When looking back at the 15 years of BALTRON history one should give a particular mention to the nations that contributed to the inception and development of BALTRON project in a very significant way.

During all those years BALTRON was of great importance to the capability development of Baltic navies and their successful adjustment to meet NATO standards. It also facilitated integration of Baltic states into the naval community of NATO as an equal and reliable partner.

A well established and proven BALTRON framework can provide an extended cooperation backbone capable to deal with current and future challenges. Every period in history has its own challenges, but cooperation among partners and allies is what helps everyone to overcome them swiftly.

Rear Admiral (l.h.) Kęstutis Macijauskas,
Commander - in - Chief Lithuanian Navy
The Baltic Naval Squadron (BALTRON) is a combined naval force with aims to develop mine countermeasure capabilities, to increase the interoperability and compatibility of Baltic navies with NATO, to create a combined unit ready to participate in missions and operations mandated by wider international community and Intergovernmental organizations, to show the unity and common goals of Baltic states and show the flags of BALTRON, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania both at sea and in the harbours around the world.

Adherence and conformity to NATO procedures and standards is at the heart of every activity conducted by BALTRON. The language used within the squadron is English. Cooperation within BALTRON and participation in NATO exercises have accelerated the development of Baltic navies, thereby enhancing the defence capabilities of each state.

Participation in BALTRON helps improve mutual understanding and ensures high readiness standards when participating in NATO Naval Mine Countermeasures (NMCM) force by providing training for the staff and the crews of the ships assigned.

BALTRON is a standing force and being such it provides Baltic states with a permanent capability to undertake naval operations in peacetime and during crisis at a short notice.
WHAT IS BALTRON?
Ships assigned to BALTRON fly the squadron flag which is composed of three horizontal bands: blue symbolizing Estonia, over red symbolizing Latvia, over yellow symbolizing Lithuania.

The commanding officer of BALTRON — COMBALTRON, has his personal pennant: a triangle with the same three horizontal bands as the flag. The pennant is flown on the signal mast next to the BALTRON flag on the ship that the commander is embarked on. The tradition is that during the change of command ceremony the outgoing commander receives his pennant as a gift to remember his tenure and the incoming commander receives his pennat from the chief of the navy that is in charge of BALTRON that year.

The crest of BALTRON — an anchor with four swallow tailed flags on top of it representing all three countries and a common frontier they share: the Baltic Sea.
1995 — The beginning of close cooperation between the Navies of Baltic states. AMBER SEA 1995 was the first trilateral Baltic naval exercise to take place. The idea to establish a combined naval countermeasures unit was conceived.

December 1996 — Preparations for the establishment of BALTRON have begun. A conference on the establishment of BALTRON took place in Vilnius, Lithuania.

February 1997 — Germany took lead in coordinating the project. First meetings of the multinational BALTRON Steering Group and Naval Working Group took place. The three Baltic ministers of defence decided to establish a shore base for BALTRON in Estonia.

1998 — Twelve nations sign the „Memorandum of understanding concerning co-operation on the development of the Baltic Naval Squadron”. All of them decide to provide assistance to the three Baltic states to develop and sustain the squadron as a naval mine countermeasures force. BALTRON Naval Working Group, a subsidiary to the Steering Group, was established to enable the navies of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to generate required operational assets through BALTRON and its related projects in order to be able to contribute to multinational forces and operations.

April 1998 — BALTRON Staff was fully manned in Tallin, Estonia. The intergovernmental agreement to establish BALTRON was signed in Riga, Latvia.

August 28, 1998 — inauguration of BALTRON took place at the naval base in Tallin, Estonia.

October 1999 - The three Baltic ministers of defence sign a „Memorandum of Understanding concerning the operation, funding and administration of BALTRON”.

October 2000 — The lead supporter of BALTRON, Germany, donates two Lindau-class mine hunters to Estonia and Lithuania and one to Latvia. Denmark donates a Hvidbjørnen-class command and support ship to Estonia.
Since the establishment of BALTRON, the project was very successful and became a familiar name in the naval circles of NATO. A number of BALTRON related sub-projects were developed from 1998 to 2002 and provided a valuable contribution to the education of naval personnel, maintenance and repairs of the naval equipment of the three Baltic states. BALTRON to this day remains a successful example of international cooperation in maritime domain.

