



Nacionālie bruņotie spēki

*National Armed Forces of the Republic of Latvia*

NACIONĀLO BRUŅOTO SPĒKU KOMANDIERIS  
CHIEF OF DEFENCE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

Krustabaznīcas iela 9, Rīga, LV-1006, Latvia, phone +371 67213718, fax +371 67331021  
e-mail nafhqcs@mil.lv, www.mil.lv

No. 2/VN/452

20 June 2024

*Dear Martin*

**Dear General Martin Herem,**

As you prepare to embark on your well-deserved retirement, I wanted to take a moment to extend my heartfelt thanks for all the amazing times, the exceptional cooperation and camaraderie we have shared over the years. Your steadfast dedication to strengthening regional security has been invaluable, particularly given our unique position next to our ever-watchful neighbour, Russia. Through our close cooperation, we have significantly bolstered our collective defence capabilities and enhanced our readiness to face any challenges that may come our way.

What stands out most to me is not only the formal collaborations that have yielded impressive results but also the numerous informal events where our bonds have been further solidified. I still recall with a smile some of our more "creative" team-building exercises and the many laughs we've shared over the inspiring discussions. It's these moments that have truly underscored the depth of our friendship and the strength of our partnership.

Thank you, Martin, for your friendship, unwavering support and for the many memorable moments we've shared. May your retirement be as rewarding and fulfilling as your illustrious career has been.

**Lieutenant General Leonīds Kalniņš**

**General Martin Herem  
Chief of Defence  
Republic of Estonia**