



National Armed Forces

Foundation date: Latvian army was established by combining the Northern and Southern Brigade on July 10, 1919.

On November 24, 1994 the National Armed Forces (NAF) was established, by uniting Defence forces and National Guard (which was established in 1991).

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

Aim: to protect Latvian national sovereignty, territorial indivisibility and its residents from aggression.

Main tasks: defend the integrity of national land territories, marine aquatoriums and airspace; participate in the international operations within procedures specified in international agreements; participate in the prevention of national threat situations.

Recruiting: since 1 January, 2007 the NAF regular forces consist of professionals only. The personnel is recruited only of Latvian citizens, reached the age of 18 years. During the peace time, the personnel is formed of: professional service soldiers, who hold a position in the service in accordance with the contract; national guards and civil employees; the reserve soldiers called up for the current or control military training.

Staff: a set of military formations, which is a military organized, trained and armed part of the nation. They are formed from the regular force, National Guard and the NAF reserve. The regular forces consist of Joint Headquarters, Land Forces Infantry Brigade, Naval Force Flotilla, Air Force Aviation Base, Training and Doctrine Command, Logistics Command, Military Police, Special Task Unit and Staff Battalion. National Guard is under subordination of Chief of Defence. The NAF reserve is formed by Latvian citizens subjected to the military service, who are included in the reserve.

Management: It is implemented by the Chief of Defence, who is subordinated to Minister of Defence. The State President is Supreme Commander of the NAF.

Cooperation: with society, local government and private institutions. The Cabinet of Ministers determines procedures for the participation in emergency, fire preventing and rescue operations, as well as the liquidation of the consequence caused by emergency situations relief. The participation in rendering of assistance for civil defence system takes place by the order of Minister of Defence.

The NAF provide support for society, assisting in civil crises – assistance to the flood's, forest fires' and other natural disasters' relief, search and rescue work in the sea, assistance in the missing people searching, transportation of the seriously injured people by helicopters, as well as explosive ordinance disposal.



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

Personnel: on 2014, February – 5561.

Financing: in 2013 the budget of the program 22.00.00 “National Armed Forces” was EUR 145 157 441. In 2014 for the program 22.00.00 “National Armed Forces” funding is in amount of EUR 141 595 666.

Participation in the international operations:

Since 1996:

- In Bosnia and Herzegovina — IFOR, SFOR (612 soldiers), EU «Althea» (18 soldiers)
- In Albania — AFOR (8 soldiers);
- In Kosovo — KFOR (438 soldiers);
- In Iraq — OIF (1165 soldiers);
- In Macedonia, Georgia — OSCE (2 soldiers).

Currently

- ISAF operation in Afghanistan (about 135 soldiers per rotation);
- EU military operation ATALANTA (2 officers);
- EU training mission Mali (7 officers).

Participation in NATO Reaction Force (NRF) — since 2006.

- NRF-7 — 18 soldiers (Explosive ordnance disposal platoon).
- NRF-8 — 30 soldiers (Military Police platoon).
- NRF-10 — 42 soldiers and Naval Force flotilla minesweeper.
- NRF-11 — 52 soldiers (Explosive ordnance disposal platoon and Military Police platoon).
- NRF-12 — 44 soldiers and Naval Force flotilla minesweeper.
- NRF-14 — 3 soldiers (Staff Officers).
- NRF-2012 — 30 soldiers (Military Police platoon).
- NRF-2013 — Naval Force flotilla minesweeper
- NRF-2014 – Explosive Ordnance Disposal platoon and Naval Force flotilla minesweeper

Participation in European Union Battlegroup (EUBG) — since 2010.

- EUBG 2010/1 – 69 soldiers.
- EUBG 2013/2 – 96 National Guard soldiers and soldiers (Infantry Company and Staff Officers).
- EUBG 2015 (planned) – approximately 160 soldiers (Infantry company with combat support detachment, and staff personnel).

Information prepared by the Military Public Affairs Department

Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia

March, 2014