The project has significantly contributed to the Baltic navies development and integration into NATO. Today the squadron keeps providing valuable training opportunities and rewarding professional experiences to the participating ships and personnel of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.
BALTRON comprises of a combined staff and ships of all three Baltic states. Every state assigns a mine countermeasures vessel or a staff ship to the squadron. Allocation of ships, appointment of staff and squadron activities are all agreed annually by the three member states and laid out in an annual plan. Supplying and sustaining the ships and crews assigned to BALTRON is national responsibility.

BALTRON staff positions are rotated between the naval officers of three Baltic States. This ensures that all of the participants gain an opportunity to experience working in an international environment and fulfilling duties of tactical command in a naval squadron. Already today BALTRON staff can be used as a nucleus for the Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group staff ensuring a successful transition between the two entities.
BALTRON staff consists of the commander of BALTRON — COMBALTRON, who is in tactical command of the squadron, principal staff officer — PSO, with responsibility to organize staff work in accordance with the commander’s guidance, squadron mine warfare officer — SMWO, who is an expert in mine countermeasures, squadron communications officer — SCO, focusing on maintaining robust means of communication within the squadron and an administrative officer or petty officer — SAPO, who’s responsibility is to maintain equipment and manage finances of BALTRON staff. During international exercises and operations BALTRON staff is usually reinforced by officers from NATO and PfP countries to provide robustness and additional capacity to the staff.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>I half</th>
<th>II half</th>
</tr>
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| 1998 | COM: Capt (N) Ilmars Lesinskis  
COS: Lt (N) Eduard Karlonas  
OPSO: Lt j.g. Andrei Leit  
COMMS: Ens Lembit Ader  
LOG: CPO Merike Kahju | COM: Capt (N) Ilmars Lesinskis  
COS: Lt (N) Eduard Karlonas  
OPSO: Lt j.g. Andrei Leit  
COMMS: Ens Lembit Ader  
LOG: CPO Merike Kahju |
| 1999 | COM: Capt (N) Ilmars Lesinskis  
COS: Lt Cdr Igor Schvede  
OPSO: Ens Andrej Leit  
COMMS: Lt (N) A. Pigoznis  
LOG: Saulius Ridziauskas | COM: Cdr Juozas Alšauskas  
COS: Lt Cdr Igor Schvede  
OPSO: Lt (N) Artūras Lekstutis  
COMMS: WO Edmunds Belinskis  
LOG: Saulius Ridziauskas |
| 2000 | COM: Cdr Juozas Alšauskas  
COS: Lt Andrei Leit  
OPSO: Ens Andrius Kaikaris  
COMMS: WO Edmunds Belinskis  
ADMIN: | COM: Cdr Juozas Alšauskas  
COS: Lt Andrei Leit  
OPSO: Ens Andrius Kaikaris  
COMMS: WO Edmunds Belinskis  
ADMIN: |
| 2001 | COM: Cdr A. Zvaigzne  
COS: Lt Cdr Arūnas Mockus  
OPSO: Lt Jüri Saska  
COMMS: Lt j. g. Andrius Kolesnikovas  
ADMIN: LVA Sanita Tarackova | COM: Lt Cdr Igor Schvede  
COS: Lt Cdr Arūnas Mockus  
OPSO: Ens Antanas Mažūna  
COMMS: Lt j. g. Andrius Kolesnikovas  
ADMIN: CPO Gunnar Richter |
| 2002 | COM: Lt Cdr Igor Schvede  
COS: Lt j. g. Maris Polencs  
OPSO: Ens Antanas Mažūna  
COMMS: CPO Normunds Smiltnieks  
ADMIN: PO Andrei Volodin | COM: Cdr A. Zvaigzne  
COS: Lt Cdr Arūnas Mockus  
OPSO: Lt j. g. Maris Polencs  
COMMS: CPO Normunds Smiltnieks  
ADMIN: WO Michailas Karpuzovas |
| 2003 | COM: Cdr Artūras Andrušaitis  
COS: Lt j. g. Maris Polencs  
OPSO: Lt s. g. Edgars Konoplovs  
COMMS: Lt Uku Veel  
ADMIN: PO Andrei Volodin | COM: Cdr A. Filipovics  
COS: Lt Cdr Andrei Leit  
OPSO: Ens Tōnū Raudsepp  
COMMS: Lt (N) Arturas Voveris  
ADMIN: WO Daiga Kidala |
| 2004 | COM: Cdr A. Filipovics  
COS: Lt Cdr Eduard Karlonas  
OPSO: Ens Tōnū Raudsepp  
COMMS: Lt (N) Arturas Voveris  
ADMIN: WO Daiga Kidala | COM: Cdr A. Filipovics  
COS: Lt Cdr Eduard Karlonas  
OPSO: Lt (N) Ėčľovas Labokas  
COMMS: Lt s. g. Guntis Leimanis  
ADMIN: PO Indrek Reinloo |
| 2005 | COM: Cdr Sten Sepper  
COS: Lt Cdr Dainis Vecelis  
OPSO: Lt (N) Ėčľovas Labokas  
COMMS: Lt s. g. Guntis Leimanis  
ADMIN: SCPO Tarmo Uutmann | COM: Cdr Sten Sepper  
COS: Lt Cdr Dainis Vecelis  
OPSO: Lt (N) Ėčľovas Labokas  
COMMS: Lt s. g. Guntis Leimanis  
ADMIN: SCPO Tarmo Uutmann |
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>I half</th>
<th>II half</th>
</tr>
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| 2006 | COM: Cdr Artūras Andrušaitis  
      COS: Lt Cdr Johan-Elias Seljamaa  
      OPSO: Lt j.g. Gvido Laudups  
      COMMS: Lt. j.g. Daniel Tikkerbär  
      ADMIN: CPO Tomas Puknius | COM: Cdr Juris Roze  
      COS: Lt Cdr Johan-Elias Seljamaa  
      OPSO: Lt j.g. Taavi Antson  
      COMMS: Lt (N) Artūras Mieliūnas  
      ADMIN: CPO Normunds Smīltnieks |
