



Lithuanian Military Digest

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NEWS

"THE MARINE KNOTS" AWARDS FOR THE STRONGEST BOND WITH SOCIETY

FIRST UPGRADED PZH2000 HOWITZERS DELIVERED TO THE ARTILLERY BATTALION



MOST ADVANCED MILITARY RADARS IN THE REGION ENTER SERVICE IN LITHUANIA



SPECIAL

HOW LONG DOES "ETERNAL" PEACE LAST?



Photo credit: Kotryna Careviciute

"Iron Wolf 2018" — Combative Faces

THE LAST AUTUMN MONTH IN LITHUANIA WAS MARKED BY IMPRESSIVE COLOURS — THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS CARRYING FLAGS OF SIXTEEN WORLD COUNTRIES STEPPED INTO THE BATTLE. NEVER SEEN BEFORE MILITARY CONVOY, CATERPILLAR TRACKS PRESSURING OUR LANDS, AND FIERCE FIGHTERS IN THE WOODS. THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL EXERCISE "IRON WOLF 2018" HELD IN OUR COUNTRY, WHICH REMINDED HOSTILE FORCES OF NATO'S DETERMINATION AND DEFENCIVE CAPABILITIES.

About 3,500 troops from sixteen NATO countries participated in two-weeks training exercise which took place in Gaižiūnai and General Silvestras Žukauskas Training Areas, civilian territories and their surroundings. Apart from approximately one thousand Lithuanians who organized the exercise, the most part of the participants were soldiers of NATO enhanced Forward Presence BattleGroup (eFP

BG) from Germany, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Norway. As a hostile forces, two light infantry companies from United Kingdom (UK) and Estonia joined the Grand Duchess Birutė Uhlan Battalion. Troops from such countries as the United States of America (USA), Poland, France, Slovenia, as well as Italian soldiers of NATO eFP BG in Latvia with the intelligence

Dear readers of the "Lithuanian Military Digest",

It is our pleasure to step into the new year alongside our partners, brothers-in-arms. There are no doubts that 2019 will bring new common challenges as well as splendid results which will allow us to reach the top of combat readiness.

With the first issue of 2019 we mostly want to express the appreciation for all the soldiers who participated in various exercise last year for the great contribution into all of our safety. In the second part of autumn troops of the Lithuanian Armed Forces and NATO enhanced Forward Presence BattleGroup in Lithuania, as well as our allies, demonstrated their robust power which causes great gratitude for the achieved goals. In order to ensure that NATO forces are trained, able to operate together, and ready to respond to any threat from any direction a number of military trainings took place in allied lands.

Allied countries' capacities was firstly showcased to hostile forces by the multinational exercise "Maple Arch 2018". Troops there perfected skills and knowledge of military operational planning procedures, decision-making, situational response and operational control. Another exercise which happened to be just extraordinary was held in Norway on October 25–November 7. "Trident Juncture 2018" was the largest of its kind in this country since the 1980s: 65 warships operated in the water areas of the exercise, over 250 military aircraft in its airspace, over 10,000 military vehicles were deployed, and in total, over 50,000 military personnel trained across all domains. In parallel, in the period of November 26–December 14 over 5,500 soldiers from 16 NATO Allies and partners rehearsed defensive operations together in international exercise "Combined Resolve XI". In addition, it is a must to remember once again Lithuania's recent pride which played the role of Iron Wolf. During two intense and yet fascinating weeks thousands of soldiers carrying flags of sixteen world countries stepped into the battle on the ground of Lithuania. However, those who are wondering how troops succeeded in the brigade level training conducting tasks according the "force against force" principle are welcome to have a look on the article in this issue. All of these and not mentioned exercises improved NATO readiness to respond to any aggressor in the event of a need, therefore makes our Alliance even stronger than before.

*We wish you a pleasant reading,
Team of the "Lithuanian Military Digest"*

Photo credit: Christian Valverde, Standing NATO Maritime Group One



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"The Marine Knots" Awards for the Strongest Bond with Society

On December 10 Chief of Defence of the Republic of Lithuania, Lieutenant General Jonas Vytautas Žukas and Minister of National Defence Raimundas Karoblis, presented the national defence system awards "The Marine Knots" to the soldiers and civilians who achieved the most in the field of public relations as well as to the most active units of the system.

According to the Chief of Defence of Lithuania, professional and creative public relations specialists who contribute by their activity to the common goals are very valuable to the Lithuanian Armed Forces, as well as to other modern organizations.

Among the others, a stylized 105 mm shell of a howitzer for development of ties with the local community was also presented to the troops of the German-led NATO enhanced Forward Presence BattleGroup deployed in Rukla. Almost since the very first days of deployment in Lithuania, soldiers from the Netherlands who serve in this battle group have established close ties with the municipality of Švenčionys district and local community. Together with Lithuanian troops they prepared and continue to successfully develop various social projects.

In addition, the soldiers and civilians who have successfully integrated into the communication of national defence system were also awarded the traditional special prizes — coins of the Minister of National Defence and the Chief of Defence of the Republic of Lithuania. Through their enthusiasm, initiative and creativity, these people have contributed to increasing the visibility of the national defence system in society as well as in social and traditional media.

The tradition to present "The Marine Knot" award in the national defence system has been existing already for the second decade since 2000 on the initiative of then Chief of Defence Major Jonas Kronkaitis. The marine knot is chosen as a symbol in order to visualize the work of public relations — the different fields of the armed forces, specialties, combining various activities into a one, harmonious, strong knot — the image of the armed forces in society. ■



Photo credits: Sg. Spc. Ieva Budzeikaite



First Upgraded *PzH2000* Howitzers Delivered to the Artillery Battalion



Photo credit: Corporal Vaiga Zalatoritis

On December 14 first two upgraded heavy self-propelled artillery systems, *PzH2000* (Panzerhaubitze 2000) howitzers bought from the German Armed Forces were delivered to the Lithuanian Armed Forces General Romualdas Giedraitis Artillery Battalion.

"A modern military conflict, as we can see from the military actions in Ukraine and other hotspots, efficient artillery is one of the most important pillars of defence and deterrence. These fully upgraded, armoured, heavy tracked self-propelled howitzers will doubtlessly enhance defensive capabilities of the Lithuanian Armed Forces — they are still the highest standard in indirect artillery to date," Vice Minister of National Defence Giedrimas Jeglinskas said.

The howitzers delivered to the Artillery Battalion have been bought from the German Federal Armed Forces on the basis of the contract signed in September 2015. In total, 18 upgraded howitzers of combat setup will be de-

livered to Lithuania as agreed by the contract.

"This is the best Christmas present the Artillery Battalion could get. Such gifts will increase the Battalion personnel's motivation to seek the status of the biggest firepower status in the Lithuanian Armed Forces even more. Of course, the gifts have arrived along with new responsibility. Troops have to reach set goals, demonstrate excellent results, and take care of the new equipment," Commander of the General R. Giedraitis Artillery Battalion Lieutenant Colonel Marijus Jonelis said. The Commander took part in person to welcome the new equipment into the Battalion.

According to Lt. Col. M. Jonelis, the *PzH2000* heavy self-propelled artillery systems have all howitzer battlefield control, and fire control software upgraded.

Lithuanian soldiers will soon begin combat training using the new howitzers, first shots are planned to be fired within several months, during exercise "Fire Thunder" in spring of 2019.

The new equipment will increase the ef-

fective fire range of the Gen. R. Giedraitis Battalion based in Rukla. Before the current procurement, the most powerful equipment the Battalion is armed with was the 105 mm howitzers with effective fire range of roughly 11 kilometres. The new equipment has increased the Battalion's effective fire range to 40 kilometres.

