



DEFENCE REFORM

Modernisation of the Lithuanian Armed Forces

Fact sheet
May 2005

Taking into account the changing security environment, Lithuania started an extensive force structure review in 2001. The Lithuanian Armed Forces (LAF) have been moving away from the territorial defence posture and adjusting to NATO collective defence requirements of efficiency, deployability, sustainability, multi-role capability, survivability, and efficient command and control. These principles are applied both to regular forces and to the active reserve.

The strategic goal of the defence transformation is to develop highly capable, modern Armed Forces ready to carry out their tasks in Lithuania and generate deployable, sustainable units for the full spectrum of NATO operations.

Lithuanian Armed Forces' goals:

- at least 10% of the Land Forces planned for or undertaking sustained operations at any given time,
- at least 50% of the Land Forces structured, trained and equipped for deployed operations outside Lithuania.

This means that upon the completion of the defence reform by 2014 the LAF must be able to sustain a battalion task group with all combat support and combat service support elements (around 950 soldiers) and a Squadron of Special Operations Forces (up to 50 soldiers) in one operation, or company size specialised combat units in three operations.



Lithuanian Special Operations Forces (SOF) on training. In July 2005 LITSOF Squadron will start their mission with NATO Response Force.

Land Forces

(size – 5800 regulars and 8000 volunteers)

Currently, the majority of available military resources are allocated to the development of Land Forces. The top priority of the overall development of Land Forces is the *Motorised Infantry Brigade*.

Target dates to develop a fully sustained battalion task group for the fulfilment of international obligations:

- 1st deployable battalion task group - end of 2005,
- 2nd deployable battalion task group - end of 2008,
- a brigade size military unit, which will ensure the sustainment of a battalion task group - by 2014.

One of the biggest challenges is the transformation of the National Defence Voluntary Force (NDVF) into an effective *Reserve Command*. Transformation goals:

- the Reserve Command consisting of 5 Reserve Groups - by the end of 2006;
- the number of volunteers in the Reserve Command reduced to 6500 - by the end of 2008.

The basic functions of the Reserve Command will be to augment regular forces, deploy individual units and specific capabilities for international operations, assist Host Nation Support (HNS), support civil authorities, and protect key military sites.



Lithuania has been an active contributor to international military operations since 1994.

Key historical dates of the NDS of Lithuania:

National Defence System re-established	1990
Application for NATO membership	1994
First military mission abroad	1994
Force structure review started	2001
Accession to NATO	2004



Air Force

(size – 1200 regulars)

Maintains limited, mission-tailored capabilities. It is tasked to further develop capabilities for the implementation of air policing functions (except fighter aircraft) and to ensure smooth operation within the NATO Integrated Extended Air Defence System (NATINEADS). It is currently renewing its fleet of tactical aircraft.

Navy

(size – 700 regulars)

Maintains limited, mission-tailored capabilities. It continues to perform surveillance and control of Lithuania's territorial sea and the Exclusive Economic Zone. The Navy also carries out search and rescue as well as de-mining missions in the Baltic Sea.

Logistics Command

(size – 1500 regulars)

Created as a consequence of the defence structure review. Its capabilities are developed to ensure maintenance, deployability and sustainability of all units participating in NATO operations, and to provide full logistics support to the LAF.

Two logistic battalions are being formed:

- the Main Support Battalion will support all services,
- the Forward Support Battalion will support the Reaction Brigade.

Personnel, Finance & Procurement

LAF military personnel 2005-2010

	2005	2010
Professionals	7 800	8 400
Conscripts	3 500	2 000
Active reserve	8 000	6 500
Cadets	350	290
Overall	19 650	17 190

Personnel

Changes in the security environment and the wish to rationalise and improve the efficiency of decision-making and implementation processes called for an extensive review of the defence management system.

At the strategic level, a civil-military ministry will be established to determine security and defence policy, prepare strategies and plans, manage resources and organise acquisition.

At the operational level, a joint staff will plan and execute operations.

At the tactical level, a force headquarters will be responsible for assignment of capabilities to operations.

Finance

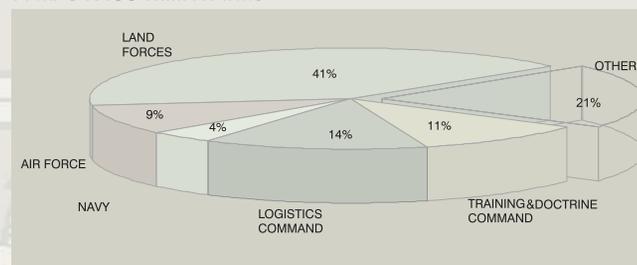
The financial resources of the NDS are allocated to three priority areas: personnel and quality of life; training, readiness and sustainment; and modernisation of technology, equipment, and infrastructure.

With the 1st phase completed, the focus is now on collective training, readiness and sustainment programmes.

In 2008, Lithuania intends to give the highest priority to major modernisation programmes. Up to 20-25 % of the defence budget is to be allocated to arms procurement and upgrading.

MoND budget by programmes in 2005

Total 847.55 million litas



Procurement

In procuring equipment most attention is paid to projects related to implementation of NATO Force Goals and those necessary for ground-based air policing.

Recent important procurement for the modernisation programme includes JAVELIN anti-tank weapons, STINGER air defence systems, Harris radios for tactical communications, M113 armoured vehicles, medium range 3D radars for airspace surveillance system, and logistics equipment.



By 2014 at least 50% of the Lithuanian Land Forces will be structured, trained and equipped for deployed operations outside Lithuania.



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