| 2007 | COM: Cdr Juris Roze  
      COS: Lt Cdr Eugenijus Valikovas  
      OPSO: Lt j.g. Antanas Brenčius  
      COMMS: Lt (N) Artūras Mieliūnas  
      ADMIN: CPO Normunds Smīltnieks | COM: Cdr Andrei Leit  
      COS: Lt Cdr Eugenijus Valikovas  
      OPSO: Lt j.g. Antanas Brenčius  
      COMMS: Lt s. g. Igors Korolovs  
      ADMIN: PO Ravel Samuel |
| 2008 | COM: Cdr Andrei Leit  
      COS: Lt Cdr Janis Cimoška  
      OPSO: Lt j.g. Antanas Brenčius  
      COMMS: Lt s. g. Igors Korolovs  
      ADMIN: PO Ravel Samuel | COM: Cdr Eugenijus Valikovas  
      COS: Lt Cdr Janis Cimoška  
      OPSO: Lt j.g. Deniss Jelcovs  
      COMMS: PO Veiko Kivi  
      ADMIN: CPO Daivaras Sirutis |
| 2009 | COM: Cdr Eugenijus Valikovas  
      COS: Lt Cdr Janis Cimoška  
      OPSO: Lt j.g. Deniss Jelcovs  
      COMMS: Lt (N) Artūras Mieliūnas  
      ADMIN: PO Ravel Samuel | COM: Lt Cdr Indrek Hanson  
      COS: Lt Cdr Janis Cimoška  
      FMWO: Lt j.g. Andrius Sirvys  
      FCO: PO Karel Tann  
      FAPO: PO Merlin Jārvpold |
| 2010 | COM: Lt Cdr Indrek Hanson  
      COS: Lt Cdr Janis Cimoška  
      FMWO: Lt j.g. Andrius Sirvys  
      FCO: PO Karel Tann  
      FAPO: PO Merlin Jārvpold | COM: Lt Cdr Andrius Širvys  
      PSO: Lt Cdr Gvido Laudups  
      FMWO: Lt (N) Klevas Tubis  
      FCO: Lt (N) Egidijus Mickus  
      FAPO: WO Tomas Donauskas |
| 2011 | COM: Lt Cdr Andrius Širvys  
      PSO: Lt Cdr Gvido Laudups  
      FMWO: Lt (N) Klevas Tubis  
      FCO: Lt (N) Egidijus Mickus  
      FAPO: WO Tomas Donauskas | COM: Lt Cdr Indrek Hanson  
      COS: Lt Cdr Gvido Laudups  
      FMWO: Lt (N) Klevas Tubis  
      FCO: Pt (N) Andrius Širvys  
      FAPO: PO Merlin Jārvpold |
| 2012 | COM: Lt Cdr Andrius Širvys  
      PSO: Lt Cdr Gvido Laudups  
      FMWO: Lt (N) Klevas Tubis  
      FCO: Lt (N) Egidijus Mickus  
      FAPO: WO Tomas Donauskas | COM: Lt Cdr Andrius Širvys  
      PSO: Lt Cdr Gvido Laudups  
      FMWO: Lt (N) Klevas Tubis  
      FCO: Lt (N) Egidijus Mickus  
      FAPO: WO Tomas Donauskas |
| 2013 | COM: Lt Cdr Egidijus Oleskevicius  
      PSO: Lt j.g. Andrius Sirvys  
      SMVO: Lt s. g. Guntis Skunstins  
      SCO: Lt s. g. Mindaugas Kloviskis  
      SAPO: Ens Tomas Dumsa | COM: Lt Cdr Egidijus Oleskevicius  
      PSO: Lt j.g. Andrius Sirvys  
      SMVO: Lt s. g. Guntis Skunstins  
      SCO: Lt s. g. Mindaugas Kloviskis  
      SAPO: Ens Tomas Dumsa |
# BALTRON SHIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship name and hull number</th>
<th>Start of service</th>
<th>End of service</th>
<th>Ships class</th>
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<td>2004</td>
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<td>ENS Wambola (M311)</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>ENS Sulev (M312)</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENS Admiral Pitka (A230)</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
<td>BESKYTTEREN class</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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<td>LINDOMEN class</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SUNDOWN class</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENS Sakala (M314)</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td></td>
<td>SUNDOWN class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENS Ugandi (M315)</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td></td>
<td>SUNDOWN class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ship name and hull number</td>
<td>Start of service</td>
<td>End of service</td>
<td>Ships class</td>
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<td>-------------</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>CONDOR class</td>
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<tr>
<td>LVNS Imanta (M02)</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>CONDOR class</td>
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<tr>
<td>LVNS Namejs (M03)</td>
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<td>CONDOR class</td>
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<td>IMANTA class</td>
</tr>
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<td>VIDAR class</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Ship name and hull number</td>
<td>Start of service</td>
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<td>Ships class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>LNS Vetra (A41)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LNS Kursis (M54)</td>
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<td>HUNT class</td>
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<tr>
<td>LNS Jotvingis (N42)</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
<td>VIDAR class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Amber Sea and Baltic Fortress

