



CHIEF OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Major General Andrus Merilo
Commander of the Estonian Defence Forces

July 2024

Dear General, *Dear Andrus,*

The term of the Chief of Defence of the Republic of Lithuania is a significant period dedicated to strengthening our nation's security and our valued partnership. After many years of service, including five years at the helm of the Lithuanian Armed Forces, the time has come for me to bid farewell to these esteemed duties and transition into a new chapter of my life.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to you and your spouse to participate at the official change of command ceremony of the Lithuanian Armed Forces on July 24th of this year at 18 o'clock at the Cathedral Square in Vilnius. After the ceremony, you are cordially invited for a glass of wine at the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania (Katedros sq. 4, Vilnius).

I would like to thank you for your personal presence and participation in the event dedicated to this special occasion.

Should your schedule permit and you would be willing to accept this invitation, I would kindly ask your staff to contact our point of contact Ms. Aistė Andziulevičiūtė at aiste.andziuleviciute@kam.lt to confirm your participation.

I avail myself of this opportunity to assure you of my highest personal consideration and very much look forward to seeing you in Lithuania.

Sincerely yours,

General Valdemaras Rupšys
Chief of Defence of the Republic of Lithuania