

Colonel Sandris GAUGERS

Commander Land Forces Mechanized Infantry Brigade



Colonel Sandris Gaugers was born in 1973 in Aloja a town in Northern Latvia. He joined the Latvian Armed Forces as an NCO in 1992, and served in various NCO positions at the squad and platoon level. In 1998 he completed his Infantry Officer training in the United States of America, and upon his return commanded a rifle platoon and then an anti-tank platoon in the Baltic Peace Keeping Battalion. In 2000 he moved to the position of Training Officer in the Latvian Land Forces 1st Infantry battalion, and then in 2003 became a company commander in that same unit. In 2005, following his company command, he was tasked as the Exercise Planning Officer in the Training and Exercise Branch of the Armed Forces Joint Headquarters.

In 2007 he was selected to command the Latvian NCO Academy in Cesis, Latvia. In 2013, Colonel Gaugers and his family moved to the Netherlands, where he was employed as a staff officer in the J7 Training and Exercise Branch of the Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum where he was Co-OPR for the Trident Juncture 2015 LIVEX. In 2016 he returned to Latvia and was employed as the Mobilization and Recruitment Branch head in Armed Forces Joint Headquarters, before being selected to command the Zemessardze (National Guard) 1st Brigade Riga in November of 2017. That command was short lived however, as he was selected for his current position, the Commander of the Latvian Land Forces Mechanized Infantry Brigade in December of 2018.

Colonel Gaugers deployed to Bosnia in 1997 as a Rifle Platoon sergeant, and to Iraq in 2004 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Rifle Company Commander.

He holds a Degree in Political Science from the University of Latvia and has completed the Joint Command and General Staff Course at the Baltic Defense College in Tartu, Estonia.

Colonel Sandris Gaugers is a Bearer of the Order of Viesturs and has been awarded various Minister of Defence and Armed forces awards.

He is married to his wife Kristine and has two sons Edvards and Arturs. He enjoys playing tennis and a good long walk.