Representatives of Germany have already carried out training of Lithuania's future military maintenance personnel and operators, howitzer crews and planning officers of the equipment. Lithuanians have taken part in different courses, meetings with German experts, and learned from their experience during the events both in Lithuania and Bundeswehr's Artillery School. After the training in Germany Lithuanian soldiers will share the knowledge with other colleagues who will work with the howitzers back home.

All the remaining upgraded howitzers are planned to be delivered to the Lithuanian Armed Forces by the end of 2019. ■

Most Advanced Military Radars in the Region



Photo credits: Lukas Tamosiunas (Lithuanian MoD) and INDRA

Airspace Surveillance and Control Command of the Lithuanian Air Force began conducting air surveillance tasks with two long-range 3D radars from a NATO manufacturer located in Antaveršis (Southern Lithuania) and Degučiai (Western Lithuania).

New infrastructure and radars is Lithuania's largest contribution so far to the development of both, national and NATO collective defence capabilities.

"The operational launch of the two long-range radars marks a huge qualitative leap in strengthening both, Lithuania's national and NATO's air surveillance capability, a part of the NATO Integrated Air and Missile Defence System," Deputy Defence Minister Edvinas Kerza said during a visit to the Airspace Surveillance and Control post in Antaveršis on December 4.

"Today's event — initiation of the radar system — continues Lithuania's steadfast endeavour to secure its Freedom and to never allow the atrocities of the past to be repeated. NATO stands with you in this endeavour", NATO Communications and Information Agency General Manager Kevin J. Scheid said.

The upgrade of radar post infrastructure encompasses building new premises, installation of new communication systems and new NATO standard long-range radars, manufactured by Spanish company INDRA, which will replace outdated Soviet era radars that the Lithuanian Armed Forces operated until present.

"Cutting-edge systems installed in the radars

will help ensure uninterrupted and effective airspace and border area surveillance, air policing functions, response to possible airspace violation, and warning of potential threats," Commander of the Airspace Surveillance and Control Command Lieutenant Colonel Aras Rimkus said.

Lithuania will receive the combined NATO Air Surveillance data, allowing visibility on air traffic way beyond the nation's borders. According to Commander, the new radars will allow Lithuania to improve operational condi-

tions for military aviation of NATO allies, as well as for SAR operations.

The Airspace Surveillance and Control posts in Antaveršis and Degučiai are planned to become fully operationally capable as of 2019.

The project of Airspace Surveillance modernisation has been developed by the Ministry of National Defence, NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA) and the NATO Support Agency (NSPA) for over a decade now. ■





Meeting with Commander of the U.S. Army Europe

Photo credit: Tony Sweeney



"We attentively look for possibilities for our top level officers to train at division and brigade levels. It is very important to learn in international environment from the experience of the militaries that have division or higher level staffs. For that reason we cooperate closely with the U.S. Army Europe," Commander of the Lithuanian Land Force Maj. Gen. Valdemaras Rupšys said after meeting with Commander of the U.S. Army Europe Lt. Gen. Christopher Cavoli.

Generals met in Germany, military headquarters in Wiesbaden, to address opportunities of cooperation between their forces, military training and defence planning. Opportunities to arrange division- and brigade-level command post exercises at the U.S. 7th Army Training Command. It has been decided at the NCO Academy to send junior command to leadership courses to give them skills and knowledge in leading squad-level units and acting in international environment.

According to Maj. Gen. V. Rupšys, the Lithuanian Land Force and the U.S. Army Europe are bound together by especially strong relations and their cooperation is developed across different areas. In the recent years new directions of cooperation have been introduced with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and the Mechanised Infantry Brigade Iron Wolf, joint training with other US units deployed in Europe is also continued. ■

One More Training Site Was Opened

At the new explosion operations training site, soldiers will train to do explosive and demining operations without real ammunition. The site was established by the Land Force Juozas Lukša Training Center and NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battle-Group (eFP BG) in Lithuania.

The Commander of the Land Force Juozas Lukša Training Center lieutenant colonel Žilvinas Gaubys said when opening the site: "Here soldiers will receive a multiplier of the growing power of the Armed Forces, and specialists in their field will be able to significantly raise their level of readiness at minimal cost".

At this site the soldiers will be able to practically train with mine and bomb detectors, to carry out explosion operations with training explosive materials and tools, practically attach cartridges on explosive constructions, carry out the intelligence and identification tasks for standard and improvised explosives. The total area of the training site is about 40 ares, where approximately 60 troops will be able to train at the same time.

According to Major Arnoldas Anelauskas, this training site will used only for the preparation of explosion and demining specialists, because



Photo credit: Land Force Juozas Lukša Training Center

other types of military engineering (barrier installation, fortification, temporary bridges installation, etc.) training requires a much larger space. Therefore, these types of specialists will continue to train at Gaižiūnai training area.

Not only Juozas Lukša Training Center's trainees will be able to train in the new site. From the

very beginning, this object was coordinated and designed to meet NATO standards, so troops of NATO eFP BG will be able to train here as well. In addition to the training processes, this interoperability allows to purify and unify different training procedures of explosion and demining specialists from various countries. ■

Inspector General of the Bundeswehr General Eberhard Zorn Conducted a Visit in Lithuania

On December 17 Inspector General of the Bundeswehr General Eberhard Zorn arrived on an informal visit to Lithuania. He visited soldiers of the Federal Republic of Germany at the General Silvestras Žukauskas Training Area (Švenčionys region) who are deployed in Lithuania as part of the NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battalion Battle-Group (eFP BG).

General also met with Commander of the Mechanised Infantry Brigade (MIB) Iron Wolf Colonel Mindaugas Steponavičius, Commander of the NATO eFP BG Lieutenant Colonel Rene Braun, and viewed the infrastructure installed in the training area for the eFP soldiers. Commander of the Lithuanian Armed Forces MIB Iron Wolf Col. M. Steponavičius handed over the German General a decoration bestowed by the Chief of Defence of Lithuania — the Commemorative Medal of the Centenary of the Re-established Lithuanian Armed Forces.

The German-led NATO eFP BG was deployed in Lithuania in early 2017 in order to enhance deterrence and collective defence in the region. Its current strength is approximately 1,200 soldiers from Belgium, the Czech Republic, Norway, the Netherlands, Germany, and a representatives of Iceland. Roughly half of the soldiers constituting the NATO eFP BG have been deployed by Germany. ■



Photo credit: Mechanise Infantry Brigade Iron Wolf

General Aleš Opata Had a Visit in Rukla



Photo credit: OR-6 Odljja Vitkevičiūtė

On December 6 Chief of Defence of the Czech Republic General Aleš Opata visited Czech troops of NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battle-Group (eFP BG) deployed in Lithuania.

During the visit in Rukla, Gen. A. Opata met with the Commander of the Mechanized Infantry Brigade Iron Wolf and Deputy Commander of the eFP BG, looked at the soldiers' living conditions, watched the battle in the city and combat shooting exercises, and interacted with the Czech soldiers.

Before finishing the two-day visit, the guest met with the Chief of Defence of the Lithuanian Armed Forces Lieutenant General Jonas Vytautas Žukas. The generals discussed the security situation, military cooperation and implementation of NATO deterrence measures in the region.

The Czech contingent in the German-led NATO eFP BG in Lithuania consists of a motorized infantry company of about 240 troops. Czech soldiers use wheeled infantry fighting vehicles "Pandur-II", armed with 30 mm cannons and anti-tank missiles "Spike". Czech soldiers joined the eFP BG in July of 2018. It is planned that they will conduct this mission for one year, with two rotations. ■

10-year Plan of NDS Development Approved



Photo credit: Alfredas Pliadis (MoD)

Forces — it is planned to complete the soldiers' salary increase programme which began in 2016 and to increase the salaries by 30% by 2020. A personnel reserve reform is planned to be conducted to form active reserve service in which would last for 10 years after becoming a reservist. At the same time, the number of reserve soldiers who refresh knowledge and skills will be increased, with a particular focus on training specialists and personnel for positions of command that the Lithuanian Armed Forces need. The programme also includes measures for boosting citizen's patriotism and will to defend the country, and their resilience to information attacks and propaganda.

