

THE MILITARY STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

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of the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania

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1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1. The Lithuanian Armed Forces are an integral part of the country's civic society. By executing the provisions of the Constitution, the laws and the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Armed Forces defend the national sovereignty, territorial integrity, democratic constitutional order and human and civil rights and freedoms. The society shall execute a democratic control of the Lithuanian Armed Forces through civil state institutions.

1.2. The aim of the Military Strategy of the Republic of Lithuania (further on referred to as Strategy) is to establish the ways of using the Lithuanian Armed Forces in order to implement the state security and defence policy goals during peace, crisis and war. This Strategy derives from the National Security Strategy 2004 and shall replace the Lithuanian Military Defence Strategy 2000.

1.3. With the view to the changed security environment, the threats and dangers emerging from it and following the provisions of the NATO's Strategic Concept, the Strategy shall define the military aims of Lithuania, the measures (strategic concepts) needed for their implementation, the functions of the Armed forces and the military planning guidance.

1.4. The Lithuanian Armed Forces play an important role in strengthening relations with strategic partners, promoting regional co-operation and developing friendly relations with the neighbouring countries based on an open dialogue, transparency and confidence. By participating in international peacekeeping and crises response operations, the Armed Forces of Lithuania, an active member of NATO and the European Union, strengthen the national security as well as the security of the whole Euro-Atlantic community.

2. SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

2.1. Euro-Atlantic integration. At the beginning of the 21st century, the international community does not only face new challenges, but also acquires new possibilities for establishing wellbeing and safe environment. The membership of Lithuania and other Central and Eastern European countries in NATO and the European Union has enhanced stability and security in Europe. Further Euro-Atlantic integration bears a crucial significance for ensuring the long-term security of Lithuania.

2.1.1. Over the past decade, NATO has flexibly and successfully adapted to the new security environment, has strengthened and expanded. The Republic of Lithuania has become a member of the North Atlantic Alliance at an important moment of its history. Collective defence is a key task of NATO activities; however, at the same time, the role of NATO in enhancing international security outside the territory of the Alliance has increased. NATO develops the work of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, the Partnership for Peace Programme, intensifies relations with Russia and the Ukraine and promotes the Mediterranean Dialogue. In response to challenges and threats to the international security, NATO has taken preventive measures, including use of the military force.

2.1.2. The changed security environment and new tasks arising for NATO have caused the transformation of the Alliance. With the view to the new challenges and in order to achieve better efficiency, the NATO command and control structure is being reduced, armed forces of NATO members are restructured so as to emphasise their capabilities and reaction time, rather than their size and territorial defence. NATO countries are reorganising their armed forces into modern and interoperable forces,

capable of participating in operations of any kind including high-intensity operations outside the Alliance territory.

2.1.3. Enlargement of the European Union into the ten new Central and Southern European states has also contributed to enhancing the stability of the Euro-Atlantic area. The European Security and Defence Policy, which is currently being drafted, shall ensure better contribution of the European Union to strengthening the international stability and security. The development of the European Union military and civil crises management capabilities should be done in parallel and complement each other.

2.2. Regional forums and multilateral projects also have a positive impact on regional as well as global stability.

2.2.1. Close co-operation of Nordic and Baltic countries in the sphere of defence enables a better co-ordination of actions in various international security organisations. The experience of successful regional co-operation in the Northern Europe is used for developing relations with farther situated regions of Southern Caucasus and Central Asia, thus promoting expansion of the stability area.

2.2.2. The Vilnius Group remains an important forum in the Central and South-Eastern Europe for helping the countries, which are not yet NATO members, prepare for integration.

2.2.3. Co-operation of the Baltic Sea region countries enhances the mutual confidence among the countries and transparency of the security policy.

2.2.4. Elaboration of the Broader Middle East Initiative and Mediterranean Dialogue is an important factor for strengthening inter-regional co-operation and co-ordination of fight against new challenges and threats. Their success is an important condition for ensuring long-term global peace and stability.

2.3. Assessment of challenges, dangers and threats. The international security tendencies are still contradictory. In some regions, military conflicts are on-going or their probability remains high. In many regions of the world, the extent of danger caused by non-traditional threats is increasing, the number of cases of use of military force is growing. Terrorist attacks all over the world have demonstrated that no country is fully protected against the threat of international terrorism. The probability that terrorist groups or states related to such groups could obtain weapons of mass destruction has increased. The problems caused by unequal wellbeing, radical ideologies, industrial disasters or nature calamities are faced more frequently. Although Lithuania does not consider any foreign state its enemy and the probability of a military threat for Lithuania is insignificant, the probability of non-traditional threats is increasing.