Amber Sea and Baltic Fortress are tri-lateral exercises of Baltic states designed to fulfill specific training objectives of participating units and staffs within an artificial scenario. Amber Sea had been executed every year since 1996 until it was transformed into Baltic Fortress in 2008.

Baltic Fortress is a multinational naval exercise aimed to provide combined training for BALTRON, involving most of the naval forces of the Baltic states and students of the international Naval Intermediate Command and Staff Course.

Exercise provides training for the crews and the staff in exercising standard battle procedures at sea, thus improving their operational readiness. Force maneuvers, gunnery exercises, mine countermeasures, replenishment at sea, maritime interdiction operations, search and rescue operations, all according to NATO doctrine and procedures, are being practiced during the exercise.

Also during the exercise the students of the international Naval Intermediate Command and Staff Course get a chance to practice and finetune their skills in planning, preparing, and executing naval operations, as well as participate in some hands-on training on the ships of the Baltic states. Main task for the students during the active naval stage is to get ready to perform staff work at a tactical level.
The Baltic Operations (BALTOPS) is one of the largest multinational naval exercises taking place yearly in the Baltic Sea since 1972. It is designed to promote regional cooperation, foster multinational interoperability and to train for joint combat against regional and transnational threats.

The goal of BALTOPS is to improve maritime security in the Baltic Sea through increased interoperability and collaboration among regional allies by providing joint training to build experience, cooperation, and teamwork.

Scheduled exercise events range in scope and complexity to meet the challenges of today’s global environment. Operations include mine clearance, anti-submarine warfare, surface-to-air defense, counter piracy, small-boat attack and other maritime security tasks.

Since 1993, it includes Eastern European countries and is a part of the Partnership for Peace program. Each year BALTRON successfully participates in this exercise and assumes command of one of the MCM task units consisting of up to 9 ships.
**Damage control exercises**

Damage control exercises are one of the most important exercises for the crews. They are usually divided into internal damage control and damage control with assistance exercises. This implies fighting fire and water leakages, medical assistance to injured personnel, machinery breakdowns and battle damage repairs that can be a result of battle, collision, mine hit, or any other incident.

Internal damage control — due to great distance to the nearest coast and absence of any outside help the crews have to be ready to fight fires and water leakages on their own. That is why crews are constantly exercising various damage control scenarios. Damage control has to be performed without reducing ships capability to fight external threats and man battle stations.

