and development of the NAF. Implementation of these tasks are related to both elaboration of legal documents specifying the progress of the military service and personnel recruitment and assessment criteria, and implementation of social guaranties and competitive salaries to the ones found in the labour market.

Due to the Latvian membership to NATO, special attention must be paid to the personnel planning. A large number of qualified officers must be transferred to the NATO Staffs. At the same time, the structure of the NAF Command must be gradually enhanced because the amount of work grows essentially after joining the Alliance. The staff of the NAF Headquarters has to work in accordance with the NATO Staff Procedures.

As a NATO state Latvia should essentially increase the size of units to be deployed to the NATO operations, as well as consider new fields of operation. A purposive information campaign and a detailed recruitment plan for attracting a qualified personnel to the NAF structures must be elaborated in order to implement the above decision.

By the end of 2006, the NAF could fully discard the conscript service. Decision to professionalise NAF has the following substantiation:

Soldiers of the Mobile Infantry Battalion during exercise, January 2004

– Armed forces should be relevant to the current situation of threat, the elimination of which depends on the quality, and not the quantity of the armed forces;
– according to the survey carried out by the company "DATA Serviss" in December 2003 on the Latvian Public Opinion About National Defence Issues, 82.7% of the Latvian population back the professional armed forces;
– by becoming a NATO state, Latvia must provide its participation to the collective defence of the Alliance. By discarding the mandatory military service:
  – NAF will obtain larger operative capabilities for participation in the international operations;
  – NAF units will have higher level of combat readiness;
  – NAF units will use modern weapon systems and combat vehicles;
  – financial resources will be used in a more efficient way;
  – NAF will have small but well-prepared reserves.

An issue of attracting the personnel becomes essential when building and developing the armed forces based on the professional military service. Therefore, recruiting system must be compatible with the nowadays requirements – it must be flexible, modern and competitive in the labour market.

In addition to the recruitment, it is also important to provide appropriate social guarantees to the soldiers and their families. NAF must also pay special attention to the provision of the high quality training, armament and equipment.

After professionalisation of the NAF, the National Guard and the Youth Guard will have an important role as a base for recruiting of the professional service soldiers. At the same time, the combat capabilities and the training quality of the National Guard units will be increased. The National Guard's personnel policy and professional growth programme is developed in accordance with the requirements of the nowadays military capabilities, thus preserving the link to the society and the potential of the military reserves. This approach is the basis of the National Guard's future.

Achievements of 2003:
– the Draft Concept on NAF Personnel Management, which is a base for developing of the comprehensive NAF personnel programme and system has been produced;
– preparation has been done to implement the new centralised system for planning and developing of the officer service career, which will facilitate the development and management of the officer career progress (this system includes the personnel accounting, training, service missions, service performance assessment and certification);
– the Handbook on Officer Career Management, which defines and standardises the procedures of professional development and career progress of the officers, has been developed;
– the NAF automated personnel accounting system (APAS) has been developed in order to ensure the efficient personnel management;
– a comprehensive progress assessment and certification system for military personnel career has been implemented, which is required for personnel selection, assigning a higher rank of service or promoting to a higher position;
– a draft regulation has been produced to increase the soldier remuneration in 2004 in order to improve the social guarantees and life quality of the military personnel.

Plans for 2004:
– enhance the personnel management policy compliant to the NATO requirements and standards;
– ensure the efficient personnel recruitment, assessment and career planning, as well as training of appropriate personnel to serve within the NATO structures;
– ensure efficient personnel selection and training when manning the units for participation in the international missions;
– implement the new programmes of remuneration and motivating bonuses for soldiers (motivating bonuses are envisaged to the soldiers who serve in dangerous or specific conditions);
– develop the management system for the progress of the non-commissioned officer service by producing and implementing the Reglement (Manual) for Managing the Progress of the Non-commissioned Officer Service;
– continue to enhance and comply with the APAS;
– enhance the NAF personnel assessment and certification system.

CHAPTER 7

DEFENCE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

7.1. Annual National Programme

The fifth and the last document of the NATO Membership Action Plan – Annual National Programme 2004 – was submitted to the NATO in October 2003. Its purpose was to reflect the Latvian preparation for NATO membership, as well as to be the base for assessing the implementation of the Latvian obligations required for its membership to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Annual National Programme 2004 was produced on the basis of the tasks defined by the Latvian Reform Implementation Plan, which set specific obligations to be implemented till Latvia joins NATO.

The following factors were taken into account while producing the Annual National Programme 2004:

– Annual National Programme of the previous year (thus ensuring the mutual succession and compliance of the Programmes);
– invitation to join the Alliance;

Discussion "Defence Reforms in the Baltic States", 18 June 2003

– readiness to the NATO membership and readiness to assume the obligations of an ally with the actual joining to the NATO;
– changes in the international security situation, transformation processes within NATO and Guidelines of the Alliance adopted during the Prague Summit.

Annual National Programme consists of six chapters: (1) political and economical issues; (2) defence and military issues; (3) resource issues; (4) information security issues; (5) legal issues related to the NATO membership; and (6) implementation of the Annual National Programme of the previous period.

Chapter on defence and military issues of the Annual National Programme 2004 provides a review on the development of the Latvian defence fields emphasizing the key achievements of the previous Annual National Programme and giving an introduction to the plans for 2004. This chapter lists the main priorities for the NAF development:

– Land Forces will develop the Infantry Brigade with appropriate combat support and combat logistics capabilities; it is planned to reduce the number of Defence Regions from four to two by the end of 2003; transformation of the territorial forces will be continued in 2004;

International mine clearance operation MCOPLAT 03, May 2003

– Naval Forces will develop the mine clearing capabilities; great attention will be paid to the modernisation of mine clearing vessels in order to be able to participate in the NATO operations from 2004;
– Air Forces will develop the air surveillance and air defence capabilities; the main task of 2004 will be to continue the connection of the Baltic Air Surveillance System (BALTNET) to the NATO Integrated Air Defence System (NATINADS).

NATO Force Proposals will have a key role in development of the new structure of the National Armed Forces. Each proposal will be rigorously reviewed and calculated, and the accepted proposals will be integrated into the structure of the Latvian National Armed Forces.

Modernisation of the National Armed Forces is absolutely one of the key priorities of the Defence Budget 2004. Enhancement of the military capabilities by development of the host-nation support capabilities, communications equipment, air surveillance, unit training and readiness, as well as provision and logistics are the main fields of the Investment Programme.

For facilitating the integration of the Latvian National Armed Forces to the NATO, a joint working group of Latvian and Headquarters Allied Forces North will be established in each kind of the Latvian armed forces and in the fields related to the NATO integration (e.g., communications, logistics).

The co-operation between the Baltic armed forces will be continued in 2004. It has a great value because it increases the compliance of the Baltic armed forces to the NATO and optimises the defence resource expenditure of the Baltic States. Baltic co-operation is one of the basic principles in the Latvian defence planning.

7.2. NATO Co-operation Goals

NATO Co-operation Goals will have a key role in the future planning of the national defence. Initially, the basis of these Co-operation Goals is the Force Proposals of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation received in June 2003.

All NATO and invited countries have received such a set of proposals. Force Proposals have been produced based on the NATO Force Planning Procedure with emphasis on the development of capabilities required for the NATO operations and military fields with insufficient capabilities. Force

Ceremony to mark the raising of flags of the new NATO states, Mons, Belgium, 15 April 2004

Proposal set has 3 parts: NATO deployable forces (deployable units of the NAF, which will participate in the NATO-led operations), proposals related to the planning period 2005–2010, and long-term proposals related to the scientific projects of military kind with the purpose to implement the newest technological achievements in the Alliance's forces after 2010.

