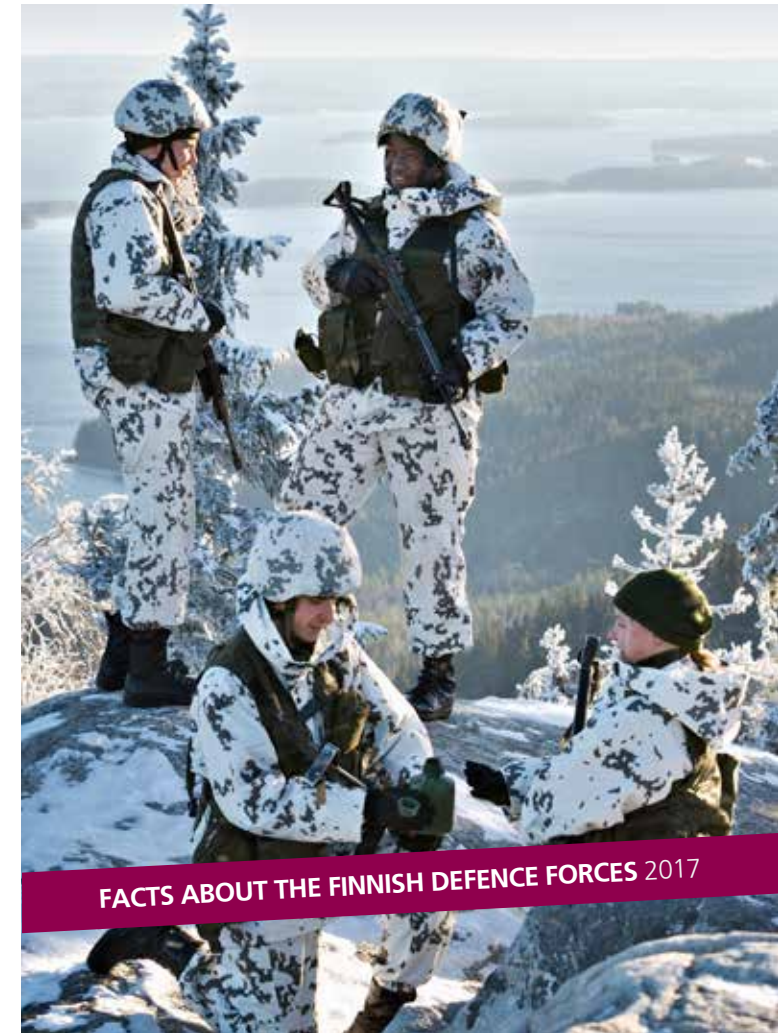




NATIONAL DEFENCE IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS



The Finnish Defence Forces' Finland 100 events in 2017

4 June National Parade on the Flag Day of the Defence Forces, Helsinki

Defence Forces' Finland 100 Summer Tour 2017

4 June	Helsinki	10 August	Joensuu
7 June	Tampere	11 August	Kouvola
8 June	Hämeenlinna	17 August	Rovaniemi
9 June	Lahti	18 August	Oulu
10 June	Mikkeli	19 August	Kajaani
14 June	Kuopio	23 August	Vaasa
15 June	Jyväskylä	25 August	Raasepori
16 June	Lappeenranta	26 August	Turku

More information:
puolustusvoimat.fi/100

Defence Forces' Finland 100 Anniversary Concert

20 November Tampere, 21 November Helsinki, 22 November Lahti

6 December National Independence Day Parade, Kuopio

Guard Parades and MIL-Espa Concerts in Helsinki in May–August



Military music for the heart and soul

The Defence Forces military music branch is represented by the Army's Guards Band, Dragoon Band, Lapland Military Band and the Conscript Band of the Defence Forces, as well as the Navy Band and the Air Force Band (Air Force Big Band).

The military bands are our country's only professional wind orchestras and the oldest, the Guards Band, has been functioning since 1819. Conscript Band musicians are selected through entrance tests. Annually, around 80 talented musicians, sound and light technicians or media experts carry out their military service. In 2017, the military music branch is strongly represented in events relating to the Defence Forces' Finland 100 celebrations.



Lisätietoja Tilläggsuppgifter More information

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Overview of the Finnish Defence Forces' activities

The focus of the Defence Forces in 2016 was developing its readiness to meet the changes in the security environment. Territorial integrity was safeguarded through surveillance and intervention in cases of violations. The Defence Forces assisted other authorities over 600 times in 2016. Most of the assistance was disposal of explosives and bombs from World War II. The Defence Forces continued participating in international operations. Over 500 Finnish soldiers served in 14 different crisis management and peacekeeping operations around the world in 2016.

Readiness is maintained according to requirements set by the security environment. The preparations for the Finnish Defence Forces strategic capability projects, the Navy's Squadron 2020 and the Air Force's new fighter aircraft, continue. National defence is supported with bilateral and multinational defence cooperation, which includes participation in international exercises. Finland continues to participate in military crisis management operations. The Government Report on Defence will set the framework for the use and maintenance of Finnish defence capabilities and the development of the Finnish Defence Forces for the next decade.



Commander of the Finnish Defence Forces

Jarmo Lindberg
General Jarmo Lindberg

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 – 80, 150 or 200 – 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.

Tasks of the Finnish Defence Forces

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



Tatu Paasikynen

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



Jaakko Ala-Hiltio

The tasks of the Finnish Navy are to monitor and safeguard our territorial integrity, repel attacks by sea and secure the maritime connections. In cooperation with the other services and maritime authorities, the Finnish Navy monitors and safeguards Finland's sea areas around the year using maritime surveillance systems and vessels. The Finnish Navy also participates in the joint multinational surveillance of the Baltic Sea.

The aim of the Finnish Navy's readiness is to fulfil its statutory duties, provide support to other authorities and participate in international crisis management. The skills of the naval and coastal units are maintained in everyday activities, national and international exercises and refresher exercises. Each year, the Finnish Navy trains approximately 3,400 conscripts for the reserve.



Air Force



Jarkko Tahvanainen

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.



Veljteri Nevalainen

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 exercises just as men who have completed military service. Women also remain liable for military service until the end of the year that they turn 60.