2.3.1. Conventional military threats. There is no direct military threat to Lithuania at present. In the immediate security environment of Lithuania, there are still countries where the democratic constitutional order has not been fully established and where comparatively large military forces are preserved; therefore, the probability for threats of a military character in the future persists.

2.3.2. Provocations, demonstration of military force and threat to use force. Lithuania maintains friendly relations with all the neighbouring states and seeks not to create a precedent for an international conflict by any deliberate or unintentional actions. Lithuania acknowledges as legitimate the exercises and other military activities executed in the neighbouring countries; however, it observes the military actions taken in the neighbourhood in order to avoid erroneous identification of alleged threats. The mid-term and long-term probability of the danger of provocation, demonstration of force and threat to use force against Lithuania remains valid.

2.3.3. Regional conflicts. The Alliance borders some unstable regions suffering from internal conflicts caused by political, ethnical or religious clashes, which can get out of control and expand outside the region. The unstable situation in those regions may influence not only the neighbouring countries, but also the members of NATO and the European Union, including Lithuania. Crisis prevention and management measures implemented by NATO and other institutions on a permanent basis should reduce the danger of expansion of regional conflicts.

2.3.4. Terrorism. Terrorism raises a serious threat for the security of the international community as well as of the Alliance, the European Union and Lithuania. For Lithuania, this threat is more of an external character, as the internal conditions are not favourable for a terrorist network to appear. Lithuania can become a potential target of the international terrorism or a transit country for terrorism against another state. Lithuanian citizens abroad and Lithuanian soldiers participating in international operations can also become victims of terrorist attacks. As terrorism still raises threat all over the world, the probability of terrorist attacks against Lithuania and its citizens remains imminent and can increase in the future.

2.3.5. Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The number of countries which seek to develop or acquire nuclear weapons is growing. Even more serious danger is raised by unidentified owners of nuclear, chemical and biological materials suitable for production of weapons. With regard to the growing number of countries possessing weapons of mass destruction and increasing possibilities to acquire such weapons for terrorists, the potential threat to Lithuania and its allies will not decrease.

2.3.6. Activities of foreign intelligence services. Although in the new security environment the threat of a military conflict has substantially diminished, the danger raised by hostile activities of foreign intelligence services is eminent and will not decrease in the future.

2.3.7. Industrial accidents and ecological catastrophes. Although these threats are not of the military nature, they can entail danger to the country's citizens, their wellbeing and have serious consequences for Lithuania and the whole region. The probability of such threats is unpredictable.

2.3.8. Uncontrolled migration. Regional instability can raise uncontrolled migration, when people in danger escape from violence or look for more favourable living conditions. The danger of uncontrolled migration threatening Lithuania at present is low, but it can increase due to unstable social and economic situation in the neighbouring countries or outer regions.

2.3.9. Conclusions. The challenges, dangers and threats to Lithuania and its allies are dynamic, often undetermined and sometimes unpredictable. Despite that, the impact of the Lithuanian security environment on the national interests in the nearest future is predictable. Although the probability of armed conflicts is low, the Lithuanian Armed Forces, in co-operation with NATO forces, must ensure reliable deterrence and defence against any potential aggression, provocations and threats to use force directed against Lithuania and NATO. As a NATO member, Lithuania maintains the position that a threat to the Alliance or any of its members is a threat to Lithuania. Lithuania must also be ready to respond to threats and dangers related to terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, uncontrolled migration, hostile activities of foreign intelligence services and other factors that can endanger the state security and welfare.

3. SECURITY INTERESTS AND MILITARY MISSIONS

3.1. National security interests. The Lithuanian Armed Forces play an important role in ensuring the following interests as defined in the National Security Strategy:

3.1.1. Sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Lithuania.

3.1.2. Regional and global stability.

3.1.3. Peace and welfare in the country.

3.2. Military missions. In order to implement the above-listed national security interests, Lithuanian Armed Forces shall seek the following military missions:

3.2.1. Sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Lithuania.

3.2.1.2. In co-operation with allies, to ensure a reliable deterrence.

3.2.1.3. In case of failure of deterrence, to defend the Lithuanian sovereignty, territory, territorial waters and airspace in co-operation with NATO allies and counter any military aggression.

