



DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATVIA

For several years the Republic of Latvia Ministry of Defence (MoD) has been implementing scientific research in the area of national defence. Its goal is to promote implementation of scientific research projects that are necessary for the Latvian National Armed Forces (NAF) to successfully complete their assignments. The MoD collaborates with Latvian scientific institutions and professional associations to ensure and coordinate the necessary research required for national defence. Different international cooperation projects take place in the area of scientific operations and military research.

One of the Latvian MoD defence research and development priorities is to participate in NATO Research and Technology Organisation and European Defence Agency.

In order to facilitate development of defence research and technology in Latvia, the MoD since 1994 finances a scientific journal for security and defence, *The Military Review*.

The following are the Latvian defence research and technology development directions:

- Defence capabilities and integration;
- Military capabilities;
- Modernization of the NAF;
- Environmental protection;
- Cooperation and integration in the NATO and EU research and technology network.

The following are the Latvian national defence research areas:

1. State and international security:
 - International security and relations;
 - Security system, risks and threats;

- Participation in international operations;
- Military history.

2. Military operations:

- Tactics, operations and strategy;
- Command and control;
- Intelligence;
- Communications and IT;
- Logistics.

3. Defence Development:

- Command, control, effectiveness of communications;
- Military capabilities;
- Defence against weapons of mass destruction;
- Defence against terrorism;
- Participation in international operations.

4. Resources for defence needs:

- Economics and military industry;
- Demography and personnel;
- Environmental protection;
- Logistics and procurement;
- Military infrastructure.

5. Military science and technologies:

- Defence management;
- Military leadership;
- International cooperation;
- Development of military science;
- Development of military technologies;

From 2005-2008 the Latvian MoD funded the following number of scientific research projects:

- 15 projects in 2005;
- 23 projects in 2006;
- 22 projects in 2007; and
- 24 projects in 2008.



The following are the most important scientific projects supported by the Latvian MoD:

- Development of radiation protector (protective ointment) (2007);
- Impact of the NAF Air Force radar electromagnetic field on human health (2007);
- Portable video and audio surveillance system (2007);
- Operational oceanography model system for waters under Latvian jurisdiction (2007);
- Usage of micro organisms in the degradation of explosive substances (2006);
- Antiseptic wound dressing, its research and justification for production technology (2005);
- Establishing the shooting simulator for the training purposes of NAF soldiers (2005).

The following are the most important ongoing projects:

- Adjusting the SAIKU-8 shooting simulator for tactical simulations (2008);
- Development of a CG-84 and AT-4 grenade launcher tactical field simulator prototype (2008);
- Assessment of soldiers' health and mental condition after international peace-keeping missions (2008);
- Modelling of Riga Bay ground sediment dynamics for mine hunting support (2008);
- Automated robotic platform model software design (2008);
- Programmable broadband radio stations in tactical networks (2008);
- Stipulation of the exit point of the national altitude (2008-2009);
- Minesweeper simulation software development for IMANTA (ALKMAAR) class ships (2009).

A significant Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Economics jointly financed research project *Military industrial development potential in Latvia* has been initiated. The goal of this project is to promote the development of military industry, service and science sectors in Latvia. As the result of a similar study, *Shipbuilding opportunities in Latvia*, the Riga Ship Yard is constructing coast guard patrol ships fulfilling bulky national order.

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