NATO Force Proposals suggest that Latvia should develop different capabilities required for the integrated military structure of the Alliance and define units, which can be deployed to the NATO-led operations. Taking into account the current and planned resource availability and impact of the proposals on the current development plans, the Ministry of Defence together with the experts of the National Armed Forces analysed the set of Force Proposals by reviewing each task separately and preparing a reply about the Latvian position on it.

For developing the NATO Co-operation Goals there were consultations conducted with the partner countries. Latvian replies to the Force Proposals were reviewed in September 2003 during the visit of the NATO working group to Latvia. Latvia will produce its final reply in 2004. Thereafter, the Force Proposals will become the NATO Co-operation Goals. They will form basis for the mid-term and long-term development plans of the National Armed Forces.

7.3. Planning, Programming and Budgeting System

A continuously increasing defence budget results in more responsibilities and new duties to enhance the system for efficient usage and control of the budgetary funds. Therefore, the Minister of Defence has set a condition in 1999 to implement the Planning, Programming and Budgeting System (PPBS) in compliance with the planning principles of the NATO states. Its purpose is to build a planning system, which would assist in elaboration of programmes to be implemented and in achieving of the maximum efficiency from expendable resources. The PPBS provides a clear picture and substantiation of the resources required for each task. For ensuring more efficient defence resource management, the planning system has been upgraded and implemented based on the requirements set for the NATO membership. Budgeting process is the final stage in the planning of the defence system development and is based on the previously produced development plans.

PPBS provides a clear responsibility and competence division in the process of planning, programming and budgeting. Responsibility division clearly defines responsibilities of each level commander in relation to the goal achievement and financial resource expenditure. PPBS envisages a gradual delegation of resource expenditure competencies to the lower levels of the management chain. Expenditure groups and their elements comply with the tasks set to the structure. The performance assessment is carried out at all levels – central, regional and unit levels. Performance assessment is based on the quantitative and qualitative criteria.

The requested resources are allocated in accordance with the management chain and are based on the mid-term plans. Commanders of the kinds of forces and separate units are to submit the budget requests produced in accordance with the defined budget programmes to the NAF Headquarters who then submits them to the MoD. Co-ordination of requests is carried out at all levels. Involvement of all level MoD's officials and NAF's commanders ensure understanding about the priorities, tasks and resources of the NAF development.

7.4. Resource Expenditure Control

2004

Resource review process provides information about performance of each task at each level.

NAF works on enhancement of the reporting system in co-operation with the MoD. The feedback between all PPBS stages has been enhanced in order to provide a more efficient financial (investment) analysis compared to the achieved results (benefits). The Instruction on Long-term Expenditure Calculation has been issued every year as an aid to the budget planning and creation, which includes deadlines, forms, instructions for budget presentation, as well as budget planning meeting and reporting system. Instruction contains also aid materials, e.g., methodological directives for investment planning.

For implementing the budget expenditure process, the budget expenditure monitoring is of a great value – it provides the management with the information on the current status and facilitates the planned and the optimal budget expenditure. The resource expenditure control provides an opportunity to follow the implementation of the planned prioritised activities of the current year, as well as the elaboration of the eventual legal documents related to their implementation.

Budget funds expenditure control, including remunerations, is performed on regular basis through the following activities:

– monthly budget funds expenditure – the Ministry of Defence holds monthly meetings on budget expenditure, which can also be arranged more frequently if necessary;

– monthly Budget Funds Expenditure Analysis has been produced, which is submitted to the Ministry of Finance;

– amendment requests to the institution financing plans have been analysed;

Breakdown of National Defence Expenditure in 2003 and 2004

	2003 mill. Ls	2004 mill. Ls
Total Budget of the Ministry of Defence:	**82.78**	**91.39**
Salaries	22.42	24.94
Maintenance and operation costs	41.60	46.62
Capital costs	10.14	10.65
Investments	8.62	9.18
Costs of other state institutions for performing the defence related tasks:		
Cabinet of Ministers	0.27	0.27
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	0.69	0.98
State Land Service	0.34	0.45
Ministry of the Interior	17.93	20.23
Constitution Protection Office	3.45	3.54
Security of the Latvian Bank	4.60	4.60
Ministry of Transportation and Communications	0.00	0.25
Ministry of Environment	0.00	0.25
Subtotal:	**27.28**	**30.57**
National Defence. Security and Integration to NATO Programme **Total:**	**110.06**	**121.96**

– institution cost estimates have been analysed;
– statistic report and review analysis have been produced;
– inspections and audits have been conducted.

If, due to priority changes, it is necessary to conduct the re-allocation of the financial resources, it is conducted through the financing plans and these changes upon requests of the structural units are produced by the Ministry of Defence. The planned financial resources can only be re-allocated between programmes and sub-programmes by amending the Law on the National Budget. It is conducted by the LR Parliament.

The accounting and reporting system on financial resource expenditure has been purposively and continuously enhanced in order to provide an overview about the performance of each activity, project or priority.

7.5. Budget of the National Defence, Security and Integration to NATO Programme

One of the priorities defined by the Government is the Latvian integration to NATO, and it is reflected in the resource allocation to the defence. On 5 April 2001, the Parliament adopted the Law on Financing the National Defence, which stipulates that the funds allocated to the national defence, security and integration to NATO should reach 2% of the GDP in 2003. This law was amended on 9 May 2002 stipulating that 2% of the GDP will be

Breakdown of Budget 2003 and Budget 2004 of the Ministry of Defence by Programmes and Subprogrammes

Code	Name of Programme (Subprogramme)	Budget 2003	Plan 2004	Changes to 2003	
				Ls	%
010000	Management and administration of the national defence	6 727 059	7 514 783	787 724	12%
010100	Central office	4 096 689	3 733 078	-363 611	-9%
010400	Pension fund of the military personnel	1 093 527	1 202 940	109 413	10%
010500	Defence attachés and representatives	1 536 843	2 016 149	479 306	31%
010600	Subsidy to the journal "Tēvijas Sargs" (Guard of Motherland)	0	71 000	71 000	100%
010700	Integration to NATO	0	491 616	491 616	100%
040000	CS accounting and subscription to the CS	3 590 296	1 369 304	-2 220 992	-62%
060000	National security protection	1 096 105	2 114 290	1 018 185	93%
120000	War museum	396 049	475 718	79 669	20%
130000	Contributions to the international organisations	63 651	689 927	626 276	984%
160000	Repairs and construction	6 685 241	9 557 017	2 871 776	43%
190000	Work of the Latvian National Partisan Union, finding out the beds-of-honour and setting up the memorial marks	4 000	5 500	1 500	37%
200000	Subsidy to the Latvian National Soldier Union for setting up a memorial for the Kurzeme fortress battles	0	6 500	6 500	100%
220000	National Armed Forces	64 167 021	68 909 375	4 742 354	7%
220100	NAF leadership	6 932 691	4 044 056	-2 888 635	-42%
220200	General units	7 471 452	2 690 680	-4 780 772	-64%
220300	Air Forces	9 019 257	4 521 913	-4 497 344	-50%
220400	Naval Forces	6 444 584	4 018 430	-2 426 154	-38%
220500	Land Forces	10 099 326	6 286 760	-3 812 566	-38%
220600	National Defence Academy	440 513	1 115 766	675 253	153%
220800	Logistics Forces	14 554 308	18 301 598	3 747 290	26%
220900	Training and Doctrine Forces	9 204 890	1 585 012	-7 619 878	-83%
221000	Centralised remuneration for the international operation and National Armed Forces personnel	0	26 345 160	26 345 160	100%
230000	Subsidy to the Latvian National Soldier Union for setting up a memorial for the Kurzeme fortress battles	9 100	0	-9 100	-100%
260000	Loans to the officers who have acquired the officer basic course at the National Defence Academy	42 000	80 000	38 000	90%
270000	Youth Guard	0	663 394	663 394	100%
	Total:	**82 780 522**	**91 385 808**	**8 605 286**	**10%**

allocated to the national defence, security and integration to NATO till 2008. Therefore, the growth of the funds allocated to the defence will directly depend on the growth of the GDP.

