

## NATO ENHANCED FORWARD PRESENCE BATTLE GROUP LATVIA

## **NATO AND ITS PURPOSE:**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) purpose is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through political and military means in order to strengthen the democratic values and solve conflicts in a peaceful manner.

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- In 2016, the NATO summit in Warsaw confirmed an agreement on the presence of Allied forces in Poland and the Baltic states by establishment of the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence (NATO eFP) battle group.
- The aim of the establishment and deployment of the NATO eFP battle group is to demonstrate NATO's solidarity and determination to defend its Allies against any form of aggression, to facilitate NATO's deterrence and to strengthen the defences of the Alliance.
- On 19 June 2017, an official ceremony took place in the Camp Ādaži, welcoming the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence battle group Latvia.

- In 2022 defence ministers of Latvia and Canada signed the roadmap for scaling of Canada-led NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group Latvia to brigade size. Roadmap details phases for gradual increase of permanent allied military presence in Latvia. The brigade should reach its full operating capability in 2026.
- In 2024 the NATO eFP battle group in Latvia consists of 11 countries: Albania, Czech Republic, Iceland, Italy, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Canada – the battle group's leading country in Latvia.
- In 2024, the number of NATO eFP soldiers in Latvia is around 1900.

## STRENGTHENING LATVIA'S DEFENCE

- 2024 marks seven years during which the NATO eFP battle group's member states and their soldiers have facilitated and strengthened the security of the Latvian people.
- On a daily basis, NATO eFP soldiers participate in a joint military exercises together with the National Armed Forces of Latvia, therefore improving interoperability with Allies in order to meet the challenges of the security environment.



