



# eFP Battle Group Latvia



LCol Sean French – Commanding Officer - January to July 2018



# eFP Battle Group Latvia



My favorite part about being here is just



# Situation: Friendly Forces



## 4 Multinational Battlegroups

### ESTONIA:

- United Kingdom
- Denmark
- Iceland

### LITHUANIA:

- Germany
- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- Iceland
- Luxembourg
- The Netherlands
- Norway

### LATVIA:

- Canada
- Albania
- Czech Republic
- Italy
- Poland
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain

### POLAND:

- United States
- Romania
- United Kingdom
- Croatia



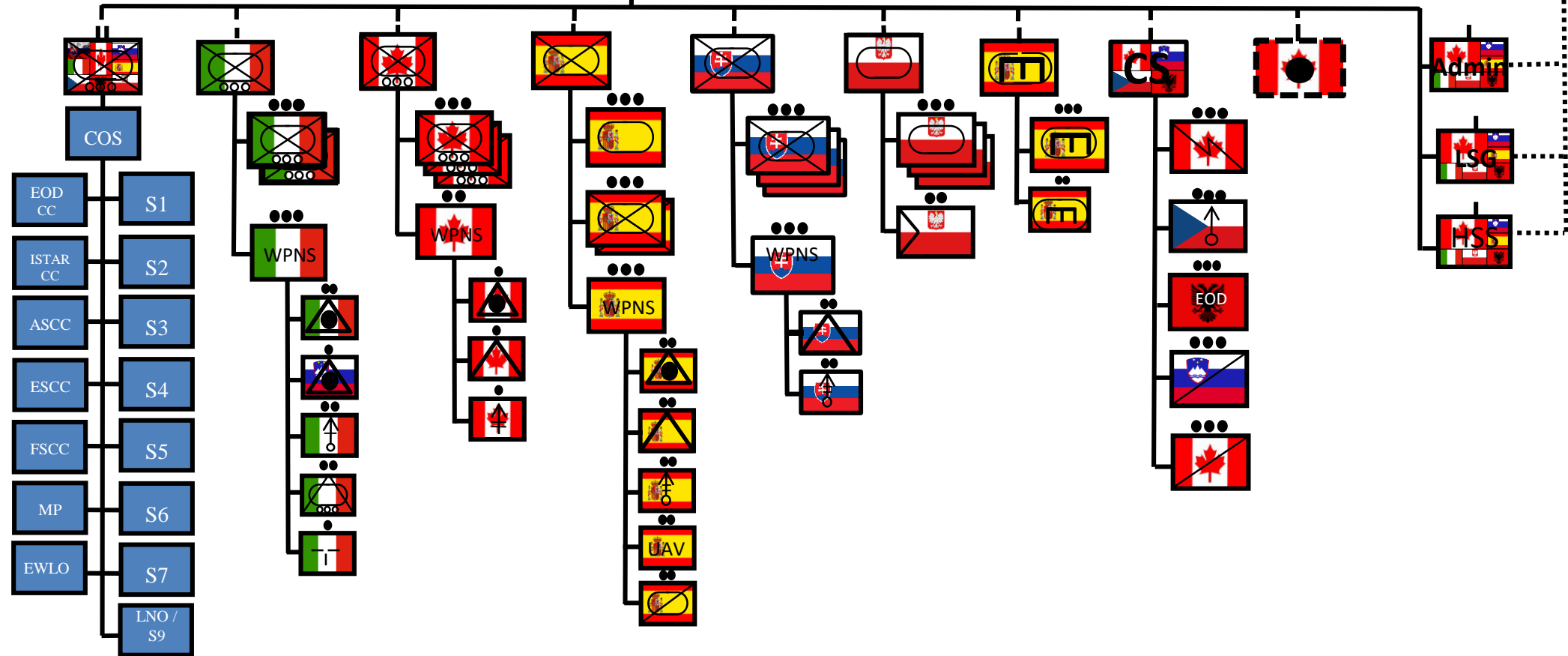
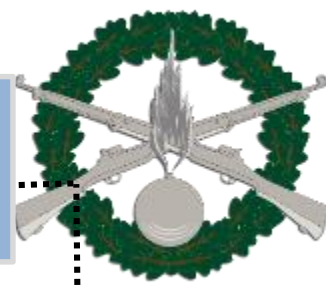
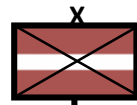
Valid as of 29 October 2018



# NATO Enhanced Forward Presence



# eFP BG ORBAT



Freccia

LAV 6.0 & Coyote

Pizarro

Leopardo 2

BMP2

PT-91

CEV (M113)

M777





# eFP BG LATVIA Conceptual Framework



DETER; IF NECESSARY, DEFEND – TO PREVENT CONFLICT

End State

Friendly COG

Objectives

Lines of Effort

Latvian territorial integrity maintained

LVA population trust and support in eFP BG secured

eFP BG cohesion maintained

Reputation of eFP BG intact

Credibility in Deterrence (will and capability)

Popular support of LVA population secured

BG capable of operating as a cohesive element with LVA and NATO forces

BG integrated into LVA Bde, HNBP and NATO Adv Planning

Alliance Support to eFP BG LVA Maintained

BG is perceived as capable and willing to defend by all audiences

Policies, practices, and mindset implemented to preserve combat power

## LOE 1 – Readiness

Efforts taken to enable the BG to effectively respond to adversarial actions

## LOE 2 – Interoperability

Efforts taken to improve the BG’s ability to operate together and with other LVA and NATO forces

## LOE 3 – Stratcom/Presence

Actions taken to increase awareness and sp for the eFP BG within LVA, and demonstrate the BG’s will and capability to adversarial forces

