



Ministry of Defence Republic of Latvia

The Ministry of Defence is the central institution for state defence administration and is directly subordinated to the Minister of Defence.

Origins: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) was established in November 1991 on the basis of the Public Security Department, founded in January 1991. A Border Control Division with almost 1,000 soldiers, the Zemessardze (National Guard) of approximately 10,000 guardsmen, four border guard training centres, as well as the State Service Administrations in Latvian regions and cities became directly subordinated to the MoD.

Primary mission: To defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Latvia, and its population against aggression.

Functions:

- To develop a national defence policy;
- To organize and coordinate the implementation of the national defence policy;
- To organize and coordinate the implementation of the national geodesy, cartography and geospatial information policy;
- To organize and coordinate the implementation of the national military education and military research policy;
- To perform other functions according to laws and regulations.

Administration:

- The Minister of Defence manages the MoD; the Minister is politically accountable to the Parliament and Prime Minister. The Minister is an immediate superior to the Parliamentary Secretary and the State Secretary;
- The Parliamentary Secretary ensures liaison between the Minister and the Parliament;
- The State Secretary, being the highest MoD civil servant, manages the MoD and ensures the performance of its functions.

Personnel: 240 persons, including 25 professional service soldiers (as of May 2018).

The MoD administration is formed by the State Secretary, 3 deputy state secretaries, the executive secretary for the development of military capabilities, 10 department directors and five heads of independent sections.

Subordinate institutions:

- Youth Guard and Information Centre – educates the youth in national defence and promotes their civil awareness and patriotism; provides society with information resources on defence matters;
- State Centre for Defence Military Objects and Procurement – manages the real estate used by the MoD, its subordinate institutions and National Armed Forces units; the Agency arranges necessary procurement for the MoD and National Armed Forces units;
- Latvian War Museum – collects, preserves, researches, exhibits and promotes materials and information related to the Latvian military and its political history;
- Latvian Geospatial Information Agency – implements national policy in the fields of geodesy, cartography and geospatial information;
- Military Intelligence and Security Service – performs military intelligence and counterintelligence operations;
- Information Technology Security Incident Response Institution (CERT.LV) – promotes information technology (IT) security in Latvia. CERT.LV main tasks are to maintain and update information on IT security threats, provide support in the case of an IT security incident, advise governmental institutions, organize informative and educational activities for the government employees, IT security professionals and the general public.



Chief of Defence is under direct authority of the Minister of Defence, who exerts civil control over the Armed Forces. The National Armed Forces defend sovereignty and territorial integrity of Latvia, as well as protect its population from aggression. The National Armed Forces perform the defence and control of the State land, naval and air territory. The National Armed Forces consist of regular forces, National Guard and National Armed Forces reserves.

Financing:

2014 (EUR)	2015 (EUR)	2016 (EUR)	2017 (EUR)	2018 (EUR)
225 727 358	253 894 468	367 934 374	449 574 295	576 341 793

Defence budget % of GDP:

2014 (%)	2015 (%)	2016 (%)	2017 (%)	2018 (%)
0,93	1,02	1,41	1,70	2,00

Priorities and tasks in 2018:

- To continue the implementation of mechanization project and development of combat engineers, indirect fire support, air defence and air policing capabilities in order to raise combat capabilities of the National Armed Forces.
- To ensure necessary procurements for the National Armed Forces and improvement of logistics system in order to raise NAF capabilities.
- To develop National Guard by investing in equipment, personnel and infrastructure, as well as by developing increased readiness units and special operations groups within National Guard.
- To enhance the training base “Lāčusils” and the training area “Meža Mackeviči” and to develop new military bases in Dobele, Krustpils, Galgauska and Bauska.
- To intensify our recruitment policy in order to recruit necessary amount of personnel for National Armed Forces.
- To begin a new four year training cycle testing the combat readiness of armed forces services in national and international exercises. Most notable exercises during 2019 will be joint exercise “Summer Shield”, National Guard exercise “Zobens” and Mechanized Land Brigade exercise “Sudraba Bulta”.
- To ensure the participation of Latvian soldiers in NATO, UN and EU operations, NATO Response Force, Joint Expeditionary Force and EU Battlegroup. We will continue our participation in RSM (Afghanistan), EUTM (Mali), MINUSMA (Mali), ATALANTA (Somalia), EUNAVFOR MED “SOPHIA” (Mediterranean Sea), INHERENT RESOLVE (Iraq).
- To provide the necessary host nation support and infrastructure, continuously enhancing living conditions in military bases and providing training opportunities for allied forces.
- To continue the development of infrastructure in Ādaži Training Area, Ādaži Base and Air Force Aviation Base in order to host larger scale joint military exercises.
- To ensure successful implementation of State Defence Education pilot project across 14 high schools. The main task of Latvian Cadet Forces will be to continue to popularise active way of life, development of patriotic education and development of necessary skills in order to survive in the modern community.