121.96 mill. Ls or 2% of the GDP were allocated to the National Defence, Security and NATO Integration Programme in 2004. Compared to the Clarified Budget 2003, the Defence Budget 2004 has been increased by 11.90 mill. Ls or 11%. A more detailed insight to the expenditure of funds planned to the national defence can be found in the Law on Budget 2004 and Explanatory Paper 2004 of the Ministry of Defence.

Financing allocated to the Ministry of Defence in 2004 was 91.39 mill. Ls or 75% of the financing allocated to the National Defence, Security and NATO Integration Programme. The 30.57 mill. Ls is expenditure of other institutions, which is classified as defence expenditure in accordance with the NATO definition on defence expenditure (e.g., it refers to units who are armoured and trained in the field of military tactics and are included in the armed forces in the event of war). The following expenditure is qualified for this purpose:

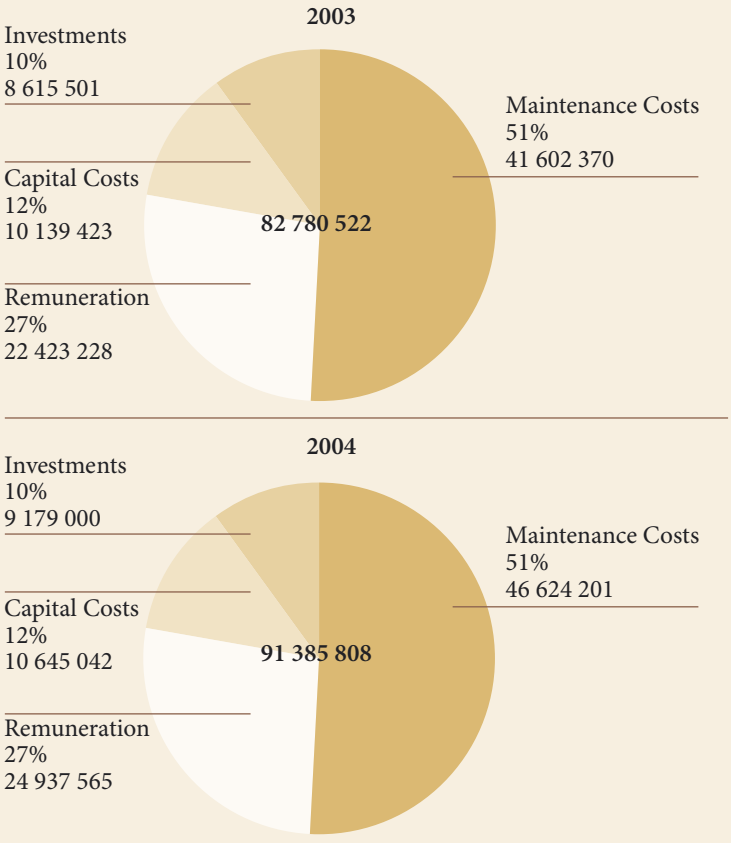
– Ministry of the Interior – 20.23 mill. Ls, of which 15.85 mill. Ls were allocated to the National Borderguard and 2.36 mill. Ls to the Security Police;
– Security Administration of the Latvian Bank – 4.6 mill. Ls;
– Constitution Protection Office – 3.54 mill. Ls;
– Ministry of Foreign Affairs for implementation of the Membership Action Plan and maintenance of the NATO Mission – 0.98 mill. Ls;
– Crisis Control Centre and Translation and Terminology Centre – 0.27 mill. Ls;
– State Land Service for producing maps – 0.45 mill. Ls;
– Ministry of Transport and Communications for Coastal automatic Identification System – 0.25 mill. Ls;
– Ministry of Environment for procurement of hidrometeorology radar - 0.25 mill. Ls.

A comparative review on the main figures of Defence Budgets 2003 and 2004 is provided below in order to give an overview about the development of the defence system in 2004.

The Minister's of Defence Guidelines for the Development and the Budget Planning of the

2004

Breakdown of Budget 2003 and 2004 of the Ministry of Defence by types of expenditure



According to the codes of economic classification for budget expenditure approved by the MoF.

Remuneration:
– salaries
– bonuses
– benefits
– remuneration to freelancers

Maintenance Costs:
– social tax
– feeding costs
– uniforms
– equipment, armament
– utility costs
– movement costs
– vehicle maintenance
– training costs, etc.
– subsidies

Capital Costs:
– movable property and real estate
– exhibits in museums
– overhaul

Investments:
– investment of funds in accordance with the Law on State Investment

Canteen of the Mobile Infantry Training Centre

National Defence System in 2004 define the main tasks of 2004:

– complete the implementation of the defence tasks of the Reform Implementation Plan and plan for the relevant future development;
– implement the new structure of the NAF, which is based on the transition from the approach of a large mobilisation, which was required for the territorial defence, to the smaller but more sophisticated National Armed Forces, which are better suited for the collective defence;
– continue to implement the career planning system for the MoD and NAF personnel, improve the training and education system, provide the social guarantees and salary reform for the soldiers of professional military service;
– ensure the readiness of NAF units to participate in the international operations, deploy and maintain units at missions;
– procure modern armament and equipment;
– continue the Baltic Sea and Baltic State Co-operation, review additional opportunities to develop, prepare, deploy and support the troops during the NATO-led operations;
– continue the NAF compliance in all fields to the NATO Standardisation Agreements.

The largest financing has been granted to the following activities within the Budget 2004:

– development of infrastructure – Ls 8 542 307;
– participation in the international peace-keeping missions – Ls 5 154 910;
– development of the NAF communications system – Ls 4 568 000;
– commencing of the salary reform in the NAF – Ls 2 822 180;
– building of the military runway at the Riga airport – Ls 1 500 000;
– accommodation for the NAF soldiers of professional military service – Ls 1 000 000;
– Naval surveillance system – Ls 1 000 000;
– short range air defence system – Ls 1 000 000;
– procurement of influence and acoustic trawls for Condor II Class vessels – Ls 1 000 000;
– medium range anti-tank missile system – Ls 1 000 000;
– development of docks and infrastructure for the Coast Guard of the Latvian Naval Forces in Daugavgrīva – Ls 670 000;
– establishment of the national cartography system – Ls 674 000;
– contribution to the NATO military budget – Ls 500 000;
– establishment of the Air Surveillance and Control System (BALTNET) – Ls 447 000.

CHAPTER 8

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

8.1. Partnership for Peace Programme

Partnership for Peace Programme was one of the key initiatives established by the NATO in 1994. Latvia joined the programme in 1994, and it has been the most efficient way to achieve the practical military readiness compliant to the NATO standards up to now.

Every year Latvia has been producing the Individual Partnership Programme (IPP), within which the specialists of the Ministry of Defence and National Armed Forces have participated in various courses, seminars and international military exercises after assessing the prioritary fields of co-operation. Therefore, we can state that through its participation in the Partnership for Peace Programme our National Armed Forces have achieved an essential progress in its development and are now emphasizing practical application of the new skills, sharing its experience and supporting other countries of the Partnership for Peace Programme.

