



Lithuanian Military Digest

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NEWS

CHIEF OF DEFENCE AND CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF OF LITHUANIA PROMOTED TO HIGHER RANKS



LITHUANIAN SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES RECOGNISED FOR THE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN



NATO SECRETARY GENERAL: ALLIANCE'S 70TH A TIME FOR CELEBRATION, BUT NOT FOR COMPLACENCY

NATO'S PRESENCE

PANZERGRENADIERS: FAST & STRONG



Photo credit: Alfredas Plaidis (MoD)

LITHUANIAN Armed Forces Day

ON NOVEMBER 23 SERVICEMEMBERS LINED UP IN A SOLEMN FORMATION ON THE CATHEDRAL SQUARE IN VILNIUS TO MARK THE 101TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RE-ESTABLISHED LITHUANIAN ARMED FORCES. PLATOONS OF ALL SERVICES AND UNITS OF THE LITHUANIAN ARMED FORCES FLEW THEIR UNIT FLAGS AND STOOD IN THE SAME FORMATION SIDE BY SIDE WITH COLLEAGUES FROM THE COUNTRIES TAKING PART IN THE NATO ENHANCE FORWARD PRESENCE BATTALION BATTLE GROUP, SOLDIERS SERVING IN THE JOINT LITHUANIAN, POLISH AND UKRAINIAN BRIGADE LITPOLUKRBIG, AND SOLDIERS OF THE U.S. BATTALION DEPLOYED IN LITHUANIA.

Troops were saluted by President of the Republic of Lithuania HE Gitanas Nausėda, Minister of National Defence Raimundas Karoblis and Chief of Defence of Lithuania Lieutenant General Valdemaras Rupšys. The ceremony was observed by an abundant crowd of Vilnius residents of guests who braved the chilly weather.

"Defence of the state is the responsibility of all of us, not just the armed forces and the politicians. If we don't defend ourselves, we will not be defended," Minister of National Defence Raimundas Karoblis emphasised in this address. Minister expressed delight about

the strong support of the society the Lithuanian Armed Forces enjoyed and the strong motivation and great military training he saw in the soldiers.

Chief of Defence of Lithuania Lt Gen Valdemaras Rupšys stressed in his address that "the combat power of the Lithuanian Armed Forces has grown — we are acquiring new military equipment and weaponry that are operated by motivated soldiers. However, the strength of the Lithuanian Armed Forces depends not only on the amount and quality of it equipment. We have a persistent and

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Photo credit: Alfredas Plackis (MoD)



LITHUANIAN Armed Forces Day

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demanding work ahead of us every day to make all the upgrades, new equipment and weaponry work like a synchronised and unstalling mechanism. It is our future — when the soldiers will have to spend plenty of time learning, training and mastering new defensive capabilities."

Participants and audience of the event were greeted with a flypast of the Royal Danish Air Force and the Belgian Air Component F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter jets currently conducting the NATO Air Policing Mission in the Baltic states. After the ceremony, the parade marched down Gediminas Avenue to Independence Square.

The order regarding reestablishment of the Lithuanian Armed Forces was signed on 23 November 1918, and this date is commemorated as Lithuanian Armed Forces Day. Every year on this day solemn events are organised not only in Vilnius but also in other Lithuanian cities. ■

Photo credit: Sg. Sp. Ieva Budzeikaite



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Chief of Defence and Chief of the Defence Staff of Lithuania promoted to higher ranks



On November 18 President of the Republic of Lithuania HE Gitanas Nausėda promoted Chief of Defence Valdemaras Rupšys to the military rank of lieutenant general and Chief of the Defence Staff Gintautas Zenkevičius to the rank of major general for their impeccable service and strengthening the country and the Armed Forces.

According to the President, the highest military ranks bestowed on the meritorious officers of the Lithuanian Armed Forces was an extraordinary moment that summarized their military service.

"Every general is a role model to young officers who swear to serve loyally to their country and to defend the state of Lithuania at the cost of their lives if necessary. Every general is a role model to private soldiers whose lives may be determined by the right, precise and timely decisions of the military leadership. Every general is as well is a role model to all the citizens who want to fulfil their duties appropriately and to serve to their Motherland," the Head of State said.

V. Rupšys was appointed as Chief of De-

fence of Lithuania in July earlier this year. Graduate of the Gen Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania, Baltic Defence

College and the U.S. Army War College, he began service with the Lithuanian National Defence System back in 1990. The honourable and exemplary service of V. Rupšys has been recognised with the Commemorative January 13 Medal, Lithuanian Armed Forces Medal of Merit and other reputable decorations.

Chief of the Defence Staff Brigadier General G. Zenkevičius began service with the National Defence System in 1991. He graduated Kaunas Polytechnic Institute, Higher Command and Staff Course, and the Royal College of Defence Studies. His honourable and exemplary service has been recognised with the Cross of the Knight of the Order of the Cross of Vytis, Medal of the Founding Volunteers of the Lithuanian Armed Forces, and other decorations.

The President wished the Generals strength, determination and the best of luck at the ceremony.

The rank of lieutenant general was bestowed on three Chiefs of Defence of Lithuania before V. Rupšys — Valdas Tutkus, Arvydas Pocius, and Jonas Vytautas Žukas. ■

Information credits:
President's Press Service



Photo credits: Alfredas Plaidis (MoD)

Units of the MIB Iron Wolf and the NATO eFP Battalion Battle Group are combat-ready



In the evening of November 17 the main stage of the international Exercise Iron Wolf 2019-II of the Motorised Infantry Brigade Iron Wolf, Lithuanian Armed forces, wrapped. After two weeks of training defensive and offensive actions at the General Silvestras Žukauskas Training Area (Švenčionys region) and surrounding territories, the action has concluded and soldiers will return to their permanent bases.

The training was conducted according to "force on force" principle. The Blue Force played by the NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battalion Battle Group in Rukla, and the Red Force played by the Grand Duchess Birutė Uhlan Battalion and Algirdas Mechanised Infantry Battalion with assigned units of other NATO allies were practising offensive and defensive actions.

The international Exercise Iron Wolf 2019-II evaluated the NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battalion Battle Group based in Rukla and Birutė and Algirdas Battalions — an ad hoc observers team analysed actions of military units and staffs and assessed their ability to carry out combat operations in constant coordination with the superior MIB Iron Wolf HQ.

