



# The National Armed Forces

## FOUNDATION DATE

The joint Latvian Army was established by joining the Southern and Northern brigades on July 10, 1919.

On November 24, 1994 the National Armed Forces were formed uniting the Defence Forces and the National Guard (both established in 1991).

## STATUS

The staff, missions, management system, financing and civil control of the Armed Forces are stipulated by the National Armed Forces Law, but the unified process of military service is regulated by the Military Service Law.

## AIM

To defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State, and its population against aggression.

## MAIN TASKS

Ensuring inviolability of the land territory, water aquatorium and airspace of the State; participation in international military operations within the procedures specified in international agreements; participation in the prevention of national threat situations.

## RECRUITING

Only Latvian citizens of age 18 or older are recruited. In peacetime, the personnel is formed of: professional service soldiers who hold a position in the service in accordance with the contract; national guards (volunteers) and civilian employees; the reserve soldiers

called up for the current or control military training. Since January 1, 2007, the Regular Force consists only of professional soldiers.

## STAFF

A set of military formations consisting of a military organized, trained, and armed part of the nation. The Armed Forces are formed by the Regular Force, National Guard and Reserve. The Regular Force consists of the Joint Headquarters, Land Forces Mechanized Infantry Brigade, Naval Force, Air Force, Training and Doctrine Command, Logistics Command, Military Police, Special Operations Command and Staff Battalion. The National Guard is under the subordination of the Chief of Defence. The Reserve is formed of Latvian citizens subject to military service and included in the Reserve.

## MANAGEMENT

Is implemented by the Chief of Defence who is subordinated to the Minister of Defence. The State President is the Supreme Leader of the Armed Forces.

## COOPERATION

With public, the local government and private institutions. The Cabinet of Ministers determines the procedures for participation in emergency, fire prevention and rescue operations, as well as emergency situation relief. The participation in rendering assistance for the civil defence system takes place following the order of the Minister of Defence.

The National Armed Forces provide support for the public assisting in civilian crises management, for example, floods, forest fires and other natural disasters, search and rescue work in the sea, in searching for missing people, transportation of severely injured people by helicopters, as well as carrying out explosive ordnance disposal.

#### CONTROL

The civil control is exerted by the Minister of Defence, the State Audit Office, the Cabinet of Ministers, the State President and the Saeima within the limits of their competence. The internal control is exerted by the Chief of Defence.

#### PERSONNEL

6000 soldiers and 8300 national guards.

#### DEFENCE BUDGET

In 2018 – 589 610 699 EUR, in 2019 – 636 704 499 EUR.

#### NATO ENHANCED FORWARD PRESENCE

Following NATO's resolution to strengthen deterrence and the alliance's defence, from June 19, 2017, onwards an enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup led by Canada has been deployed in Latvia on a rotational basis. Canada's military personnel also forms the core of the battlegroup. The battlegroup is further manned by Albania, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Czech Republic, Montenegro – more than 1300 soldiers.

#### NAF SOLDERS PARTICIPATION IN:

- INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

1996-2004	IFOR, SFOR	Bosnia and Herzegovina
1999	AFOR	Albania
1999-2005; 2008-2009	OSCE (EDSO)	Macedonia, Georgia
2000-2009	KFOR	Kosovo
2003-2008	OIF	Iraq
2003-2009	EU Althea	Bosnia and Herzegovina
2003-2014	ISAF	Afghanistan
2014	EUFOR RCA	Central African Republic
2011-2018	EU NAVFOR ATALANTA	Coast of Somalia
2013-2019	EU TM Mali	Mali
2015-2019	EU NAVFOR Med Sophia	Italy
2015-2019	RESOLUTE SUPPORT	Afghanistan
2016-2019	ANO MALI MINUSIMA	Mali
2016-2019	INHERENT RESOLVE	Iraq

- NATO REACTION FORCE 2006 – 2019
- JOINT EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IN 2018 AND 2019
- VERY HIGH READINESS JOINT TASK FORCE IN 2019

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