3.2.2. Regional and global stability.

3.2.2.1. To ensure the collective defence obligations assumed by Lithuania.

3.2.2.2. To participate in international operations led by NATO, European Union or UN as well as ad hoc coalitions implementing the aims of these organisations.

3.2.2.3. To implement confidence and security building measures and participate in arms control regimes.

3.2.2.4. To contribute to ensuring security of the state and allies by responding to threats of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destructions.

3.2.3. Peace and welfare in the country.

3.2.3.1. To participate in neutralising the activities of foreign intelligence services and ensure protection of classified information.

3.2.3.2. To provide help to the state and local authorities' institutions by responding to threats of non-military nature and terrorism attacks.

4. STRATEGIC CONCEPTS

4.1. The Lithuanian Military Strategy is based on the following principles and guarantees of the North Atlantic Treaty:

4.1.1. NATO countries settle disputes by peaceful means.

4.1.2. NATO countries should be prepared to develop their individual and collective capabilities.

4.1.3. An armed attack against one or more of NATO countries is an attack against them all and will receive defensive response according to Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

4.2. The Lithuanian Military Strategy is also based on the principle that in forming the NATO and European Union forces Lithuania shall seek:

4.2.1. Commitment of single set of forces to both organizations.

4.2.2. A supplementary planning of forces and operations.

4.2.3. Co-ordinated decision making on the use of force and operations.

Only joint efforts by the European Union and NATO can strengthen the capacities of the Euro-Atlantic community to react to international crises flexibly and to respond to the arising challenges and threats.

4.3. Deterrence and collective defence. The aim of deterrence is to convince the potential aggressor that it will face not only the forces of Lithuania, but also of its allies and will experience great damages which will not be worth the sought result. A strong NATO is the most important factor ensuring efficient deterrence. With regard to the capabilities and the needs of the allies, the Lithuanian Armed Forces shall prepare for

joint operations of full-spectrum. The national capabilities necessary for Lithuania so that it could ensure sufficient deterrence and defence are as follows:

4.3.1. An efficient national crisis management mechanism. The national crisis management system will ensure fast and timely decision-making in terms of use of the Armed Forces on the basis of procedures and rules established in advance. The crisis management system will maintain a permanent and efficient contact with crisis management systems of NATO and European Union countries. Threats and probability for their emergence will be evaluated on the basis of the intelligence data and plans to counter them will be drafted.

4.3.2. National military units of high readiness. These well-trained, equipped and deployable military units will be prepared to respond to emerging threats at any time. These units will be totally interoperable with the relevant forces of NATO, European Union and United Nations and will be capable of integrating into the relevant military unit structure of the indicated organizations. Lithuania shall organize its national military units of high readiness on the basis of categories of operational readiness interoperable with NATO. The national military units of high readiness will be able to react promptly to crisis, including those outside the Lithuanian territory. The units of lower readiness will be ready to send specialist soldiers as well as combat and specialized units capable of participating in international crisis response operations and providing support outside the combat zone.

4.3.3. Airspace surveillance, control and defence system and sea and coast surveillance systems integrated into the NATO system. The airspace surveillance system of the Baltic countries (BALTNET), including the system of surveillance, control and defence of the Lithuanian airspace, is a part of NATO integrated extended air defence system (NATINEADS). The system of sea and coast surveillance will ensure exchange of information with the airspace surveillance and control system and will have an integrated control and management system. In co-operation with allies, Lithuania shall also ensure airspace defence and prepare the entire necessary infrastructure for execution of the air police functions.

4.3.4. The system of training and mobilization of the active reserve, which will ensure fast and efficient use of state reserves during peace, crisis and war. Lithuania will continue to modernize and develop the system of training and mobilisation of the active reserve. In order to ensure the interoperability of the Lithuanian military units with the forces of the allies, training and mobilization of reserves should cover the national as well as NATO command and control procedures. The active reserve should be able to act alongside NATO forces in an operation of any type and intensity inside and outside Lithuania.

4.3.5. Infrastructure and forces enabling host nation support to the reinforcing Allied forces. Lithuania is planning its defence assuming a guaranteed reinforcement of NATO. In accordance to NATO requirements and host nation support procedures, Lithuania is ready for permanent deployment of Allied forces and host nation support to reinforcing forces.

4.3.6. Efficient and well coordinated military intelligence and counter-intelligence activities. Lithuania will continue to develop its military intelligence and counter-intelligence capabilities in order to indicate potential crisis at the earliest possible stages. This will enable the country to take measures for preventing escalation of crisis.