According to the evaluation team, exercise objectives have been achieved successfully and the exercise has proved that the MIB Iron Wolf and the NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battalion Battle Group are combat-ready. Throughout the exercise command posts of units and assembly areas were in sustained operation in different territories of Švenčionys region. Role-2 field hospital was deployed by MD Jonas Basanavičius Military Medical Service of

the Lithuanian Armed Forces for Lithuanian military medics to train administering role 2 medical care to simulated casualties and making them able to fight again as quickly as possible.

Media representatives were assigned to one of the military units in this exercise for the first time: they were operating together and covering military action with the infantry in military squads during a 24 hours operation.

At the exercise, the General Romualdas Giedraitis Artillery Battalion was providing artillery support to other exercise participants using the 155 mm PzH 2000 self-propelled artillery systems that the Lithuanian Armed Forces has procured recently from Germany. The unit will stay at the training area until the end of the week to rehearse artillery support with real live fire shooting. ■

POC: Maj Gintautas Ciunis



Photo credits: Lithuanian Armed Forces

Lithuanian Special Operations Forces recognised for the Mission in Afghanistan

November 25 leadership of the Ministry of National Defence and the Lithuanian Armed Forces paid tribute to the rotation of the Lithuanian Special Operations Forces after service in the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan. The 33rd SOF Squadron had been training, advising and assisting a Special Police Unit in Afghanistan alongside our NATO allies for six months.

The soldiers were congratulated at the event by Minister of National Defence Raimundas Karoblis, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff Captain (Navy) Renius Pleškys, Sergeant Major of the Lithuanian Armed Forces Sgt Maj Remigijus Katinas and representatives of other units upon successful the completion of mission.

"Lithuanian special operations soldiers were able to assess the level of readiness of Afghan colleagues when completing combat operations together, at the same time enabling local partners with NATO capabilities — firepower, intelligence, medical evacuation, etc. Immediate and sincere communication, mutual respect and trust were key to a successful work with the Afghans. Our soldiers managed the arising challenges during their rotation excellently and ensured proper representation of the Lithuanian Armed Forces thanks to their professionalism and experience," commander of the rotation said.

The objective of the SOF troops in the Re-



Photo credit: Sgt Spc Ieva Butzeikaite

solute Support Mission is to enable the Afghan Security Forces to operate independently and to further implementation of their tasks and objectives concerning neutralisation of threats to Afghanistan through immediate cooperation.

Lithuanian SOF personnel have been taking part in international operations in Afghanistan alongside NATO allies since 2002. The involvement and assistance in fighting threats

of terrorism of the Lithuanian SOF updated in the beginning of 2018 are vital for the implementation of international commitments. International deployments give real-life experience and practice in non-conventional conflict, honing interoperability and procedures with coalition partners in strengthening the collective security of NATO allies and the state of Lithuania. ■

Information credits: Lithuanian Armed Forces



Photo credits: SOF archive



NATO secretary general: Alliance's 70th a time for celebration, but not for complacency

On June 6, 2019, we marked the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. This was a major turning point in the Second World War, leading to the liberation of Europe. And it was a colossal feat for the tens of thousands of Allied troops, many of whom paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Less than 5 years later, NATO was born. An extraordinary idea, driven by the visionary leadership of our 12 founding nations and by the deep desire of our citizens to live in peace and freedom.

NATO leaders gather Dec. 3-4 in London, the very first home of NATO's headquarters, at a critical time for our trans-Atlantic security. This is an opportunity to reflect on everything we have achieved over seven decades. In that time, allies in Europe and North America have built an unprecedented area of peace and prosperity. Our ironclad commitment to protect and defend one another guarantees freedom and democracy for our almost 1 billion citizens, making NATO the most successful alliance in history.

But beyond marking those 70 years, leaders will look to the challenges that still lie ahead. Today we face the greatest security threats in a generation — from a more assertive Russia to instability across the Middle East and North Africa, and from cyber and hybrid attacks to the ever-present terrorist threat. At the same time, the global balance of power is shifting around us. And the rapid development of new technology promises to transform our societies — and security — as radically as the first industrial revolution. So we must be ready to respond to any threat from any direction. And that is exactly what NATO is doing.

Since Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014, NATO allies have implemented the



largest reinforcement of our collective defense since the Cold War. We have strengthened our presence in the east of our alliance, from the Baltic to the Black Sea regions. And we have increased the size and readiness of our forces. This year we declared two new NATO commands operational: one in Ulm in Germany to improve military mobility in Europe, and one in Norfolk in the United States to ensure trans-Atlantic lines of communication. And we are delivering on our new NATO Readiness Initiative to field 30 air squadrons, 30 combat vessels and 30 land battalions within 30 days.

As well as guaranteeing our security today, NATO is preparing for the challenges of tomorrow on land, at sea, in the air, in cyberspace and in space. NATO recently updated the core standards for civilian telecommunications, including 5G, in order to improve the resilience of our networks. And this year allies adopted NATO's first-ever overarching space policy.

Finally, all allies are stepping up their in-

vestment in our security, not only in cash but also with new capabilities and contributions to NATO missions and operations. European allies and Canada have increased defense spending for five years in a row. By the end of next year they will have added an extra \$100 billion to their defense budgets since 2016. More allies are on track to meet their pledge to spend 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense by 2024. But we have to do more because our freedom does not come for free. And in a more unpredictable world, we need to continue to keep our citizens safe.

In London, NATO leaders will continue to strengthen our collective defense, modernize our alliance and invest in our shared security. And while NATO's 70th anniversary gives us cause for celebration, this is not the time for complacency. We must never take the trans-Atlantic bond for granted. We must never take freedom and democracy for granted. We must defend them every day. ■

www.defensenews.com



Photo credits: Gettyimages.com

Lithuania's defense minister R. Karoblis: Wavering US commitments? Think again.

In 2019, the trans-Atlantic community has had its fair share of squabbles over the future of the NATO alliance. Many in Europe have voiced their concerns about a flagging commitment from the United States to the defense of our old continent, while the U.S. administration seemed to grow increasingly frustrated over defense spending and military capability development in Europe. However, I am a big believer in actions speaking louder than words.

