

Biography of SGM Edgars Joksts-Bogdanovs **Sergeant Major of the Latvian National Defence Forces**

Sergeant Major (OR-9) Edgars Joksts-Bogdanovs was born on April 5, 1973 in Malta Parish, Rezekne Municipality, Latvia.

In May 1992, Edgars Joksts-Bogdanovs was conscripted into compulsory military service at the Sigulda Communications Training Center, later transferred to the 3rd Ludza Border Guard Battalion and assigned to the position of a group commander. In November 1993, on retirement from compulsory military service, he was promoted to the rank of First Sergeant (OR-6). In January 1994, E. Joksts-Bogdanovs started his professional military service in the 3rd Ludza Border Guard Battalion as a platoon sergeant.

From September 1995 to October 2000, E. Joksts-Bogdanovs served in Latvian company of BALTBAT, performing the duties of a platoon sergeant, a company sergeant major and a platoon commander. After completing a Procurement Specialist and a UN Junior Officer courses in Sweden, in April 1999 E. Joksts-Bogdanovs was promoted to the rank of a Warrant Officer, which in 2004 was equated to the rank of Sergeant First Class (OR-7). From November 2000, he continued his service in the Land Forces 1st Infantry Battalion, performing the duties of the Headquarters supply sergeant, later as the company sergeant major, and from 2009 – performing the duties of a battalion sergeant major. Assessing E. Joksts-Bogdanovs's ability to perform the duties of sergeant majors and making a sustainable contribution to the development of the Land Forces Infantry Brigade Instructors, in 2013 he was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant (OR-8) and appointed as a Command Sergeant Major of Land Forces Infantry Brigade.

In February 2017 the leadership of the National Armed Forces highly appreciating the professionalism, experience and leadership skills of Master Sergeant E. Joksts-Bogdanovs as well as his outstanding abilities in the leadership of the NAF Instructor Corps appointed him to the position of Command Sergeant Major of the National Armed Forces. Later in May that year he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major (OR-9).

Sergeant Major E. Joksts-Bogdanovs obtained his higher military education at the Senior Instructor Course, NAF Instructor School, Latvia (2009) and at the Command Senior Enlisted Leaders Course, Baltic Defense College, Estonia (2019). He obtained a 1st level professional higher education at the College of Business Administration in the qualification of a Personnel Specialist but at the RISEBA University of Applied Sciences he obtained a professional Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences in Business Management (2016) and a professional Master's degree in Management Science in the qualification of a Supervisor / Consultant Overseer (2018).

During his service, Sergeant Major E. Joksts-Bogdanovs has participated in five international operations: in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1996, 1999, 2001), Iraq (2004) and Afghanistan (2011).

For his long and exemplary performance of his duties, high professional training, contribution to the establishment and development of the NAF Instructor Corps, Sergeant Major E. Joksts-Bogdanovs has been awarded with the Latvian State Award – the Medal of Honor of the Order of Viesturs, First Class, the highest Ministry of Defense award – Medal of Honorary Recognition and Commemorative Medal for Advancing Latvia's Accession to NATO, with the Commander of National Armed Forces awards – Medals for Merit and Medal for Diligence in Military Service, and with the highest awards of the Commanders of Land Forces Mechanized Infantry Brigade, National Guard, Training and Doctrine Command and Logistics Command, as well as with the awards of the Commanders of the Norwegian and Lithuanian Armed Forces, the Michigan Army and the NATO Secretary General.

