



# **The Canadian Military's transition from Poland to Latvia Summer 2017**

**Captain Lazlo Benak  
Public Affairs Officer  
Operation REASSURANCE**

**June 6, 2017**

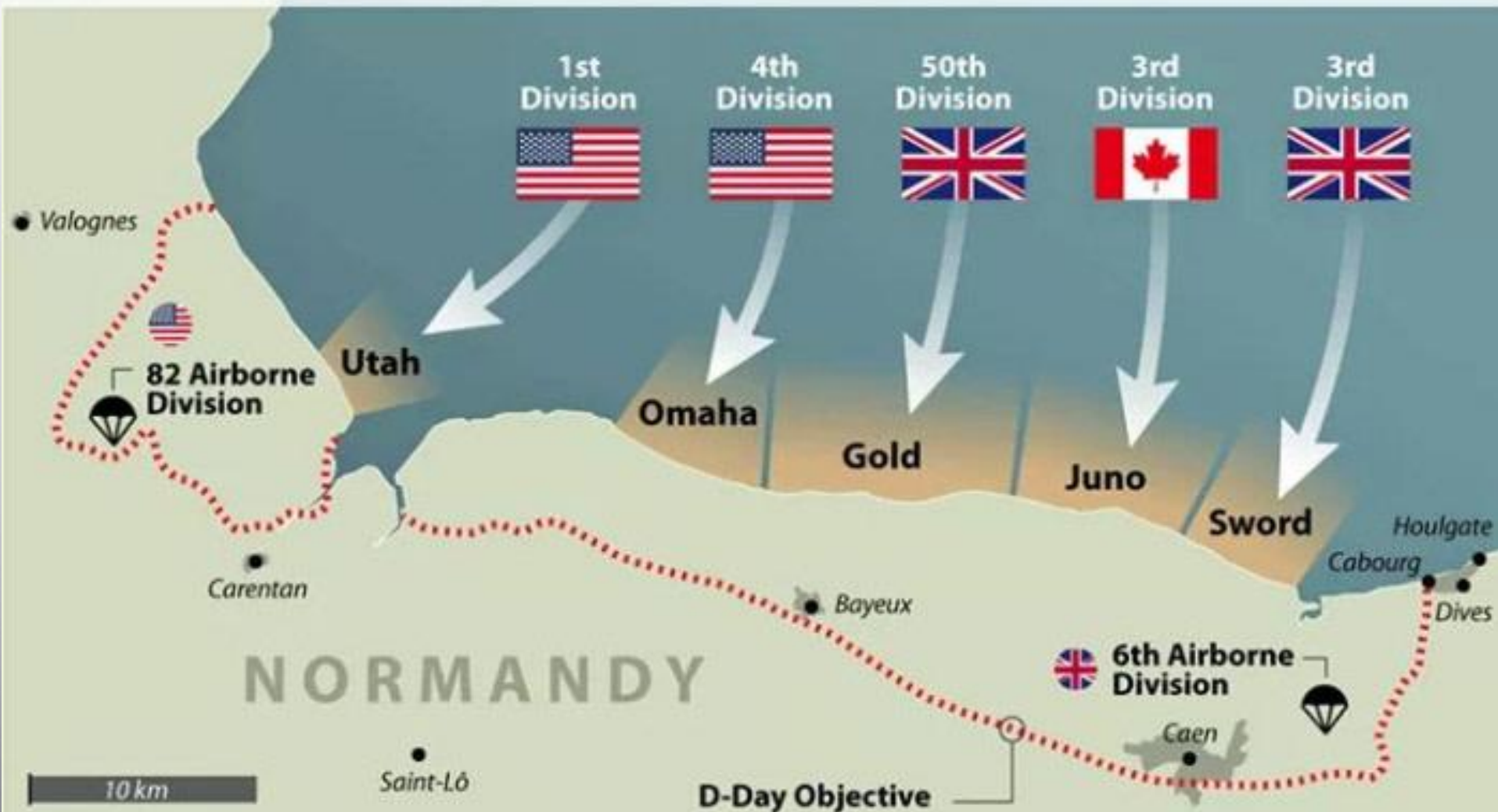


# JUNO Beach D-Day





## Normandy Landings June 6, 1944





# AIM







# Operation REASSURANCE

Are the military activities undertaken by the CAF to support NATO ***assurance and deterrence measures*** aimed to promote working alongside Allies in Central and Eastern Europe





