



National Armed Forces

Foundation date. November 24, 1994. The National Armed Forces (NAF) were established, by uniting Defence forces and National Guard.

Status. The staff, missions, management system, financing and control of the NAF are stipulated 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. To defend the integrity of national land territories, marine aquatoriums and airspace; participate in the international operations; ensure the training of the reserves of personnel and military service; participate in the prevention of national threat situations. It is allowed to involve the NAF in the performance in other unforeseen objectives only by the order of the Cabinet of Ministers.

Recruiting. 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; military 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 of the regular forces, National Guard and the NAF reserve. The regular forces consist of Joint Headquarters, Land Forces, Naval Forces, Air Forces, Training and Doctrine Command, Logistics Command, Security Service of parliament and State President, Military Police and other units. National Guard is under subordination of NAF Commander. 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 National Armed Forces Commander, who is subordinated to Minister of Defence. NAF Joint Headquarters is an institution of NAF Commander, which enables the Commander to implement continuous management, the information necessary for decision making, documents and proposals, execution control of his commands and orders, as well as organization of cooperation in the conditions of combatant operations. The State President is Supreme Leader of the National Armed Force.

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

Financing. From the State budgetary programme «National defence, security and integration into NATO», the allocated funding for which since 2003 has been gradually increased up to 2% of the national gross domestic product.

Control. Civil control is managed by Minister of Defence, State Audit Office, the Cabinet of Ministers, State President and Saeima (national parliament) within the limits of their competence. The internal control is managed by NAF Commander.



Facts and figures

Personnel. By the number — 4874 soldiers, 10 472 national guards and 812 civil and military employees; by the structure — 1308 officers, 1943 noncommissioned officers and 1623 privates; by the gender — 17% women, 83% men; by the nationality — 4378 Latvians, 379 Russians, 34 Lithuanians, 32 Poles, 28 Byelorussians, 18 Ukrainians and 5 soldiers of other nationalities.

Financing (in millions of lats): in 2008 — planned 184,58; in 2007 — 152,67; in 2006 — 117,34; in 2005 — 80,78; in 2004 — 69,84; in 2003 — 63,03.

Participation in the international operations — since 1996. Operations: in Bosnia and Herzegovina — *IFOR*, *SFOR*, *EU «Althea»*; in Albania — *AFOR*; in Kosovo — *KFOR*, *OSCE*; in Afghanistan — *ISAF*; in Iraq — *OIF*; in Macedonia — *OSCE*; in Georgia — *OSCE*. Personnel: in 1996 — 85 soldiers, in 1997 — 80, in 1998 — 79, in 1999 — 177, in 2000 — 26, in 2001 — 120, in 2002 — 131, in 2003 — 199, in 2004 — 529, in 2005 — 431, in 2006 — 310 soldiers.

Participation in NATO Reaction Force (NRF) — since 2006. *NRF-7* — Explosive ordnance disposal platoon. *NRF-8* — Military Police platoon, but in the regular countermine unit 1 — Naval Force flotilla minesweeper «Namejs». It is planned, that in *NRF-11* 59 soldiers will participate, but in *NRF-14* — about 310 soldiers in Land, Naval and Air components.

Participation in EU Task force — planned in 2010. *NAF* could be represented by 66 soldiers.

Land Forces

Personnel — 974.

Armament: mortars of 120 mm and 82 mm; «*Carl Gustav*», *AT-4* grenade launchers; grenade machine gun *GMG* of 40 mm; «*Hecate II*» large-calibre sniper rifles; «*Minimi*» light machineguns; *G36KV* assault rifles; «*Glock 17*» pistols, etc.

Naval Forces

Personnel — 554.

Fleet: one ship of Headquarters and Logistics; two mine sweepers; four high-speed patrol ships; six coast guard ships and launches; one hydrographic ship.

Air Forces

Personnel — 286.

Fleet: aircraft *L-410*; helicopters — four *Mi-17* and two *Mi-2*. Armament — antiaircraft defence systems *RBS-70*.

National Guard

Personnel — 560 soldiers and 10 472 civil guards.

Armament: 100 mm *K-53* cannons, 90 mm antitank guns *M-1110*; 120 mm, 82 mm, 71 mm mortars; 40 mm *L70* antiaircraft guns; «*Hecate II*» large-calibre sniper rifles; *KSP-58* machine guns; *AK-4* assault rifles, etc.