

NATIONAL RESERVE FORCES STATUS

COUNTRY ITALIAN REPUBLIC.

GENERAL INFO

The sudden change of international and political theatres and the new threat to face, brought Italian Army, in 1997, to revise the conception of employment of Reserve Forces, till then based upon mass – mobilization criteria (according to NATO MC 400), in order to implement a more flexible and steady structure, in which mobilization should be applied only for support of existing Commands/Bodies/Units. This reorganization, even though keeps the general legislation unchanged, caused a complete review of mobilization, as far as general criteria, legal procedure, instruments and implementing formalities are concerned. In addition to this first change, Italian Army will leave behind the compulsory system by the end of 2004 to joint an entirely professional one.

MAIN LEGISLATION

- Legislative Decree November 28th, 1997, n. 464: it sanctions that mobilization should be applied only for support of existing Commands/Bodies/Units.
- Law n. 331/2000 “Professional military service institutive rules”: it starts the handling over from the compulsory recruitment system to an entirely professional and voluntary one.

BASIC ORGANIZATION PRINCIPLES

These two provisions of the law endorsement caused Italian Armed Forces to start a support and mobilization system review, that provides a compulsory reserve, a voluntary reserve and a selected reserve.

See Table 1 for a short description of Reserve Forces typologies.

Reserve Forces (D.L. 464 28/11/97 and L. 331/2000)	Compulsory Reserve Forces	Emergency – established Forces through coercive measures (planned in time of peace) i.d. discharges blockage, recall to arms of military personnel on leave.	
	Voluntary Reserve Forces	Military employees on leave liable to recall upon voluntary assent to face peculiar operating requirements. Resources that may be employed in time of peace (both on national territory and abroad) through a special Ministerial Decree that sanctions size and period.	
	Selected Reserve	Employees, gifted with peculiar specialization, not to be found in military circle. The decree of appointment is defined according to Royal Decree 819/1932 amended by Legislative Decree 490/1997, better known as “Legge Marconi”.	CIMIC detachments Employees skilled in Public Affairs, Facilities, Business Administration, Humanitarian support and Cultural Affairs. Staff Organs Employees gifted with high control and command skills, as consultants attached to a Commander, as far as justice, fiscal, economic areas are concerned Medical field detachments Medical and Paramedical employees to be taken from soldiers on leave or directly from civilians. Military mail service Employees to be taken from civilians, belonging to the Italian Post organization, in order to warrant mail service to detachments abroad.

RESERVES EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

Reserves employment is carried out:

- in relation to requirements
 - § individually, for particular specializations (Medical Officers, troops remarkable jobs as cooks, conductors, Health Board assistants, etc);
 - § platoon or exceptionally coy modules for support to Units.
- in relation to the employment period:
 - § in single solution for the whole recall fixed by the Inter-Ministerial Decree (Defence – Treasury);
 - § for divided periods of variable duration from few days to six months per year.

Reservists pay has to warrant at least wages level collected by individual in his civilian occupation, apart from his “theoretical” and relative assignment to a unit. Nevertheless basic wages must be warranted by employer (either public authority or private organization) and in case, supplemented by an Armed Force provided salary.

Besides, provisions of the law must warrant job maintenance according to the law n.370, May 3rd 1955.

FUNCTION OF RESERVES

The most remunerative and gratifying reservist employment is:

- for the Army, that implemented for support of units employed in national territory operations and humanitarian ones in low intensity operating theatres;
- for the Navy, to supply naval units crew;
- for the Air Force, that related to personnel employment in defence, medical, training, plants and technical – administrative areas;
- for the Carabinieri, that necessary to support the various units organic echelons, with employees gifted with particular specializations not to be found in military circle.

TRAINING

Training develops with regards to requirements. Particularly, the following training phases are provided for trained people in time of peace (i.d. those who have already completed military service):

- **First Training Recall** : it is the first recall after discharge and lasts 3 or 4 weeks. Its duration is variable according to the past time from the discharge and the task carried out during military service and other operating experiences.
- **Updating** is the starting phase of the following recalls and it is preparatory to employment. Particularly a training procedure has been outlined both for readiness and updating, at the end of which employees is “ready” for 2 years.
- **Oriented – Updating** is a recall for a specific operating requirement. It concerns “ready” personnel, who must increase his own specific operating skill.

RESERVE EMPLOYEES RECALLED IN 2003

ARMED FORCES	ARMY	NAVY	AIR FORCE	CARABINIERI MILITARY POLICE
AMOUNT (YEAR 2003)	148 / 5 / 1726	--	10 / 0 / 0	0 / 0 / 1075

INTERNET

For further information about Reserve Forces in general and Selected Reserve in particular, please visit the following web sites: www.sme.esercito.difesa.it or www.unuci.org.