



NATIONAL DEFENCE IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS



FACTS ABOUT THE FINNISH DEFENCE FORCES

2022

We develop our defence capability comprehensively

The objective of defence capability is to prevent and deter the use of military force against Finland or the threat to use military force, and to repel any possible aggression. Preventive capability consists of sufficient military capabilities, will to defend the country, and the ability of society to support defence with all possible resources. In order to deter and repel the increasingly more complex threats, we need both modern technology and a large reserve based on general conscription.

The development of local defence and of comprehensive territorial defence is emphasized in the implementation of the Government Defence Report. Strategic capability projects ensure we have the necessary capabilities for air and maritime defence, and they support the combat capability of the entire defence system. We will continue the conscript training reforms according to the Training 2020 Programme. Lessons learned from the management of the COVID-19 pandemic will be used when planning the use of personnel, and in training and exercise arrangements. Furthermore, we will continue to develop our defence capability by participating in international exercises and crisis management operations.



Commander of the Finnish Defence Forces

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Timo Kivinen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

General
Timo Kivinen



Aiming for Quality Training

Conscript service builds the Defence Forces' readiness and trains conscripts for military national defence duties. According to the Constitution of Finland every Finnish citizen is obligated to participate in national defence. All Finnish men between the ages of 18 and 60 are liable for military service. Call-ups are organised every year between August and December on over 250 municipalities around Finland and they are attended by all men in the year during which a young man reaches 18 years of age. At the call-up, the class of fitness for service is decided and the conscript is interviewed to find out where they would like to complete their military service, and the starting date and location of military service are determined. Women can apply for voluntary military service. There is a separate information and selection event for women applying for military service.

Those who have completed military service are a part of the Finnish Defence Forces' reserves, which comprises approximately 900,000 Finns. The Finnish Defence Forces' wartime strength of 280,000 military personnel can be augmented with other reservists if needed. The skills of the reservists are maintained through refresher training exercises and voluntary exercises and training.

During military service, conscripts receive high-quality military training. All conscripts start their military service as equals in every respect. Depending on the training, military service lasts 165, 255 or 347 days.

The Defence Forces has reformed the conscript training system significantly in the past few years to meet the requirements and opportunities of the future. We are currently developing the job-selection system of the conscripts to better account for the skill and role requirements of the modern battlefield.

At the same time the training path from the call-ups to a reservist will be developed so that it will be as smooth as possible. The goal is effective training that is also cost-effective and responds to the challenges of the future security environment. Effective and goal-oriented training will benefit both the individual and the defence system.

Regional Offices serving conscripts

- Conscription matters
 - Conscript customer service and information
 - Organising call-ups
 - Ordering reservists to refresher exercises
- Planning military national defence
- Cooperation with other authorities
- National defence work





Army

The Army is responsible for defending Finland's land area and participates in carrying out all of the Defence Forces' tasks. The Army is responsible for matters relating to military service and conscription, and arranges the call-ups annually around Finland. Annually, approximately 20,000 conscripts and female volunteers are trained in the Army's eight brigade-level units, and thousands of reservists are trained in refresher training exercises each year. The Army supports the rest of society by providing assistance to other authorities some 400 times a year. The Army leads a 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 is responsible for monitoring and safeguarding territorial integrity, repelling attacks by sea and protecting maritime connections. The Navy monitors and protects Finland's sea areas round-the-year using maritime surveillance systems and vessels together with the other services and maritime authorities. The Navy participates in multinational surveillance of the Baltic Sea. The Navy supports other authorities and participates in providing international assistance and in crisis management. The know-how of the naval and coastal troops is maintained in day-to-day activities, national and international exercises and in refresher training. The Navy annually trains around 3,400 conscripts for the reserve.





Air Force

Responsibility for Finland's air defence and air operations is with the Air Force. The Air Force's primary task is to prevent and counter air attacks against Finland. The Air Force is a regional administration authority that provides round-the-clock surveillance and air policing of Finland's airspace. In times of crisis, the main task of the Air Force is defensive counter air operations. Additionally, the Air Force leads the use of air defence fires of all the services and supports the other services with air-to-ground capability. The Air Force also offers assistance to other authorities. It participates in international crisis management and develops and maintains readiness to receive and provide international assistance for example through participation in international exercises. The Air Force employs approximately 2,000 uniformed and non-uniformed service members, and trains approximately 1,300 conscripts annually.

On 10th of December 2021 the Government authorised the Finnish Defence Forces to procure 64 F-35A fighters to replace the Air Force's Hornet fleet which is to be phased out in 2030. The F-35A fighters will be delivered 2026–2030, and they will be stationed in the Air Commands to form the main combat fleet of the Air Force.



A musical business card of the Finnish Defence Forces

The six military bands of the military music branch perform in various Defence Forces' events and concerts, performing a wide range of different musical styles.

[konserttikalenteri.puolustusvoimat.fi](https://www.konserttikalenteri.puolustusvoimat.fi)
[sotilasmusiikki.fi](https://www.sotilasmusiikki.fi)



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The Tasks of the Defence Forces Are

- Finland's military defence
- Supporting other authorities
- Participating in providing international assistance
- Participating in international military crisis management



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Försvarsmakten • The Finnish Defence Forces