Looking from Vilnius, plenty of evidence points to a firm and enduring U.S. loyalty to Europe. Funding for the European Deterrence Initiative has increased over six times since 2015 to reassure the allies and to bolster their capacities. In addition to thousands of permanently stationed troops in Europe, combat-credible heel-to-toe forces — up to 5,000 in total — are testing a new operating environment in Poland and Lithuania. Simultaneously, U.S., NATO and European military planners are hard at work in anticipation of the Defender 2020 exercise, the largest stress test to rapidly project and receive forces from the U.S. to countries across Europe since the Cold War.

At the same time, it is enough to look at the spectrum of NATO's activities to know that it has fully embraced a 360-degree approach to address the security needs of today and tomorrow.

Most importantly for my country, the alliance has focused on reinforcing the most vulnerable allies with basing troops in the Baltic states and Poland. Our allies from Germany, the United Kingdom and Canada lead the Enhanced Forward Presence forces in the Baltics, with over 20 European allies contributing their troops. Trans-Atlantic solidarity, which we witness today in the Baltics, constitutes the core of NATO's deterrence and defense posture in our region.

In parallel, NATO's Command Structure is being transformed to reacquire capabilities for large-scale collective defense operations — this has emerged as an essential requirement for the alliance in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2014. Furthermore, through NATO's Readiness Initiative, the alliance aims to elevate its ability for rapid reinforcement of threatened allies. In both endeavors the United States is playing a central role.

Lately, Europe has been positively spurred to action by the relentlessness of the U.S. The



Photo credits: Alfredas Phadis (MoD)

continent is clearly on a positive trajectory as evidenced by the growing defense budgets and the sheer amount of newly launched defense initiatives. It is essential that this increased attention to security and defense in Europe maintains a clear focus on capability building and compatibility with NATO.

Lithuania itself is making great strides in strengthening its defense. Thanks to the public support and determined political leadership, a historic sprint in defense spending to reach 2 percent of gross domestic product has been achieved, making a truly powerful impact on the ground. We are undergoing a major breakthrough in modernizing our Armed Forces and in rapidly enhancing military infrastructure. Less visibly but no less importantly, Lithuania is improving resilience of the society as well as developing cutting-edge cyber capabilities, which has already placed Lithuania among the top five in the world in the field of cybersecurity.

U.S. support and cooperation have been a critical ingredient in almost all of our recent successes. Defense capability development is benefiting immensely from the synergy created by the U.S. security cooperation programs complementing Lithuania's national efforts. Each dollar that the U.S. invests in supporting the Lithuanian military is matched several times over by Lithuania's acquisitions of U.S. defense articles. Most recently, Lithuania has signed a long-term contract to purchase at least 200 Oshkosh Joint Light Tactical Vehicles, and commenced talks to acquire a fleet of Black Hawk helicopters that

would replace our last remaining military platform from the Soviet era.

Bilateral cooperation with the United States has also led to the launch of the Regional Cyber Security Center. It will focus on research and development of next-generation cyber capabilities, training with partners and allies, as well as conducting analysis on cyberthreats.

Speaking of challenges ahead, air defense will remain a key vulnerability in the Baltic region for the foreseeable future. Our national investments in this area can only provide limited response to the potential threat stemming from Russia. Solutions, therefore, will have to come through NATO and through bilateral cooperation with the United States.

Conceptual work has already started within the alliance, while recent U.S. exercises involving deployment of the Patriot missiles and F-35 aircraft indicate the way ahead to address this complex, yet highly important issue.

We also noted that the U.S. Congress has proposed \$400 million worth of support to boost air defense of the three Baltic states in its latest appropriations bill. If endorsed, it could signal a major step toward solving this conundrum and would help to patch a substantial hole in NATO's capabilities.

All these important developments seem to tell one simple story: The trans-Atlantic bond, which held the alliance strong and secure for the past 70 years, is still very much alive, while the U.S. commitment to European defense remains as strong as ever. ■

Flag of the Mechanised Infantry Brigade Iron Wolf — in the hands of new commander



commander of the Training and Doctrine Command.

The new MIB Iron Wolf Commander, Col Mindaugas Petkevičius started officer's career after graduating from the Gen Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania, in 1996. The officer also graduated from the Baltic Defence College (Estonia), U.S. Army War College, and Kaunas University of Technology.

Before the current appointment Col Mindaugas Petkevičius was the Deputy Commander of the Lithuanian Land Force. His earlier positions include platoon commander, instructor, project officer, and Commander of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Algirdas Mechanised Infantry Battalion. The officer also served with the MIB Iron Wolf Command, Joint Headquarters (now — Defence Staff) of the Lithuanian Armed Forces, Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum (the Netherlands), NATO Force Integration Unit Vilnius, first as project officer, then as Deputy Commander. Col Mindaugas Petkevičius was deployed to international missions in Afghanistan where he carried out the duties of the Chief of Staff Operations Division (J3) in the Provincial Reconstruction Team.

The officer is a recipient of the National Defence System Medal for Distinguished Service, Lithuanian Armed Forces Medal of Merit, Lithuanian Land Force Medal for Distinguished Service, Iron Wolf Badge of Honour, and other decorations of different grades and Commander commendations.

Together with the Motorised Infantry Brigade Griffin established in Western Lithuania, the MIB Iron Wolf constitute the core of the Lithuanian Land Force responsible for security and defence of the state, Host Nation Support to allies' forces deployed in Lithuania, and readiness for collective defence tasks.

Current composition of the MIB Iron Wolf is as follows: Brigade Headquarters with assigned Signal, Headquarters and Reconnaissance Companies, and 7 battalions (Logistic Battalion, Lithuanian Grand Duke Algirdas Mechanized Infantry Battalion, Grand Duchess Birutė Uhlan Battalion, King Mindaugas Hussar Battalion, General Romualdas Giedraitis Artillery Battalion, Lithuanian Duke Vaidotas Mechanized Infantry Battalion, NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battalion Battle Group). ■

On November 27 change of command ceremony of the Mechanised Infantry Brigade (MIB) Iron Wolf took place in Rukla, Battle of Saulė Square. Col Mindaugas Steponavičius relinquished to Col Mindaugas Petkevičius after nearly four years in the position.