# Background

1990



2009







# Timeline

- **2014**
  - March – Russian Military intervention
  - NATO implements series of military measures
  - CAF deploys Platoon Land Task Force to Poland
- **2015**
  - CAF deploys Company Group Land Task Force





# Timeline

- **2016**
  - I deploy in August with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
- **2017**
  - Transition to Latvia







# Composition

## Land Task Force



Canadian Company Group  
(220 personnel) in continental  
Europe

## Maritime Task Force

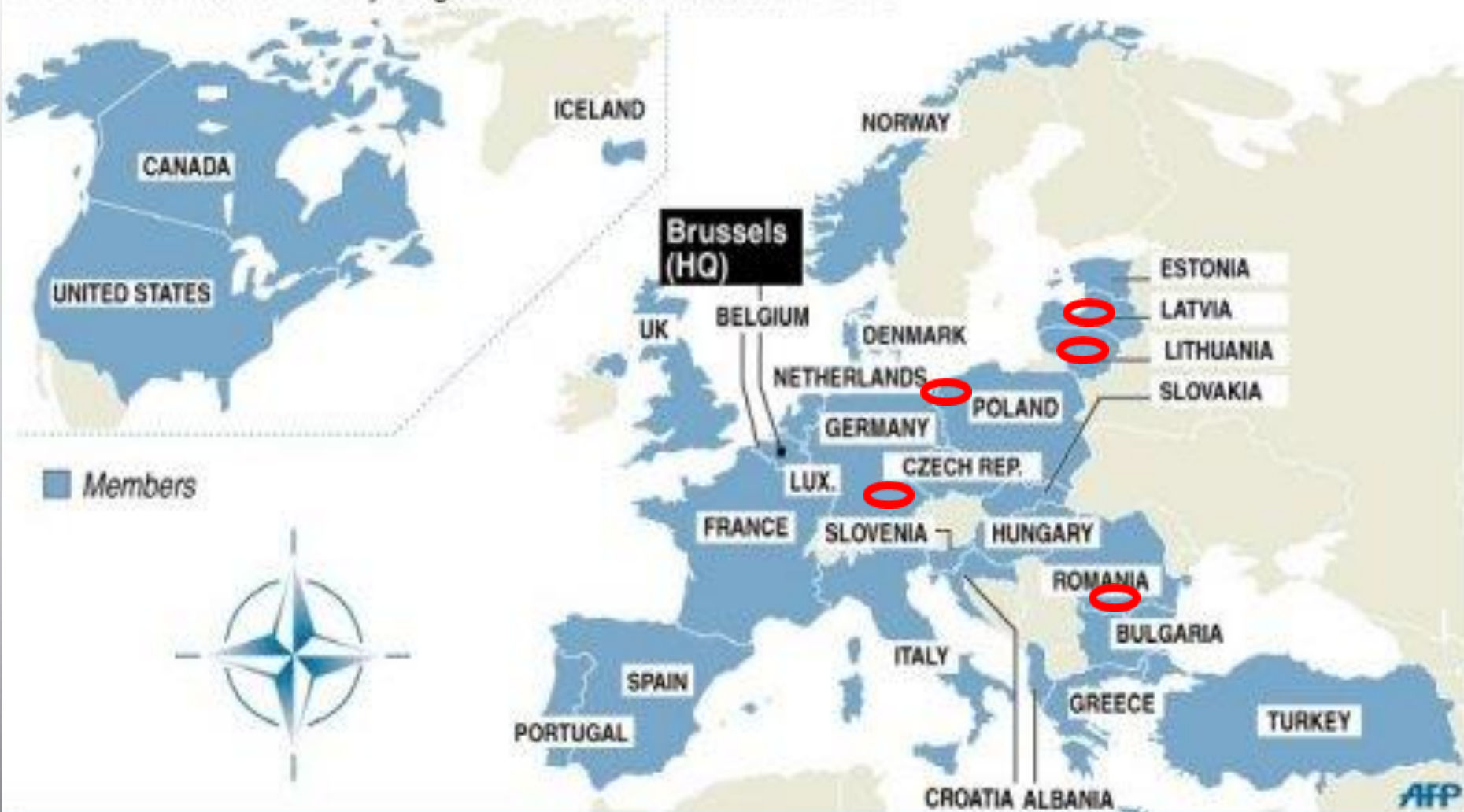


A Canadian frigate in the  
Mediterranean Sea



# NATO's 28 member countries

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was created in 1949





# Broad Challenges

- Language
  - English and French are the official languages of NATO but there are **40** different recognized languages among NATO countries
- Cultural
  - Food
- Operational
  - 6-month rotations
- Security
  - Espionage / Cyber threats







# Observations (at the tactical level)

- Morale among NATO soldiers is high
  - Close camaraderie in the field
  - Learning lessons from each other
- No anxiety regarding Russia
  - Aggression talk is at political level
  - Public goes about its business as usual





# Observations (at the tactical level)

- Training is excellent
  - Cannot be duplicated in North America
  - Large-scale exercises (multiple nations)
  - Thousands of troops
- Soldier psyche
  - Turning “On and Off”
  - Sense of meaning







# Latvia


**TV RADIO NEWS SPORTS MUSIC LIFE ARTS LOCAL MORE**

---

**CBCnews | Politics**

---

[Home](#)
[Opinion](#)
[World](#)
[Canada](#)
[Politics](#)
[Business](#)
[Health](#)
[Entertainment](#)
[Technology & Science](#)
[Video](#)

---

[Politics](#)
[Photo Galleries](#)
[CBC SecureDrop](#)


