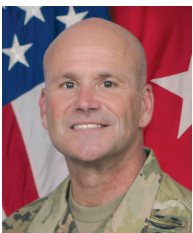


ABCD 2020 Strengthening Baltic Societal Resilience and Military Defence

Christopher G. Cavoli

Commanding General U.S. Army Europe

Twitter: @USArmyEurope



Lieutenant General Christopher G. Cavoli assumed command of U.S. Army Europe in January 2018. Prior to this he commanded the 25th Infantry Division (2016-2018); the 7th Army Training Command (2014-2016); the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division and the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment. He has also served as the Deputy Commander of Regional Command West in Herat, Afghanistan, and as the Deputy Commanding General for Operations at the 82nd Airborne Division. His staff experience includes service as the Director for Russia on the Joint Staff; Deputy Executive Assistant for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Director of the Chief of Staff of the Army's Coordination Group. Lieutenant General Cavoli speaks Italian, Russian and French.

María Elena Gómez Castro

Director General of Defence Policy, Ministry of Defence of Spain

Twitter: @Defensagob



María Elena Gómez Castro has been the Director General of Defence Policy since March 2017. She is responsible for Defence Policy, NATO, EU, UN and OSCE matters and coordination of crisis situations with civil departments. Prior to this, she was the Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain in the North Atlantic Council. From 2011 to 2016 she was the Deputy DG for the General Directorate of Foreign Policy and Multilateral, Global and Security Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has been responsible for EU-NATO relations as the Seconded National Expert for the DGE VIII to the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, and earlier, Counsellor at the Permanent Representation to the EU. She has been Deputy Head of Mission in the Embassies of Spain in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire).

João Gomes Cravinho

Minister of National Defence of Portugal

Twitter: @JoaoCravinho



H.E. Prof. João Gomes Cravinho has been the Minister of National Defence of Portugal since October 2018. Prior to this he served as European Union Ambassador to Brazil, having previously held the same position in India between December 2011 and July 2015. Between March 2005 and June 2011, he was Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. João Gomes Cravinho holds a doctorate in Politics from the University of Oxford (1996) and a Master's degree in Politics of the World Economy from the London School of Economics (1987). In April 2017 he attended the Harvard Business School's Leadership for Senior Executives Programme. He has been a lecturer on International Relations at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Coimbra.

Sarah Alexandra George

Army Reserve, United Kingdom

Twitter: @s_a_george



Lieutenant Sarah Alexandra George is a commissioned officer in the British Army Reserve. After commissioning, she undertook full time reserve service, seconded to different areas including Ex SAIF SAREEA in Oman; Field Army Headquarters and Op MORLOP (the military response to the Salisbury Novichok attacks). The latter sparked her interest in CBRN and arms control matters: a qualified CBRN Defence Advisor, she has taken part in UN75 dialogues on nuclear issues as well as contributing to the UK Integrated Review as a 'future leader'. She has completed a Master's in Conflict Resolution at King's College London, with her thesis focusing on Russia's neighbourhood policy towards Georgia and Ukraine. She is part of the UK Presidency team for the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) and is currently working for Women in Defence.

The Baroness Goldie DL

Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom

Twitter: @DefenceHQ



Baroness Goldie is a Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence having been appointed in July 2019. She was a Baroness in Waiting and Government Whip in the House of Lords for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Exiting the European Union and the Ministry of Defence from July 2016 to July 2019. Baroness Goldie joined the House of Lords in October 2013. She was a Scottish Conservative Member of the Scottish Parliament for the West of Scotland Region from 1999 until 2016 and she was the Leader of the Scottish Conservative Party from 2005 until 2011. Baroness Goldie was a solicitor and partner with Glasgow law firm Donaldson, Alexander, Russell & Haddow from 1978 to 2006. She is an Elder in the Church of Scotland and sits on the West of Scotland Advisory Board of the Salvation Army.

Erik Gustavson

Secretary General of the Norwegian Reserve Officers' Association



Lieutenant General (Retired) Erik Gustavson has been the Secretary General of the Norwegian Reserve Officers' Association since September 2019. Prior to this, he was Chief of the Norwegian Defence Staff (2014-2019), ACOS Operations Division in the Defence Staff (2010-2014) and Senior National Representative Norway/Chief Norwegian Liaison Team to US Central Command in Tampa USA (2009-2010). General Gustavson's background is in Ground Based Air Defence and, most notably, he has served as Chief of Staff/Air Force Staff (2005-2009), Inspector of Ground Based Air Defence (2002-2003) and on many positions in various tactical units gaining experience on the NIKE-system, the L-70 AAA Gun system, the Norwegian Adapted Hawk (NOAH) and the Norwegian Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS). He joined the military in 1978.