The incoming commander was saluted and wished success by Chief of Defence of Lithuania Lt Gen Valdemaras Rupšys, Commander of the Lithuanian Land Force Brig Gen Raimundas Vaikšnoras, leadership of the battalions assigned to the MIB Iron Wolf MPB, representatives of Jonava City Council, heads of statutory organisations, and other dignitaries.

"Colonel Mindaugas Steponavičius is an officer who proved that he deserved the position he was entrusted with many times and the MIB Iron Wolf team completed work of extraordinary importance and glorified the name of the nation under his command, Commander of the Lithuanian Land Force Brig Gen Raimundas Vaikšnoras said at the ceremony.

Outgoing Commander Lt Mindaugas Steponavičius pointed out the professionalism and contribution of MIB Iron Wolf troops to projects for strengthening international security, standby for the European Union Battle-groups and National Rapid Response Force, participation in national and international exercises.

Combat readiness of the Mechanised Infantry Brigade Iron Wolf Command Brigade Headquarters was certified according to the NATO Combat Readiness Evaluation System (CREVAL) procedures during Col Mindaugas Steponavičius tour of duty.

M. Steponavičius will continue service with the Lithuanian Armed Forces as the Com-



Photo credits: Sgt Virginijus Stonys



Photo credit: Alfredas Plaidis (MoD)

Lithuania and Ukraine intensifies cooperation on cybersecurity

On November 27 Minister of National Defence Raimundas Karoblis and Minister of Defence of Ukraine Andriy Zagorodniuk signed a Declaration of Intent in Vilnius on closer cooperation as the countries' cooperation in the area of cybersecurity is intensified.

With the document, the countries agree to develop and sustain close cooperation in cybersecurity area, exchange information and data on cyber incidents and attacks, plan joint exercises, and pursue mutually beneficial cooperation at the Regional Cyber Security Centre to be established in Kaunas.

"All the countries monitor an increase in cyber incidents with malicious activities and critical state infrastructure remains a subject of active malicious cyber activities. Cyberspace is a war zone too, and it requires equally serious security and defence enhancement efforts as sea, air and land," Minister R. Karoblis said.

Minister of National Defence R. Karoblis and Minister of Defence of Ukraine A. Zagorodniuk also discussed bilateral cooperation and security situation. R. Karoblis reiterated

Lithuania's continued support to Ukraine's aspiration to become a full-fledged member of NATO and the EU, assistance in reforming and strengthening the Armed Forces of Ukraine, development of the joint Lithuanian, Polish and Ukrainian Brigade, and medical rehabilitation of injured Ukrainian soldiers. Minister of Defence of Ukraine as also briefed on the principles of Lithuania's strategic communication, territorial defence, defence planning and HR management.

"It is important for Ukraine to firmly follow the path it has chosen and to make sure the reforms benefit its citizens and state to the maximum and allow to ensure that Ukraine is independent and proceeds with the democratic development," Minister R. Karoblis said.

Minister of Defence of Ukraine who is on a visit in Lithuania in the delegation of the President of Ukraine also paid a visit of the National Cyber Security Centre.

Lithuania has been providing all possible assistance, including military, and political support to Ukraine since the beginning of Russian aggression in 2014. Lithuanian military

instructors are training and strengthening the Ukrainian military as part of the U.S.-led Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine and the Lithuanian Training Operation in Ukraine. Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine are also developing a joint military project, the trilateral brigade LITPOLUKRBRIG, in order to help Ukraine's forces learn Western standards and have an opportunity to study and work according to NATO procedures. Ukrainian troops are invited to study at military education institutions in Lithuania, Lithuania funds studies of Ukrainian officers at the Baltic Defence College.

Over 270 Ukrainian soldiers have already undergone medical treatment and rehabilitation in Lithuania in 2014–2019. The Ministry of National Defence allots up to 58 thousand euros annually for the medical rehabilitation programme for Ukrainian military.

The society of Lithuania supports military assistance to Ukraine — 64% of respondents of a public opinion poll carried out by request of the Ministry of National Defence in the end of last year were in favour of Lithuania's military assistance to Ukraine. ■

NATO to upgrade its AWACS



Photo credits: wwflickr.com

NATO officials expect to spend \$1 billion on upgrades to the alliance's fleet of AWACS reconnaissance planes, according to Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

"I can confirm we will sign a contract upgrading, modernizing the AWACS fleet — \$1 billion dollars," Stoltenberg was quoted as telling reporters ahead of a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels on Wednesday.

The news comes coupled with an announcement that the first of five Global Hawk drones making up the Alliance Ground Surveillance program was en route from the United States to its future home base at Sigonella, Sicily.

"This reflects how NATO is investing in high-tech capabilities," alliance spokeswoman Oana Lungescu wrote on Twitter.

The Boeing-made AWACS planes, introduced in 1982, are slated to remain in service until 2035. Their job is to detect enemy missiles and aircraft threatening NATO airspace. Alliance pilots have flown the aircraft to support missions against the Islamic State and in order to secure the eastern flank in the wake of Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014.

NATO's website bills the AWACS enterprise as the "largest collaborative venture" and one of the few military assets owned and operated by the alliance.

The fleet of AGS drones is based on the Northrop Grumman-made Block 40 Global Hawk of the U.S. Air Force. The aircraft's main job will be ground and maritime surveillance for commander and deployed forces.

The two announcements come as the alliance is in dire need of signs of life after French President Emmanuel Macron famously declared NATO as "brain dead" in an interview with the Economist some weeks ago. While experts are still debating whether the vivid assessment was constructive in nature or rather an unnecessary dig at an alliance already weakened by trans-Atlantic squabbling, there are signs that key European nations like Germany and France have plans to re-animate pact.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on Wednesday called the alliance Europe's "life insurance," proposing a reform commission headed by Stoltenberg.

NATO members' heads of state are slated to convene in London in early December. U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to attend the summit, determining in large part whether the alliance will be able to celebrate a revival or witness something of a funeral. ■



Here are the problems offensive cyber poses for NATO

NATO has declared cyberspace a domain of warfare it must operate in and called on the integration of cyber alongside operations. However, as a defensive alliance, it has declared it won't seek offensive cyber capabilities itself, instead relying on the capabilities of voluntary member states.

This approach, while not insurmountable, poses significant challenges to operations, experts claim.

