



# NATIONAL DEFENCE IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS



FACTS ABOUT THE FINNISH DEFENCE FORCES

2021

# The Finnish Defence Forces Develops Conscription and Local Defence

The Finnish Defence Forces is developing conscript and reservist training content and quality to meet today's demands. Today, readiness is part of everyday life and developing readiness continues. The capabilities for surveillance of territorial integrity and ability to repel territorial violations will be maintained on the good level that has been achieved. At the same time, we are directing resources to cyber defence, intelligence and to developing stand-off weapon capabilities. Capability building continues according to long-term plans. The Pohjanmaa class vessels are under construction and the selection of a new fighter for the Air Force is in its final stages. Decommissioned Army equipment will be replaced in phases, with a particular focus on mobility and firepower. Overall, military defence cooperation supports the maintenance and development of national defence capability, and international exercises ensure that our personnel is up to the task and that our units have the necessary interoperability with others. The Finnish Defence Forces deepens cooperation with other authorities and develops local defence all around the country.



Commander of the Finnish Defence Forces

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Timo Kivinen".

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, and women can apply for voluntary military service. Call-ups are organised every year between August and December in approximately 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. 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' reserve, 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 (lasting 165, 255 or 347 days) the conscripts will receive high-level military training. The Training 2020 Programme that is to be implemented in 2021 will develop the conscript training system, training methods and selections for training. The training will also take advantage of modern technology. The trainees will be given more responsibility for their own learning. Training is enhanced and learning results are measured systematically. The Training 2020 Programme has been tested for two years in brigade-level units around Finland.

The programme is also a part of the continuous development of the Defence Forces. 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 also responsible for matters relating to military service and conscription, and arranges the call-ups annually around Finland. Every year the Army's eight brigade-level units train approximately 20,000 conscripts and female volunteers, and almost 18,500 reservists are trained in refresher exercises and voluntary exercises.

The Army supports the rest of society by providing assistance to other authorities some 400 times a year. Additionally, it leads the majority of the military crisis management operations that the Defence Forces are involved in. It also trains and equips troops and units 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. The service trains approximately 1,300 conscripts annually.



## More Information

mil.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

# Summer Tour 2021



Air Force Band  
Heikki Silvennoinen

Guards Band  
Navy Band  
Lapland Military Band  
Dragoon Band

Souls of Women: Iina Mutikainen, Klaara Koivunen, Emilia Vihanto

The Conscript Band

2 June Lahti  
4 June Helsinki  
5 June Lappeenranta  
8 June Kouvola  
9 June Jyväskylä  
10 June Kokkola

12 June Turku  
16 June Oulu  
17 June Tornio  
18 June Rovaniemi  
22 June Tampere

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**4 June 2021 Joensuu**  
**National Parade on the Flag Day of the Defence Forces**

**6 December 2021 Lahti**  
**National Independence Day Parade**

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**2–7 August Hamina Tattoo 2021**  
[haminatattoo.fi](https://haminatattoo.fi)



**Puolustusvoimat**

Försvarsmakten • The Finnish Defence Forces