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The Finnish Military Bands' Concert Calendar  
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**Puolustusvoimat**  
Försvarsmakten • The Finnish Defence Forces

## General conscription

Every male Finnish citizen is liable for military service starting from the beginning of the year in which he turns 18 until the end of the year in which he turns 60. Military service includes conscript service, refresher training, extra service and service during mobilisation as well as participation in call-ups and examination of fitness for service. A man liable for military service is either in service, in the reserve or in the auxiliary reserve.

Conscript training produces the Defence Forces' wartime troops. Military service lasts 165, 255 or 347 days. Refresher exercises maintain and complement the training initially received during military service. They are also a flexible way of raising military readiness. A person who is in the reserve must take part in refresher exercises. The number of days – 40, 75 or 100 – depends on the training he or she initially received as a conscript. When conditions are no longer stable or emergency conditions are declared, defence readiness can be raised either by ordering reservists into extra service or through mobilisation.



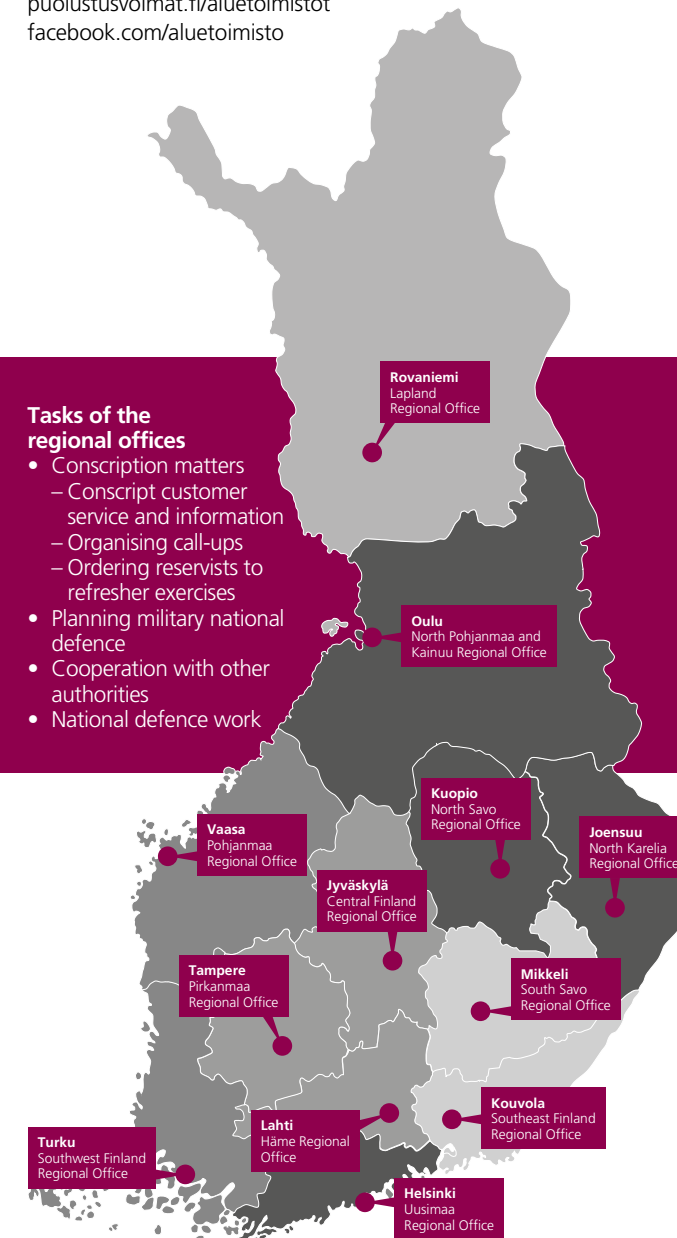
## Voluntary military service for women

To complete voluntary military service, a woman must be a Finnish citizen and aged 18–29. She must have the required physical condition and personal attributes that are suitable for military training. Women go through the same training as male conscripts. Once a woman has finished her military service, she is placed in the reserve and will be ordered to attend refresher trainings just as men who have completed military service. Women too remain liable for military service until the end of the year that they turn 60.



## Regional Offices serving conscripts

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The Finnish Defence Forces

# National defence is everybody's business



FACTS ABOUT THE FINNISH DEFENCE FORCES 2016

The Finnish Defence Forces in 2016

# From Government Reports to the Future

2015 was a year of restoring former activity levels for the Finnish Defence Forces. The number flight hours and vessel days were returned to the level that they were at before the Defence Forces Reform. The number of field exercise days for conscripts was increased and 18,000 reservists were called in for refresher exercises. The operating models created in the Defence Forces Reform were taken into use, which ensured that the functions of the Defence Forces remain balanced.

