



Colonel RIVO MEIMER

Commander of the Estonian SOF

Rivo Meimer was born on 29 February 1980 in Estonia.

After completing the conscription in Kuperjanov Infantry Battalion in 120 mm mortar battery in 1999, Colonel Meimer graduated from the Estonian Military Academy as an infantry platoon commander. This was followed by service in Estonian Navy, Coastal Defense Company, as a platoon and a company commander. From 2005 Colonel Meimer joined a small group of EST SOF founders and served in EST SOF until 2019, as an instructor and a project officer, Team Leader and the Special Operations Task Group Commander. After leaving the EST SOF, he served in Estonian Defence Forces JHQ, as a senior staff officer in Analysis and Planning Department, mainly focusing on EST SOF and Territorial Defence capability development and long term planning. From 2023 Colonel Meimer returned to EST SOF as its Commander.

Colonel Meimer has been deployed to Afghanistan as a Team Leader from 2012 to 2013 in Task Force-10 and to Mali in 2022 as a staff officer in Task Force Takuba.

His military education includes besides Estonian Military Academy (1999-2001), USMC Basic Officer Course (2006), M.S. curricula at the Naval Postgraduate School in Special Operations/ Irregular Warfare program (2015-2016), as well as Joint Command and General Staff Course (2019-2020) and Higher Command Studies Course (2023) in Baltic Defence College, in Tartu, Estonia.

His military training includes International Special Forces Training Course (2007), Combat Diver Qualification Course (2008) and Combat Dive Supervisor Course (2009) in USAJFKSWCS.

Colonel Meimer`s awards and decorations include Medal of Special Services of Estonian Defence League, Estonian Defence Forces Airborne Badge, Medal of Special Services of Estonian Police, Military Intelligence Battalion Badge, Special Operations Diver and Diving Supervisor Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, Service Badge of ESTSOF, US Army Commendation Medal and French Overseas Medal (Sahel).

Colonel Meimer speaks English, Russian and Finnish languages.