**TV RADIO NEWS SPORTS MUSIC LIFE ARTS LOCAL MORE**

---

**CBCnews | Politics**

---

[Home](#)
[Opinion](#)
[World](#)
[Canada](#)
[Politics](#)
[Business](#)
[Health](#)
[Entertainment](#)
[Technology & Science](#)
[Video](#)

---

[Politics](#)
[Photo Galleries](#)
[CBC SecureDrop](#)

## Canadians in Latvia to keep calm and carry on in face of massive Russian military exercise

'You cannot feel safe,' Latvian ambassador says about Russian military exercise on Baltic border

By Murray Brewster, CBC News | Posted: May 12, 2017 5:00 AM ET | Last Updated: May 12, 2017 5:00 AM ET



Russian soldiers march during a rehearsal for the Victory Day military parade in St. Petersburg, Russia, last week. Russian troops will take part in a massive exercise on the border of the Baltic states this summer as Canadian troops deploy for a NATO mission. (Dmitri Lovetsky/Associated Press)

0 shares



The Canadian military is taking a wait-and-see approach to a massive Russian military exercise scheduled to take place on the border of the Baltic states this summer — but the country it's being asked to protect is decidedly more nervous.

**SUN+ SUBSCRIBERS GET FULL ACCESS**

## Canadian troops to find permanent home in Latvia to deter Russian aggression

BY JURIS GRANAY

FIRST POSTED: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2017 01:57 PM MST | UPDATED: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2017 02:05 PM MST



Canadian troops will be permanent stationed in Europe starting this first time since the end of the Cold War as a deterrent against Russian aggression.

Led by the Edmonton-based 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, a contingent of about 450 Canadian troops headquartered at the Adazi military complex, about 30 kilometres north of the tiny Baltic country's capital of Riga.

