

## The Iron Wolf howled



*Flags presented at the IW parade on 3.June. Foto: Morten Fredslund*

While the main part of the participants in the exercise were in full swing with the last preparations before STARTEX on Friday, a minor party was held somewhere else in the barracks.



*Cannons saluting IW BDE on its 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. Photo: Morten Fredslund*

Today is the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the 1. Lithuanian Mechanized Brigade Iron Wolf, and according to the tradition it was celebrated with a parade, music and honoring of some of the brigade's soldiers.

The Iron Wolf Brigade has a long and proud history. The brigade was established in 1990 and was named "Iron Wolf" June 6, 1992. The Name Iron Wolf itself has deep roots back in history, dating to the legend of Grand Duke Gediminas in the 14th century. During a hunt he had a dream about an Iron Wolf, which ran over a hill. As it stopped on a hill you could hear it howl all over the world. Later he was told that this was a sign, and he should build a city, where the Iron Wolf had stopped, today that city is Vilnius.

- The name Iron Wolf has since been the symbol of resistance against Lithuanian enemies. I will say, that I can hear the Iron Wolf howl, when we are training together. The brigade always shows dedication and professionalism, said Major General Flemming Mathiasen at the parade.



*Commander Danish Division praised the close partnership between IW BDE and the division.  
Photo: Morten Fredslund*

On Aug. 31, 2006 the Iron Wolf Brigade was affiliated to the Danish Division. Danish and Lithuanian units have been working together for more than 20 years, training and deploying together.

- At this moment two officers are serving in the DDIV HQ. It is a fruitful partnership. Iron Wolf Brigade is a well-known name in the Danish Army. I know this normally is a day with a huge celebration, but this year it will be on a smaller scale due to the exercise Saber Knight 2015. I can imagine the brigade will still celebrate with competitions and later on party like soldiers love to do on days of this importance, said Major General Flemming Mathiasen.

At some point in the parade 11 soldiers were honored with the Iron Wolff Brigade Knight of Honor and a Lithuanian military band played a little concert with a wide specter of music including big-band classics. The parade was concluded with a loud Iron Wolf howl from the solders.



*Commander IW BDE, Colonel Raimundas Vaiksnoras honors soldiers with the Iron Wolf Knight of Honor. Photo: Morten Fredslund*