During damage control with assistance exercises crews are training their ability to help other ships fight fires or water leakages on board. This brings up challenges like operating in unknown environments and coordinating actions with other crews. These exercises are performed without a standard scenario as frequently as possible in order to prepare crews to act flexibly and swiftly in unpredictable situations.

Damage control exercises for BALTRON ships are conducted in Damage Control School in Neustadt, Germany. Evaluation of damage control procedures and general operational readiness is conducted in MOST (Mine Countermeasure Vessel Operational Sea training Test) in Zeebruge, Belgium.
During WW I and WW II a great number of mines were laid in the Baltic Sea. Some of them were laid to defend someone’s own waters from the enemy ships and others to prevent freedom of navigation in international waters. Due to the absence of means for precise navigation during those times, a lot of mines were laid not in the pre-planned positions which makes it that harder to find them today. These mines and other unexploded ordnance, like artillery shells, depth charges, torpedoes and anti-submarine charges are still on the bottom of the Baltic Sea and still present a real danger for fishermen and underwater operations.

To reduce the amount of unattended ordnance on the bottom a variety of historical ordnance disposal operations are conducted every year by nations around the Baltic Sea. Best known is the Open Spirit, but several others are being conducted as well: Route Survey, MCOPLIT, MCOPLAT, MCOPEST (mine countermeasures operations Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia). Main task for BALTRON is to participate in those operations and to countermine as much of historical ordnance as possible, thus contributing to the safer environment in the Baltic Sea.
Mariner exercises are developed to prepare and certify the next rotation of the NATO Response Force (NRF) which are conducted by Allied Maritime Component Command Northwood, UK. These exercises are conducted simultaneously with air and land components. Although fully joined at the level of operational play and in the overall exercise direction and control, they will be executed separately from each other, but simultaneously in the water, airspace and land. The purpose of the NRF is to provide a highly trained, fully worked-up high readiness force, able to deploy quickly to participate in the full spectrum of NATO missions wherever required. Forces committed to the NRF are rotated between the nations. One NRF is always on standby for operations, with a follow-on NRF doing intensive work-up, ready to take over. Training is therefore an essential and continual process if this force is to be kept at peak readiness. It is through such testing exercises that the NRF can prepare for any mission NATO decides to assign.
Internal Baltron squadron exercises

BALTRON internal exercises SQEX are small scale exercises with purpose to train BALTRON units and staff after dispersal period and prepare squadron for international exercises and operations at sea. SQEX is usually combined with BALTRON nations’ internal exercises and is conducted in territorial waters and exclusive economical zones of Lithuania, Latvia or Estonia. SQEX is conducted to determine the level of readiness of the ships, improve cohesion of the squadron and fulfill additional training objectives of participating units. Exercise usually consists of serialized program to cover wide range of seamanship, communications, gunnery, search and rescue and mine countermeasures training. Since 2012 additional specific aim of SQEX is to conduct MAREVAL (maritime evaluation) of the units assigned to join standing NATO mine countermeasures group one (SNMCMG1), which allows nations to wisely use the scarce planning resources while delegating the planning process of the evaluation to the BALTRON staff.
NOCO (Northern Coasts) is a combined German and rotation country live exercise inviting air and maritime forces from NATO and PfP nations. The exercise is conducted in the Baltic Sea area and NE-part of The North Sea area as one of the major naval exercises in the region. The planning and execution of the exercise rotates in recent years between Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Finland, where Germany is heavily involved each year with its assets and planning efforts.

The exercise is designed to include joint aspects, but emphasis is on maritime operations. NOCO is designed to provide training from advanced unit level up to and including integrated and advanced task group level, focussing on principal warfare areas. The ambition for NOCO is to provide exercise opportunities in a wide span of activities offering the full scope of training for maritime units. However, the focus is on the exercising of principal warfare’s (ASUW — anti surface warfare, AAW — anti air warfare, ASW — anti submarine warfare).
A passing exercise (PASSEX) is an exercise done between two or more navies or other entities, such as BALTRON or SNMCMG1 to ensure that they are able to communicate and cooperate in times of war, operations and exercises. BALTRON units always seek an opportunity to conduct PASSEX’s with other nations or squadrons. Common drills include flashing light, seamanship, flag hoist, damage control with and without assistance, search and rescue and many others. In modern times, navies within an alliance may include electronic and digital exercises for example electronic communications and target acquisition drills.

