

The fight against international terrorism

Unequivocal political support and helpful practical contribution

Latvia's political leadership immediately after 9/11 condemned international terrorism and expressed full support to efforts of the international anti-terrorism coalition. Flowers on the pavement in front of the US Embassy were a vivid demonstration of popular support of such policy.

In November 2001, the Government of Latvia decided to send humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees.

In January 2002, Latvia's Parliament considered Latvia's contribution to international anti-terrorism operation and approved participation in the "Enduring Freedom" on territory of Kirghizstan. Latvian air movement assistance team was trained and would have deployed have the host nation's consent been forthcoming.

In the absence of Kirghizstan's agreement, Latvia decided in January 2003 to send a team of military medics to the ISAF II operation in Afghanistan as part of the Dutch contingent. The medical team was deployed in Afghanistan in late February 2003.

New anti-terrorism capacities

In response to the rising concern over the terrorism threat and proliferation of the Weapons of Mass Destruction, Latvia's Ministry of Defense has decided to set up within the National Armed Forces an NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) protection unit. This 40 person strong formation will be NATO interoperable and able to participate in international operations. Operational readiness of the NBC protection unit is planned for the end of 2004.



The Special Task Unit training for the counter-terrorism operations, December 2001
/Photo: The Special Task Unit/