

Lieutenant General Andrus Merilo

Chief of Defence – Estonia 2024



Lieutenant General Andrus Merilo was born on 2 June 1973. He started his military service in 1992 as a conscript in the Kuperjanov Infantry Battalion. He continued his service in the Estonian Infantry Company of the Baltic Battalion. Lieutenant General Merilo has served in numerous positions in the Defence Forces, including the Chief of Operations Department of the Headquarters of the Estonian Defence Forces, Chief of Administration for the Chief of Defence, Commander of the Scouts Battalion and Commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade.

Lieutenant General Merilo's military education includes studies in the Finnish National Defence University, Command and General Staff College and Army War College in the US.

Lieutenant General Merilo has been deployed to Lebanon, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

He has been awarded the Order of the Cross of the Eagle (V Class), the Estonian Defence Forces Meritorious Service Cross, the Estonian Defence Forces Distinguished Service Decoration, Officer of the Year Award and numerous other awards.

Lieutenant General Merilo speaks Estonian, English, Finnish and Russian.