

## Foreword

The Ministry of Defence Development Plan 2022–2025 describes the development objectives for military national defence and the resources required to achieve those objectives. Preparation of the Development Plan is based on the National Defence Development Plan 2017-2026, the military advice of the Commander of the Defence Forces given during the preparation of the National Defence Development Plan 2021–2030, and NATO's capability targets.

The four-year Ministry of Defence Development Plan ensures that the achievement of the goals set in the National Defence Development Plan take place within the planned time frame. The focus of national defence investments continues to be on actually manned and assembled combat-capable units, which are ready, on the basis of a reliable early warning, to respond to a threat together with our Allies with the shortest possible advance notice. The new Development Plan completes the developments started in the previous Development Plan (2021–2024) and adds new ones.

### **The main developments of the period are as follows:**

- replacement of armaments – arrival of new small arms, machine guns, anti-tank systems, anti-tank rocket propelled grenade launchers, sniper rifles, and mortars;
- the implementation of self-propelled artillery, naval mines and a coastal defence system;
- in addition to a number of already fully equipped units, Combat Service Support Battalions, Combat Engineering Battalions and a Military Police company will be fully equipped within the full extent of this Development Plan;
- reorganization of the territorial defence structure will begin;
- additional means of transport will be purchased;
- the command capabilities of the Defence Forces will be significantly developed, situational awareness will be improved, including with regard to NATO-interoperable maritime surveillance, and a tactical communication system will be developed, in order to improve the ability to cooperate with our Allies;
- the level of personal protection for soldiers will be improved (flak jackets and body armour, night vision equipment, decontamination equipment);
- laser simulation equipment, which allows for units at the company-level to train realistically and efficiently under restricted training conditions, will be acquired, and other simulation systems, which allow for training to be done in a more cost-efficient and time-saving manner, will be acquired;
- development of modular field hospital solution for both brigades will be completed; medical support will be ensured up to battalion level.

Continuous attention will be paid to ensuring adequate ammunition stocks. During the period 2022–2025 a total of EUR 135 million will be invested in ammunition, with an additional EUR 20 million per year being invested from the National Defence Investment Programme. In addition, the United States will be providing significant support for the replenishment of wartime munitions.

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

In order to develop the areas of intelligence and early warning, investments in the activities of both military intelligence and the Estonian Foreign Intelligence Service will be made within the framework of this Development Plan.

### **The following are major infrastructure projects that will be implemented within the framework of the new Development Plan:**

- War and Disaster Medicine Centre and Battle School;
- Defence League infrastructure developments;
- Rahumäe infrastructure developments;
- Paldiski and Ämari catering complex;
- Ammunition depots;
- Modernization of the runway at Ämari Air Base;
- Guard Battalion barracks at Paldiski.

People are central to the development of military capabilities. Last year, the Defence Forces grew by 147 active servicemen to a total of 3655 active servicemen. In 2020, the average salary of active servicemen was 30% above the Estonian average salary – this level is also guaranteed for the period 2022–2025, to enable the fulfilment of recruitment objectives related to the development of military capabilities.

The annual operating support provided to the Defence League will reach EUR 44.1 million in 2025, to which procurements for territorial defence units will be added. The lower budget in 2024 and 2025 compared to previous years is related to infrastructure developments being moved up, where the infrastructure developments and amounts for 2024 and 2025 were brought forward to 2022 and 2023. We will continue under the principle that the equipment of territorial defence units formed on the basis of the Defence League will take place in a manner that is equivalent to units of the Defence Forces performing similar tasks. An increase in the contribution of the Defence League to territorial defence units will begin within the framework of the Development Plan.

In addition to the development of military defence, the Development Plan provides funds in the sum of EUR 800,000 for the promotion of research and development activity and innovation, as well as subsidies for Estonia's defence industry sector. The youth educational programme and support for national defence education in schools will continue. In addition to persons called up for conscript service, it is important to cut the number of drop-outs from conscript service. In 2020, the drop-out rate from conscript service fell to a record low of less than 6%.

The work of Estonia, Latvia and Denmark at Headquarters Multinational Division North will continue. Coordination of participation in and assistance to bilateral and multilateral cooperation projects and the co-financing of projects in support of Ukraine, Georgia, and Afghanistan will continue.

The Allied presence in Estonia will be bolstered through various cooperation initiatives. NATO enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battlegroup Estonia will continue at Tapa. The Battlegroup is led by the United Kingdom, France and Denmark continue participating on a rotating basis.

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

NATO's Baltic Air Policing (BAP) will continue to operate from Ämari Air Base on a 365/24/7 basis. The NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU) organizes the reception, staging, onward movement and integration of Allied units on Estonian territory, but also supports and carries out training exercises for Allies.

Estonia will continue to participate in the international military operations led by NATO, the EU, the United Nations, the United States, and France, in Africa, the Middle East, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Mediterranean with an average of 116 servicemen per year. Up to 284 members of the Defence Forces are ready to participate in possible operations led by the United Nations, NATO, the EU or their member states (e.g. NATO Response Force (NRF) and the United Kingdom-led Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF)).

The four-year Development Plan of the Ministry of Defence ensures that the Defence Forces combat readiness continues to increase. We are taking an important step closer to achieving the goals set in the National Defence Development Plan 2017–2026, and collective defence and military cooperation will continue.