An important step was taken in 2002 when

Soldiers of the NAF's unit BALTSQN-6 during the mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina, October 2002

Latvia decided to finance its participation in the events of the Partnership for Peace Programme in order to support and facilitate the development of the Programme and increase its contribution to it. Therefore, since 2002 Latvia has been covering all the costs related to its participation in the events of Partnership for Peace Programme.

It must be added that NATO has made a decision that all the invitee countries including Latvia are no longer required to submit the IPP. Despite of it, Latvia has produced the IPP 2004 as a flexible plan with the purpose to participate in those PfP activities, which facilitate the practical military readiness compliant to the NATO standards.

8.2. Participation in Peace-keeping Operations

One of the goals of the Partnership for Peace Programme is the Latvian participation in the NATO-led peace-keeping operations. Since 1996, units and personnel of the Latvian armed forces have been participating in all the peace-keeping operations at the Balkans, thus demonstrating our commitment not to just consume the security but also provide it to others.

After completing the SFOR mission in February 2003, the Latvian company started to serve in the KFOR mission to Kosovo. One NAF officer also took part in the SFOR mission in 2003.

Since February 2000, the Latvian medical and military police units have been participating in the KFOR mission as a part of the UK contingent but since 2003 – as a part of Scandinavian and French contingents. In 2003, Latvia participated in the KFOR mission with its military policemen units, explosive ordnance disposal unit and staff officers. An infantry company and staff officers (100 soldiers) left for mission to Kosovo in February 2004.

Military Medical Unit of eight people and one staff officer continued their mission to Afghanistan in 2003.

In May 2003, soldiers of the NAF left for the mission to Kuwait and then to Iraq within the mission Iraqi Freedom. In February 2004, an infantry company, staff officers, explosive ordnance disposal and national logistics support groups were on the mission to Iraq. The work of the Latvian units and observers in the peace-keeping operations has been praised highly. Latvia has obtained practical experience and demonstrated its readiness to co-operate with the forces of the NATO and partner states.

Minister of Defence A. Slakteris viewing the gun Brauning, which is in the armament of the mission, Iraq, May 2004

On 31 March 2002, EU officially took over the operation in Macedonia from the NATO. Latvia had confirmed its participation in this operation even before the official handover took place, by sending two officers to Macedonia to serve in the first EU-led international operation. As the operation was extended till December 2003, Latvia also extended its participation in it.

8.3. Co-operation with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Latvia has been participating in the Organisation's for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) observer missions since 1999 by sending its observers to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Northern Caucasus, Macedonia and Kosovo on Border Monitoring Missions. In 2003, there was one Latvian military observer on the OSCE Observer Mission to Georgia.

In accordance with the signed Vienna Paper'99 Latvia has to submit military information to the OSCE regarding the NAF's military capabilities, budget, personnel, armaments, defence planning and other issues.

Participation of NAF Soldiers in International Operations in Years 2003/2004

Country of Operation	Number of Personnel	Period of Time	Location
Afghanistan (ISAF)			
ISAF III LC	8 medics	02.2003. – 08.2003.	Kabul International Airport
ISAF IV LC	8 medics + 1 staff officer	08.2003. – 02.2004.	
ISAF V LC	8 medics + 1 staff officer	02.2004. – 06.2004.	
ISAF VI LC	8 medics + 7 drivers + 3 staff officers + 1 non-commissioned officer	06.2004. – 10.2004. – 02.2005.	
Bosnia – Herzegovina (SFOR)			
SFOR LC I	1 staff officer	02.2003. – 08.2003.	Multinational Brigade "North" – US-led
SFOR LC II	1 staff officer	08.2003. – 02.2004.	
SFOR LC III	1 staff officer	02.2004. – 08.2004.	
SFOR LC IV	1 staff officer	08.2004. – 02.2005.	
Iraq (OIF)			
OIF LC I	105 (infantry company + staff officers)	08.2003. – 02.2004.	Multinational Division "Centre – South" – Polish-led LSU and EOD units at US GS base
OIF LC I LSU	30 soldiers	05.2003. – 11.2003.	
OIF LC I EOD	6 soldiers	05.2003. – 11.2003.	
OIF LC I NSE	3 soldiers	04.2003. – 10.2003.	
OIF LC II	105 (infantry company + staff officers)	02.2004. – 07.2004.	
OIF LC II EOD	6 soldiers	11.2003. – 07.2004.	
OIF LC II NSE	3 soldiers	10.2003. – 04.2004.	
OIF LC III	134 (infantry company + staff officers)	07.2004. – 11.2004.	
OIF LC III EOD	6 soldiers	07.2004. – 11.2004.	
OIF LC III NSE	3 soldiers	04.2004. – 08.2004.	
OIF LC IV	134 (infantry company + staff officers)	11.2004. – 02.2005.	
OIF LC IV EOD	6 soldiers	11.2004. – 02.2005.	
OIF LC IV NSE	3 soldiers	08.2004. – 12.2004.	
		12.2004. – 04.2005.	
Kosovo (KFOR)			
KFOR VII LC	2 staff officers	02.2003. – 08.2003.	KFOR – Multinational Brigade "Centre" – Swedish, Finnish and Norwegian-led
	5 MP	02.2003. – 08.2003.	
	6 EOD soldiers	01.2003. – 07.2003.	
B-SQN 7	1 staff officer	02.2003. – 08.2003.	
KFOR VIII LC	2 staff officers	08.2003. – 02.2004.	
	5 MP	08.2003. – 02.2004	
B-SQN 8	1 staff officer	08.2003. – 02.2004.	
KFOR IX LC	2 staff officers	10.2003. – 04.2004.	B-SQN – Multinational Brigade "North – East" – French-led
	5 MP	02.2004. – 08.2004.	
B-SQN 9	100 (infantry company + staff officers)	02.2004. – 08.2004.	
KFOR X LC	3 staff officers + 2 drivers	04.2004. – 10.2004.	
	5 MP	08.2004. – 02.2005.	
KFOR XI LC	3 staff officers + 2 drivers	10.2004. – 04.2005.	
Macedonia (EUFOR)			
EUFOR LC I	1 staff officer, 1 staff specialist	03.2003. – 09.2003.	EUFOR Headquarters – French-led
EUFOR LC II	1 staff officer, 1 staff specialist	09.2003. – 12.2003.	
Georgia (OSCE mission)	1 officer	01.2003. – 07.2003.	Border monitoring
	1 officer	03.2003. – 11.2003.	
	1 officer	11.2003. – 05.2004.	
	1 officer	05.2004. – 05.2005.	

Abbreviations:
LSU – Logistics Support Unit
B-SQN – Baltic Squadron
EUFOR – European Union Force
ISAF – International Security Assistance Force
KFOR – Kosovo Force
LC – Latvian Contingent
MP – Military Police
NSE – National Support Element
EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal
OIF – Operation Iraqi Freedom
SFOR – Stabilization Force

Commander of the US Michigan State Army National Guard Brigadier General R. V. Taylor receiving the award of the Minister of Defence "Medal for Honorary Recognition", 24 November 2003

Every year the Ministry of Defence produces and submits to OSCE information on the Annual Calendar of Military Activities, Annual Exchange of Military Information, documents on Defence Budget and Planning, Information on Light and Individual Weapons, Compliance with the Code of Conduct in Military-Political Issues and Global Exchange of Military Information.

Representatives of the OSCE countries perform annual inspection and assessment of the Latvian NAF units each year.