"The idea of sovereign cyber effects provided voluntarily by allies is good. But... that will not fall under the command and control of the actual NATO commander," David Bailey, senior national security law advisor for Army Cyber Command, said Nov. 19 at the 2019 International Conference on Cyber Conflict U.S. (CyCon U.S.) in Arlington. "It will still fall under the command and control of the country that contributes. In my mind, it's going to be difficult to achieve that level of coordination that we're used to in military operations, even in a NATO context."

Sovereign cyber effects provided voluntarily by allies is the concept NATO is looking to implement. Cyber and NATO experts have explained that if a cyber effect is needed for a particular operation, those with the capability, capacity, authority and access will volunteer to provide it on behalf of the alliance.

Several experts have said members states

that are both willing and capable of offensive operations number about a half dozen.

Speaking at the same event, Massimiliano Signoretti, NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence office of the staff judge advocate, noted additional complexities and friction involved in this approach. First, he foresees difficulties in the confidence of a commander, who ultimately doesn't possess the cyber capabilities, to approve and employ them. Moreover, there could be difficulties in

maintaining the confidentiality of the nation that is providing the capabilities to that commander.

NATO's secretary general has previously referenced allied nations conducting offensive cyber operations against ISIS.

NATO opened a Cyber Operations Center in August 2018 to provide situational awareness in cyberspace, plan allied cyberspace operations and manage the execution of operations. ■



Photo credits: wwflickr.com



NATO day in Anykščiai



NOVEMBER 8

As part of both NATO 70 th anniversary celebrations and the 15th year of Lithuania membership in NATO, we carried out the NATO Day in Anykščiai. The event included meetings with local authorities, informational briefings, static displays and visits to Lajų takas Park and to the Railway Museum. We

would like to thank Anykščiai municipality and its people for their hospitality and kindness, a tangible signal of Lithuania's full support of to NATO and its common values of peace, freedom and democracy.

NATO Force Integration Unit Lithuania photos and inf.



The Exercises IRON WOLF 2019-II



Photo credit: Lithuanian Armed Forces

NOVEMBER 10

„Leopards“, „Marders“, „Boxers“, „Fenneks“, „Kodiaks“, „Piranhas“, „Dingos“, CV90s and many other types of military vehicles were transported from NATO eFP Battlegroup in Rukla to the IRON WOLF 2019-II training grounds in Pabradė. A road march on this scale demanded thorough planning and great collaboration between eFP soldiers and military police, who makes sure everything runs as smoothly as possible as the several convoys pass through the country side, towns and high ways of Lithuania.

NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup's inf.

CBRN units in action

NOVEMBER 12

The German, the Dutch and the Norwegian soldiers received Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) training by the German 7th CBRN Defense Battalion in the first days of the IRONWOLF 2019-II exercise. The goal of the training was to ensure a smooth process in the beginning of the exercise before the big maneuvers.

With special German CBRN uniforms on, the soldiers got a unique chance to train the decontamination of vehicles, equipment and personnel in case of hazardous situations and gained valuable knowledge which they will pass on to their own units.

NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup's photos and inf.



Training of military medics

NOVEMBER 15

There were many different phases in the IRON WOLF 2019 -II exercises, starting with the alarm phase and ending with the redeployment phase. In the first days eFP soldiers prepared their gear, set up their base in Pabradė, trained some more and take on various tasks before going into defensive and offensive operations at later stages of the exercise. Military medics also conducted their duties in a battle field and Role 2 hospital.

NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup's photos and inf.





The discount is applicable only upon presentation of a service card.

Conditions and applicable discounts may change.

* There are additional conditions.

** Expositions are free of charge to the Lithuanian Military Academy (LMA) cadets, Permanent Mandatory Initial Military Service (PMIMS) soldiers serving in the LMA, and soldiers from the Gediminas Headquarters Battalion (GHB).

*** Coordinate with the regional Conscription and recruiting service department.

**** Due to a match of the football club "Atlantas" coordinate with the Grand Duke Butigeidis Dragoon Battalion's S5 division of the Motorized Infantry Brigade "Samogitia". Due to a match of the basketball club "Neptūnas" coordinate with the National Defence Volunteer Force's S5 division of the Samogitia district 3rd team. Due to a match of the football club "Sūduva" coordinate with the Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytenis General Support Logistics Battalion's S5 division.

***** The discount is applicable to persons who serve or have served in the Lithuanian Armed Forces, also to those who are in the prepared personnel reserve of the Lithuanian Armed Forces (for the entire study period both for the first and second cycle studies).

***** The discount is applicable on February 16, March 11, July 6, and November 23.



National Defence System employees (soldiers, civil servants and employees working under an employment contract)



Soldiers of the Permanent Mandatory Initial Military Service



Members of the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union



Lithuanian soldiers



Soldiers of the National Defence Volunteer Forces



NATO soldiers



Negotiation issues

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Panzergrenadiers: fast & strong

"NEITHER HUMANS, NOR ANIMALS — THEY ARE PANZERGRENADIERS" — THAT'S A FRIENDLY JOKE ABOUT THE ARMORED INFANTRY OF THE GERMAN ARMY (IN ORIGINAL LANGUAGE: "ES IST KEIN MENSCH, ES IST KEIN TIER — ES IST EIN PANZERGRENADIER!"). IN FACT THEY REALLY ARE MANY-SIDED WARRIORS, FIGHTING TOGETHER WITH THE MAIN BATTLE TANKS, WHICH COULDN'T DO SO MUCH IN A BATTLE WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF PANZERGRENADIERS.



CALM BEFORE THE STORM

Pabradė training area. Last days of the international exercises "Iron Wolf 2019-II". Almost 3500 soldiers are training together and nearly 1,000 pieces of military equipment are involved, including main battle tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, armored personnel carriers, artillery systems, logistical support, command-post vehicles and even the German bridge-layer tank "Biber". Training is conducted according to "force on force" principle, i.e., the training units "fight" each other, as it is common in many of the NATO countries. Both sides, the Blue Force (played by the NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup (NATO eFP BG) in Lithuania) and the Red Force (played by the Grand Duchess Birutė Uhlan Battalion and Algirdas Mechanized Infantry Battalion), have prepared offensive and defensive action plans that are not known to each other ahead of the operations.

