



THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE 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 based on 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 centers, 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 and to deter any potential adversary from aggression against Latvia.

FUNCTIONS:

- To develop the national defence policy;
- To organize and coordinate implementation of the national defence policy;
- To organize and coordinate implementation of the national geodesy, cartography and geospatial information policy;
- To organize and coordinate 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;

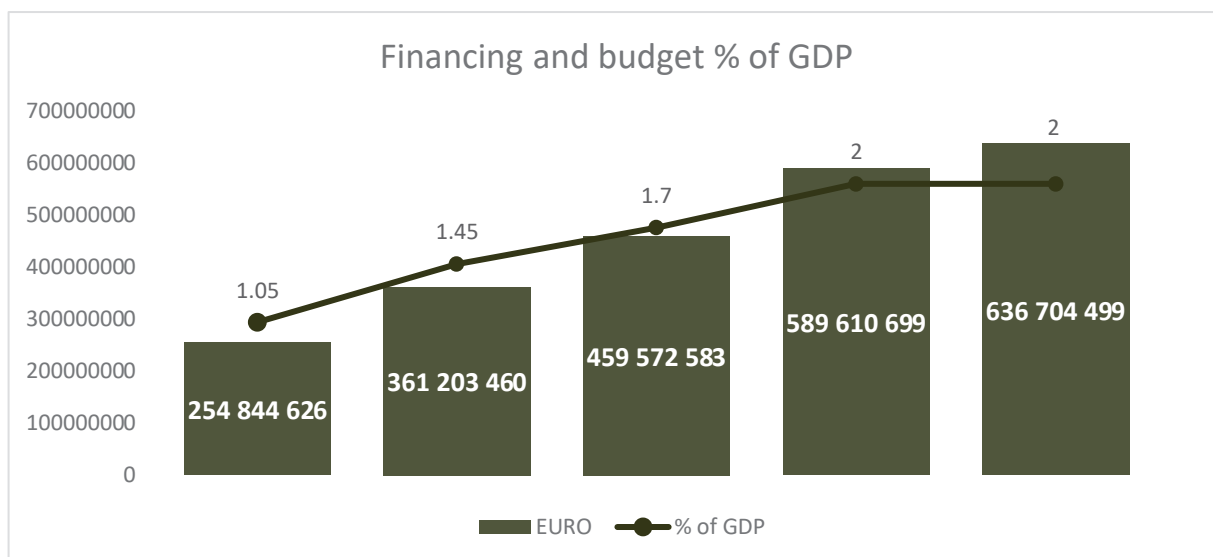
- The State Secretary, being the highest MoD civil servant, manages the MoD and ensures the performance of its functions.

PERSONNEL

243 persons, including professional service soldiers (as of July 2019).

SUBORDINATE INSTITUTIONS:

- Cadet Force Center of Latvia – 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; the Agency manages procurement for the MoD and National Armed Forces;
- 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;
- 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 are formed by the Regular Force, National Guard and Reserve.



PRIORITIES AND TASKS IN 2019:

- To continue implementation of the mechanization project and development of combat engineer, indirect fire support, air defence and air policing capabilities in order to raise combat capabilities of the National Armed Forces.
- To continue to develop the National Defence concept for 2020 – 2024, which is the backbone of Latvia’s defence strategy. Continuous development of national defence capabilities, NATO deterrence and defence policy role, and whole-of-society approach to defence will be outlined in the National Defence concept.
- To implement and develop the comprehensive defence approach to strengthen the cooperation among state institutions, provide effective mechanisms for public - private partnership, increase the skills and capabilities of the society to protect themselves, their families and Latvia in case of crisis.
- To ensure necessary procurements for the National Armed Forces and improvement of logistics system in order to raise capabilities of the National Armed Forces.
- To develop the National Guard by investing in equipment, personnel and infrastructure, as well as by developing increased readiness units and special operations groups within the National Guard.
- To develop the training base “Lāčusils”, training area “Meža Mackeviči” and the new military bases in Dobele, Krustpils, Galgauska and Bauska.
- To intensify our recruitment policy in order to recruit the necessary amount of personnel for the National Armed Forces.
- To begin a new four year training cycle testing the combat readiness of the armed forces in national and international exercises. The joint exercise “Summer Shield”, National Guard exercise “Zobens” and Mechanized Land Force Infantry Brigade exercise “Silver Arrow” will be the most notable exercises during 2019.
- To ensure rotational presence of the allied military forces in Latvia demonstrating the solidarity of the Alliance as well as its commitment to defend the member countries against all types of aggression.
- To develop the Multinational Divisional Headquarters “North” (HQ MND N) in close cooperation with Denmark and Estonia. The mission of HQ MND N is to enhance the defence capabilities of the Baltic states, as well as contribute to NATO’s collective deterrence and defence efforts through the command element based in the Baltics.
- To ensure participation of Latvian soldiers in NATO, UN and EU operations, NATO Response Force, Joint Expeditionary Force and EU Battlegroup. In 2019, we will continue our participation in RSM (Afghanistan), EUTM (Mali), MINUSMA (Mali), EU NAVFOR MED “SOPHIA” (Mediterranean Sea), INHERENT RESOLCE (Iraq).
- To provide a first-rate host nation support and infrastructure by continuously improving 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 large scale joint military exercises.
- To ensure successful implementation of the national defence subject pilot project across 60 high schools.

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Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia

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