"We continue seeking a new quality of planning and activity at the National Defence System. Therefore, we have embedded a novelty in this programme — over three months from approval by the Seimas, we will table for the Government of the Republic of Lithuania a 10-year National Defence System capability-related procurement plan and a personnel increase plan to agree to. That will help us ensure a balanced and consistent planning of defence capability development," Minister of National Defence R. Karoblis said.

The NDS Development Programme is one of the four long-term security of the state enhancement programmes the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania approves. They are drafted in accordance to the Law on the Basics of National Security and the Long-term Security of the State Enhancement Programmes Drafting Plan. ■

On December 20 the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania approved the new 10-year plan for National Defence System (NDS) Development which will be in force instead of the one approved in 2014 and made completely irrelevant by the changed regional security environment and increased defence budget. The new program not only sets out the goals, objectives, and priorities for the NDS, defines key means to achieve the said objectives, but also sets out deadlines concerning the objectives, the desired results, and their assessment criteria.

The central goal of the NDS development remains to be readiness for national-level or collective defence of the country: enhancement of military power of the Lithuanian Armed Forces, readiness to host military forces of NATO allies deployed to Lithuania in case of a crisis, involvement of different state institutions and citizens into preparation for defence, and resilience to cyber and information attacks.

"This programme is a tool for the National Defence System to ensure a consistent and measured planning of defence capability development that makes it possible to make the most rational decisions regarding procurement of equipment and weaponry, to ensure efficient spending of the growing defence budget, and most importantly — it helps the National Defence System to be even more transparent and open," Minister of National Defence Raimundas Karoblis underscored after presenting the programme to the Seimas.

The programme is planned to be implemented in 2019–2028. It is aimed at making the Lithuanian Armed Forces able to ensure a reliable deterrence and armed defence of the country. Development of land warfare capabilities through efficient reconnaissance, movement of units, manoeuvre, fire support power, airspace defence, logistical support, and safe information transfer, as well as cyber security, remains to be the main priority of the NDS Development.

Among the measures laid out in the programme, there are measures for increasing appeal of service with the Lithuanian Armed



Photo credit: Kątyna Gurevičiūtė



Photo credits: Alfređas Pliadis (MoD)

NATO Soldiers are Welcome to Join the Annual Running

On January 12, 2019, thousands of people who are not afraid of cold weather are being invited to take part in the traditional and international running "By the Road of Life and Death", which will commemorate the victims of the Freedom Fights and especially those who were killed by the Soviet occupants on the 13th of January in 1991. This event will be held for the 28th time.

For the second time, the troops of the NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battle-

Group (eFP BG) are also being invited. Teams formed of German, Dutch, and Czech troops are being invited to demonstrate solidarity by remembering our fight for freedom.

In 2018, 7,600 runners from different cities and towns of Lithuania, also guests from neighbouring and NATO countries ran the nine-kilometre route from Antakalnis Cemetery to the Television Tower. There were 6145 teams registered to participate in the running. Like every year, the Land Force, which was represented by

3692 soldiers, stood out due its abundance. For the first time, the troops of NATO eFP BG, deployed in Rukla, also took part in the running. Over 200 soldiers from Croatia, Norway, the Netherlands, France and Germany successfully overcame the route and thus demonstrated solidarity. The event was also attended by soldiers from the United States of America and Ukraine. The first 6,000 runners were given commemorative medals; for other participants, this running will be reminded by commemorative bracelets. ■





Photo credits: Kotryna Gurevičiūtė

"IRON WOLF 2018" — COMBATIVE FACES

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platoon ICR and Canadian electronic fight unit also accepted Lithuanians' invitation to join the exercise "Iron Wolf 2018". Along with the troops of Military Police (MP) of the Lithuanian Armed Forces tasks were also carried out by 9 soldiers from our friend Ukraine. In addition, the exercise was joined by the Operational environment's company of General Adolfas Ramanauskas Combat Training Center, which was designed to simulate the flanges, i.e. y attacks on the troops of NATO eFP BG, so that our allies would train for defence using their reserve and be able to react if the enemy attempted to attack in a non-core direction.

"We organize the exercise "Iron Wolf 2018" in order to improve the ability of units to quick-

ly redeploy forces to any place of Lithuania and to carry out defence operations there. This is our biggest exercise this semester when we can work together with our allies. The purpose of this exercise is to assess the ability of the troops of NATO eFP BG, which is assigned to the Mechanized Infantry Brigade (MIB) Iron Wolf and the Grand Duchess Birutė Uhlan Battalion to plan and implement defence, interoperability by conducting joint operations with allies and partners," said the MIB Iron Wolf Commander Col. Mindaugas Steponavičius.

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IS THE FIRST TIME

During the first week of exercise, the divisions trained to work with additionally assigned

units. Afterwards, a complex field exercise was conducted — the troops trained to act on the principal "force against force". Total range of the exercise covered the territory of the country from north to south (from Radviliškis to Alytus) and from west to east (from Šiauliai to Pabradė).

The fact that the international exercise "Iron Wolf 2018" will take place in Lithuania was spread in advance by the media, and before these trainings began the people of Lithuania were able to observe spectacular convoy of military equipment that were moving along the public roads. The road march which included about 1000 units of military vehicles Col. M. Steponavičius described as the biggest challenge, which had to be overcome before



Lt. Col. Guy van Boheemen:

"We are always preparing for the worst but this time nothing bad happened, there were no accidents, almost all the vehicles made it to the end. Therefore, everything worked as it was planned."



the exercise began, because the Lithuanian Armed Forces have never had such a practice before during its entire history. The troops of the NATO eFP BG, Lithuania's Uhlan Battalion, MIB Iron Wolf Staff and the Intelligence Company were moving from Rukla to Pabradė. With MP escort Lithuanian border was also crossed by the troops of Italian company who came from Latvia with their combat equipment, as well as colleagues from the UK and Estonia. To accomplish the task that had not been done before, organizers of the exercise had to do a lot of homework before: to coordinate the plan with all the institutions responsible for roads, to inform the local residents of the towns and villages that were crossed. "Peo-

ple saw that for the first time tanks and infantry fighting vehicles which we have in NATO forces were moving on our roads. Actually we really wanted to demonstrate the readiness of the soldiers to carry out the task and to prove to the people that in the case of a threat at any point in the country, we are ready to respond," Col. M. Steponavičius said.

In the early and misty Saturday, at the headquarter of the NATO eFP BG in Pabradė, this unit's Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Guy van Boheemen showed up among the tents. While having a cup of hot tea, the officer gladly commented on the vehicles road march. "The road march we did, in a tactical way, was the first time this big in Lithuania and it went very well which we really did not expect. We are always preparing for the worst but this time nothing bad happened, there were no accidents, almost all the vehicles made it to the end. Therefore, everything worked as it was planned. After coming to Pabradė soldiers disappeared into the woods and started digging roads, preparing all the obstacles and other work for defence

phase. In addition, last night an enemy was spotted at our gates, who started attacking us this morning. Right now, the hostile forces are more or less attacking us in the woods so we set up our defence. We will see if the plan works," Lt. Col. Guy van Boheemen said at the beginning of the exercise.

