

Latvia's involvement in international missions continues

Since February 2003 a unit of military medics are serving in the International Stabilization Force (ISAF II) mission in Afganistan within the Dutch contingent.
Since 2001, Latvia has participated in the border observation mission in Georgia.

Latvia is developing specialized capabilities to support international operations

The raising of Latvia's defence capabilities means adding to Latvia's capacities for international operations. Latvia is further working on further development and special training of forces that could effectively complement NATO's collective capabilities:

- an infantry battalion for peace operations,
- specialized units of military medics,
- divers,
- explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) units and
- military police.

Additionally, a decision has been taken to develop capabilities in nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) defence, mine clearing divers, and special operations.

Latvia stands ready for involvement in EU-led missions

Four representatives of The State Police of Latvia have been selected to serve in the EU-led civilian police mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina thus providing contribution to stabilization processes in the Balkans as well as further development of the European Security and Defense Policy civilian crises management initiative.

National Armed Forces has made two staff officers available for future EU mission in Macedonia to be overtaken from NATO.

Latvia has participated in WEU-led Multinational Advisory Police Element (MAPE) mission in Albania.

Latvia has offered political support and practical contribution in the fight against terrorism

Latvia has responded to the new threats and challenges presented by the international terrorism with determination. Full political support to the international anti-terrorism coalition, prevention of terrorists' use of Latvia's territory or banks, and a practical contribution to international anti-terrorist operations constitute main elements of Latvia's policy in this area.

The Action Plan for Combating International Terrorism was approved by the Government of Latvia immediately after the tragic events of 11 September 2001.

The decision to deploy an air movement control team in the operation led by the United States Enduring Freedom, on territory of Kirghizstan was made by Latvia's Parliament in January 2002. A Latvian air movement assistance team was trained and would have deployed had the host nation's consent been forthcoming. After September 11th, Latvia also provided backfill to replace the US forces in Balkans.



Latvian military medics in Kosovo,
February 2003
/Photo: BCCS REPRO Māris Zemgalietis/