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Army Public Affairs Office

Parade in Lithuania: Puma infantry fighting vehicles drive through Vilnius

Vilnius, 25th November 2023

It was a strong signal to the Lithuanian public: German Puma infantry fighting vehicles took part in the parade in Vilnius for the first time on 25th November 2023 in honour of Lithuanian Armed Forces Day – flying the flag in the run-up to the planned establishment of a heavy brigade in Lithuania.

Every year on 23th November, Lithuania celebrates the establishment of its armed forces in 1918, and every five years this is the occasion for a large military parade in Vilnius. This year, around 1.500 soldiers and more than 100 military vehicles from 19 countries took part. It was the largest military parade in the history of the Baltic state to date.

At Lithuania's invitation, two Puma infantry fighting vehicles from 12th Tankbrigade "Oberpfalz" from Cham were also present this year. This was the first time that Puma armoured personnel carriers were seen in the Baltic States. In front of thousands of enthusiastic Lithuanian citizens, they formed a symbol for the future in the course of the parade, which celebrated the 105-year history of the country's armed forces – as harbingers of the so-called "Brigade Litauen". This brigade will be equipped with the latest version of the Puma infantry fighting vehicle.

For the soldiers under the leadership of Captain Alexander G. from the 4th Company of the Armoured Infantry Battalion 112 from Regen, taking part was an opportunity in many respects. "It is a real honour to be able to take part in this parade", said the captain, who added that the chance to take part in a military parade does not exist in Germany. In addition, the soldiers were given the opportunity to try out the procedures surrounding the transfer of an armoured infantry platoon with Puma to Lithuania – important with regard to the future deployment area.



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The parade was attended by high-ranking guests: Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda, Defence Minister Arvydas Anušauskas and Chief of Defence Lieutenant General Valdemaras Rupšys thanked not only their own soldiers, but also those of the allied armed forces in their speeches. Guests from the German side included the Chief of Defence General Carsten Breuer, the Commanding General of the Multinational Corps North-East Lieutenant General Jürgen-Joachim von Sandrart and Commander of 41st Armoured Infantry Brigade "Vorpommern" Brigadier General Christian Nawrat.

The German Army also reported live from the Puma premiere in Vilnius via its social Media Channel on Instagram.