THE MOST UPSET — THE "WOUNDED" ONES

During the first days of combat actions, the planner of the exercise "Iron Wolf 2018" Capt. Gytis Metlovas also shared the satisfaction by telling that all the results exceeded expectations. According to him, the number of vehicles broke down during the road march was significantly lower than expected, and the first attack and defence operations were very successful.

"By organizing these exercise I tried to choose the most realistic distances in the case of a real fight. At the moment, the Uhlans have already completed one attack, and the NATO eFP BG — first defence, tomorrow is going to be the second. Then new tasks will begin —



NATO's presence

the Uhlans will be defending. All operations are carried out twice, so that the soldiers have the opportunity to repeat the actions if they fail. So far, everything is going well, it is just lacking pace, so in order to accelerate the attack and make the defence closer to the attacking forces, we have somewhat modified the operation area with some additional graphic changes for the next time," Capt. G. Metlovas said.

Although these exercises were used to counter attack alleged enemy, the role of the "blue" and opposing "reds" went to both fighting groups. According to Col. M. Steponavičius, the exercise carried out in accordance with the "force against force" principle are important because two equal opponents — commanders of battalions — make decisions in the battlefield. "Headquarter in charge does not give directional orders on how to overcome one or the other side. This is the closest conditions of defence against the real opponent. And, as I say, here is where the art, which we call fighting, begins, — the brigade commander commented on the importance of the exercise, adding that the essential thing is that the commander has to coordinate all seven battle functions, have a clear idea on how to carry out the operation and pass it to his troops. — If they clearly understand the intention of the commander and what is the ultimate goal, the task will always be fulfilled.

In these exercises I have already met not



only Lithuanian, but also German, Dutch, British, Estonian soldiers, and everyone is positive, their motivation is obvious. I would say that the most frustrated are those who are "wounded" at the very beginning of the action, because everyone wants to show what they are capable of."

Col. M. Steponavičius said that this exercise was a challenge for everyone, but even more complicated they could have appeared to the commander of the Uhlan battalion. Soldiers

under his command hardly had time to get to know each other — the British infantry reserve company, Estonian infantry with conscripts, Canadian scouts and Italian troops arrived to Lithuania just days before the exercise. However, as the colonel claimed, the international units integrated successfully, which demonstrates our and allies excellent readiness as well as great understanding of each other in the warfare. When it came about the troops of the NATO eFP BG, brigade commander did not say much, but assured that they are professional and well-prepared soldiers: "It is a great honour for me to lead these people, and cooperation strengthens with every rotation, we learn a lot from each other," he said.

After asking if such an exercise is a difficult challenge to the commanders, the colonel agreed with no hesitation and explained: "Each commander leads at least five companies and additional individual units. Such exercise is the best training in order to prepare for a real battle, when it comes to coordinating the actions of soldiers, knowing where they are and assigning the tasks for them."

IMPORTANT AS FUEL, INVISIBLE AS SHADOWS

Halfway through combat actions, we sat in the tent of MIB Iron Wolf to talk to one of those people, without whom the exercise would simply collapse. In this exercise, the Commander of King Mindaugas Hussar Battalion Lt. Col. Rolandas Putnikas played the role of Observer-Controller/Trainer (OCT) along with his battalion's soldiers. These are the people who are responsible that the fight would go safely and according to all military rules. In the words of

Col. M. Steponavičius: "Headquarter in charge does not give directional orders on how to overcome one or the other side. This is the closest conditions of defence against the real opponent. And, as I say, here is where the art, which we call fighting, begins."



Col. M. Steponavičius, "these people, who are almost 300 here, are like fuel for the engine, which is very important."

According to the Commander of the Hussar Battalion, based on a personal understanding of the battle, OCTs in each individual situation decide who wins and what the losses are. In addition, according to certain task fulfilment standards, some units are assessed whether the task have been fulfilled. One more important thing is to ensure the safety of soldiers participating in military training. This also goes in OCTs responsibility. According to the interlocutor, seeing that some actions are being carried out possibly without complying with security regulations, the OCT has the right to stop them, discipline the soldiers and give them orders, because responsibility to ensure that there would be no actual injuries is huge.

According to the Lt. Col. R. Putnikas, depending on which division are working with, it is important that the OCT has the relevant experience in running a particular position. "For example, if it is a division who is under surveillance, the OCT has at least to be the commander of division so he knows what is the proper functioning of such a unit and are able to assess the tactical situation as well as to make decisions. In order to be an OCT in such exercise, you really need serious preparation, therefore it is necessary to improve yourself at certain courses and to pass the additional briefings, — Lt. Col. R. Putnikas said, adding that even though he is evaluating the actions of the soldiers, the OCTs can not to interfere in the commanders' decision making."

IT DOES NOT MATTER WHO "SHOT" FIRST

Continuing the conversation Lt. Col. R. Putnikas, who was carrying out the observing tasks



at the brigade's tactical operations centre, revealed the peculiarities of his work, describing how the actions are being planned. According to him, on the day of our conversation, the battle plans were known from the evening, so the OCTs of the squads and companies were asked to find out what actions are planned in the smaller units. "At the evening meeting, we started to plan using a large layout: the OCTs stood onto respective spots where are their units, and moved in the foreseeable directions. Knowing the actions of both fighting sides, we anticipate where clashes will take place. Seeing that the situation needs to be changed a little bit, we can give some orders, for example, we ask the brigade staff to provide information about the current situation of neighbouring units. It encourages the commanders to make decisions — to move to attack, retreat, wait for reinforcements, and so on," Lt. Col. R. Putnikas, who receives information both from the battalions and from the OCTs themselves, said. He is being notified about the units' location and

informed about the numbers of casualties in both battalions every hour. Then, as the interviewee said, with the supervising brigade's medic, the actions are being coordinated respectively and it is also being discussed how the wounded are evacuated. "In this way we can track how the information flows, how the units are moving, how much the provided information matches the reality," Lt. Col. R. Putnikas said.

Four hours after the renewal of the active phase of the exercise which took place in the morning, according to the Lt. Col. R. Putnikas, on the one side there were 16 "dead" and 2 "wounded", and on the other side there were 5 "wounded" soldiers and no "dead". As the officer said, there are no limits for improvement, so the most important thing is to constantly train: "It is often that we, the battalions' and companies' commanders, plan the operations on the map and everything seems to be well organized, but when it comes to applying all of it in practice, there appears some factors, let's say re-



NATO's presence

pair work, about which we have not thought at all. In such cases, the action stops, for example, for an hour, and it is very important for the final result. I think that both battalions now already know situations when, perhaps, they have not considered everything or overestimated their capabilities. However, the perception of the mistakes is a very important step forward."

During the exercise "Iron Wolf 2018", the main attention was paid to actions control, because, as the Lt. Col. R. Putnikas mentioned, when there is a battle between two battalions everyone wants to win. The commander of the Hussars Battalion did not hide the fact that the greatest challenge for the OCTs is to make the right decision when trying to find out what the situation was really about, how one or another fight could have ended. Both fighting sides always wants to end the battle as winners, so they strive to prove their victory, but, according to the commander, usually there is no truth on either side. "At the exercise of such level when there are more than 3,000 soldiers, it is no longer that much important who "shot" first, because the main focus is on battalions' commanders: what decisions they make, how they plan actions, and how they are able to manage such a number of people and vehicles. Thus, in our effort to understand how a particular situation has actually evolved, individual soldiers shooting each other are not a priority. Of course, in this case, some remains disappoint-



ed, because decisions we make are final and not appealable. If the OCT says that here and now the soldier is injured, the most difficult part for us at that time is to convince him, because nobody wants to "die", — what it means to be the OCT said the Commander of the King Mindaugas Hussars Battalion Lt. Col. R. Putnikas.