The Law on Open Sky Treaty of 24 March 1992 envisaging inspections (flights) in the territories of other countries, was adopted on 13 November 2002. The purpose of the Treaty is to increase the mutual trust between the countries by conducting mutual surveillance flights in each others territories. It gives opportunities to obtain additional information about the armed forces of the member states and their activities, as well as their military objects. Latvia became a full member state of the Treaty on 11 February 2003.

In 2003, Latvia voluntarily filled out the Ottawa Convention (On Banning of the Land Mines) report form, thus supporting the desire of the international society to stop the distribution of land mines in the world and dispose the used ones. Latvia complies with the requirements of the Convention – it does not produce land mines and banned their export and transit through the territory of the Latvia Republic in 1995.

8.4. Bilateral Co-operation

With the re-establishment of the Latvian independence and development of the defence system in the early nineties of the previous century, Latvia has commenced its international co-operation in the field of defence. Successful integration to the international security structures was not possible with the Latvian internal resources alone, therefore foreign aid was of great importance. Efforts of Latvia and its co-operation partners lived up to expectations when on 29 March 2004 Latvia joined the NATO Alliance. The similar scope and directions of co-operation will be maintained based on the current and very successful experience.

The Ministry of Defence and the NAF has established co-operation with approximately 30 countries. It is divided into consultations, assistance of experts, civil and military personnel training,

material aid and participation of the Latvian units in the international peace operations as a part of the foreign contingents.

The priorities of further co-operation were defined within the BALTSEA (*Baltic Security Assistance*) Forum in 2002, which are being reviewed on regular basis taking into account the development of the defence system as well as the political situation within the country. Based on the defined priorities of the co-operation, the main attention will be paid to expert consultations and training in future.

By becoming a full-fledged NATO state, Latvia is interested to continue close co-operation with the members of the Alliance. Latvia has accredited its defence attachés in the USA, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Russia, France, Spain, Belgium, Luxemburg, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, the Ukraine, Sweden, Estonia, Finland, Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Italy, Greece and Portugal.

Latvia has very active bilateral co-operation with the **USA**. US experts have been providing assistance in the fields of logistics, C4I, personnel management, administration and training management for several years. US Foreign Military Financing Programme has covered the costs of the expert group, English teacher, implementation of the BALTNET system and equipment of Harris communications. Junior officer training is carried out within the US International Military Education and Training (IMET) Programme and Co-operation Programme with the Michigan National Guard. G. Marshall Centre, which is located in Germany, organises training and seminars for the Latvian civil and military personnel on regular basis. Every year Latvian representatives have opportunities to study at the US Military Academies.

Bilateral military co-operation between Latvia and **Canada** takes place within the Military Training Assistance Programme (MTAP). One of the basic directions of this programme is the English and French language training. It allows the representatives of the Latvian Defence to obtain knowledge in Canada in various military specialities, which are mainly related to the peace-keeping operations.

United Kingdom has provided a military budget expert to work at the Ministry of Defence. The Ministry has implemented the Western-type planning, programming and budgeting system under his leadership. UK provides education opportunities to the Latvian civil and military personnel. UK

2004

Commander of the Polish Armed Forces General C. Piatas visiting Latvia, 19 November 2003

has participated in creating and developing the concept of the National Defence Academy, NAF Non-Commissioned Officer School and Enrolment Centre. Since 2000, Latvia has been participating in the peace-keeping mission to Kosovo within the British military contingent. In February 2003, five military policemen and one staff officer left for the mission in accordance with the rotation procedure.

Germany is one of the most active contributor to Latvia in the field of military personnel training. Latvian NAF have received several important donations from Germany. Germany participates in the establishment of the NATO-compliant C4I system (BALTCCIS project). A German advisor is providing consultations to the Naval Forces in the field of logistics.

France provides the military training within the specialised and the staff officer training, as well as opportunities of the French language training. Latvian Naval Forces have established active co-operation with France.

Belgium provides assistance to Latvia in the diverse issues of legislation and NATO standard implementation. Very close co-operation has been established between the Naval Forces of both countries.

Denmark has been one of the first and most active countries assisting Latvia in a number of projects that deal with the civil and military personnel education and training, as well as providing expert advice in the defence planning issues. Denmark has offered a lot of training opportunities at its military academies. Since 2000, a Danish officer has been working full time as an advisor in the Latvian Armed Forces Strategic Planning Department. At the same time Denmark provides substantial material support, e.g., in the reconstruction of the National Defence Academy. In 2003, the establishment of the Infantry Brigade was commenced in the Latvian Armed Forces with the Danish assistance. A Latvian company has participated in SFOR and KFOR missions as a part of the Danish contingent.

A **Norwegian** armed force representative has been providing assistance to the Latvian NAF on long-term planning issues since 1999. Currently an advisor is providing her consultation to the NAF in the personnel issues. Norwegian advisors provide their assistance also to other units of the NAF. Essential assistance from Norway has been received for establishment of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal School and Diver Training Centre of the Baltic States. The mine laying vessel *Vale* and the 2D medium-range radar ASR-7 were donated to Latvia in 2003. Explosive Ordnance Disposal units have participated in the KFOR mission as a part of the Norwegian contingent. There are also opportunities provided for the NAF representatives to study at the Norwegian Staff College.

Poland has provided great assistance in the issues related to the NATO integration. Since 2002, Latvian Naval Force cadets have an opportunity to study at the Polish Navy Academy. Commanders of all the Polish Armed Forces – NAF, NF, LF, AF, as well as the Polish Minister of Defence have visited Latvia during 2003–2004. Poland has granted several important equipment and weapon donations to Latvia.

Soldiers of the Latvian contingent BALTSQN-9 during the pre-mission training in neutralisation of unexploded ordnance in Denmark before leaving for Kosovo, February 2004

The main field of the co-operation with **Czech Republic** has been the NATO integration. Czech side has repeatedly expressed its readiness to provide support and assistance to Latvia during its integration process. Czech Republic provides military training to the Latvian officers and has assisted in the defence planning issues. Czech Republic provides an essential support in preparing the Latvian military experts in the field of defence against chemical, biological and nuclear threat.

Co-operation projects with **Hungary** have also covered consultations on the NATO integration issues. The first bilateral talks between the countries at the expert level have taken place.

Co-operation with **Sweden** covers several important long-term planning projects in the field of defence. Sweden provides training opportunities to the Latvian military personnel. Within the military assistance projects, Sweden has donated military equipment and weapons to the Land Force

battalions and the Air Defence Wing of the Air Forces, as well as equipment for the military ambulance. Swedish instructors continue to work at the 1st Infantry Battalion and Air Defence Wing of the Air Forces.

Latvia has activated its co-operation with **Finland**. Expert talks on weapon control and military training opportunities have been planned.

Junior officers and instructors of the NAF attend specialised course in **Switzerland**. Military contacts at the political level have been activated.

Latvia has been united with other NATO new member countries – Lithuania, Estonia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Slovakia and Slovenia – in the common goal of becoming a full-fledged NATO state. Currently the main task is to maintain the intensity and directions of the established co-operation.

Latvia has been making a lot of efforts to change from the security and assistance receiving country into the security provider. The mission of this work is to assist countries with similar foreign policy. For increasing the stability within Europe and the whole Transatlantic space, it is important to Latvia to share its experience with the countries which are at the beginning of their road to democracy.

Latvia provides consultations and expert assistance, training opportunities and material aid. Special attention is paid to the countries of similar past, i.e., ex-soviet countries. For these countries the Latvian experience on its road to integration to the Euro-Atlantic society is of great importance because besides the theoretical assistance, we can also offer the practical one.