While the main reason of a PASSEX is to practice cooperation, various other reasons might be to „show the flag” or other political or diplomatic initiatives. No matter what reasons for PASSEX may be, it is a great opportunity to exchange experience among the nations and train ship crews in basic procedures.
Soon after re-gaining national independence in 1991, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania initiated regular meetings on defense matters. In February 1994, the first combined Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian military exercise took place in southern Estonia. The initiative to establish the first Baltic military project dates back to 1993-94. Due to the initial success, other joint projects have followed. Today, the broad range of defense-related co-operation between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania has become a key part of the defense structures, and continues to strengthen the forces themselves. While the list includes several projects and initiatives, the main long-term military projects related to Baltic Navies are Baltic Naval Squadron (BALTRON) - Naval force with mine countermeasures capabilities and Baltic Defense College (BALTDEFCOL) - Joint military educational institution for training senior staff officers and civil servants, among them officers from the Baltic naval forces.

The Baltic military projects, cultivated by the NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) initiative, are unique in the broad international support and assistance they have received. States supporting the various projects include both NATO member states and non-aligned countries.
Ever since the start of BALTRON, tri-lateral cooperation between the Baltic nations has been developing even further. Under the BALTRON framework and with assistance of allies several valuable initiatives were started and have evolved into successful sub-projects.

Now each Baltic State shares its limited training and maintenance resources with others. Estonia provides communications training at the Baltic Naval Communications Courses in Tallinn; Latvia hosts a common Baltic Naval Diving Training Centre and Mine Countermeasures (MCM) Equipment Maintenance and Repair Centre in Liepaja and educates junior naval officers in Riga; Lithuania runs the Baltic Naval Gunnery and Deck Equipment Maintenance Centre in Klaipėda.
Baltic Naval Communication School was established in May 1998 in Tallinn, Estonia with assistance and support of Royal Danish Navy. From 1998 to 2005 training was being conducted by Danish Navy instructors and later this function was taken over by well-educated and already highly experienced graduates of the school.

Since 1998 Baltic Naval Communication School changed its name several times — initially called BALTRON Communications operators school, since 2011 it is called Baltic Naval Communication School. Up to 2012 Baltic Naval Communications School prepared over 225 naval communications specialists for Baltic navies and continues on with the same determination.
The Baltic States Naval Junior Staff Officer Course nowadays called the Baltic Naval Intermediate Command and Staff Course (NICSC) was started in January 2007 on request of the three Baltic states navy commanders. Since January 2007 six annual courses at the Latvian National Defence Academy have already been conducted.

The main purpose of the NICSC is to provide junior naval officers, having adequate tactical level experience, with the knowledge and mind-set, relevant for the duty on a higher functional level. All procedures and subjects are formed according to the recent NATO standards and developments.
Baltic MCM equipment maintenance and repair centre

Baltic MCM Equipment Maintenance and Repair Centre has been established in September 2001, and officially opened on the 5th of December 2001 in Liepaja, Latvia. Centre has been set up and its specialists were trained with support of German Navy.

Evolving capabilities and changing technology within Baltic navies are followed by the respective training of the Centre specialists in order to adjust to new requirements of new equipment maintenance and limited repairs. Centre is intended to remain subject matter expert in NMCM equipment area.

Baltic MCM training centre

Another small branch of the Latvian Naval training centre is Baltic MCM Training Centre which was established in March 2001 in Liepaja, Latvia with the help and support of German Navy. The center is running Lindau class ship combat system simulator. The facility was invaluable in providing training to the crews and preparing instructors of the Baltic navies until most of the old Lindau class MCMVs were retired. Presently only one ship of this class is still operational and training of the crew is conducted internally.
BALTIC STATES
MCM EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
AND REPAIR CENTRE
Baltic Naval Diving Training Centre is a part of Latvian Naval Training Centre. It was established in 2001 in Liepaja, Latvia with help and support of Royal Norwegian Navy.

Baltic Naval Diving Training Centre consists of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Divers Branch, Ship Divers Branch, Medical Branch and a workshop. Trained by Norwegian colleagues, specialists of Baltic Naval Diving Training Centre have successfully prepared and continue preparing the Baltic states divers. Courses offered by the centre are continuously updated to meet new challenges and advances in technology.
Ship Gunnery and Deck Equipment Maintenance Centre has been set up in October 2002 with help and support of German Navy and Marine Arsenal Wilhelmshaven. The Centre is integrated in Lithuanian navy logistic support system and runs Special Purpose Equipment Repair Team, consisting of well-trained gunnery and deck equipment specialists.

Ship Gunnery and Deck Equipment Maintenance Centre is constantly following the developments in the Baltic navies and is going to stay responsive to the arising needs of partners.
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