LITHUANIAN ARMED FORCES | NAVY

Naval Flotilla
Navy is an important part of the Lithuanian Armed Forces.

The Lithuanian Navy is tasked with a wide range of missions: surveillance, control, protection and defence of the territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Lithuania, mine and other explosive ordnance disposal operations, support for institutions carrying antiterrorism activities at sea, coordination and execution of search and rescue and pollution response operations.

The Naval Flotilla is the core component of the Navy, and consists of the Mine Countermeasures Squadron, the Patrol Ships Squadron, and the Auxiliary Ships Squadron.

Lithuanian Navy flag have been fluttered with honour while the ships of Naval Flotilla sailing in the Baltic Sea and beyond, while participating in multinational military exercises and operations (since 1993), and while conducting duty with the Baltic Naval Squadron (BALTRON), the Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group 1 and the NATO Response Force (NRF). The professionalism of the Lithuanian Navy seamen have been proved in many international operations and exercises, and greatly appreciated by the international partners.
The main tasks of the Naval Flotilla as the core unit of the Lithuanian Navy are the following: surveillance, control, protection and defence the territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Lithuania, execution of mine countermeasures operations, search and rescue and pollution neutralization operations, support for operations and exercises of Lithuanian Air Force and the Lithuanian Special Operations Force.

The Naval Flotilla consists of staff and three Squadrons containing 9 ships and 2-3 cutters.
The mission of the Patrol Ships Squadron is to patrol the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Lithuania, ensure detention of offending vessels, conduct convoys, search and rescue, and other operations.

The Patrol Ships Squadron was established in May 1999. The first ship, P31 DZŪKAS, was donated to the Lithuanian Navy by Norway in 1994. The other two Storm class ships P32 SĖLIS and P33 SKALVIS of the Squadron were transferred to the Lithuanian Navy in 2001. P31 DZŪKAS was decommissioned in 2007 and P33 SKALVIS in 2010.

P11 ŽEMAITIS, a Flyvefisken class patrol ship, supplemented the Squadron in July 2008. In February 2009 and in 2010 two more ships, P12 DZŪKAS and P14 AUKŠTAITIS, were attached to the Squadron.

Currently, the Squadron consists of three Flyvefisken class patrol ships – P11 ŽEMAITIS, P12 DZŪKAS, P14 AUKŠTAITIS and one Storm class ship – P32 SĖLIS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LNS ŽEMAITIS (P11), LNS DZŪKAS (P12) and LNS AUKŠTAITIS (P14) Flyvefisken class patrol ships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length – 54.0 m;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beam – 9.0 m;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draught – 2.5 m;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Displacement – 479 t;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max speed – 19 knots;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew complement – up to 29 crewmembers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ships are driven by diesel engines of MTU type with the total capacity of 2 x 2 080 KW (5 540 HP).

Each ship is armed with an “Oto Melara” 76 mm artillery gun and MG3 machine guns.

The crews are armed with G36 automatic rifles and pistols of COLT type.

Each of the ships has a tactical task management system installed. The system operates various on-board sensors for identifying offshore objects under different environmental conditions. Control of artillery guns is also connected to the system.
The Patrol Ships Squadron

P32 SÉLIS Storm class patrol ship

- Length: 36.5 m
- Beam: 6.2 m
- Draught: 1.8 m
- Displacement: 140 t
- Max speed: 30+ knots
- Crew complement: up to 23 persons

The ship is driven by two engines of MTU type with 3690 HP capacity each.

The ship is armed with 76 mm and 40 mm artillery guns of “Bofors” type, MG-3 machine guns.

The crew is armed with G36C automatic rifles and pistols of COLT type.
The mission of the Squadron is to search and dispose of naval mines and other explosives as well as to conduct other missions, such as: to patrol the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Lithuania, to conduct search and rescue operations, etc.

The MCM Squadron was established in 1999, then it consisted of a Lindau class mine hunter-sweeper M52 SŪDUVIS and support ship A41 VĖTRA. In 2001 the Squadron was supplemented with another ship, a Lindau class mine hunter-sweeper M51 KURŞIS.

In 2006 Vidar class command and support ship N42 JOTVINGIS replaced support ship A41 VĖTRA. A41 VĖTRA was decommissioned in 2007.

Late in 2010 and early in 2011 two modernised Hunt class mine countermeasure ships – M53 SKALVIS and M54 KURŞIS – were attached to the Squadron.