In the positions of the Blue Force's it's suspiciously quiet before the counterattack, which they are going to conduct against "the Reds". The German and the Norwegian main battle tanks "Leopards" are hidden somewhere in the dense woods, only a few "Marders" (the Ger-

man-built armored infantry fighting vehicles (AIFV)) are seen near a "highway" (that's a tactical name of the tank road in Pabradė training area, given by the NATO eFP BG). "We are in a reserve now, so I have time to clean my weapon, a G-36 rifle", — says First Lieutenant Markus S., the German panzergrenadier platoon commander, in charge of 4 "Marder" vehicles and 32 panzergrenadiers, which came from the 391st Panzergrenadier battalion located right in the middle of Germany. — It was good news for us when our battalion got the order to deploy in Lithuania, because my soldiers and me don't want to leave the army without being sent into a mission. "Iron Wolf 2019-II" exercise is the biggest here in Lithuania and it's very interesting to see how "the big war" is going, because we usually train in a platoon or company level in Germany, but here we are at a brigade level exercises."

Suddenly the calm situation changes. The German panzergrenadier platoon leader gets an order from his company commander, then gives his own orders to his subordinates and the forest begins to bustle. "Marders" start to gather into one place and soon the German "Leopards" 2A6 show up on a "highway" —

Panzergrenadiers are mounted in their vehicles when keep up with the tank units.



Photo credits: Martin Hirmer



they will be in a front of formation and the panzergrenadiers will follow them mounted in their "Marders".

We have to change our positions before tomorrow's attack. It's about 4 km from here. Would you like to go with us? — First Lieutenant Markus asks me.

Of course.

Then jump in.

OLD, BUT GOOD "MARDER"

It's said in Lithuania that a gun is the best friend of a soldier, but for the German panzergrenadiers the armored infantry fighting vehicle (AIFV) "Marder" is as important "partner in the fight" as rifle G-36. The vehicle "Marder" was considered and developed as an infantry tank, which is armoured with a 20 mm cannon and a machine gun MG-3. It's not a "battle-taxi" just for bringing infantry into a battle, like the other mechanized transportation vehicles do. Panzergrenadiers fight with "Marder" mounted and dismounted using its weaponry", explains lieutenant colonel Karsten Dyba, the chief of communication of NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battalion Battle Group in Lithuania.



Photo credits: Martin Hirmer and Lt Col Karsten Dyba

The "Marders" were started to produce in 1971 in Germany and they still are in service as the fighting vehicle of armored infantry (panzergrenadiers). "They are children of the Cold War. In that time the German army decided to develop panzergrenadier and tank forces, because more and more fast tanks were necessary against the possible war with the Soviet Union, so it was decided to create a new tank, able to transport an infantry group and suitable to fight following the main battle tanks, so "Marders" were designed, manufactured and introduced to the German army in the seventies", Lt Col K. Dyba told.

The German panzergrenadiers evaluate them as really good and reliable fighting vehicles also in the missions in Afghanistan, nevertheless "Marders" are more than 40 years old. "We have some mechanical problems sometimes, because the tanks are pretty old, but the best thing is that usually they can be solved very quickly, in a few hours, sometimes you even can repair it on battle field. As far as I know, in the same cases other very modern infantry fighting vehicles take much larger", First Lieutenant Markus says.

Now in the German army a new AIFV, known as "Puma", is being introduced, but it will take some more time until all panzergrenadier bataillons will be converted. "The "Pumas" are in an medium phase of introduction. We still use the "Marder" system, therefore we don't know much about the new ones. Of course, they will be faster, have more firepower because of the Spike anti-tank-missile, will have more modern technologies in it and certainly they will change the way of fighting. I think that the AIFV of a new generation will be a big advantage, but also a hard experience for panzergrenadiers learning how to use them. If I had to choose between them now, my choice would be "Marder", because I have 20 years of experience working with these vehicles and they haven't disappointed me until now", Major Matthias S., the German panzergrenadier company commander says.

It's difficult to count how much time panzergrenadiers spend in "Marder" tanks, but during the exercises "Iron Wolf 2019-II" they became also their homes for a while, were panzergrenadiers slept when had a possibility to rest during the intensive training. There is a saying, that fits quiet well to them: "Home is where the ramp is!"

THE MOST CHALLENGING OPERATION

Changing positions in Pabradė training area the main battle tanks "Leopards", accompanied by the "Marders", drive about 25 km/h speed. Really heavy vehicles go through the dense woods without any stops via squasy and bumpy byways, only a few centimeters left to the wayside pines from the both sides of the tanks. "Pabradė training area is a very interesting place, because it's a special kind of wooded terrain with very narrow roads and a lot of small traces of the vehicles. Also we need enough space to make right formations to use our vehicles and sometimes here we have to maneuver in a different manner than we are used to", Maj. Matthias S. admits.

Inside the "Marder" jingle of its iron caterpillars is loud, but the ride is unexpected comfortable — without any big shakes. It seems that I even could drink a coffee not pouring any drop out during this rapid tank drive.

"Fast and furious" — that's my impression of the German panzergrenadiers, viewing them in action, because I see resolution in every face of the platoon soldiers finally to show what the panzergrenadiers are created for. It is like the panzergrenadiers's motto says: "Dran, drauf, drüber!" (on it — over it!) "We were in a reserve previous days, so I'm sure that our attack

ARMORED INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLE "MARDER"

Place of origin	West Germany
In service	1971–present
Used by	Bundeswehr
Wars	War in Afghanistan, missions on the Balkans
Mass	28.5 t "Marder" 1A1/A2 33.5 t "Marder" 1A3 37.4 t "Marder" 1A5
Length	6.79 m
Width	3.24 m
Height	2.98 m
Crew	3+6
Armor	Welded steel, protection up to 20 mm APDS DM43 from 0 m and 25 mm APDS from 200 m (220 yd)
Main armament	20 mm Rheinmetall MK 20 Rh 202 automatic cannon MILAN ATGM launcher
Secondary armament	7.62 mm MG3 machine gun ("Heckler und Koch")
Engine	MTU MB 833 Ea-500 diesel engine 441 kW (591 hp)
Power/weight	15.7 kW/t (21.1 hp/t)
Transmission	RENK HSWL 194
Suspension	Torsion bar
Ground clearance	0.45 m
Fuel capacity	652 L
Operational range	520 km
Speed	75 km/h

The German panzergrenadiers evaluate "Marders" as really good and reliable fighting vehicles, nevertheless they are more than 40 years old.



