



The Finnish Army

Mikkeli 16 September, 2026

Major General Indrek Sirel
Estonian Division Commander

Dear General,
Indrek,

I am handing over command of the Finnish Army to LTG Kari Nisula on 31st December 2026.

I would be honored if you could join LTG Kari Nisula and me for the Change of Command ceremony in Mikkeli on the 15th December, and the Army seminar panel discussions at the Finnish National Defence University in Helsinki in the afternoon of 14th December 2026.

I am hosting the panel discussions on Land Operations in the Nordics and Eastern Flank Deterrence initiative (EFDI) at the Seminar. The main audience will be General Staff Officer course, but also other students and faculty will be there. We will apply Chatham house rule.

MG (ret) Matt van Wagenen gives the key note address and moderates panels. First panel will approach the topics from the NATO perspective. The second panel will approach the topics from national Army Chiefs' perspective.

I look very much forward to seeing you in December in Helsinki. Details for the two days will be provided closer to the event. I kindly ask you to arrive in Helsinki by 11:00 on 14th December. The Change of Command Ceremony will end by noon on the 15th December.

I kindly ask you to inform me about your possibilities to attend the events to assistant Minna Mattila (minna.mattila@mil.fi) NLT 1st November 2026. We will provide detailed administrative instructions to you closer to the events.


Very respectfully,


Pasi Välimäki
Lieutenant General
Commander of the Finnish Army

See you soon!