The Squadron’s ships are periodically assigned to the Baltic Naval Squadron (BALTRON) and the Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group 1 (SNMCMG-1) as well as conduct standbys in the NATO Response Force (NRF).

Currently, the MCM Squadron includes three mine countermeasures ships, M52 SŪDUVIS, M53 SKALVIS, M54 KURŞIS, and command and support ship N42 JOTVINGIS.

**M52 SŪDUVIS LINDAU class mine hunter-sweeper**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>47.1 metres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>8.3 metres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draught</td>
<td>3.71 metres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Displacement</td>
<td>395 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum speed</td>
<td>16 knots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew</td>
<td>up to 40 persons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ship is driven by two diesel 2600 HP engines of MTU type (in total, 5200 HP).

The ship is armed with a 40 mm „Bofors“ artillery gun, MG3 machine guns, radionic combat devices, mine destruction charges. Mine detection and classification sonar S193, 2 underwater robots and trawling equipment are used for mine clearance operations. EOD divers may be commissioned for specific underwater tasks.

The crew is armed with G36C automatic rifles and pistols of GLOCK type.
The Mine Countermeasures (MCM) Squadron

**M53 SKALVIS and M54 KURŠIS HUNT class mine hunters**

- Length – 60 metres;
- Width – 10 metres;
- Draught – 3.5 metres;
- Displacement – 645 tons;
- Maximum speed – 14.5 knots;
- Crew - up to 40 persons.

Each vessel is driven by two diesel engines of CATERPILLAR type (in total, 1900 HP).

Each ship is armed with a 40 mm „Bofors“ artillery gun, MG 3 machine guns.

Mine detection and classification sonar S2193 and K-STER Expendable Mine Disposal System are used for mine clearance operations. EOD divers may be commissioned for specific underwater tasks. The crews are armed with G36C automatic rifles and pistols of GLOCK type.

**N42 JOTVINGIS VIDAR class command and support vessel**

- Length – 64.8 metres;
- Width – 12.0 metres;
- Draught – 4.0 metres;
- Tonnage – 1,500 tons;
- Maximum speed – 15 knots;
- Crew - up to 50 persons. The ship can accommodate up to 20 Staff personnel.

The ship is driven by two 2100 HP engines of WICHMANN type (in total, 4 200 HP).

The ship is armed with two „Bofors“ type 40 mm artillery guns, machine guns MG3 and radio-electronic combat devices. The crew is armed with G36C automatic rifles and pistols of GLOCK type.

The mission of the ship is to serve as a platform for the Staff during exercises and operations and to provide an all-purpose logistic support not only to the MCM ships but also to the entire Naval Flotilla.
**Search and rescue ship ŠAKIAI**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>56.6 metres;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>10.5 metres;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draught</td>
<td>4.8 metres;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Displacement</td>
<td>1350 tons;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum speed</td>
<td>9.5 knots;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew</td>
<td>up to 16 persons.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ship is driven by a diesel engine of NVD type (1320 HP).

The ship has all the necessary equipment for search and rescue and pollution neutralization operations, as well as for fire-fighting measures: oil recovery skimmer, board skimmer, bonin barrage; pumping system, tanks for recovered oil products, fire-fighting equipment (4 guns), decompression chamber, rescue boats and rafts (for 94 persons).

Tasks of the Auxiliary Ships Squadron are the following: to patrol the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Lithuania, to conduct search and rescue and pollution neutralization operations; to provide control of the seaport’s water area, to conduct maintenance of the basin of the Naval Flotilla, towing of ships and other specific tasks.

The unit of auxiliary ships was set up soon after the Lithuanian Navy had been established. In 1992 cutter VILNELE, which later received its designation H21, was transferred to the Lithuanian Navy by the Lithuanian Hydro Meteorological Centre. In December 2000 the Swedish Navy donated harbour tugboat ATLAS, which later received its designation H22. In 2005 the third harbour cutter H23 was transferred to the Lithuanian Navy by the National Defence Volunteer Force. In February 2009 search and rescue ship ŠAKIAI with SAR and pollution neutralization equipment was transferred to the Lithuanian Navy by Klaipeda Port Authority.

Today the Auxiliary Ships Squadron consists of SAR ship ŠAKIAI and three harbour cutters: H21, H22, and H23.