



The National Armed Forces

FOUNDATION DATE

10 July 1919. Unified Latvian army was created aftermerging South Latvia Independent Brigade led by Colonel Jānis Balodis and North Latvia Brigade undercommand of Colonel Jorģis Zemitāns.

National Armed Forces were formed on 24 November 1994 when Defence Force was combined with National Guard of the Republic of Latvia.

STATUS

The structure, tasks, command, funding and control model of National Armed Forces are set out in the National Armed Forces Law, whereas uniform military service requirements are stipulated by Military Service Law.

AIM

To protect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and population of Latvia from an aggression.

MAIN TASKS

Protection of Latvia's land, sea and air from possible attacks, participation in international missions and ensuring of national security against various threats according to regulatory requirements.

Cabinet of Ministers may formally engage National Armed Forces in other emergency operations.

RECRUITMENT

Regular force of National Armed Forces became a standing army on 1 January 2007. Any citizen of Latvia who has turned 18 can enrol in professional army and become a troop. In a time of piece, military personnel is made up of professional troops employed by army on contract basis, National Guard, civilian support staff and reserve force that engages in regular training or testing.

STRUCTURE

National Armed Forces integrate different military branches formed of well-organised, trained and armed men and women serving in regular forces, National Guard and National Armed Forces Reserve. Regular Forces include Land Force Mechanised Infantry Brigade, Navy, Air Force, Training and Doctrine Command,

Support Command, Military Police, Special Operations Command and Staff Battalion. There are four National Guard brigades. National Guard operates under single command. Chief of National Guard reports directly to the Chief of the Defence Staff. Citizens of Latvia can enlist for military service and join the National Armed Force Reserve.

COMMTAND

Chief of the Defence Staff reporting directly to Defence Minister. President of Latvia is Commander-in-Chief of the National Armed Forces.

COOPERATION

National Armed Forces work in close conjunction with government, local and private entities. Role of National Armed Forces in emergency, fire, rescue operations and disaster relief is regulated by Cabinet of Ministers. Defence Minister may request National Armed Forces to provide support to civil protection.

CONTROL

Civilian control of National Armed Forces is assured by Defence Minister, State Audit Office, Cabinet of Ministers, President of Latvia and Saeima (Parliament) within their scope of competence. Internal control processes are assured by Chief of the Defence Staff.

MILITARY PERSONNEL (2022)

6700 army troops and 10 000 National Guard troops and 7400 reserve soldiers

NATO ENHANCED FORWARD PRESENCE

To promote Alliance's deterrence policy and strengthen its collective defence, NATO officially launched a multinational enhanced forward presence battle group Latvia on 19 June 2017. Battle group led by Canada consists of more than 1,700 troops from Albania, Czech Republic, Italy, Iceland, Canada, Montenegro, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. Troops of these countries are deployed to Latvia on rotational basis and engage in joint training with National Armed Forces to improve interoperability with regional allies and response to various kinds of security threats.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS:

Year	Mission	Place	Personnel
2020 - 2022	EU NAFOR Med IRINI	Italy	21
2020 - 2022	NMI Iraq	Iraq	36
2020 - 2022	KOSOVO FORCE	Cosovo	845