



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
DEFENCE FORCES

Brigadier General Alvydas Šiuparis
Commandant
Baltic Defence College
Riia 12, 51010
Tartu

25.02.2026 No 3.5-1/26/130

Dear Alvydas

Dear Commandant,

On behalf of the Estonian Defence Forces and myself, I extend my sincere congratulations to you and the entire Baltic Defence College community on the occasion of the College's anniversary.

Since its founding, the Baltic Defence College has stood as a cornerstone of Baltic military cooperation and a powerful symbol of our nations' shared commitment to security, professionalism and unity. For Estonia, the College holds a special place—not only as an institution located on our soil, but as a strategic centre of excellence that contributes directly to the strength and readiness of our officer corps and our Armed Forces.

The Baltic Defence College plays a vital role in the education and development of Estonian officers, preparing them to lead in an increasingly complex and demanding security environment. Its rigorous academic programs, multinational perspective, and emphasis on critical thinking ensure that our leaders are well equipped to operate effectively at the operational and strategic levels, both nationally and alongside our NATO Allies and international partners.

Beyond its educational mission, the College serves as a highly valued knowledge hub and intellectual centre for regional security. It fosters professional dialogue, advances military thought, and strengthens interoperability and mutual understanding among the Baltic states and our allies. Its contribution to enhancing regional defence cooperation and collective security cannot be overstated. Its continued success reflects the dedication, professionalism, and vision of its leadership, faculty, staff, and students.

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations on this important anniversary. I wish the Baltic Defence College all the success in educating and inspiring future military leaders and in strengthening the security of Estonia, the Baltic region, and our Alliance.

Respectfully,

Andrus Merilo
Lieutenant General
Commander of the Estonian Defence Forces