From there Canada will lead a battalion between 1,200 to 1,500 soldiers from Albania, Italy, Poland, Slovenia and as part of NATO's latest operation, Enhanced Forward Presence.

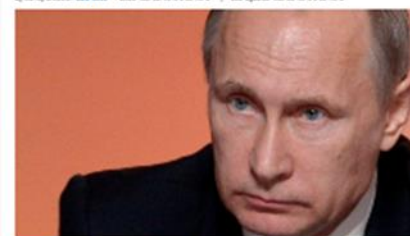
Some 4,000 soldiers are being deployed from four multinational battle groups in Poland, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia to complement and bolster each host nation's military capabilities and building interoperability.

Canada's contribution will be made up of 3rd Canadian Division troops previously destined for the Drawsko Pomorskie training area in northwestern Poland as part of Operation Reassurance, which began in 2014.

The void left by Canada's departure from

## Liberals commit almost \$350 million for Latvia mission to deter Russian aggression

Funding commitment for NATO deployment of troops and armoured vehicles running at least until 2020



Commenting on the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the deployment of troops and armoured vehicles to Latvia in the new year (The Associated Press).

1 share









The Trudeau government has set aside \$350 million over the next three years for the deployment of a Canadian battle group in the Baltic States and ongoing air and sea patrols to counter the threat of Russian aggression on Europe's eastern flank.

The Liberals have also renewed funding to support security forces and development assistance in Afghanistan until 2021.

How much of the \$350 million will be spent to prop up Afghan army and police units and how much has been earmarked for other and capacity building is not clear.

The figures were released this week as part of Finance Minister Bill Morneau's fiscal update and are measures that have come up since the federal budget was tabled last spring.

• French attacks help propel Canada to NATO front line  
 • It's not your grandfather's Cold War, officials insist

Last summer, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed Canada to leading one of NATO's four high-readiness, multi-national battalions that will be positioned along the Russian border.

As many as 4,000 troops, armoured vehicles and a headquarters contingent are slated to deploy to Latvia in the new year. The Canadians will be joined in their sector by Italian, Albanian, Polish and Slovenian forces.

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan visited the Latvian capital of Riga at the end of October to meet officials and to see the airbase where Canadian troops will be stationed.

### Reassurance after Ukraine

The former Conservative government, in response to Russia's annexation

Stay Connected with CBC News






OTTA MONTRÉAL UP TO 12:15 DEPART

**BOOK**

**CBCnews**

### Politics

Subscribe and get the latest news and analysis from the CBC. It's been delivered to your inbox, weekday afternoons.

Email Address

**SUBSCRIBE**

**Top News Timeline**

- Venezuela: U.S. military officials say the country is on
- Conflicting accounts of Haiti's political situation
- Czech for opening signs the economy is on

Around 100 soldiers from 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group depart from the International Airport Wednesday, February 22, 2017 to be deployed to Poland for six months as part of Operation Reassurance to support NATO. Ed Kaiser/Postmedia





# A Return?

Canadian Forces Europe in West Germany from 1957-1993

No. 1 Air Division

4 Canadian  
Mechanized  
Brigade Group





## 4 Multinational Battlegroups

### ESTONIA:

United Kingdom  
Denmark (as of 2018)  
France

### LITHUANIA:

Germany  
Belgium  
Croatia (as of 2018)  
Czech Republic (as of 2018)  
France (as of 2018)  
Luxembourg  
The Netherlands  
Norway

### LATVIA:

Canada  
Albania  
Italy  
Poland  
Slovenia  
Spain

### POLAND:

United States  
Romania  
United Kingdom

Framework Nation

Contributing Nation

Valid as of 14 March 2017





# Additional Assets

## Maritime Task Force

- One Royal Canadian Navy Frigate



## Air Task Force

- Six CF-18s policing in Iceland and Romania







# Near future

- ***No major change as we will still:***
  - Carry on conducting large-scale military exercises
  - Work with Allies to hone our collective skills
- The current mandate of Operation REASSURANCE expires on March 31, 2019





# Q&A