4.4. Crisis prevention and enhancement of stability. Lithuania will contribute duly to the international operations led by NATO, European Union, UN, OSCE and ad hoc coalitions implementing the goals of the indicated organizations. The aim of such

operations is to carry out, through use of military force, conflict prevention, mitigate the consequences of the existing conflicts, stabilize the situation and prevent conflicts from expanding into other regions of the world. The Lithuanian Armed Forces will participate in prevention measures against terrorist groups. For that purpose, Lithuania will develop combat, combat support and combat service support capabilities. Lithuania will participate in international operations only as a member of multinational forces. In preparing for participation in international operations, Lithuania will have to ensure the following:

4.4.1. Efficient participation in the international crisis management system and decision-making. In enhancing the Lithuanian military intelligence capabilities and exchange of information with the relevant services of NATO and European Union members, it will be ensured that state leaders will adopt appropriate and timely decisions and respond to the requests of allies and other international organizations to provide forces for their operations. Accurate evaluation of the situation will also help the Lithuanian Armed Forces to prepare for various operations.

4.4.2. Assignment of the military units trained to participate in operations led by NATO, European Union, UN and *ad hoc* coalitions implementing the goals of these organisations. Both individual soldiers and units must be maintained at appropriate readiness levels. By assigning its military units to a respective international organization or an *ad hoc* coalition, the Armed Forces will at the same time revise the priorities for allocation of resources so as these units could achieve the required readiness before they are deployed outside the territory of Lithuania. Lithuania will provide military units to the high readiness forces of NATO and the European Union.

4.4.3. Development of highly capable well trained and well equipped special operations forces. The special operations forces are active part of the Armed forces of the highest readiness ready to act outside the territory of Lithuania in order to protect the national and NATO interests. Lithuania contributes to the initiatives of fight against terrorism of NATO and other organizations by its counterterrorist capabilities.

4.4.4. Rotation and maintenance of personnel in order to sustain the forces in region of deployment for a long period of time. In preparations for deployment of military units, actions shall be taken in parallel to prepare for personnel rotation and replacement of respective weapons and equipment. This will help to ensure that the capacity of the deployed units does not reduce in the case of long-lasting operations.

4.4.5. Education of soldiers able to participate in the military dialogue on various security issues and communicate in the official NATO languages. In some cases, for example, in applying the arms control regimes or confidence and security building measures; the dialogue itself is an important component for ensuring stability.

4.4.6. Development of the specialised military capabilities. The Lithuanian Armed Forces shall contribute its specialized capabilities in order to compensate capability shortfalls of NATO.

4.5. Internal security. The Lithuanian Armed Forces shall contribute to ensuring security inside the country. In order to help the state and local authorities institutions, the Armed Forces shall develop capabilities, which will enable it to do the following:

4.5.1. To neutralise the activities of foreign intelligence services and ensure protection of classified information. By means of close co-operation with the relevant services of Lithuania and allies, the appropriate agencies within the national defence system take active and passive actions to ensure the physical and information security in terms of protecting the national, NATO and European Union secrets and classified information. The Lithuanian military intelligence upholds the procedures that enable exchange of intelligence information with the intelligence agencies of NATO and the

European Union members. It also contributes actively to neutralizing the threats emerging due to the acts of spying, subversion, sabotage and terrorism against the national defence system executed by foreign special services, organizations and persons.

4.5.2. To enable the special operations forces to help other state institutions neutralize terrorist attacks inside the country in a fast and efficient way.

4.5.3. To help the civil authorities, which provide support to the victims of accidents and calamities. In order to ensure the wellbeing of society, the Armed forces are ready to react to the threats of non-military character, the impact of which exceeds the capabilities of the civil authorities to take appropriate measures. Lithuania will ensure the most efficient use of the civil resources. In emergency conditions (war, crisis or natural calamity) the Armed Forces should be ready to use the necessary means and infrastructure at the disposal of the civilians and seek to preserve natural living conditions for civilians.

5. MANAGEMENT, COMMAND AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES

5.1. Use of the armed force. The Republic of Lithuania preserves the right to use the armed force for the purpose of individual or collective defence from an armed attack as well as in the case of executing international obligations in line with the Charter of the United Nations of 1945, Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949, the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and other legal acts.

5.2. Management of the Armed Forces. All the decisions on the defence policy of Lithuania and use of the Armed forces are taken by the democratically elected civilian authorities.

5.2.1. An integrated Ministry of National Defence enables the heads of the Ministry to make decisions on the Lithuanian Military Strategy, long-term plans for the development of the Armed forces, rational use of the defence resources and other strategic issues of the defence policy.

