

PRESS RELEASE  
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## **Locked Shields 2024 demonstrated the real power of cooperative defence**

**Locked Shields 2024, the world's most advanced live-fire cyber defence exercise, concluded with an unprecedented twist. Despite the exercise's competitive nature, participating teams formed a grand coalition by sharing information. They demonstrated that the true power lies in fostering collaboration to enhance collective security rather than competing for the exercise's victory.**

"The purpose of the exercise is to help our nations develop their capabilities to face cyber threats as a coalition," stated **Dr Mart Noorma**, the Director of the NATO CCDCOE. "We have real threats around us, and most of our participants came out of the trenches of real cyber warfare to participate in Locked Shields. I am confident they will go back defending their nations stronger than ever," he emphasised.

Locked Shields scoring provides feedback to participating teams to stimulate their further development and benchmarking. The three highest-scoring teams of Locked Shield 2024 are:  
Latvia, together with a team of NATO entities  
Finland-Poland  
Estonia-France

"Every year, Locked Shields aims to push the boundaries of what can be achieved in cyber defence training, and 2024 has been no exception," stated **LtCol Urmet Tomp**, Director of the exercise. "The skills trained here directly translate to stronger national defences against real-world cyber threats, enhancing our collective security," he added.

Compared to previous exercises, notable cooperation stories emerged. Initiated and led by Austria-Switzerland and Finland-Poland, Blue Teams formed further coalitions for information sharing on common threats and early warning alerts. Once again showcasing the collaborative spirit of the exercise.

"International cooperation in cyberspace is the key to success. As the world's biggest exercise of its kind, Locked Shields is one of the best examples of high-level international cooperation. We are very proud to host it in Estonia and to see how the NATO CCDCOE and the teams involved with its organisation take it to new, successively impressive levels each year," said Minister of Defence of Estonia **Mr Hanno Pevkur**.

Locked Shields is made possible thanks to partners in industry and academia: Havelsan, Singapore University of Technology and design, Accenture, FS-ISAC, Fortinet, Clarified Security, AWS, Red Hat, Aselsan, NATO StratCom COE, Siemens, Fujitsu, TalTech, Artic Security, Bittium, CR14, BHC, SpaceIT, Stamus Networks, Forestall, Microsoft, Palo Alto Networks, Estonia Defence Forces, Telia, Atech, Startex Security.

### **About NATO CCDCOE**

The CCDCOE is a NATO-accredited knowledge hub located in Tallinn, Estonia offering a unique interdisciplinary approach to the most relevant issues in cyber defence. The heart of the CCDCOE is a diverse group of international experts from the military, government, academia, and industry, currently representing 39 sponsoring and contributing nations. The CCDCOE encourages and supports the process of mainstreaming cybersecurity into NATO and national governance and capability within its closely connected focus areas of technology, strategy, operations, and law. The

CCDCOE is also responsible for identifying and coordinating education and training solutions in the field of cyber defence operations for all NATO bodies across the Alliance.