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Dec Martin,

Russia's attack on Ukraine and the resulting *Zeitenwende* (turning point in history) require a Bundeswehr capable of warfighting within a NATO taking resolute action. Every three years, NATO demonstrates with Exercise STEADFAST DEFENDER that it is capable of defending Alliance territory in an effective and decisive manner at any time. The entire exercise period for STEADFAST DEFENDER 2024 extends from mid-January to probably early July 2024.

In this context, the Federal Republic of Germany does not only play an important role as a hub and transit country for movements through and out of Germany due to its geographic location. It is also a force provider and exercise participant by means of the Bundeswehr.

In addition, the Bundeswehr actively contributes to NATO Exercise STEADFAST DEFENDER with its own QUADRIGA exercise cluster. QUADRIGA comprises our own exercise projects as well as participation in exercises conducted by other nations.

The main portion of QUADRIGA 2024 consists of several exercises conducted by the German Army, which will employ a total of approximately 13,500 military personnel. The focus here is on Exercise GRAND QUADRIGA in May 2024, in which a brigade will be deployed to Lithuania and conduct a full-strength exercise there.

In this context, I intend to conduct a **Distinguished Visitors Day** at the Pabrade training area in Lithuania on **29 May 2024**, to which I would like to draw your attention today and simultaneously already extend an invitation to you. It will serve to showcase the capabilities of our armed forces and multinational cooperation, among other things.

Detailed planning for the Distinguished Visitors Day has already begun. As soon as it has been completed, you will receive an official invitation with all the necessary information.

If you have any questions, please contact Staff Captain Richard Hastreiter and Ms Nicole Bank-Jaletzky (Tel.: +49 (0)30 2004-22 138 (StHptm R. Hastreiter) - 22 120 (N. Bank-Jaletzky) Mail: BMVgProtokollAnmeldungen@bmvg.bund.de) are at your disposal.

I hope that you will be able to attend, also in order to show the necessary support to the men and women of the Bundeswehr and to the armed forces of our partners as well as to emphasise NATO's resolve.

Carsten Breuer General