5.2.2. On the operational level, the Joint Staff is responsible for recruitment, training, equipment and maintenance of the capabilities as established in strategies and plans as well as for planning and execution of operations, training and exercises.

5.2.3. On the tactical level, Commanders of the units of the Armed forces are responsible for training, administration and equipment of the units in line with the established requirements and assign designated capabilities to operations.

5.3. Command of the Armed Forces. The President of the Republic is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the State. The chain of command of the military operations and other defence actions starts from the President of the Republic and, through the Minister of National Defence, passes to Commander of the Armed Forces. Commander of the Armed Forces is subordinated to the Minister of National Defence.

5.3.1. An Operational Commander, appointed by the Commander of the Armed Forces for a specific operation, is responsible for operational command of the forces assigned to him and execution of military operations.

5.3.2. On the tactical level, military units plan and execute combat tasks with commanders of military units holding tactical command.

5.3.3. In case of participation of Lithuania in joint operations, national military units can be transferred to the operational command of NATO, European Union and ad hoc coalitions implementing the goals of these organisations.

5.4. Functions of the Lithuanian Armed Forces during peace, crisis and war. The Lithuanian Strategy is based on the solidarity of allies and the goal to counter emerging threats through common efforts. Lithuania will actively participate in the activities of the NATO, including the military operations executed by the Alliance during peace, crisis or war.

5.4.1. At peacetime, Lithuanian military units maintain the designated levels of readiness. The Armed Forces will continue to improve their respective capabilities and the quality of service life. The priorities are: preparation to react to the threats of military and non-military nature, peacetime engagement and enhancement of confidence and dialogue as well as on participation in the fight of the international community against terrorism and prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. As an active Alliance member, Lithuania will participate in NATO exercises, training, and other programs.

5.4.2. At the time of crisis, Lithuania is ready to join the international operations led by NATO, European Union, other organisations and ad hoc coalitions. The units of high readiness of the Lithuanian Armed Forces should be ready to be deployed outside the Lithuanian territory for execution of such operations.

5.4.3. The wartime concept of Lithuania rests on the assurance of all allies to confront potential aggression jointly. Lithuania will fulfil its commitments with a capability centred on a highly capable Reaction Brigade and its supporting units. This capability will be responsive to threats that arise at any time, with units that can deploy quickly to defend the country in conjunction with NATO reinforcements. The force will consist of an active component of graduated readiness, augmented as necessary in times of crisis and conflict by mobilised personnel from the reserve. The Navy will secure the maritime approaches to the country. In conjunction with NATO, the Lithuanian Armed Forces will protect and control the nation's airspace and provide limited air transport. The reserve units will ensure support to units deployed in operations, primarily in the field of combat support and combat service support, host nation support, reception, staging, and onward movement of Allied reinforcements to locations of military concentration and will assist the civil authorities.

5.5. Capability requirements. As a NATO member, Lithuania sets as the defence planning priority those capabilities, which enhance the collective defence of the whole Alliance and its readiness to overcome threats of any kind. The capabilities of the Lithuanian Armed Forces – regular forces and active reserve – are developed so as to correspond to the following requirements:

5.5.1. Efficiency – interoperability of capabilities in between and with the ally forces, appropriate preparation for full spectrum of operations, mobility, ability to operate smoothly as a part of multinational units.

5.5.2. Deployment – the ability to deploy the military units assigned to joint operations with allies by means of strategic air and/or sea transport to the operation theatre outside the territory of Lithuania (availability of the strategic air and sea transport must be ensured).

5.5.3. Sustainability – the ability to sustain for a set period of time during operations with the help of an efficient logistic system.

5.5.4. Multi-role – the ability to participate in a full spectrum of operations: properly manned military units with sufficient equipment and able to react to all types of threats, crises and calamities in and outside the territory of Lithuania.

5.5.5. Survivability – the ability to act in extreme natural environment during the operations, to protect against the weapons of mass destruction and act in the environment contaminated by nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

5.5.6. Efficient command and control – the ability to ensure the work of advanced, interactive and mobile systems of command, control and communications.

5.6. In executing the reform of the Armed Forces, Lithuania is developing the capabilities which strengthen the collective defence and are needed for implementation of the national interests. The capabilities that do not correspond to these criteria are reduced or disposed of.

6. MILITARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

6.1. Guidance for programming and budgeting. The Lithuanian Armed Forces develop an efficient defence planning system corresponding to the systems of NATO defence planning and strategic planning of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. The Military Strategy provides for the guidelines for the allocation of resources for defence needs.