In 2002, the Ukraine and Georgia announced their desire to join NATO. For achieving it, both countries need international support. The main directions of the co-operation with the Ukraine and Georgia are the fields of defence planning, training and material aid.

The main directions of the co-operation with the **Ukraine** cover issues related to the NATO integration. The Ukraine hosted an international conference in 2003 with the participation of the Baltic States, and a similar event is planned to take place in Latvia in 2004. Both countries co-operate in the field of environmental protection and training, e.g. Latvia covers the study costs for a Ukrainian representative at the BALTDEFCOL in Tartu, Estonia while the Ukraine offers opportunities for the Latvian military personnel to study at its military educational establishments.

Latvia co-ordinates the co-operation with **Georgia** together with Lithuania and Estonia. Defence planning and implementation of the democratisation processes are the main directions of this co-operation. Opportunities to study at the Latvian NAF Training Centres were provided to the representatives of the Georgian armed forces. Latvia has donated its communications equipment to Georgia.

Latvia is interested to develop positive and pragmatic co-operation with **Russia**. Both countries have jointly participated in the international Naval Force exercise in the Baltic Sea. Russia has invited the Latvian representatives to participate in various conferences on democratic control of the armed forces and civil-military co-operation. This co-operation demonstrates the interests and readiness of both countries to co-operate in the field of defence.

8.5. Military Co-operation between the Baltic States

One of the priorities of the Latvian security and defence policy is the military co-operation of the Baltic States and participation in the joint military projects. Co-operation with Lithuania and Estonia is an essential precondition for security in the region.

Joint projects of the Baltic States are:
– Peace-keeping Battalion of the Baltic States (BALTBAT);
– Joint Air Control System (BALTNET);
– Baltic Naval Squadron (BALTRON);
– Baltic Defence College (BALTDEFCOL);
– Baltic Joint C2 Information System (BALTCCIS);
– Baltic Joint Personnel Accounting System (BALTPERS);
– Baltic Medical Unit (BALTMED).

BALTBAT

The task of the Baltic battalion (BALTBAT) is to perform the peacekeeping operations under the mandate of the UN and/or the OSCE. Since 1996, representatives of the Latvian National Armed Forces (NAF) constituting BALTBAT, have taken part in SFOR missions to Bosnia-Herzegovina and KFOR mission to Kosovo.

From 2000, each Baltic State forms and develops its own national battalion within the BALTBAT.

BALTBAT is the first joint project within the Baltic military co-operation and is a good example for successful international co-operation with all its goals achieved.

Exercise BALTIC EAGLE 2003 in Ādaži, September 2003

After receiving the invitation to join NATO and full-fledged joining the Alliance, the military planning priorities of the Baltic States have changed, and therefore it was necessary to review the joint projects and change the way of co-operation in order to increase the co-operation between the Baltic Land Forces.

The official transformation of the BALTBAT project was held during the closing ceremony of the exercise BALTIC EAGLE 2003 on 26 September 2003 in Ādaži, Latvia.

In order to continue the commenced co-operation between the Baltic Land Forces, the Commanders of the Baltic armed forces have signed the plan about the future co-operation between the Baltic land forces and closure of the BALTBAT project, which envisages to:

– establish a training and education system compliant to the NATO standards;
– train the Baltic land force units at the battalion/brigade level;
– establish a doctrine unit for the Baltic land force development at the end of 2003 to produce the above doctrine;
– consider other opportunities of the Baltic land force co-operation.

BALTNET

The goal of the project is to establish a unitary Baltic Air Surveillance System, which will in the future be integrated into the NATO air surveillance system.

The main tasks of the BALTNET project during 2003 were to enhance the BALTNET system (network capacity has been increased in order to be used for the BALTCCIS as well), to train the personnel and to continue the BALTNET integration into the NATO Integrated Air Defence System (NATINADS). In 2004 as well, the main attention will be paid to the BALTNET personnel training and the BALTNET integration to the NATO air surveillance system.

In 2003, Latvia procured a 3D long-range radar TPS-117 from the US company Lockeed Martin. This is the first large procurement made for strengthening of the national defence capabilities since Latvia regained its independence. The radar ASR-7 donated by Norway was set up in Ventspils in 2003.

BALTRON

The mission of the Baltic Naval Squadron is to ensure the permanent rapid reaction capabilities at sea during peacetime and situations endangering

Diver Training Centre of the Baltic States in Liepāja

the state, inviolability of the territorial waters and economic zones of the Baltic States, participation in joint search and rescue operations as well as mine sweeping operations and military training at sea.

Squadron consists of five vessels of the Baltic States. Latvian mine trawlers VIESTURS and IMANTA, staff/logistics vessel VIRSAITIS and minesweeper NAMEJS participate in BALTRON from the Latvian side. Each country is responsible for logistics and technical condition of the own vessels.

The Baltic States Naval Training Base is being established and developed in Liepāja within the BALTRON project:

– BALTRON Countermine School;
– the Baltic States Workshop for Repairs of Countermine Equipment (technical maintenance and repairs of sonors);
– Diver Training Centre of the Baltic States (PfP Programme countries were invited to participate in the course of 2003);
– a Course in Tactic Training was carried out in September 2003 at the Training Base for the Baltic Naval Forces.

BALTDEFCOL

Baltic Defence College BALTDEFCOL was established in 1998 in Tartu, Estonia. The mission of the College is to train the officers at the battalion's commanding level at the Joint Command and Staff Course, as well as senior officers to work at different level staffs.

The fifth Senior Staff Officer Course of BALTDEFCOL started on 4 August 2003. There are 12 Latvian officers, as well as officers from Lithuania, Estonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Denmark, UK, Hungary, Poland, Canada, the Ukraine, Rumania, Serbia-Montenegro, Sweden and Georgia participating in the course. Representatives from Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Croatia are studying at the Colonel Course. All studies are in English.

It is also possible to take the Civil Servant Course at the College. It is made for the civil servants of the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs and the Interior of the Baltic States. This year four civil servants of the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior and the Crisis Control Centre participate in the course.

Institute for Regional Security Studies has been

established at the Defence College, which will prepare the future teachers for the College. Baltic students of political science will have an opportunity to study for the MA degree there.

The long-term development plan of the BALTDEFCOL envisages that the Baltic States will have to take over the funding of the College from 2004, and gradually also – the teaching positions.

The Senior Leadership Course substituting the Colonel Course for training the senior civil and military officials will be introduced at the BALTDEFCOL from academic year 2004/2005.

BALTCCIS

The goal of the project is to increase and develop the Baltic command and control capabilities, create a reliable joint military information exchange system, which will later be connected to the NATO system. The project will allow to establish a unitary information management and control system in the Baltic States.

An agreement was made on 10 December 2002 about placing the central server of the system in Latvia. Hardware and software required for the implementation of the project was set up in 2003 – the central server has been delivered to Latvia and launched. The full launch of the system is expected to take place at the end of 2004.

Currently work is being done on preparing the quadrilateral Memorandum of Understanding between Germany and the Baltic States on work, administration and financing of the BALTCIS project. The project will provide 24-hour operation, exchange of command and control information during the Baltic exercises, as well as ability to exchange the information from BALTNET, BALTBAT and BALTRON. It will be possible to provide the information exchange on the logistics, search and rescue activities, civil crisis and other issues.

BALTPERS

The purpose of the project is to establish a joint accounting and management system for persons subject to the military service in the Baltic States. The project's software was handed over to the Baltic States in November 2002. At the end of 2003 the project was transformed in automated personnel accounting system.

