

NATIONAL RESERVE FORCES STATUS

COUNTRY The Republic of Lithuania

GENERAL INFORMATION

Lithuanian reserve forces appeared in 1990 just after Lithuania had declared the independence from Soviet Union. In the beginning it consisted of the Lithuanian citizens that made an oath to defend the parliament against the Soviet army. These militias developed to Volunteer Forces on which basis National Defence System was created.

Nowadays reserve forces are called National Defence Volunteer Forces (NDVF) and are a part of the Land Forces. NDVF have nearly 6000 members and comprise over 30 % of the total Lithuanian armed force.

BASIC ORGANIZATION PRINCIPLES

NDVF is a part of the Land forces. It has eight main components (NDVF command, five infantry battalions, Air squadron and Reserve school). Each battalion administrates their districts caring about recruitment and maintaining appropriate level of training. Reserve school is responsible for organizing different courses for required military specialists. Every Reservist is a volunteer thus there are no conscripts.

MAIN LEGISLATION

- Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, adopted by citizens of the Republic of Lithuania in the referendum of 25 October 1992.
- Law on the Organization of the National Defence system and Military service, 07.07.1999.
- Law on the Amendment of the LAW on International Operations, Military Exercises and Military events, 01.29.2004.

FUNCTION OF RESERVES

Before Lithuania joined NATO the main task for the reserve forces had been to prepare units in active territorial defence. This kind of defence required to have huge amount of resources. Today threats changed. Lithuanian reserve forces now almost finished the reform the goal of which is to have small, modern, well-equipped, well-trained, mobile, deployable and sustainable forces, able to participate in the full spectrum of NATO operations.

Today main tasks for reserve forces are:

1. To train specialists & specialised sub-units for participation in crises response operations.
2. Provide augmentees for the regular units.
3. To administer the Armed Forces Reserve.
4. To guard military infrastructure, or in times of crises and state important objects.
5. To provide help for civilian authorities and police.
6. To provide Host Nation Support for incoming allies troops.

NATIONAL MISSIONS: reservists can be activated in order to assist settlement of both military and non-military crisis situations occurring at the territory of the LITHUANIAN Republic.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS: having made a voluntary commitment to fulfill international mission tasks reservists are called out to an active service duty with a professional soldier status.

CATEGORIZATION/READINESS

All reserve personnel are assigned to either Active reserve or Ineffective reserve.

ACTIVE RESERVE includes volunteers that are under 45 years old. They sign 3 years contract and can be activated to participate in exercises, missions and other reserve force activities.

INEFFECTIVE RESERVE includes volunteers that are older than 45 years. They can be activated to participate in exercises, missions and other reserve force activities only with additional procedures. Usually they are specialists in different spheres.

FUNDING

In 2006 a total of LTL 44 mil is planned for reservist military exercises, training and financial benefits and allowances.

- Employer support/Employees

Based on military law, employers have an obligation to release their employees-reservists called up for a military exercise.

Active Reservists are entitled to 70 % of regular soldier's salary (unemployed) and additional payment which depends on military rank. If the civil salary is higher, they are entitled to a salary. All are entitled to a compensation and reimbursement of all travel costs.

TRAINING

Active reservists, in the course of the time when their contract is in force, have to undergo a compulsory training whose length is minimally 20 days per year.

QUALIFICATION: All new reservists have to undergo basic military training and specialist training at Reserve school. Afterwards they continue unit training inside the local battalion. If other specialization is needed, reservist can be sent to a special course to other Lithuania Defence military or civilian institution and abroad as well.

PRE-MISSION TRAINING: takes 12 weeks. During them individual skills, collective skills and specific skills, required in an operation area are trained.

INTERNET:

<http://www.kam.lt/index.php/en/>

http://www.kam.lt/armed_forces/savanoriu_pajegos/