UNDER UHLANS CONTROL: TANK PLATOON

After the first attack and defence operations took place in the General Silvestras Žukauskas Training Area, the second phase of the exercise "Iron Wolf 2018" began two days later. On that day, attacking forces which were imitated by the fighting of Great Duchess Birutė Uhlands Battalion, comprised of Uhlands, Italian, British, Estonian light infantry, and Canadian scouts, carried out an attack against the troops of the NATO eFP BG. In the operation area from the west to the east there were many different

units arranged and ready to counter the opposition forces: mechanized infantry company of the Army of the Czech Republic with infantry fighting vehicles "Pandur", mechanized infantry company of the Belgian Armed Forces with infantry fighting vehicles "Piranha" (combined with one fire support unit with four armoured vehicles "Piranha", armed with 90 mm and 30 mm cannons and anti-tank guided missile "Spike"), the mechanized infantry brigade of the the Royal Netherlands Army with infantry fighting vehicles "CV90", as well as the German Army contingent: mechanized infantry with infantry fighting vehicles "Marder" and reserve tanks "Leopard 2A6".

It was difficult to get into the centre of the actions in this exercise; the location of the soldiers, hiding in the seemingly never-ending forests, were only indicated by the coloured mist or the sound of shot. However, usually they disappeared in the air faster than it was



Lt. Col. R. Putnikas: "At the exercise of such level when there are more than 3,000 soldiers, it is no longer that much important who "shot" first, because the main focus is on battalions' commanders: what decisions they make, how they plan actions, and how they are able to manage such a number of people and vehicles."



possible to catch up; therefore the events of the second day of the first active phase were told by one of the exercise participants Capt. Vytenis Miliušas. At the beginning, the British and Estonian infantry occupied the training place in complex of training infrastructure "Battle in the Town". The Town was defended by local armed groups, which unit was composed of Operational environment company "Vanagas" of Adolfas Ramanauskas Combat Training Centre. According to the captain, somewhat later Italians with their infantry fighting vehicles "Frecchia" and Uhlans were moving from the north to west, until they started pushing the Belgian company. After the battle in the town was ended, the fight between the Brits and the Dutch took place at a different point.

"Attention was especially drawn to the fact that the defending forces in all operations area, at various stages, had established defensive positions: individual and fire trenches. Also, with the help of engineers, security positions in the shooting area were also installed for infantry fighting vehicles and tanks, — Capt. V. Miliušas told, adding that the battles gave some unique opportunities. — One of them, I think, felt the commander of the Uhlan Battalion, who had a tank platoon in the fighting group. Although these main battle tanks were kept in reserve, it is not common for Lithuanians since there are no tanks in Lithuanian Armed Forces. Therefore, controlling such a military unit really had to be a challenge, although at the same time it created the conditions for various additional manoeuvring options, which always gives the leader of each level a chance to improve."

MISSED PATH OF A SOLDIER

Wading the wet trails, we faced the actions of the penultimate day of the exercise next to the shooting houses, where soldiers performed combat firing tasks. At that time, silence prevailed in the area, only in the window holes, from time to time, the armed silhouettes appeared as the shadows. Here the soldiers of the 4th Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment of the UK Army carried out a town defence operation, waiting for the attack of infantry and mobile teams with tanks. One British soldier who was wondering around told that the attack was expected to happen in about 25 minutes. When asked what are his impressions here so far, a light smile appeared on the soldier's face. "The exercise is going very well, it has been exceptionally good working with the Lithuanian troops and all the other armed forces. Lithuanian people are very warm and welcoming to us. Those Lithuanians whom we meet are very nice, therefore we hope to come back and train



here again. Besides, this training area is fantastic, this is a great place to train. With regard to the challenges, I think that the most difficult for the troops is to cope with fatigue and huge lack of sleep. Here we work for almost 18-20 hours a day, there is a constant movement towards the enemy. It is extremely difficult when we are totally hungry — there is no time for breakfast or lunch, except snacks and sweets which we eat on the way, moving from one point to the next," the British soldier shared the impressions of the exercise.

After a while, the observers of the battles with combat equipment again found themselves in the depths of the forest. Here fought the Belgian and Canadian troops. During a short, but harsh fight, the Canadians failed to carry out the task to store a road junction assigned to them; they were overcome, their equipment destroyed. Meanwhile, the opponents who gained victory rushed to move along their axis of attack towards the intermediate object. According to one soldier from Belgian company, the international exercise "Iron Wolf 2018" for his compatriots here is like an opportunity allowing to get into the main role of a soldier. According to the soldier, the Belgians here have great opportunities to train fighting a conventional war, i.e. to fight in a certain area against other military forces. The Belgian said that in his homeland, like in some

other European countries, due to the increased threat of terrorism, special attention is being paid to conducting of various security operations. Due to this reason, many capacities are used for non-primary soldier purposes and it is less trained to fight in a battle. ■

Kotryna Gurevičiūtė





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



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How Long Does "Eternal" Peace Last?

IN 1918 AFTER THE PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF LITHUANIA, THE PERIOD OF FIGHTS AGAINST THE ENEMIES, WHO HAD THEIR OWN INTENTIONS TOWARDS THE RESTORED STATE, BEGAN. IN DECEMBER OF THAT YEAR, THE RED ARMY ENTERED LITHUANIA AND, WITHOUT MUCH RESISTANCE, OCCUPIED THE EASTERN TERRITORIES OF THE COUNTRY, AS THE LITHUANIAN ARMED FORCES WAS STILL IN THE DEVELOPING PROCESS. OUR SOLDIERS MET THE BOLSHEVIKS FOR THE FIRST TIME ON FEBRUARY 7, 1919, AT KĖDAINIAI. SUPPORTED BY EXPERIENCED GERMAN SOLDIERS, THE LITHUANIAN ARMED FORCES STARTED A SUCCESSFUL MILITARY CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BOLSHEVIKS.

At the end of 1919, the Red Army was expelled from Eastern Lithuania — Ukmergė, Panevėžys, Utena, and Zarasai were won back, and the enemies were whisked away further than Dauguva. The position of the Red Army in other fronts was difficult, therefore the Soviet Russian Foreign Affairs Commissioner G. Chicherin sent a note to the Lithuanian Government proposing the opening of peace talks and recognizing Lithuania *de facto*. The peace talks between Lithuania and the Soviet Russia lasted more than two months and were not easy. It was necessary to resolve many confusing property, financial, citizens' rights, borders and other issues. On July 12, 1920, an agreement was signed on the basis of which "Russia recognizes the independence of the State of Lithuania with all legal consequences of such recognition and, in good faith, refuses all Russian sovereignty rights which it has in respect of the Lithuanian people and its territory for good". At the beginning of September, a Soviet Russian messenger T. Axelrod arrived in Vilnius and handed over to the Government of Lithuania 3 million rubles of gold alloys as a reward for war losses.

The 4th Infantry Regiment of the Lithuanian King Mindaugas of the Lithuanian Armed Forces before entering Vilnius. 1920



UNBRIDLED BOLSHEVIK APPETITE

However, after signing the "eternal" peace agreement, the bolshevik authority did not abandon their intentions to bring Lithuania back to their structure in the face of favorable geopolitical circumstances. Splitted up states were viewed as temporary formations which sooner or later will have to go back to a stronger neighbor's custody. In order to create favorable political circumstances, the bolsheviks supported the communist underground in Lithuania and various anti-state organizations preparing the ground for a revolution that would be supported by the Red Army.