Closing ceremony of the exercise BALTIC EAGLE 2003, 6 September 2003

CHAPTER 9

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Latvia has confirmed its position in the field of environmental protection by joining the international conventions on environmental protection, signing international agreements on improving of the environmental quality and participating in the elaboration and implementation of the Agenda 21 Strategy and the regional Baltic Agenda 21 Strategy.

The main goals of Latvia in the environmental protection are to:

– maintain high standards for environmental quality;
– reduce the amount of contamination;
– use the natural resources optimally.

For achieving these goals, the issues of environmental protection are integrated into the plans of all sectors of national economics and state administration, including the sector of national defence. According to the Strategy on Environmental Protection of the Ministry of Defence and the NAF, the following environmental protection activities are to be implemented for facilitating the following goals besides the main goal of the national defence:

– increase the environmental awareness for people working in the defence field;
– gradually and regularly improve the environmental quality in all main sectors of concern;
– prevent the contamination threat, use environmentally friendly technologies and change the respective technological processes and working methods in order to reduce the threat to the environment as much as possible;
– restrict usage of environmentally hazardous raw materials and resources; facilitate the sorting, processing and recycling of the liquid and solid waste;
– optimally use the energy resources, facilitate the energy saving and usage of regeneratable energy sources;
– observe the requirements of nature protection, protect the endangered plants and animals, preserve the ecosystems, biological diversity and social, cultural and historical heritage;
– prevent and eliminate the contamination, clear up and re-cultivate the objects of nature, involve the military structures in civil environmental protection activities and projects;
– introduce the public to the military objects with a purpose to educate and protect the natural, cultural and historical environment.

One of the main tasks of the Latvian NAF in the environmental protection field to be solved is the elimination of the inherited contamination of its territories.

Over 100 000 ha or 1/7 of the Latvian total territory is contaminated with explosive objects. 80 000 naval and other type of ammunition is in the Baltic sea including the Latvian territorial waters. In order to eliminate the contamination left after both World Wars and the Soviet Army, the NAF have been disposing the explosive objects on regular basis since 1993, with special attention paid to the explosive ordnance disposal. Each year 4000 ammunition units of large calibre have been disposed by the NAF personnel on land and at sea. During a year the Latvian Naval Forces both alone and in collaboration with the Baltic Naval Squadron BALTRON find and dispose or hand over for disposal approximately 80 explosive objects.

The Naval Forces participate in the ecological monitoring, search and rescue operations at sea, catastrophe clearance and explosive object search and disposal at sea in accordance with the Latvian laws and international agreements. Within its com-

A soldier of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal School during the exercise, June 2003

petencies, the Coast Guard Flotilla controls the observance of legal documents and international rights stipulating the usage of the Latvian waters.

In accordance with the requirements set in the NAF mission, the activities of the armed forces must comply with the legal documents on the environmental protection, and the armed forces must actively participate in the environment protection in the long term. Therefore, environment protection plans defining the environmental protection activities have been elaborated, e.g., several important documents were produced for the NAF in 2002 based on the Environmental Management Plan for Ādaži Base, – Development Plan for Ādaži Base for 2003–2006, Nature Protection Plan for the Natural Reserves of Lieluika and Mazuika Lakes for 2002–2007, and Nature Protection Plan for Ādaži Base for 2002–2007. The implementation of the tasks defined in the Environmental Management Plan for Ādaži Base was continued in 2003. Currently, a Forest Management Plan for Ādaži Base is being elaborated.

The study of the potentially contaminated territories was started in 2002, with a purpose to elaborate plans for their re-cultivation and decontamination in the future. A Registration Programme for Contaminated and Eventually Contaminated Sites was produced after studying the information of the archives, detecting all the objects concerned and establishing a database on objects possessed by the Ministry of Defence. A detailed study of the prioritised potentially contaminated territories was carried out in 2003.

In 2003, the petrol stations were equipped with the monitoring drill holes, and the technical condition of several artesian bores was assessed to ensure that they comply with the requirements defined by the legal documents on national environmental protection.

The armoured and other vehicles and weapons used during the NAF tactical exercises can have a negative impact on the environment. Therefore, environmental protection issues are included in the training plans of all level military personnel. NAF personnel acquire their knowledge at the National Defence Academy, NAF Non-commissioned Officer School and seminars and training held in Latvia or abroad. In collaboration with the Coast Guard of the Naval Forces, a training seminar on naval environment protection has been organised for the Naval Forces. An Armed Forces Manual on Environmental Protection has been published, regular seminars are arranged with the participation of the national environmental organisation experts.

Successful co-operation has been established between the countries of the Baltic Sea region. A joint strategy on co-ordination and optimisation of the military sector within the environmental protection, and a unitary training programme for the Baltic environmental officers are being elaborated.

The environmental experts of the Ministry of Defence and the NAF frequently organise, as well as participate in experience sharing seminars on elaboration of plans for environmental education and environmental management in Estonia and Lithuania. Latvia can be proud of its experience because Environmental Management Plan for Ādaži Base was the first document of this kind in the Baltic States.

Important co-operation contacts have been made with the countries of other regions, e.g., Switzerland, UK, Norway, Bulgaria and the Ukraine. Long, stable and fruitful co-operation in the environmental protection field has been established with the US Department of Defence, USA's Environmental Protection Agency and US National Guard. Education courses were organised in Latvia and USA, and essential assistance and support received during the elaboration and implementation of the Environmental Management Plan for Ādaži Base. A range of activities addressing the environmental protection issues were organised in Latvia in 2003 with the support of the US Military Cooperation Office. In 2004, it is planned to organise an international seminar on the naval environment protection with the participation of the foreign experts.

CHAPTER 10

LINKS TO SOCIETY

10.1. Public Awareness

One of the priorities of the Ministry of Defence and the National Armed Forces is the provision of true, timely and comprehensive information to the public. A successive dialogue and co-operation between the Ministry, the Armed Forces and diverse groups of society is the key to mutual understanding, trust and respect. Continuous increase in the information availability and immediacy, as well as enhancement of information personnel's work are the basic principles for the implementation of the MoD's public relations.

Tasks for the public awareness are defined every year, and they are consistently based on the public opinion surveys and defence policy priorities. In the second half of 2003 the MoD has produced conceptually new strategic guidelines for the public relations, which now form the basis of the public awareness work within the defence system and provide continuity of the information work. The purpose of the guidelines is to create unitary understanding about the public awareness tasks and their implementation within the defence system.

The public opinion survey carried out in December 2003 by the company Data Serviss has shown the increase in the number of Latvian residents who consider the national defence situation to be improving. The support to the Latvian membership to NATO has grown as well. The public has obtained a better understanding about the Alliance and back its policy and tasks. The support to the public opinion that Latvian security is best strengthened by integration to NATO and EU, has grown in 2003. Most of the Latvian residents consider that EU must form its own security policy as well, though the greatest part of them think that EU must closely co-operate with NATO in this field.

Shadow Day at the Ministry of Defence and the National Armed Forces, 25 February 2003

Most of the population (82.7%) back the transition of the Latvian Armed Forces to the professional military service. The public understanding about the NAF in general, and its units in particular has improved. Almost 80% of the Latvian residents think that the state needs NAF and it must be developed.

In 2003 as well, most part of the Latvian population backed the participation of NAF soldiers in international missions.

The Minister's of Defence Report to the Parliament on the National Defence Policy and NAF Development in the respective year is being published since 1999 in order to strengthen the dialogue with the society and Members of Parliament. Information on the defence development goals and key tasks, and their implementation, as well as achievements and input in the enhancement process of the national defence capabilities is provided to the Parliament.