As stated in the Government Programme a new Government Report on Security and Defence Policy will be drafted in 2016. The effects of possible NATO membership will be evaluated in conjunction with the drafting of the report. Additionally, a Defence White Paper will be drafted. The White Paper will define the guidelines for maintaining, developing and using defence capabilities. At its best the White Paper provides a clear direction for developing defence as a part of Finnish comprehensive security and safety far into the next decade.



## Tasks of the Finnish Defence Forces (FDF)

### Finland's military defence

- Monitoring Finland’s land and sea areas and its airspace, ensuring its territorial integrity.
- Securing the livelihood and basic rights of the population and the freedom of action of the government, defending the rule of law.
- Providing military education, guiding voluntary national defence and promoting the will to defend the country.

### Supporting other authorities

- Providing assistance to other authorities to maintain order and security, prevent and stop terrorist crimes and to secure society.
- Taking part in rescue activities by providing equipment, personnel and expertise.
- Taking part in providing assistance to another state in the event of a terrorist attack, natural catastrophe, disaster or other similar event.

### International military crisis management



Army



The Army defends the entire land area of the state and executes all three of the Defence Forces’ tasks.

The defence of Finland’s territory is based on the large reserve created by general conscription. Annually, the Army's eight brigade-level units train around 20,000 conscripts. Refresher exercises, which maintain reservists’ skills, involve thousands of reservists each year.

The Army carries its social responsibility by providing assistance to other authorities some 400 times a year.

The Army leads the majority of the military crisis management operations that the Defence Forces are involved in. It also trains and equips forces for crisis management tasks.



Navy



The Navy operates at sea and on the coast. It consists of naval and coastal forces.

The Navy monitors territorial integrity, repels maritime attacks and secures maritime traffic. The Navy is on standby and it patrols and monitors 24/7/365.

The Navy supports other authorities. It specialises in mine clearing in waterways and in oil spill response in maritime areas. The Navy also has one dedicated oil recovery vessel on standby.

The Navy participates in international crisis management and constantly rehearses its readiness to operate as part of a multinational force. Finland is a forerunner in maritime surveillance co-operation between authorities and participates in international maritime surveillance co-operation.



Air Force



The Air Force’s primary task is to prevent and repel aerial attacks.

The Air Force maintains its capability for air operations and leads air defence on a national scale. The Air Force is a territorial surveillance authority that is responsible for surveillance and for repelling aerial territorial violations.

During peacetime the Air Force’s activities centre around surveillance and the safeguarding of territorial integrity as well as on intervening in cases of airspace violation.

The Air Force provides assistance to other authorities and supports the safeguarding of society's vital functions. It is also responsible for its participation in crisis management operations.



## Becoming an Officer

The National Defence University educates all officers working in the Finnish Defence Forces and the Border Guard. Commissioned officers will have various tasks throughout their career both in Finland and abroad. The National Defence University is the only way to attain positions of leadership within the Defence Forces and the Border Guard.

The National Defence University is a university specialised in military sciences and is comparable with other universities. The undergraduate and graduate degrees are the Bachelor of Military Sciences and Master of Military Sciences. After graduating with a Bachelor's degree the officers work in their respective military units for four years after which they return to the university to study for their Master's. After completing these degrees the officers may apply for post-graduate studies in the General Staff Officer Course and the Doctoral Programme.

More information: [upseeriksi.fi](http://upseeriksi.fi)



## Work that’s meaningful.

The Finnish Defence Forces are a modern employer that offers versatile and engaging jobs all across Finland. Of our 12,000 employees, roughly 4,000 are civilians. Each of our employees has a particular skill and the work they do is highly regarded in Finnish society.

The work atmosphere in the Finnish Defence Forces is proven to be good and further educating oneself is valued. Task and succession planning is systematic and covers all of the personnel of the Defence Forces. The Finnish Defence Forces support reconciling work and private life for example by offering flexible forms of working hours. The necessary personnel resources for the tasks are ensured with a centralised and high quality recruitment process. Civilian positions do not require completed military service, but thorough knowledge of your own field and the right attitude.

Open jobs in the Finnish Defence Forces: [valtiolle.fi](http://valtiolle.fi)