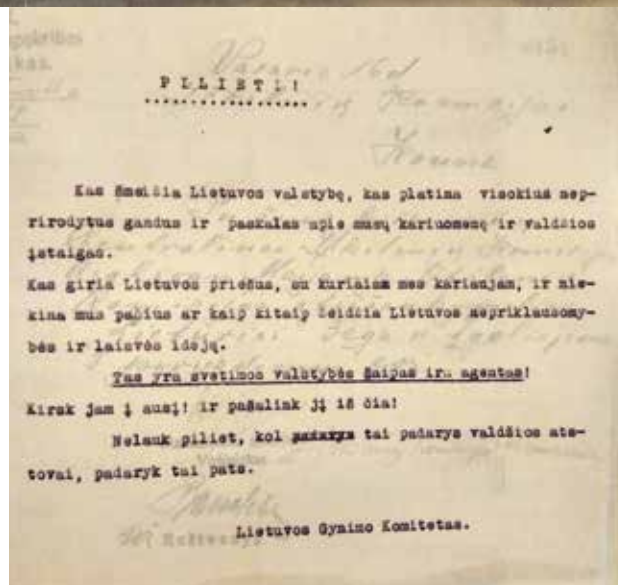
The report of the Department of Intelligence, labeled *Totally Secret* "Bolshevism in Lithuania at the present moment" shows that at the beginning of Independence Lithuania was facing a lot of threats. The report states that at the moment of current importance when fighting against the eternal enemies Poles, it is important to pay attention to the not less dangerous enemy — the bolsheviks. In order to create a comprehensive picture, the report compares the bolsheviks, i.e. communists, activity before and after making peace with Soviet Russia. It was pointed that in both periods the tactics of the bolsheviks are no different, only the scale of the activity varies. The bolsheviks (communists) acted in Lithuania in two directions: "among the city and field workers, and in our (Lithuanian) Armed Forces". It is being said that the communists benefit the freedoms of the Lithuanian congresses and mobilize their best organizational and agitational powers by covering up with the public organizations. Until peace with the Soviet Russia and the opening of their embassy (mission) in Kaunas, the bolshevik agitators devoted all their efforts to attract workers to the trade unions. "At that time, the wave of professional movement flooded almost all our cities and towns, and there was no village where a trade union would not have been formed". Workers' concentration into "classes" was also conditioned by unemployment in the country. According to the report, in each union there was one or more experienced agitators who coordinated the activities of the union. The names of agitators are given emphasizing that their organizational skills and eloquence helped to achieve the goals. Documents from the various places in Lithuania helped to reveal the activities of the communist agitators. Those documents proved that covering up with the trade unions, hostile activity "against the order of the state of Lithuania" is being carried out. In July 1919, the Central Bureau of Trade Unions was established and registered in the Ministry of the Interior, which began to organize individual unions. According



Independence Fights against the bolsheviks. Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Brigade of the Lithuanian Armed Forces with a little ward — the youngest staff soldier. The first from the right is Balys Giedraitis. August 1919

to the report, "the Central Bureau gradually began to form a second government in our country — the workers' government", which could lead to a revolution.

Due to the active work of the communist agitators of this office in Lithuania, strikes were started by workers, which did not last long due to the lack of robust attitudes of the strikers and the lack of material provision for them. According to the report, the workers' strikes did not do much harm to the state, one of the demands of the strike participants was to release political prisoners from prison. Since August 1919, the Central Bureau of Trade Unions started to publish its newspaper "Workers' Life", which was rarely printed due to lack of funds, and later, because of "its aggressive bolshevik attitude was banned". Another aspect of the bureau was the establishment of workers' clubs. The report mentions two workers' clubs: "Internationale" and the Jew-



Citizen!

The one who slanders the state of Lithuania, who distributes various rumours and gossips about our armed forces and government institutions.

The one who praises the enemies of Lithuania with whom we are fighting, and despises us or otherwise offends the idea of the Independence of Lithuania.

This one is a spy and agent of a foreign state!

Smash him in a face! And remove him from here!

Do not wait, citizen, until government officials do this, do it yourself.

Lithuanian Defence Committee.



Officers and commissioners of the Red Army captured by Lithuanians at Kaunas Prison Camp. 1919

ish club "Arbeiter Kunst Verein". Performances and concerts were used to be held at the clubs and collected funds were used for agitation and propaganda as well as to help political criminals in prisons. The clubs were also used for secret meetings that were tracked down.

ACTIVITY OF THE INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

As there was no political police at that time, the General Staff Intelligence Department, which "immediately conducted interrogations and handed over cases to the State's Defender of the Army Court", fought against anti-state organizations. The Intelligence Department began its development in 1918 on the basis of the example of foreign services. Due to financial difficulties, the department was not able to pay salaries, so volunteers, patriots, and other people who were reliable for Lithuania were initially invoked. The state could not afford any funding to the intelligence service and its needs, therefore, it turned to the Lithuanian society for support, trying to justify why such an institution is needed. At that time, most people did not understand the department's activities and tasks, therefore considered the work there "incompatible with a decent citizen". Because of this reason the department did not have support and power among separate groups of people, even though it was "eyes and ears of that government". The report emphasizes

that intelligence officers do an important and responsible work and that they must be well-provided. Because of the menacing of terror against the employees of the department, most of them "are preparing to change their service." Therefore, it is proposed to introduce life insurance for employees "carrying out political police functions as in Western Europe". This would help to maintain the existing staff of the department and help to attract new ones. After conducting all the mentioned conditions, all imperfections, mistakes, and even the crimes committed by the Intelligence Department's servants would disappear by itself".

October 27, 1918, when Jonas Žilinskas was appointed as the first paid Chairman of the Supreme Military Council, is considered the beginning of the work of the Lithuanian Intelligence Service. He was entrusted with the creation of an organized, effective enemy tracking system. On 19-23 May 1919, then Chief of Defence Gen. Silvestras Žukauskas confirmed the first intelligence instructions, according which intelligence officers have to perform their duties. There were also very high criteria for candidates "<...> they had to have good health, good eyes and strong legs. They had to have a good memory, be sober and loyal people, and do not belong to any parties, organizations".

The Intelligence Department found out that both bolshevik and Polish anti-state groups "have constant espionage ties at the front and

within the country". Searches in the Central Bureau of Trade Unions and the arrests of its members caused a great public reaction. Those who did not know the true activity accused the Intelligence Department of "breaking the foundations of the laws of Lithuania". Although the Intelligence Department has taken rigorous measures, in February of 1920 bolsheviks "started to push into trade unions of cities and villages with double energy and only the lack of funds did not allow them to take over control the whole trade movement". On February 7, 1920, the communist group was liquidated in Kaunas. During the interrogation, members of the group (most of them belonging to the Central Bureau of Trade Unions) admitted to maintaining contact with the Communist Party and political prisoners in prison. The leaders of the group witnessed that they are well organized, but lack of funds and determination to carry out a revolution in Lithuania. According to the report, after the liquidation, the Communist Party of Lithuania weakened so much that it could not support the rebellion of 22-23 February in 1920.

Communist activities in trade unions revived before the elections to the Lithuanian Constituent Assembly. Party agitators were sent to Lithuania from the center of the Communist Party of Belarus. The anti-state communist agitators' activity showed up by distributing intensive proclamations and organizing the public rallies.

