
LITHUANIA BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF BASE FOR GERMAN TROOPS NEAR RUSSIAN BORDER

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Lithuania on Monday began construction of a military base, which will accommodate up to 4,000 combat-ready German troops once completed by the end of 2027, in the first permanent foreign deployment for the German military since World War Two.

Germany committed to deploy troops in the NATO and European Union member, which borders Russia, last year. German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius compared the decision to the posting of allied forces in West Germany during the Cold War to defend Western Europe in case of a Soviet attack.

Lithuanian chief of defence Raimundas Vaiksnoras estimated the country would spend more than 1 billion euros (\$1.10 billion) over the next three years to develop the base, in one of the largest construction projects in its history.

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