



Invitation: International Dismounted Soldier
29 October – 30 October 2024 | London, UK

29th April 2024

BG Andrus Merilo
Deputy Commander
Estonian Defence Forces

Invitation to Brief: International Dismounted Soldier 2024

I am writing to you as the Conference Producer of 3rd annual **International Dismounted Soldier (IDS)** which will be taking place at **The Copthorne Tara Hotel in London** on the **29-30th October 2024**. The event provides those in the Defence community with an interest in the Infantry's future to take a collaborative and practical look at the developmental opportunities provided by new technologies and organisation. In modern warfare, a dismounted soldier must overcome many obstacles, from demanding environments, physical endurance, and technological complexities.

I would be delighted to invite you to deliver a presentation at the event. The evolving modern battlespace alongside technologically-enabled dismounted close combat, underscores the critical timing of this year's conference. The conflict in Ukraine demonstrates a new reality: dismounted soldiers are increasingly involved in close combat, reminiscent of World War principles, but amplified by modern technologies. It is crucial to closely examine and discuss these circumstances to ascertain whether the dismounted soldier can be equipped effectively for seamless integration into the broader battlespace. The conference brings together military leaders, government as well as industry and academia; providing the perfect opportunity to engage in productive, face-to-face discussions with NATO allies, partners and friendly nations

Given your expertise, your leading perspectives on the current priorities of the Estonian Defence Forces, regarding readiness and equipping the dismounted soldier, would be a meaningful contribution to this event.

We hope that you will be able to deliver a **20-minute speech** on the Estonian Defence Forces activities. This will then be followed by a **10-minute Q&A session** which will allow the attendees to benefit from your expertise in these areas. As a speaker you are invited to attend the conference without any fees, and we also extend this courtesy to any members of your delegation that may be attending with you.

I look forward to hearing from you and I do hope you will be able to join us at *International Dismounted Soldier 2024*. A decision on participation is kindly requested by **3rd May 2024**. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly by email at sascha.pollock@defenceiq.com or via telephone at +44 (0) 2039896282

Yours sincerely,

Sascha Pollock

Producer, *International Dismounted Soldier 2024*

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