NATO's presence

tomorrow together with the main battle tanks and the other units will be the best moment of these exercises. As the commander of NATO eFP BG Colonel Lieutenant Rouven Habel said, "the training of attack operations was not our main effort, but it's time to conduct such an operation now and I think we'll manage it, because we know the terrain here pretty well and all the soldiers are prepared", panzergrenadier platoon commander says. First Lieutenant Markus Markus jumps out when the vehicles reach their destination point and hastens to a meeting with the Norwegians to adjust their plans, because the German and the Norwegian tank and armored infantry units are "fighting" together during the exercises "Iron Wolf 2019-II".

"Actually, NATO eFP BG staff is a little bit tense now, as tomorrow they have to conduct an offensive operation and here they always train to conduct delay or defense operations, because in case of emergency their main effort would be to defend Lithuania in order to break the enemies' attack and stop them till NATO brings more troops as reinforcements in here. Of course, they know and are ready for conduct offensive operations as well as defensive, but tomorrow experts from NATO will certify readiness of the NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group to plan and carry out operations in coordination with the Mechanized Infantry Brigade (MIB) "Iron Wolf" Headquarters (HQ)", Lt Col K. Dyba explained.



1st Lieutenant Marcus, the panzergrenadier platoon commander.

And, of course, a very important role will be provided to the German panzergrenadiers during the coming attack. Actually, they will be in the main effort of it.

THE BEST FRIENDS OF TANKS

The main task of panzergrenadiers in the German army is to escort and support tanks and the other armored fighting vehicles as part of the tank troops. Main Battle Tanks (MBT) and the panzergrenadiers (armored infantry) with their AIFV belong together doctrinally. "Due to the mobility and protection offered by their armored fighting vehicles, the panzergrenadiers are especially suited for swift changes between mounted and dismounted combat to maintain the momentum of armored troops. The direct and close cooperation of tankers and panzergrenadiers is mandatory to succeed, because the versatility and reactivity of panzergrenadiers enables them to gain and maintain the initiative", – so the role of armored infantry is explained by the German central army regulation, but the panzergrenadiers' officer First Lieutenant Markus gives me much more shorter and clear definition of their role: "Tanks are nothing without armored infantry and vice versa".

Tactics of the panzergrenadiers in a battle field usually depends on a kind of operation — is it defensive, delay or offensive. "For example, last week during the exercises "Iron Wolf 2019-II" we conducted defense or delay operations, so my platoon was waiting for the enemies dismounted attack in the woods and the "Leopards" were staying hidden in their



"Tanks are nothing without armored infantry and vice versa", say panzergrenadiers.

Photo credits: Lt Col Karsten Dyba

positions. The roads were blocked with the barriers and panzergrenadiers' task was to fight with the barriers and the enemies when they show up, — First Lieutenant Markus tells. — During the offensive operations we go mounted in our "Marders" together with tanks and when we will find barriers on the road and we have to open them. Of course, the enemies are securing their barriers, so we dismount 2-3 km before, fight against the enemies with support of our 20mm guns, our Joint Fire Support teams (who can call additional fire from the howitzers oder mortars) open the barrier with the help of our detached engineers, then the main battle tanks and the other platoons can go further."

Also exist the other tactical situations when the tanks support panzergrenadiers, usually it happens fighting in an open field. "When we go to the open terrain mounted in "Marders", what I don't like so much, because woods are the environment where panzergrenadiers prefer to act, we need help of tanks with their big guns and good optics, so partnership between "Leopards" and "Marders" is crucial to be succeed in a battle", the panzergrenadier platoon commander says.

The German tankers and panzergrandiers not only work very closely together, but like to poke fun at each other sometimes, as all good friends do. "Sometimes we joke that tankers are just sitting in a warm tank and we are the real fighters, but everybody know that they need us and we need them", says First Lieutenant



Panzergrenadiers always follow the tanks, fight in all the terrains, open and woody, never care about the weather and are very flexible.



Markus. The German panzergrenadier company commander mjr. Matthias S. says that their job is more complicated compare to the tankers, because they have to move on feet more, mounting and dismounting, also act in various terrains: "It's challenging to be a panzergrenadier, because you have to be very flexible. We are used to be on a "Marder", which is quick and flexible in a wooden terrain, but we have to dismount when we are in a hard combat, so close coordination between tanks and "Marders" is very important".

The panzergrenadiers are very well prepared to support the main battle tanks, but they have other talents too.

"NEITHER HUMANS, NOR ANIMALS"

Of course, that's just a friendly joke about the German panzergrenadiers, but maybe there is some truth between these lines? I try to find out it asking the German panzergrenadiers, what they think about this saying. "We use the same terrain as animals, try to hide as deep as possible in the woods, so people may say that we may look like animals sometimes",

mjr. Matthias S. gives his version. "I think that panzergrenadiers are really something between animal and human being", says ltn. Markus. The deputy commander of the German panzergrenadier company Captain Jens K. points that panzergrenadiers are very many-sided warriors: "We always follow the tanks, fight in all the terrains, open and woody, never care about the weather and are very flexible".

Stabsgefreiter (OR-4) Sebastian G. is a very good example how flexible and multifunctional the panzergrenadiers can be. Actually, he has three professions: he is a panzergrenadier, capable to act mounted in a "Marder" and conduct all the classic tasks of an infantry soldier on a ground, also he is a paramedic and a sniper.

During the exercise "Iron Wolf 2019-II" Sebastian G. and his colleagues also had possibility to show their first aid skills in a battle field, because Role-2 field hospital has been deployed by MD Jonas Basanavičius Military Medical Service of the Lithuanian Armed Forces for Lithuanian military medics to train administering "Role 2" medical care to simulated casualties and making them able to fight again as quickly as possible. "We had a played car in-

NATO's presence



The "Marder" crew consists of 9 panzergrenadiers: Commander, gunner (both in the tower), driver (in the front of the tub) and a troop leader with 5 other grenadiers in the rear combat area.

cident during the exercise, were a few soldiers were injured and combat medics had to help them. So we stopped the bleeding, checked the bodies and called Role 2 doctors. It was very interesting to train together with the other NATO soldiers here in Lithuania," Sebastian G. tells.