6.2. Priority programmes. In strengthening the Lithuanian Armed Forces, the priority is set on development of capabilities necessary for defence of Lithuania together with the NATO forces and for participation in international operations. Strict compliance with the resource priority shall help achieve the goals set in the Strategy in the most efficient way.

6.2.1. Personnel. Personnel training and management is one of the most important priorities of the National defence system development. In order to ensure better professional qualities of the Armed Forces, the following measures will be implemented:

6.2.1.1. The number of soldiers in professional military service will be increased, while the number of conscripts will be reduced respectively. The technical nature of the modern equipment and requirements of modern operations require that higher standards of skills be applied in training the persons suitable for military service.

6.2.1.2. The programmes of improving the quality of life and moral and patriotic education will be continued. The military personnel is trained in line with the traditions of the Lithuanian Armed Forces, the modern military science and experience of the democratic countries, while also cultivating, civic duties, patriotism and ethics of an individual soldier. The Armed Forces will look for new ways of making the military service an attractive career prospect for the Lithuanian youth.

6.2.1.3. The programmes for training of Lithuanian non-commissioned officers and officers will be continued and expanded by providing each of them with the opportunity for professional training and development. The system of the military personnel career is based on the principle of a centralised selection for promotion and training subject to the individual merits of soldiers. Before each principal promotion, non-commissioned officers and officers will have to complete courses or colleges of a respective level.

6.2.1.4. The programme for training of the reserve soldiers is continued with most attention focused on training of specialists for execution of new tasks.

6.2.1.5. The civil servants career system of the National Defence System is being improved and will cover the official training programme, commendations for service activities, promotion and appointments.

6.2.2. Training, readiness and sustainment. In distributing the funds in the future, programmes of training, readiness and sustainment will be seen as priority. On the basis of the NATO standards, the Lithuanian Armed Forces will draft the following:

6.2.2.1. An efficient training programme covering individual training to execute the main operational tasks and training of units during the collective training exercise.

Resources for training areas and infrastructure as well as support equipment and other measures necessary for efficient training will be increased.

6.2.2.2. The programme for deployment and maintenance of equipment, with most attention focused on supply and maintenance of the key equipment. The Lithuanian Armed Forces will strengthen the capabilities and deployment abilities of the military units and continue the creation of a flexible logistical system, which would ensure deployment and sustainment of the military units.

6.2.2.3. The development programmes of the host nation support infrastructure. Lithuania will continue close co-operation with NATO agencies so that the implemented projects correspond to the priorities of the Alliance and enable the country to receive financial support for infrastructure development.

6.2.3. Modernisation. In line with the set priorities, the Lithuanian Armed Forces will implement modernisation plans. The Lithuanian Armed Forces, armed with modern weapons will be able to operate more efficiently together with allies inside and outside Lithuania. The Armed Forces will continue to be equipped with reliable and modern armament and military equipment corresponding to the NATO requirements, which will be procured in line with the set priorities with most attention focused on the projects related to implementation of the NATO Force goals. Efforts will be made to achieve that the funds allocated to procurement of new armaments and equipment and modernisation of the existing equipment make up one fourth of all the expenses of the National Defence System. The funds saved during the defence reform will be allocated to the needs of modernisation of the Lithuanian Armed Forces.

7. FINAL PROVISIONS

7.1. With regard to the changes in the Lithuania's geo-strategic environment and new threats to security, the Military Strategy establishes the tasks of the Armed Forces, the capacities needed for execution of those tasks and the guidelines according to which these forces will be created.

7.2. The development of the capabilities of the Lithuanian Armed Forces will be focused on strengthening the collective defence and readiness of the whole Alliance and contributing to the relevant rapid reaction forces of the United Nations and the European Union. In carrying out the assigned tasks, the Lithuanian Armed Forces must use the resources allocated by the state in the most efficient way.

7.3. The Lithuanian Armed Forces – strong, professionally trained and patriotic – are one of the most important pillars of the Lithuanian security. Lithuania is creating the forces, which will be able to react rapidly to the threats of today and tomorrow, will be well trained and armed, will be mobile and able, in co-operation with NATO forces, to ensure defence of the Alliance and the state and contribute to the full spectrum of NATO operations outside Lithuania.

7.4. The Military Strategy of the Republic of Lithuania is a flexible and open document, which is revised regularly with the view to the essential changes in the security environment.