

Baltic Defense Cooperation

The history has proven that in the domain of security, the three Baltic countries cannot be separated. With those lessons learnt, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania extended and deepened their defense cooperation along with the build-up of their national armed forces. The joint undertakings were a useful exercise to increase future interoperability also within a broader group of nations - NATO.

BALTBAT, BALTRON, BALTNET and BALTDEFCOL - the four most thoroughly examined projects

Since the mid-nineties, the three countries have developed a number of joint military projects. The first and most significant are BALTBAT, BALTRON, BALTNET and BALTDEFCOL. The official language of the projects is English. They have been tested on number of occasions in relation with NATO policies and operations.

Baltic Battalion (BALTBAT)

The formation of BALTBAT, a tri-national peacekeeping unit, started in late 1994. Today, it is a combined infantry battalion, capable of participating in peacekeeping operations and contributing to regional security. Latvia is the host nation of BALTBAT.

BALTBAT has extensive experience in peace operations in the Balkans. Since 1998, BALTBAT has participated in operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina with its own contingent at company level.

Baltic Naval Squadron (BALTRON)

The Joint Baltic Naval Squadron was established in 1997 to develop the capabilities of the Baltic Naval Forces. It co-ordinates their efforts in implementation of various naval tasks, but first and foremost, conducts mine clearance activities and search and rescue operations in the Baltic Sea, and makes the Baltic Navies compatible with relevant NATO standards. BALTRON HQ is located in Estonia.

As personnel training is an important element for further development of the BALTRON the Baltic States Divers Training Center was opened in September 2001 in Liepāja, Latvia. In addition, a Mine Countermeasures Training Center and the Baltic States Mine Countermeasures Equipment Repair Center have been established in Liepāja.

BALTRON already participates in mine clearance operations in the Baltic Sea and has destroyed a considerable number of mines and other explosive materials.



Tactical Trainer exercises in BALTDEFCOL, 2002 /Photo: BALTDEFCOL/



Baltic Battalion participating at the International Training "Baltic Eagle 2002", 16.09.2002 /Photo "Baltic Eagle 02"/