

Rede von Frau Botschafterin:

**Excellencies, distinguished guests,
ladies and gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure to gather here in Astana tonight - to celebrate two milestones of deep significance for our countries: the Day of the Lithuanian Armed Forces and the founding of the Bundeswehr.

This joint celebration is more than a date in the calendar – it is a reminder that true strength lies in standing together. Germany and Lithuania, allied within NATO and bound by shared values, demonstrate that our security depends on unity, not solitude.

When the Bundeswehr was founded seventy years ago, it was out of the firm conviction that Germany must

shoulder responsibility for peace and security. That conviction has recently been growing even stronger against the background of increasing challenges to the security of Europe.

Central Asia has long been a bridge: a bridge between East and West, between North and South, between cultures, ideas, and peoples.

A bridge is not just a structure – it is a promise. It connects what might otherwise remain apart. In the same way, our cooperation, our solidarity, and our shared commitments build bridges across borders and across generations. They remind us that security is indivisible, and that peace is strongest when we build it together.

Germany and Lithuania have just taken another step to strengthen their cooperation against external threats. With the recent establishment of the

armored brigade in Lithuania, we are assuming additional responsibility for European security, in close, long-term cooperation and solidarity with our ally at the eastern flank of NATO. Together we are stronger.

Dear guests,

So let us honor tonight the men and women in uniform – in Germany, in Lithuania, and among all our partners. With their courage and dedication, they uphold the values that connect us and ensure that the bridges we build remain strong, stable and open to the future.

Thank you.

Anteil VgAtt:

**Excellencies, distinguished guests,
ladies and gentlemen,**

**It is a great honor to speak after the
Ambassador and to add a military
perspective to today's joint celebration.**

**This summer, Germany took a historic
step by establishing a permanent
armored brigade in Lithuania. For us in
uniform, this is not only a matter of
military organization – it is a clear
expression of responsibility.**

**Responsibility for security, for stability,
and above all for peace.**

**Let me stress: this brigade is defensive
in nature. It does not contribute to
conflict – it helps to prevent it. Its
presence is meant to assure friends,
deter potential threats, and preserve**

peace. Soldiers who train and stand ready are not preparing to divide, but to keep the bridges of cooperation open.

The Bundeswehr was founded seventy years ago with a guiding principle: never again should Germany turn away from its duty to contribute to peace and stability. The new German brigade in Lithuania stands firmly in this tradition. It is a visible sign that we are committed to peace through strength, responsibility, and partnership.

Our task as soldiers is not only to defend, but also to protect the space in which dialogue, cooperation, and trust can flourish. Peace is never automatic – it requires vigilance, commitment, and sometimes sacrifice.

As the Ambassador reminded us, Central Asia itself has long been a region of bridges. Here in Kazakhstan,

we are reminded daily of the importance of dialogue, balance, and mutual respect. In the same spirit, our soldiers serve as bridges: between nations, between peoples, and between the lessons of the past and the hopes for a more secure future.

On this day, as we honor both the Bundeswehr and the Lithuanian Armed Forces, let us recognize the dedication of all men and women in uniform. Their service is not directed at confrontation, but at safeguarding the most precious gift of all: peace.

Allow me, finally, to express my gratitude to our Kazakh hosts for their warm hospitality and for their own commitment to dialogue and stability in this region. It is a privilege to celebrate here in Astana, where bridges between cultures and nations have always been part of daily life.