

NATIONAL RESERVE FORCES STATUS

COUNTRY : FRANCE

GENERAL INFO

- Origin

The operational reserve includes:

- firstly , volunteers recruited among former regular officers and soldiers or directly into the civilian society.
- Secondly, former regular officers and soldiers still available according to the regulation.

- Reserves vs Active Duty (Number , %)

The global reserve of the Armed Forces (including the gendarmerie) consists today of 38,000 volunteers. Owing to a yearly 6,000 people recruitment, it is expected to reach the format of 94,000 volunteer reservists within 2011, that is to say 25% of regular forces.

In case of calling out former regular soldiers liable to availability , the global reserve would reach 40% of regular forces.

- Male and/or Female (Role according to the type of unit)

Reserve forces recruit men and women with no particular restriction. The percentage of women in the Forces reaches 15%.

BASIC ORGANISATION PRINCIPLES

The reserve is no autonomous force. Reservists are assigned as individual complements in regular forces. They may be involved in any kind of task and provide especially many specialists in some specific non-military jobs (linguists, lawyers, communication and information advisers, engineers, etc.).

In the Army and gendarmerie, they may build up elementary units within regular regiments or tasks forces.

MAIN LEGISLATION

- Main References

Bill of Law nr 99-894 dated October 22nd 1999 dealing with the Military Reserve organisation.

- Call-Out, duration

In time of peace or crisis, only the voluntary reserve may be called out on the basis of a contract including a yearly activity plan including 5 to 30 days and being extended up to 120 days for operational tasks.

In time of war or major crisis, the government may call out without any limit of duration, by enactment, voluntary reservists or those legally available.

FUNCTION OF RESERVES

Individual reservists strengthen the overall capacity of their unit of assignment. According to their qualification, they may be engaged into overseas operations including those within an inter-allied frame.

Elementary reserve units are trained for homeland defence missions. They are not trained nor equipped for any high-intensity fight. Their engagement into outside and overseas operations within their regiment would only be possible after a government decision (regulation) and some period of adaptation.

CATEGORIZATION/READINESS

All activities are presently fulfilled upon a voluntary basis. Reactivity varies according to the quickness of availability of the reservist.

Some agreements accompanied by a clause of reactivity (15 day delay) are under study. They may be submitted to the employer's approval.

FUNDING

- Identified budget

The budget dealing with the reserves is separated between Army, Navy, Air Force and gendarmerie according to the objectives in terms of days of duty.

- Employer support/Employees

According to the legislation, a reservist is allowed to leave his job up to 5 days per year. For any extra day of military activity, he is supposed to have the agreement of his employer or use his own periods of holidays.

Agreements with companies, supported by financial compensations are being studied in order to increase the duration of activity and improve reactivity.

TRAINING

- Yearly

The reservists yearly training period is organised under the control of the unit of assignment (staff or regiment).

- Qualification

Qualifying periods are organised at national and regional level (initial training, training linked with the current assignment or a particular skill).

- Relationship with Regulars

The Reserve component is fully integrated into the professional Army.

INTERNET

Emat/Drat Website : www.reserves.terre.defense.gouv.fr

Fax: +33 01 44 64 23 99

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

- Reservists in Nato-Led Operations

The number of reservists taking part to external and overseas operations reaches about *two percent* of the total of engaged forces.