



**Chief of Defence Republic of Latvia**  
***Lieutenant General Leonīds Kalniņš***

*(appointed January 27, 2017)*

**PERSONAL  
INFORMATION**

Date and birthplace: 13 February 1957, Tomsk  
province, USSR  
Married, spouse Ludmila Kalniņa

**PROMOTIONS**

2017	Lieutenant General
2016	Major General
2014	Brigadier General
2011	Colonel
2005	Lieutenant Colonel
1999	Major

**EDUCATION**

2013 - 2013	Baltic Defence College, Higher Command Studies Course
2010 - 2011	Army Command and General Staff College, USA
1987-1990	Harkov Higher Military engineering academy , USSR
1975 – 1979	Vilnius Air-Defence Academy , USSR
1975	Dobeles 1 <sup>st</sup> High School

## **LANGUAGES**

Latvian – mother tongue  
English – fluent  
Russian – fluent

## **MILITARY CAREER**

2017 Commander of the National Armed Forces  
2016 Chief of Staff Joint HQ, Deputy Chief of Defence  
2011 Commander of the National Guard  
2009 Chief of Staff of National Guard  
2006 Commander of Latvian military contingent Iraq  
2005 Chief G3 (operations), National Guard  
  
2004 Chief of Doctrine and Interoperability division, TRADOC  
2003 Chief of administrative division, TRADOC  
  
2003 Commander of Reconnaissance training centre  
2000 Chief of S-4 (logistics) branch 51. National Guard battalion  
  
1997 Service in the 51. National Guard battalion in  
- several positions  
1999

## **AWARDS**

2008 Commander of Viestur's Order  
2005 Promoting Latvia's participation in NATO Minister's of Defense Award "Medal of Honorary Recognition"  
2006 Commemorative medal for participation in international operations, Chief of Defence Award  
2003 Medal for Diligence in Military Service, Chief of Defence Award  
2009 "Medal of Merit for TRADOC development" 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, TRADOC commander Award  
2008 "Medal for service to the nation and Latvia" 1<sup>st</sup> class, National Guard commander Award  
  
2015 Diploma for Outstanding Military Service, Minister of Defence Award

2017 Medal of Merit in Service, 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Award  
of Chief of Defence

## **FOREIGN AWARDS**

2017 Italian Defence Forces Award  
“Commendation Medal of the Italian General  
Defence Staff”.

2015 Lithuanian National Defence Volunteer

2006 Forces Medal of Distinction  
Medal of Multinational Division Centre –  
South in Iraq