Also, the communists conducted active disassembling activity in the Lithuanian Armed Forces. The report states that until February 22-23, 1920 Communist activity of the "military rebellion" in the units of the Lithuanian Armed Forces was "accidental", but intensified after the rebellion. This was showed by proclamations circulated by the communists and the newspaper entitled "The Truth of Soldiers". According to intelligence officers, "the bolsheviks are working very secretly, and their tracking is particularly difficult, especially in the military units, where it is extremely difficult to run a secret agency". Although it was difficult, the Intelligence Department succeeded in adding its own people to the military units, who reported about "serious communist propaganda". Lithuanian soldiers, living under bad conditions, had an impact on bolshevik propaganda and agitation. Propaganda products were distributed in the barracks, and the soldiers themselves attended workers' clubs in the city, participated in workers' meetings, maintained ties with members of the bolshevik (communist) party. In June 1920, data was collected on the communist secret groups formed in the military units. By July, hostile groups had expanded

their activities so that it was decided to immediately liquidate them. During the operation, 27 members of the secret groups were identified, 21 of them warfield court sentenced to heavy labour for a various time, one was sentenced to death. During the interrogation, it became clear that in the units of the Lithuanian Armed Forces "there existed a completely prepared for the rebellion military-communist organization with commissar under the nickname "Onufrij Šostak" who came from the Soviet Russia. Although the organization was successfully destroyed, it is emphasized that "the propaganda was deeply rooted in our Armed Forces". It is associated with the last mobilization when many members of the trade unions, "who were educated in the communist spirit", were summoned.

The report mentions that the Lithuanian communists have been in close contact with the so-called German spartacuses (Workers' Movement). Guns and "communist literature" were transported from Germany through Lithuania, part of this production remained in our country. The report mentions the leader of the German organization, Carl Semmel, who was tutoring the couriers' movement from Germany through Lithuania to Soviet Russia. After taking over the letters and documents of the spartacuses, it was clarified that "their ultimate goal — the communist revolution — must take place simultaneously in the Eastern Prussia and in Lithuania". According to the Intelligence point border service

of the of the Intelligence Department, "the former German soldiers, among whom there are a large number of spartacuses, have a strong desire to secretly cross the Lithuanian border with the aim of joining the Lithuanian Armed Forces. The addition of such troops to our Armed Forces, of course, would increase the red danger to democratic Lithuania and accelerate the collapse of our independence".

COMMUNIST SOFT POWER

After making peace with Soviet Russia and officially opening the representatives, communist activity moved to a new level. When they arrived in Lithuania with diplomatic mandates, they began to recruit people who they "used up as scouting agents, others as couriers with neighbouring states." It was clarified that the Russian bolsheviks also had ties with Latvia. Encrypted letters, which were sent to each other by the members of Kaunas and Riga soviet missions, were found at arrested couriers. Great money transfers were also used to be arrested. According to the report, the main goal of the bolsheviks was to revive

LITHUANIAN SOLDIER

To be on watch in the guard of the independent Lithuania is a special duty of a Lithuanian soldier. They must be proud of this honourable mission. The Lithuanian nation is also proud of their Armed Forces. When žaliukai* are rhythmically marching in rows, all eyes accompany them with heartfelt trust.

Our soldier is threatful to everyone who would attempt to hurt our homeland. We are one family, firmly determined to work for the sake of our independent country.

A. SMETONA

1927. I. 1. President of the Republic

LIEUVOS KARYS

Budeti nepriklausomos Lietuvos saugyboje yra ypatinga lietuvių kario pareiga. Tokiu garbingu pašaukimu jie turi didžiuotis. Didžiuojasi savo kariuomene ir lietuvių tauta. Kvi žaliukai vyrai darniomis eilėmis ritmingai žygiuoja, visų akys lydi juos širdingai pasitikėjimu.

Mūsų karys rūdatus visiems, kurie kosintųsi prieš mūsų tėvynę. Mes esame kaip viena šeima, tvirtai pasiryžę darbuotis savo nepriklausomos šalies labui.

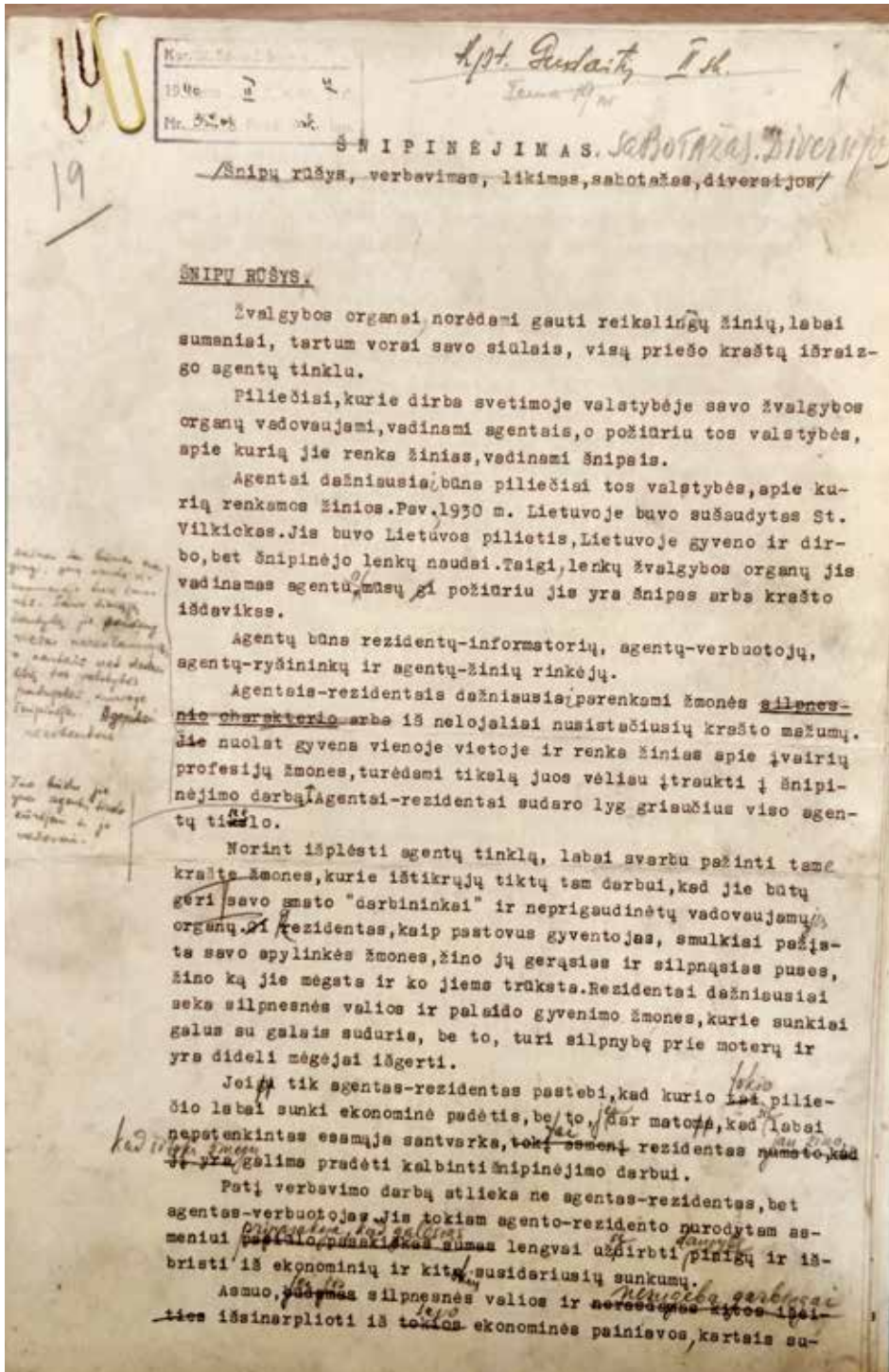
1927. I. 1.

A. SMETONA
Respublikos Prezidentas

The 8th Company of the 9th Infantry Vytenis Regiment of the Lithuanian Armed Forces near the front line of Dauguva. 1920



* The elite soldiers of Lithuanian Armed Forces were named žaliukai at that time. Later, during War after War (1944 - 1965) partisans used to call themselves žaliukai. Nowadays this is the status of the elite soldier of Lithuanian Special Operations Forces.