The home page of the Ministry of Defence (www.mod.gov.lv) provides information about topicalities of the Ministry of Defence and the NAF. Several new chapters have been created there, e.g., Soldier in Mission. This chapter covers updated information about the units of the Latvian Armed Forces who serve abroad. In January 2003, the home page hosted a competition "What do you know about NAF?", and at the end of 2003 there was competition in four Latvian regional schools organised in co-operation with the Latvian Transatlantic Youth Club.

The Ministry issues monthly journal "Tēvijas Sargs" (Guard of Motherland). It is popular among youth and the older generation. The journal is distributed in all the NAF units throughout Latvia. The journal "Militārais apskats" (Military Review) issued by the National Defence Academy provides academic articles about diverse military issues.

Twice a month a TV programme "Laiks vīriem?" (Time for Men?) is broadcasted, which is made in co-operation with the TV creative company "Labvakar" (Good Evening).

The Ministry has established good co-operation with the Latvian regional TV stations, which once a month broadcast TV programmes in Latvian regions on up-to-date and main events in the defence and security field. A radio programme "Junda" (Wake-up Call) is also broadcasted every week, which provides information on the latest events in NAF to the radio listeners.

The Ministry of Defence produces monthly video reviews about the key events within the MoD and NAF. They are distributed at the NAF units and schools, which provide course in national defence.

Information about topical defence issues is published in booklets, brochures and information leaflets. They are targeted to Latvians and foreigners and issued in Latvian, English and French. Booklets on MoD and NAF were published in 2003.

MoD has always actively co-operated with non-governmental organisations. Close co-operation has been established with the Latvian Transatlantic Organisation (LATO) and Latvian Transatlantic Youth Club (LTYC) since the day they were established. Several public awareness projects have been carried out together with the two organizations. Successful co-operation has been established with the Institute of Latvian Foreign Policy. Conferences on national security and defence issues have been organised jointly, and input in the scientific work has been made. The Ministry supports and co-operates with the Brothers' Cemetery Committee and other organisations whose mission is to preserve the historic values and honour the memory of soldiers.

Open Days are held in each NAF unit. The family members of conscripts are invited to participate in the attestation ceremony and visit the place of service and see its conditions, as well as meet officers and non-commissioned officers, who are responsible for the progress of the conscript service. Mothers of the best conscripts are congratulated on the Mother's Day.

The Journalist Days in NAF are very popular among journalists. Once a year journalists become soldiers in the Ādaži Infantry Training Centre – they put on field uniforms, participate in theoretical and practical exercises, go to shooting-range and eat in the soldier canteen. This is the way the press can obtain better understanding about the service in the armed forces and processes within the defence field. Mass media days are being held at the Navy and Air Forces as well.

Great attention is paid to the co-operation with schools. The Ministry of Defence together with non-governmental organisations and National Military Service Administration Offices, Recruitment and Selection Centre meet youths at schools to introduce them to the Latvian security policy and service within NAF. At the end of 2003, the experts of MoD and NAF visited schools several weeks before and after the national holidays in order to talk about the national defence issues, work of the armed forces and daily routine of soldiers.

In 2004, special attention will be paid to the education of the public relations personnel, accreditation of journalists to the defence system, preparing a mobile exhibition, establishment of the defence system's intranet for informing the internal target groups, introducing of corporative design standards, as well as co-operation with diverse groups of interests and public organisations.

NAF and especially the National Guard have been participating in the unmilitary tasks and have been providing great assistance to municipalities, State Police and Fire Fighters since the first days of their establishment. NAF soldiers provide assistance in search and rescue operations on land and at sea in cases of natural disasters and other accidents. NAF participate in activities to prevent illegal fishing and other events related to the environmental protection and preservation. Explosive ordnance disposal is especially important to the public. Thousands of explosive objects from World Wars I and II found on land and at sea have been disposed every year.

10.2. Military Education and Patriotic Education

Patriotism and national consciousness of the Latvian citizens has always had and will always have an important role in establishing and developing the state. In the last few years the Ministry of Defence and the National Guard have actively participated in patriotic education of the youths in accordance with the Concept on Youth Education in National Defence Field approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 2 February 2002.

Transition to the professional military service and dismissal of the conscript service sets new tasks for the education of youths in the national defence field, which is carried out by the Ministry of Defence. Besides facilitating the formation of national consciousness, it also has to become a selection system for the military career. Therefore, the purpose of the Ministry's of Defence work with the youths is to:

– facilitate the national consciousness and education of youths in the field of national defence;
– create an early interest of youths about the military service;
– increase the selection opportunities in the recruitment of motivated personnel for professional military service.

The Ministry of Defence organises the work with the youths in two ways:

– in 1992, the National Guard established the Youth Guard, which has become the largest youth organisation in Latvia during the last years;
– since 1997, the experts of the National Military Service Administration Offices teach optional course in national defence at some of the secondary educational establishments.

The Concept of Youth Guard created in 2003 must facilitate the development of the youths' movement with the purpose to inform youths and arouse their interest about the national defence activities, which is of key importance in case of professional military service.

For providing a more efficient familiarisation of youths to the national defence tasks, it is necessary to merge the existing kinds of military training of the pre-military service. In the future, the military education of youths should be organised within the framework of the unitary system – the Youth Guard. The organisation management of the Youth Guard will be provided through the MoD's Youth Education Section, and the Youth Guard leaders

NAF Day in Jelgava, April 2003

and instructors will be working under its subordination. Infrastructure and resources of the Military Enrolment Centre and National Armed Forces will be available for providing of the youth guards' training process.

The training process consists of theoretical lessons, which are carried out at schools during the academic year, and practical lessons (camps, reunions, competitions), which are organised with the assistance of the National Armed Forces' units and are held at their bases.

The training process within the Youth Guard is organized in two age groups:

– Junior group (aged 12–15). The main task of its training programme is to learn the military history, find out and clear the memorial sites of soldiers. It provides an insight in the functions, structure, soldier life and military training basics of the Latvian National Armed Forces. The programme includes hiking tours and militarised competitions;
– Senior group (aged 16–18). Its task is to acquire the training course in the national defence.

The programme provides knowledge about the Latvian military history, current security policy of the state, integration process and NATO membership. The programme covers lessons in drill, tactics, topography, course in weapons and shooting, first aid. The training process pays great attention to the development of the youth's physical capabilities – muscle strength, quickness, fitness and endurance. The programme should be obtained during 3 years. The training process ends with exams, and diploma is issued for acquiring the course, which gives the first hand in the competition to enter the military educational establishments and start the professional service in the NAF.

CONCLUSION

Strengthening and developing of the Latvian independence requires efforts, purposefulness and efficiency of each Latvian citizen, as well as the state as a whole. Democracy, stability, security and welfare are values, which we all chose in the early nineties of the previous century. Every opportunity should be taken in order to make this choice irreversible and ensure that the goals are achieved. Strengthening of the self-defence capabilities and choice of the co-operation partners are among the most important opportunities and tasks.

For providing the Latvian national security and defence, the Minister of Defence and the personnel and soldiers of the Ministry of Defence, National Armed Forces and institutions subordinated to them must perform their daily tasks with the highest sense of responsibility. Our goals are clearly defined and our needs are based on well-considered foreign, security and defence policies.

The efficient development of the national defence system and its basic element – the National Armed Forces –, as well as motivated and professional civil and military personnel, appropriate infrastructure, armament, equipment and vehicles are preconditions and goals to be achieved through consistent and continuous work during the next few years. Therefore, the development of the national defence system and armed forces must be purposively continued to ensure that Latvia becomes an equal member of NATO and is able to contribute considerably to the forming of the international security environment.