



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 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: in June 2018 – 5500 soldiers and 8000 national guards.

Defence Budget: in 2017 – 341 712 164 EUR, in 2018 – 576 341 793 EUR or 2% of GDP.

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 and Spain - more than 1000 soldiers in total.



Participation in the international operations since 1996:

1996–2004	IFOR, SFOR	Bosnia and Herzegovina	612 soldiers
1999	AFOR	Albania	8 soldiers
1999–2005 2008–2009	OSCE (EDSO)	Macedonia, Georgia	19 soldiers
2000–2009	KFOR	Kosovo	457 soldiers
2003–2008	OIF	Iraq	1168 soldiers
2003–2009	EU Althea	Bosnia and Herzegovina	27 soldiers
2003–2014	ISAF	Afghanistan	2433 soldiers
2014	EUFOR RCA	Central African Republic	39 soldiers
2011–2018*	EUNAVFOR ATALANTA	Coast of Somalia	28 soldiers
2013–2018*	EUTM Mali	Mali	54 soldiers
2015–2018*	EUNAVFOR Med Sophia	Italy	7 soldiers
2015–2018*	RESOLUTE SUPPORT	Afghanistan	224 soldiers
2016–2018*	ANO MALI MINUSIMA	Mali	32 soldiers
2016–2018*	INHERENT RESOLVE	Iraq	36 soldiers

* Participation of the Latvian army in the international operations continues also in 2018.

In 2018:

RESOLUTE SUPPORT in Afghanistan – 91 soldier
 EUNAVFOR ATALANTA off the coast of Somalia – 2 soldiers
 EUTM Mali – 6 soldiers
 EUNAVFOR Med Sophia in Italy – 2 soldiers
 ANO MALI MINUSIMA in Mali – 18 soldiers
 INHERENT RESOLVE in Iraq – 12 soldiers

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
 NRF 2015 – 82 soldiers (Explosive Ordnance Disposal platoon and Naval Force Flotilla minesweeper)
 NRF 2016 – 527 soldiers (Naval Forces Flotilla minesweeper in NRF Standing Maritime Mine Countermeasure Group 1; Military Police Platoon in NRF Immediate Response Force; Latvian force (infantry company, combat support elements, headquarters personnel) as a part of the Baltic Battalion in NRF Reserve Force; Infantry Company as a part of the Joint Expeditionary Force in NRF Immediate Response Force; Special Operations Unit in NRF Reserve Force)
 NRF 2017 – 294 soldiers (Naval Forces Flotilla flagship in NRF Maritime Mine Countermeasure Group 1; Special Operations Unit in NRF Immediate Response Force; Infantry Company)
 NRF 2018 – 310 soldiers (Infantry coy, Initial Follow on Force Group; Special Operation Land Task Group, Initial Follow on Force Group; Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group One (SNMCMG 1); Military Engineers, Initial Follow on Force Group)

Participation in Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) in 2018:

JEF 2018 – 160 soldiers (Infantry Company)