It has also been made clear that the chairman of the Kaunas Communist — bolshevik Center Committee maintains direct contacts with Axelrod, "receives instructions and funds from him for secret anti-state work". Secret party agents began distributing communist newspapers "Biednota", "Izvestija", "Pravda" among the locals. "At the same time, the bolshevik Mission turned its useless work among our Riflemen". It was known even earlier that the communists tried to insert their people into the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union (LRU), but after making peace and establishing legation the evidence were collected. During the search, a notebook was found in which the number of communists in the LRU in various cities of Lithuania. The information was received that the Soviet Mission increased its freelance employees to 60 people living in different places of Lithuania. It is emphasized that "under such conditions it is difficult to follow the work of the Mission workers and to eliminate the unwanted fruits of their work in time". Such freelance employees had a diplomatic immunity equivalent to accredited workers of the missions, which greatly aggravated the work of the Intelligence Department's officers. After the arrival of the Soviet Russian Mission to Lithuania, the anti-state activity of local communists increased so much that Lithuania at that moment was covered by the dense spider web of the communist secret groups, and the spider himself sits in the Soviet Mission palace.

The report emphasizes that the current communist activity is different from the previous one. For example: many explosives such as pyroxelin and dynamite appeared in Lithuania, Russian bolshevik newspapers were started to be distributed, more agitational literature in Lithuanian language from abroad was being imported, and number of secret agitators increased. There were also innovations — during the meetings of Kaunas and Raseiniai communists the conducting of the terror against "the members of pro-Western Government and the employees of the Intelligence Services" was discussed. It is stressed that this should be taken into account seriously, since examples of communist terror were carried out in Latvia and Poland. The Head of the Intelligence Department was sorry that the employees and agents of the "Soviet Mission" receive better funding than the officers of the Intelligence Department, therefore "it cannot be denied that the work of our anti-bolshevik institutions will always stay behind the work of anti-state bolsheviks". The Soviet Mission is described as a threat to the independence of the country, because it takes care of its anti-state activity, and Axelrod is described as a "fanatic-communist, leading his harmful work in

trade unions and raise "the low spirit of local workers". Despite the great efforts and investments to expand the professional movement, so far it does not succeed and there are three main reasons:

- a small number of factory workers in Lithuania;
- national distribution among workers;
- prohibition for the biggest part of workers (workers of railways and Central Army workshops) to participate in professional organizations. There was a threat of firing for this.

It is emphasized that "it is extremely difficult to guess what success the Russian bolsheviks will gain in the development of the professional movement, but at the present moment that work does not make a serious threat to the state order of our country". However, it is recommended that the strictest measures and public funding "in a way of wise propaganda" be taken to reduce the influence of the Soviet Mission on workers. It is also recommended to take over a professional movement at a state level and form a public organization from it.

the name of the global social revolution".

The intelligence officers discovered that the Soviet Mission conducts not only secret but also open agitation, for example, it supports around 400 Jewish student refugees, recruits Lithuanian specialists for good remuneration and donates for various purposes. The report stresses that "work of the members of the Soviet Mission is vast, serious, energetic and comprehensive, and if the Government will not understand the imminent threat of the Red terror and will not eliminate its persistent work, then in the near future we will face an inevitable catastrophe". The German Intelligence Department shared the information that the Soviet authority "is determined to secretly and in all its efforts prepare internal rebellion in all the states of the Pakraštys in the spirit of the bolshevism". Such information was confirmed by the Intelligence Department's officers arrested agent Onufri Shostak, whose real surname was Stasiulis. After the arrest of Stasiulis, an information was received that "a Stasiulis's escape from Kaunas prison is being prepared with the help of the Soviet representatives, and for the escape it was intended to blow up one of the walls of Kaunas prison". After receiving such information officers of the Intelligence Department allocated all available forces to find a warehouse with explosive material and communist literature. "Despite the small number of officers in the Intelligence Department, after three months of a serious and death-threatening work, traces of the "Central Bureau" of communist propaganda, literature and the warehouse of explosive material for the entire party in Lithuania, were detected. During the operation was found:

about 5 pounds of communist literature (newspapers "Truth of Soldiers", "The Truth", "Borba", proclamations and brochures, about 4 packages of which are the Russian communist newspapers "Pravda", "Bednota", "Derevenskaja Žizn";

- 9 boxes with dynamite and bitumen sheet weighing about 30 pounds per box;
- about 30 copies of new unopened Lithuanian passport forms;
- 10 metres Bickford rope with devices for inflammation;
- about 300 revolver cartridges;
- 4 hand grenades;
- Many correspondence of political prisoners in Kaunas prison and other correspondence in various languages.

Over the course of the two decades of independence, the Kremlin, with varying intensity, but continuously engaged in disassembling activity against the state of Lithuania: secretly supported the communist underground and

anti-state organizations, the Soviet diplomats accredited by official channels build intrigues in the political backstage and gathered influencing agents, while waiting for the circumstances which happened in 1939, when Lithuania's international situation began to deteriorate. And during this entire period, officers of the Intelligence Department fought against the state's threats. The Intelligence Department has experienced ups and downs, reorganizations and reforms throughout its existence period in order to adapt to the security challenges and reality of that time. On May 29, 1933, the Internal Security Department (lit. VSD) — the predecessor of the current State Security Department was established. As in these days, the then VSD informed the public about its activity and events related to state security. All of the information gathered was used when releasing the "Press Diary" and the semi-annual "Press Reviews". The activity of the VSD remained unchanged until 1940s, when both the intelligence and counter-intelligence stopped working after the occupation of Lithuania. Employees of VSD emigrated from Lithuania in order to avoid persecution and arrest. The VSD was liquidated as an institution which does not fit for repressions.

Nearly a century after the described events, the situation has not changed much. On March 11, 1990, the Supreme Council-Reconstituent Seimas of our country signed the Act of Independence Restoration of Lithuania. On January 13,

1991, the Soviet Union committed armed bloody aggression against Lithuania in an effort to overthrow its democratically elected, legitimate government. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Russian Federation officially recognized the independent Republic of Lithuania by the agreement of July 29, 1991 and spoke in favour of the removal of the consequences of the occupation and annexation of Lithuania conducted by the USSR. But history teaches us that Russia's "eternal" peace does not last long. Already in 2005, V. Putin stated that the collapse of the Soviet Union was the largest geopolitical catastrophe ever. Russia's increasingly aggressive foreign policy, relations with Lithuania deteriorated, and the Baltic States were viewed as temporary arrangements again, questioning their independence. The VSD, like its predecessor in the interwar period, makes reports on threats to national security. It identifies Russia as the main threat to the national security of Lithuania, conducting its disassembling activity through its intelligence services, cyber-attacks, influence agents, as well as using aggressive informative and ideological policy, while developing historical policy projects. They work patiently, waiting for comfortable political circumstances, such as in 1939... ■

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Allies of the Lithuanian Armed Forces — Saxon volunteers carry arrested soldiers of the Red Army.



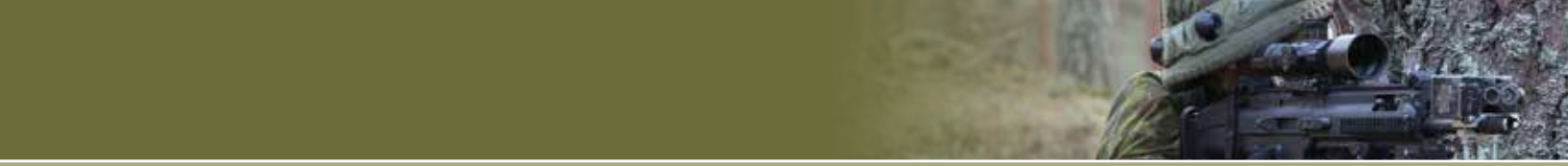


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