## LOE 4 – Force Protection

Actions taken to preserve combat power and harden Pers, Infra, eqpt and EEfIs against adversarial exploitation

SN OPCON FOR

Posture Management • Situational Awareness • StratCom



# Exercise Overview



## eFP BG Exercises: 9

- CLAYMORE GUNNER – Artillery Ex (Adazi)
- CLAYMORE FORGED – Final Integration Ex (Adazi)
- CLAYMORE SOARING – Airmobile (Meza Mackevici)
- CLAYMORE KNOCKING – Urban Ops Ex (Skrunda)

## LVA MBde Exercises: 7

- Focused Primarily on Plans/Map exercises
- Ex SABER STRIKE – Force on force in West of Latvia
- EX SABER KNIGHT – LVA Bde Combat Readiness

## LVA BN Exercises: 7

- Combined Training
- CSS Training
- Urban Ops

## Latvian Zemessardze Exercises: 4

- Supporting exercises as augmentees or enemy force

## Flanking eFP BG Exercises: 7

- Ex Hunter – Anti-Armour Ex (Lithuania)
- EPA/SERE Trng – Escape and Evasion (Estonia)
- Ex HEDGEHOG – OPFOR (Estonia/Latvia)

## Other Training Events: 6

- JTAC Ground School
- Sniper Challenge
- Shooting competitions
- Skills challenges
- Anti-Armour Concentration

## Sports/Fitness Events: 12

- Bde Run
- Powerlifting Competition
- Functional Fitness Competition
- Wolf's Trail Run, POL Flag Run
- Sports Tournaments





# Engagements Overview



Since 15 Jan 18 to 13 Jul 18

- **55** - Visits conducted
- **56** - Engagements attended
- **75** - Outreach Activities (Olympic Hockey, 12 Strong Film, School Visits, Eight Stars)

Visits Highlights Include:

- LVA Prime Minister and Cabinet
- CAN Prime Minister
- POL President
- Governor General of Canada
- NATO Deputy Secretary General
- LVA, ALB, POL & CAN MFA
- LVA, POL, & CAN MoD
- US Senate Committee
- Special Assistant to the POTUS
- Ambassador's to NATO from eFP BG Latvia Nations
- Ambassador's to Latvia from 14 NATO Nations
- SACEUR, SHAPE SM
- CHOD (Latvia, Canada, Poland, Estonia, Lithuanian, Albanian)
- Commander JFCBS & COS Plans
- Army Comds (España, Finland and Canada)
- Comd Joint Operations España
- Surgeon General NATO
- eFP Latvia MRs & NMRs to SHAPE
- SVN Ambassador to Poland and the Baltic States
- German Gen Staff Academy, US Air War College, Baltic Defense College, ESP Staff College





# A Day's Work - 5 April 2018



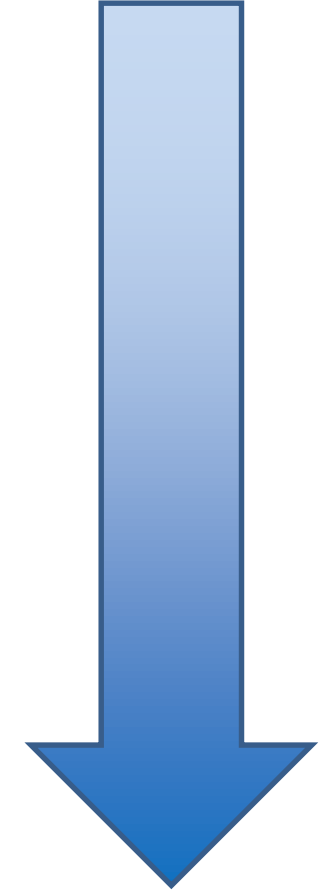




# Russian Narrative to Date



- A focus on misrepresenting Latvian/Baltic history
- Claims of Nazism/Facism (“Blue Division”)
- Poor behavior of eFP members
- eFP/NATO poses an offensive threat
- Misspent funds by LVA/NATO nations in LVA
- Trending to *slightly* distorted “facts”
- Very limited during 2<sup>nd</sup> Rotation



So what? Other priorities or limited success?



# 5 Things We Have Done



1. No crimes (major or otherwise)
2. Trust Maintained
3. Multi-National Cohesion Enhanced
4. Behaved Professional
5. Readiness Mandate Reinforced



## 5 Things We Will Not Do (Paths to Mission Failure)



1. Major crimes, specifically those of a sexual nature
2. Loss of trust, particularly through a lack of transparency or dishonesty
3. Break of cohesion (multi-national)
4. Unprofessional behaviour
5. Violation of readiness mandate



# Successes



- Integration of 6 nations into 1 MN Battle Group;  
(and we prepared for 2 more)
  - Standing Operating Procedures
  - Indirect Fire
  - Some Combat Service Support
- Integration into the Latvian MBde w the Zemms Bdes
- Integration into National Defense Plan
- Cross-Baltic training & interaction
- Re-gaining skills in large-scale conventional warfighting – particularly defensive operations
- Outreach



# Strategic vs Tactical Deterrence



1. Defining Deterrence.
2. BG ability to act in “grey area”.
3. Reliable partner for Latvia.
4. Increasing MN BG integration. NATO activity versus operation.
5. Media exposure. Passive not sufficient, must be active.

**Ndonje pyetje?**

**Any questions?**

**Domande?**

**Jautājumi?**

**Czy sa jakies pytania?**

**Máte nejaké otázky?**

**Kakšna vprašanja?**

**Alguna pregunta?**

**Máte nějaké dotazy?**

