

## News Release

### Canadian Armed Forces clearance divers participate in unexploded ordnance disposal operation

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Eleven Canadian Armed Forces clearance divers and support personnel began their participation in Operation OPEN SPIRIT 2016 on May 13 in Lithuania.

These members of Fleet Diving Unit (Atlantic) from Halifax, Nova Scotia, will work alongside personnel from the Lithuanian Naval Flotilla and 12 other partner nations until May 27, 2016, in order to clear explosive remnants of the First and Second World Wars in the Baltic Sea.

Operation OPEN SPIRIT is a multinational naval mine clearance and ordnance disposal operation conducted on an annual basis since 1997. This mission aims to reduce the threat of unexploded ordnance throughout the Baltic Sea region, including seabed communications lines, international shipping routes, and fishing areas.

#### Quotes

“The Canadian Armed Forces’ participation in Operation OPEN SPIRIT 2016 reinforces Canada’s role in NATO and maintains our engagement with Allies and defence and security partners in the region. This operation enables Canada to expand our strong and solid cooperation with our European partners and our ability to contribute to maritime safety.”

*The Honorable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of National Defence*

“The Canadian Armed Forces are proud to deploy members of its highly-trained and experienced Explosive Ordnance Disposal team. Participation in OPEN SPIRIT 2016 demonstrates our expertise in sub-surface munitions disposal and our ability to work in difficult environmental conditions with multi-national partners.”

*Lieutenant-General Stephen Bowes, Commander Canadian Joint Operations Command*

#### Related Products

[Operation OPEN SPIRIT – Backgrounder](#)

#### Associated Links

[Maritime Forces Atlantic](#)  
[#OpOPENSPIRIT](#)

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