Tomas Jermalavičius

Head of Studies / Research Fellow, ICDS

Twitter: @ICDS_Tallinn



Tomas Jermalavičius is Head of Studies at the International Centre for Defence and Security. Since 2017, he also has been a visiting professor at the Natolin Campus of the College of Europe in Warsaw, teaching a course on terrorism and hybrid warfare to post-graduate students. Prior to joining ICDS at the end of 2008, he worked at the Baltic Defence College (BALTDEFCOL), first as deputy director of the College's Institute of Defence Studies (2001-2004), and later as dean of the college (2005-2008). At BALTDEFCOL, he lectured and published articles on strategy, military theory, defence policy and civil-military relations. In 1998-2001 and in 2005, he worked at the Defence Policy and Planning Department of the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence, including as the department's deputy director.

Kersti Kaljulaid

President of Estonia

Twitter: @KerstiKaljulaid



Kersti Kaljulaid has, since 10 October 2016, been the fifth and current President of Estonia. She is a former state official, serving as Estonia's representative in the European Court of Auditors from 2004 until 2016. In the 1990s she worked in various Estonian companies: first, as the sales manager of telephone switchboards in Eesti Telefon, later in Hoiupank Markets and Hansapank Markets as an associate in investment banking. From 1999 to 2002, she was Prime Minister Mart Laar's Economic Advisor. In addition, she was a member of the Supervisory Board of the Estonian Genome Center from 2001 to 2004. She was also a member of the Advisory Board of the University of Tartu from 2009 to 2011 and the Council Chair of the University of Tartu from 2012 to 2016.

Janne Kuusela

Defence Policy Director, Ministry of Defence of Finland

Twitter: @jtkuusela



Janne Kuusela serves as Defence Policy Director and Deputy Director General of the Defence Policy Department of the Ministry of Defence of Finland. The Department oversees defence policy and general national defence capability development, defence research, military crisis management and peace support operations as well as arms control. He has had a long and committed career with the Finnish Ministry of Defence, where he has led the Ministry's Corporate Planning Unit (2012-2016) and worked as Ministerial Adviser (1999-2006, 2009-2012). He has also been Defence Counsellor in the Finnish Mission to NATO HQ (2006-2009).

Brigadier The Rt Hon The Lord Lancaster

Chair of the UK Reserve Forces 2030 Review, serving Reservist Brigadier and former Minister of State for the Armed Forces, United Kingdom

Twitter: @MarkLancasterMK



Mark Lancaster is the Chairman of the 2030 Reserve Forces review looking in particular at getting greater utility from the Reserve in both Defence tasks as well as across wider UK Government and society. A serving member of the Army Reserve for 32 years, an EOD operator by background he has seen active service in Kosovo, Bosnia and Afghanistan. He was a Member of Parliament between 2005-2019, serving as a Defence Minister between 2015-2019. In September 2020 he was appointed to the House of Lords.

Jan-Olof Lind

State Secretary to the Minister of Defence of Sweden

Twitter: @ForsvarsdepSv



Jan-Olof Lind has been State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Sweden since 2019 responsible for planning and coordinating the work of the ministry. He has had a long and distinguished career at the Swedish Defence Research Agency where he first served as Acting Director-General and Deputy Director-General 2007-2009 and then as Director-General 2010-2018. Prior to this he worked as Acting Director-General of the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration and National Armaments Director (2003-2007). He has also worked as Commissioner in the Government Commission on future capabilities for military helicopters (2009-2010) and as chair of the Research & Technology Directors at the European Defence Agency (2008-2015).

Jüri Luik

Minister of Defence of Estonia

Twitter: @MoD_Estonia



Jüri Luik was appointed Minister of Defence of Estonia in 2019. His appointment marked his fourth term as the Minister of Defence (he previously served in 1993-1994, 1999-2002, and 2017-2019). Before assuming the position as Minister of Defence in 2017, he worked as the Director of the International Centre for Defence and Security (ICDS) from 2015-2017. He has also served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Estonia (1994-1995) as well as Ambassador to Brussels (1996-1999), Washington (2003-2007), NATO (2007-2012), and Moscow (2012-2015). Luik is a valued expert on defence and security policy and a graduate of the University of Tartu.

John Manza

NATO Assistant Secretary General



Dr. John Manza has been Assistant Secretary General for Operations since 2018, responsible for NATO's operations, Alliance exercises, plans, and defence capacity building with partner nations. In 2017, he served as the NATO Senior Civilian in Iraq, where he coordinated Alliance training and capacity building activities. In July 2016 he was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Operations after having served at Pentagon, as the Director of NATO Policy. From October 2012 to July 2015 he was Deputy NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan. From 2009 he worked as a Country Director in the Afghanistan policy office and later as the Afghanistan Team Leader in the NATO policy office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He was commissioned in 1986 as a Marine infantry officer and served for 20 years in the US Marine Corps.

