

NATIONAL RESERVE FORCES STATUS

COUNTRY: HUNGARY.

GENERAL INFO

On the basis general military service obligation all males of Hungarian citizenship living in Hungary are obliged to conduct military service. This service obligation starts at the age of 17 and terminates at the age of 50.

Those individuals are considered to be members of the reserve force who have previously conducted military service, been prepared for some position, that is they are trained for military professions. Most of the 100.000 strength military personnel of the Hungarian Defence Forces – close to 60 % - are reservists.

BASIC ORGANIZATION PRINCIPLES

The obligation for reservist military service expires at the upper age limit of the service obligation, but in peacetime – for training purposes – the upper age limit of drafting for privates is age of 30, for commanders age of 35. The maximum duration of reservist military services can be up to 90 days, which can be conducted in several parts of maximum 30 days each by the law. In the past decades the preparation of reserve personnel – mainly due to economic reasons – did not meet the requirements, only 5-10 % (1-2.000 reservists) of the necessary personnel were drafted.

TRAINING

In harmony with the transition to a volunteer force the volunteer reservist system was introduced in 2002. The volunteer reservists are annually called-up and trained in line with the provisions of their contract. The volunteering reservists may assume positions that are separate lines of the organization table. The major augmenting resources are the ex-servicemen, thus in their case only regular retraining is required.

At recruiting the capable individuals will conclude a contract with the commander of the military organization. The requirements for volunteer reservists are identical with that of the professional and contract personnel. Once the legislative basis is created – they can be deployed to foreign operations in line with NATO requirements.

RESERVES EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

For the period of their practical military service the volunteer reservists get the same salary as the professional and contract personnel. For the standby period when they are ready to be drafted (emergency, mobilization, etc.) they get annual readiness allowance. The amount of the allowance equals with a one-month salary per year in the 1st and 2nd year, in the 3rd-5th year it equals with a two-month salary, whereas from the 6th year on it equals with a three-month salary.

With the transition to professional forces the military service obligation terminates and it is reintroduced only in situations of emergency.

MAIN LEGISLATION

This is the present – conscript based – system, but we are working on the change of law to create the possibility of the new professional force. This is the plan, where the peace- time and war-time strength are very close to each other. In the near future all units will be filled-up close to 100 %, so the necessary percent is not more then 10-20 % reservists.

We have to prepare good employer and employee support as well.