



Bundesministerium
der Verteidigung



KRAŠTO APSAUGOS
MINISTERIJA

Roadmap Brigade Lithuania

We, the Minister of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania,

- reaffirm the strong commitment between our countries to defend each other and every inch of Allied territory at all times and safeguard our freedom and democracy in accordance with Article 5 of the Washington Treaty,
- note that we act in the face of a radically changed security environment, constituted in particular by the Russian Federation's blatant violations of international norms and its ruthless war of aggression against Ukraine,
- recall that the Russian Federation is the most significant and direct threat to our security and to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area,
- are united by our determination to further bolster NATO's forward defence as a key pillar of NATO's adaptation for Collective Defence, whilst preserving NATO's strategic flexibility,
- note the longstanding fruitful cooperation between Germany and Lithuania to sustain NATO's enhanced Forward Presence/Forward Land Forces in Lithuania, gratefully recognising contributions by all Allies involved,
- express our commitment to undertake the necessary steps agreed in this roadmap based on the German offer to permanently station a robust and warfighting-capable brigade in Lithuania and the Lithuanian offer to host the brigade and to provide the required civil and military infrastructure and in particular the support as agreed by both sides in this roadmap and other future documents,

- and have agreed on these milestones for the implementation:

General Remarks

The overall objective is to deploy and sustain a robust and warfighting-capable German-led brigade (“Brigade Lithuania”) in Lithuania. The stationing of the “Brigade Lithuania” will mainly happen during 2025–2026, as soon as the agreed prerequisites, in particular the provision of military and civilian infrastructure by Lithuania, are met. Full operational capability will be achieved by the end of 2027. The “Brigade Lithuania” is an integral part of NATO’s defence plans. It will be subordinate to the German “Division 2025” as a heavy combat brigade.

We will organise the multinational elements of the “Brigade Lithuania” by converting the enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group (eFP BG) into a multinational combat battalion and by integrating this battalion into the “Brigade Lithuania”, thus ensuring combat readiness and warfighting effectiveness. Multinationality must not limit the brigade’s warfighting capability.

Whereas combat readiness and warfighting capabilities are the overarching principles for the deployment of the German-led Brigade, Germany and Lithuania agree that the attractiveness of an assignment within the “Brigade Lithuania” for Bundeswehr personnel constitutes a very important factor.

Besides very good conditions for training and exercises, Lithuania will establish or make available both civilian and military infrastructure, taking into account German requirements as agreed to by both sides. The responsibilities and financial arrangements, including host nation support

services as well as funding and operation will be agreed and detailed in technical arrangements to be developed in 2024.

The brigade will be stationed in Lithuania in Rūdninkai and Rukla. At these locations, barracks and accommodations for Bundeswehr personnel will be built in accordance with German requirements in coordination with Lithuania as agreed to by both sides. As very good training conditions are necessary, German training and exercise infrastructure requirements will be taken into account when the training areas of Rūdninkai and Rukla are upgraded or new infrastructure is erected. Logistic sites of the “Brigade Lithuania” will be developed in the vicinity of Siauliai and other agreed locations. These measures build on infrastructure projects that are planned or already underway.

Conditions will be created for Bundeswehr personnel to take their families with them. This requires specific civilian infrastructure, in particular but not limited to housing for families as well as capacities in childcare facilities and schools. The accommodations for families will be available in the cities of Vilnius and Kaunas or in their close proximity. Two main options will be taken forward: using an existing housing rent market and developing living quarters in a dedicated area. The stationing of German forces in Lithuania will proceed step by step in line with the provision of agreed infrastructure, both military and civilian.

The creation of an attractive environment for Bundeswehr personnel and their families requires close coordination with Lithuania and, in part, implementation of measures by the Lithuanian side. Good travel conditions (especially flight connections) between Germany and Lithuania as well as the

improvement of traffic links (in particular local public passenger transport) between the cities of Vilnius and Rūdninkai as well as Kaunas and Rukla are desirable. In order to ensure medical care, it is essential to rely on the Lithuanian health care system. In the mid-term, Germany intends to establish one or two Bundeswehr schools abroad and German-language childcare facilities in Lithuania.

The Joint Working Group is the main coordination body between Germany and Lithuania. The Joint Working Group is responsible for the identification of specific solutions, coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the roadmap.

Preparation Phase

This phase started with the decision to station personnel permanently and will end with the official activation ceremony of the German-led brigade in Lithuania in 2025.

In the second quarter of 2024, the “Brigade Lithuania” advance party will start its work in Vilnius and will expand to become the organising staff of the Brigade in the fourth quarter of 2024. Lithuania will provide the infrastructure required for this purpose as an interim solution. In the first quarter of 2024, it is planned to agree on the requirements for military and civilian infrastructure, including IT connection, infrastructure for catering and welfare and recreation facilities and prepositioning requirements. The future structure of the eFP BG to be integrated into the “Brigade Lithuania” will be coordinated, in particular with Allies currently participating in the eFP BG. In order to complete the legal framework for the stationing of forces, Germany and Lithuania will conclude a Supplementary Agreement to the NATO SOFA.

The host nation support services required in addition to the infrastructure will be determined.

Transition Phase

This phase begins after the official activation ceremony in 2025, focuses on the stationing of the Brigade in Lithuania mainly during 2025–2026 as soon as the prerequisites, in particular the provision of military and civilian infrastructure by Lithuania, are met. The phase ends with the “Brigade Lithuania” achieving full operational capability not later than the end of 2027.

Following the official activation ceremony in 2025, the already existing units in Germany will be subordinated to the Commander of the “Brigade Lithuania”. New units of the “Brigade Lithuania” will be established in Germany and, just as the already existing formations, will be gradually relocated to Lithuania. The stationing of the “Brigade Lithuania” will happen mainly during 2025–2026 as soon as the agreed prerequisites, in particular the provision of military and civilian infrastructure by Lithuania, are met. The structures of the office of the defence administration abroad and the medical support will also expand further. The pre-deployment of material and the storage will grow successively. At the same time, training and exercises of the “Brigade Lithuania” can already be conducted in Lithuania. In 2026 the eFP BG will be transformed into a multinational combat battalion and also be subordinated to the “Brigade Lithuania”. This means for the stationing as a whole that a condition-based approach will be chosen which takes into account both the gradual completion of the infrastructure and the development of the command and control capability of the brigade headquarters as well as the logistical combat support and combat service

support capabilities in place. Lithuania is pushing ahead with the expansion of local traffic links. At least until 2025, families moving with Bundeswehr personnel will probably still have to resort solely to the civilian housing rent market, the international schools and the existing local and international childcare facilities.

Full Implementation Phase

This phase describes the situation after achieving full operational capability of the German-led Brigade in Lithuania by the end of 2027.

The “Brigade Lithuania” has been established in terms of infrastructure, personnel and material, is fully operational and interoperable at national and multinational level. It has taken over the Forward Land Forces Brigade NATO commitment. In accordance with NATO procedures, the build-up of support elements from Germany as well as a continuous training and exercise rhythm, including ALERT and DEPLOYEX, have been established for the military reinforcement forces. The military and civilian infrastructure, including accommodation, access to schooling via the Bundeswehr school(s) abroad and to German-language childcare facilities, as well as the agreed host nation support are available.

Vilnius, 18th December 2023

Boris Pistorius

Minister of Defence
Federal Republic of Germany

Dr. Arvydas Anušauskas

Minister of National Defence
Republic of Lithuania