



# MICHIGAN - LATVIA

## 1993-2013



President: Andris Berzins  
Prime Min.: Valdis Dombrovskis  
MoD: Artis Pabriks  
Amb. to US: Andris Razans  
US Amb: Mark Pekala  
TAG: MG Gregory Vadnais

NATO member: Yes (2004)

EU member: Yes (2004)

ISAF Pax: 27 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 8

Population: 2.2M (2012 est.)  
Area: slightly larger than West Virginia  
Military Expend.: 1.1% GDP (2010 est.)



Photo by U.S. Air Force



Photo by Capt. Elizabeth Culbarison

### Overview

A partnership was established in 1993 and serves as a model SPP program for other nations. The current focus is HNS/ Reception, Staging, Orientation, and Integration (RSOI), Chemical-Biological-Radiological-Nuclear-Environmental (CBRNE) / Disaster Response, Joint Tactical Air Control (JTAC), Air Force & base development, and Contingency Operation Support.

### Partnership History

- EU and NATO accession in 2004
- The Economic crisis continues to affect Latvia. Their economy is the worst among the three Baltic States and one of the worst in all of Europe, but recovery is taking place.
- Major concerns are collective security, defense budget and regional defense.
- Latvia has close governmental ties with the Scandinavian and Nordic countries.
- Latvia / MI deployed 3-Operational Mentor Liaison Teams (OMLT's) in 2008, 2009, & 2010.
- MI ANG trained first-ever NATO JTAC 's for OMLT's
- OCT 2010 - Latvia hosted SABRE STRIKE, the largest ever joint US/NATO exercise in the Baltic's, including 1,400 soldiers from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland and the U.S. (USAREUR, USEUCOM, CONUS)

### Partnership History

Military to Military:

- Continue development of JTAC program for NATO partners
- Assist in development of Lielvarde Air Base (under construction) through MI ANG SPP exchanges
- Continue to participate in NATO exercises, expeditionary operations and ISAF.
- Land Forces, at the direction of LTC Graube (CHOD) begins development of a "5-year plan" with the by-product of projecting future resource requirements
- Continue capacity building and development through utilization of SPP exchanges, Mobile Training Teams (MTT's) and major exercise participation
- Continue to develop partners Cyber Defense capability through TCT's and Joint Baltic Workshops.



*"We are very proud of our partnership with the Latvian Armed Forces. Their contributions to the Global War on Terror are a real testimony to the strength of their partnership." - Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler, former Adjutant General, Michigan National Guard*