Actually, during these exercises the German panzergrenadiers act in a very multinational environment. Aside from the Lithuanian Land Force and other Lithuanian units, the exercise participants also come from 11 foreign countries, including the main contributing nations of the NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group from Germany, Belgium, Czech Republic, Norway, Netherlands. Also, a Polish tank company that was deployed for the exercise to reinforce Lithuanian units on the adversary side, infantry companies from Estonia and the United Kingdom, Tactical Air Control Parties from the United States, a reconnaissance platoon from Portugal and fire support specialists from Canada.

COMBAT READY

12 hours before the attack. Positions of the Blue Force. Inside the panzergrenadier company command-post vehicle the officers plan and mark movements of their units on a map during offensive operation. The company commander is absent — he hasn't returned from

the NATO eFP BG headquarters yet, because situation is changing every minute. "We are ready for tomorrow and I don't think that it will be the hardest moment of these exercises", cap. Jens K. says very confident and calm.

"It is planned that the eFP BG will attack in a column formation with the main effort on the right flank to seize objective "SILVER". In

that case the Dutch company will fix United Kingdom soldiers at the left flank whereas at the right flank — here the main effort — three companies attack after another. In the first phase the Belgium company will take the bridge over the BEVARA first in order to set the preconditions for the Norwegian company to set up defensive position north of objective "SILVER" against Polish soldiers' tank reserves. The German company will take the South of objective "SILVER" before the Dutch company gets the order to break contact with the United Kingdom soldiers on the left flank. They were needed to cover our left flank to set preconditions for the Lithuanian company to penetrate into objective "SILVER" and seize it from United Kingdom's infantry. It's risky, but it's the only chance to get up there in 5 hours", Lt Col Habel explains.

And this plan worked very well. NATO observers' team analyzed actions of military units and staffs and assessed their ability to carry out combat operations in constant coordination with the superior MIB "Iron Wolf" HQ. According to the evaluation team, exercise objectives have been achieved successfully and the exercise has proved that the MIB "Iron Wolf" and the NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group are combat-ready. ■



Photo credits: Martin Hirmer

By Ilona Skujaitė

The Panzergrenadier — a product of the Cold War

The term "Panzergrenadier" derives from the German word "Panzer" for tank. In military history the grenadier was considered a special infantryman, who was trained to carry heavy hand grenades and to throw them far away. The French word "grénadier" derives from the Italian "granatiere" and refers to a soldier who throws a "granata" (grenade).

At the end of the 50s the Federal Republic of Germany decided to set up new armed forces. This happened mainly at the request of the USA. This decision was very controversial in Germany: ten years after the last struggle was over, the motto was: "Never again war!" But the threat posed by the Warsaw Pact necessitated a contribution from the new NATO member to defend Western Europe.

The new Bundeswehr received 12 armored and mechanized divisions. The Panzergrenadier Troupe was created as completely new, motorized and mechanized infantry. The planners decided not to use the infantry for static defense any longer, but to consider it as part of the tank forces that conducts the battle of combined weapons in full movement. The basic idea was to use the armoured infantry to support the main battle tanks - mounted when it comes to keeping up with the tank units, and dismounted when the tanks require protection and defense in the event of obstacles.

This tactic was based on experiences of the previous war. Even with the first use of battle tanks to overcome the static positional battle in the trenches of the First World War, also the weaknesses of this new weapon was recognizable: if the infantry is not able to keep up with the tanks, the gained terrain cannot be permanently secured. This was also reflected in the development of tank tactics: in earlier campaigns a concentrated tank attack, the so called "Panzerkeil" broke into defensive positions and pushed far into the depth. The new tank tactics was successful. First, the new high rapid weapon created fear and chaos among the defenders; second, the defense was still marked by the thinking of the previous war. A strong and armoured defense line was considered as the best defense system, a staggered defense in depth did not exist.

THE VEHICLES OF PANZERGRENADIERS

It was recognized early on that the armored spearheads — if they are not accompanied by a specialized infantry — could easily be trapped in

the flank by counterattacks and destroyed with anti-tank weapons. The development of new types of combat vehicles was also based on these findings. Already at the beginning of the Second World War, the newly created Panzergrenadiers were equipped with lightly armoured half-track vehicles for the mounted and dismounted fight that followed the fast driving tanks: the so called "Schützenpanzer" (armored infantry fighting vehicle, IFV). These vehicles were still more trucks than tanks.

When it was founded, the Bundeswehr commissioned the development of a fire-strong, fully-mechanized combat vehicle. However, the new infantry fighting vehicle HS 30 did not meet requirements due to technical defects. In the end of the 60s, bribes triggered the first procurement scandal of the young Federal Republic.

Then the armored IFV "Marder" (engl. *marten*) was developed, which should be equivalent to the new German main battle tank Leopard 1. An agreement between the US and the Federal Republic of Germany to develop a common armored IFV was rejected. In 1967, the last ten "Marder" prototypes were developed and extensively tested in troop trials. The first vehicle was delivered on 7 May 1971 to the Panzergrenadiers.

The Marder crew consists of 9 Panzergrenadiers: Commander, gunner (both in the tower), driver (in the front of the tub) and a troop leader with five other grenadiers in the rear combat area. The task of the commander is to lead the tank or the dismounted group. To do this, he observes the terrain from the tower and can intervene with the tower weapons. If the main task is in combat, he leads the dismounted rifle squad while the squad leader takes over his place in the tower.

In the course of his service, the combat value of the "Marder" was repeatedly increased. With improved armour and mine protection, the "Marder" proved its worth in the Balkans. Although the "Marder" was regarded as a relic of the Cold War, he proved himself from the perspective of the troops, especially in Afghanistan. From 2010 on, the "Marder" will be successively replaced by the new developed armoured infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) "Puma". It is currently considered as the heaviest, most modern and most powerful armoured IFV in the world. ■

By Lieutenant-Colonel Karsten Dyba; Historian

"Schützenpanzer HS 30" — the first modern IFV of the early Bundeswehr.



German soldiers in maneuver with MG and a IFV "Hotchkiss" (sister model of HS 30) in the background.



Photo credits: Bundesarchiv (Federal Archives) and Bundeswehr

"Marder" at the entrance of the Tilly barracks in the city of Oberhausen from 1980.



First type of armoured infantry fighting vehicle World War II.





Photo credit: Sgt. Amas Cemerka