Veiko-Vello Palm

Chief of the Headquarters of the Estonian Defence Forces

Twitter: @Kaitsevagi



Brigadier General Veiko-Vello Palm has been the Chief of the Headquarters of the Estonian Defence Forces since December 2018. Before this appointment, he was Deputy Chief of the Headquarters and prior to this he served as Commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade (2015-2018). From 2012 to 2015 he was the Director of the Defence Planning Department in the Estonian Ministry of Defence after having served in the Headquarters NATO Multinational Corps Northeast as a staff officer in the G3 branch (2009-2011). He has also served in various positions in the Army Headquarters and in the Headquarters of the Estonian Defence Forces, and on the company and platoon levels since he started his military career as a conscript in 1992.

Lena Persson Herlitz

Head of Policy and Plans Department, Swedish Armed Forces Headquarters



Major General Lena Persson Herlitz has been the Head of the Policy and Plans Department since 10 September 2020 after having served as the Deputy Head of the same department. She has been Head of Recruitment at the Training and Development Department of the Swedish Armed Forces HQ (2017-2018) and worked as a Military Advisor at the Ministry of Defence (2015-2016). She has served twice in Afghanistan (2007 and 2012), in Kosovo (2010) and in Bosnia (1997-1998). Major General Herlitz has also served at the Swedish Armed Forces Intelligence and Military Security Directorate and has a background in the 4th Marine Regiment where she started her career in 1991.

Jüri Ratas

Prime Minister of Estonia

Twitter: @ratasjuri



Prime Minister Jüri Ratas has served as the head of the Government of the Republic of Estonia since 23 November 2016. He is the leader of the Estonian Centre Party. Between 2007 and 2016 he was a member of the Estonian parliament (the Riigikogu) at the same time holding the position of the Vice-President of Riigikogu. Between 2005 and 2007 he was the Mayor of Tallinn having served as the Deputy Mayor of Tallinn from 2003 until 2005. He was elected to the Tallinn City Council in 2005, 2009 and 2013.

Sven Sakkov

Director of the International Centre for Defence and Security (ICDS)

Twitter: @sakkov



Sven Sakkov has been the director of ICDS since 2017. Before joining the centre he served for two years as the director of the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, an international knowledge hub specialising in research, training and exercises in the areas of technology, strategy, operations and law. From 2008-2015 he served as Undersecretary for Defence Policy (policy director) of the Ministry of Defence of Estonia. He was also Estonia's representative to the NATO's Senior Officials' Group and High-Level Group. He has served at the Estonian Embassy in Washington D.C. and the Estonian Mission to NATO, as national security and defence advisor to the President of Estonia and as the Director of Policy Planning of the MoD. He has been designated to become the next Estonian Ambassador to the Republic of Finland.

Margarita Šešelgytė

Director of the Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University

Twitter: @SeselgyteM



Dr. Margarita Šešelgytė is the Director of the Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University. Her main research interests include security and defence studies, strategic cultures, small states studies, European Union Security and Defence Policy, European Union Eastern Partnership Policy, and regional security cooperation. For a number of years Margarita Šešelgytė was Studies Director of the same Institute. She has also worked for the Baltic Defence College (Tartu, Estonia), the Lithuanian Military Academy, and had several civil servant positions at governmental institutions of the Republic of Lithuania. She has a PhD in Political Science from Vilnius University.

Vaidotas Urbelis

Twitter: @vaidasu

Defence Policy Director, Ministry of National Defence of Lithuania



Dr. Vaidotas Urbelis serves as Defence Policy Director at the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania. Prior to taking this position, he worked as Defence Adviser at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington D.C. from 2017 to 2020. He also served as Defence Policy Director at the Ministry of National Defence from 2010-2017. During the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2013, he was responsible for the activities of the Presidency Group of the Ministry of National Defence. In 2005–2010 he served at the Lithuanian mission to NATO and the EU and held positions in the Lithuanian Parliament. He holds a PhD in social sciences from the Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University.

Jörg Vollmer

Twitter: @NATOJFCBS

Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum



General Jörg Vollmer assumed command of Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum on 22 April 2020. He is one of three operational-level commanders in the NATO Command Structure, reports directly to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and is primarily responsible for the security of the Alliance in Northern Europe, NATO's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan and NATO's Response Force, NRF 2020. Prior to this he served as Chief of the German Army (2015-2020), Commander Field Army / Vice Chief of the German Army (2014-2015), Commander Specialized Operations Division in Stadtlendorf (2011-2014), and Commander Mechanized Infantry Brigade 37 in Frankenberg (2006-2010). His key staff assignments include Assistant Director (Operations and Intelligence) at the Armed Forces Office, Bonn, as well as Branch Chief "Army Concepts" (2004-2006) in the Army Staff (2002-2004).

The Annual Baltic Conference on Defence (ABCD)
engages Allies and partners of the Baltic states
and contributes to the development of common
strategic thinking.

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