

G. MILITARY SERVICE

1. Compulsory service

Section 109 of the Constitution states that: "As a general rule every subject of the State is equally bound to serve in the defence of his country for a specific period of time, irrespective of birth or fortune.

The application of this principle and the restrictions to which it shall be subject shall be determined by law."

The Constitution provides the legal authority to impose compulsory service in Norway. Principally, nobody is exempted from this obligation, although it was assumed when the Constitution was adopted that only men would be required to do compulsory military service. The Constitution, therefore, does not prohibit women from being required by law to do military service. However, to date, the Storting has not decided that this obligation should be imposed on women.

Furthermore, section 109 states that more specific provisions for the application of the law will be laid down in later legislation. This was done, inter alia, when the "Military Service Act" was passed in 1854, while military service was not made generally compulsory until 1878. Today's system of military service is based on the "Military Service Act" and the "Home Guard Act," both adopted in 1953 (with later amendments). An amendment to the Acts from 1979 states that women who volunteer to serve in the Armed Forces, also become subject to the same rules for mobilisation and service as men.

Normally, military service starts during the year a male Norwegian citizen reaches 19 years of age, and lasts to the end of the year he reaches 44 years. The service includes a period of initial service, refresher training, and possible additional service in peacetime. In addition, there is the obvious service obligation if the Armed Forces are mobilised. The initial service varies in time (see table on page 52).

Some persons liable for compulsory service are exempted from serving in the Armed Forces. These fall into the following categories:

- Conscripts who do not satisfy the medical requirements as to fitness (unfit).
- Conscientious objectors.

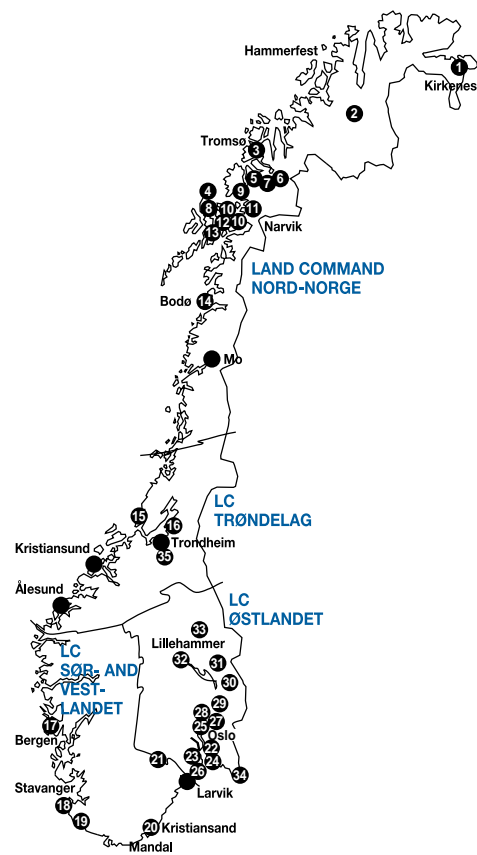
An application for exemption from military service is handled by the Ministry of Justice. If the Ministry approves the application, the applicant must spend 14 months in civilian service instead of doing military service.

Since 1988 the number of applicants wishing to do civilian service has been as follows:

1988: 2,281	1995: 2,110
1989: 2,286	1996: 2,295
1990: 2,539	1997: 2,385
1991: 2,666	1998: 3,008
1992: 2,542	1999: 3,109
1993: 2,358	2000: 2,364
1994: 2,061	

Every year, a number of these applicants return to the Armed Forces, either at their own wish or because their application was rejected. In recent years this has applied to about 20 per cent of the total number of applicants.

2. Map showing some of the more important duty stations



No. Duty Station	Type	Branch of the Armed Forces
1. Høybukthøen	Border Guards/ Educational Unit	Army
2. Porsangmoen	Educational Unit	Army
3. Olavsvern	Naval Base	Navy
4. Andøya	Air Station	Air Force
5. Bardufoss/ Heggelia	Main Air Station/ Educational Unit	Air Force, Army
6. Skjold	Educational Unit	Army
7. Setermoen	6 Div Educational Unit	Army
8. Sortland	Coast Guard	Navy
9. Sørreisa	Radar Station	Air Force
10. Harstad	Training Unit	Navy
11. Evenes	Mobilization Air Station	Air Force
12. Ramsund	Naval District	Navy
13. Lødingen	Naval District	Navy
14. Bodø	Main Air Station	Air Force
15. Ørland	Main Air Station	Air Force
16. Værnes	Mobilization Air Station	Air Force
17. Haakonsværn	Naval Base/School/ Training Establishment/ Naval District	Navy ¹⁾
18. KNM Harald Hårfagre	Basic Training Establishment	Navy
19. Sola	Air Station	Air Force
20. Kjevik	School/Training Establishment	Air Force
21. Heistadmoen	IRF Battalion	Army
22. Oscarsborg	School	Navy
23. Horten	Naval District	Navy
24. Rygge	Air Station	Air Force
25. Oslo	HMK Guard	Army
26. Mågerø	Radar Station	Air Force
27. Lahaugmoen	School/Training Establ.	Army
28. Gardermoen	Air Station	Air Force
29. Trandum/ Sessvoldmoen	School/Training Establishment	Army
30. Haslemoen	School/Training Establ.	Army
31. Terningmoen	School/Training Establ.	Army
32. Jørstadmoen	School/Training Establ.	Army
33. Rena	School/Training Establ.	Army
34. Halden	School	Army
35. Trondheim	Officer Candidate School	Army

¹⁾ Some of the Navy's most important duty stations are onboard the warships or Coast Guard vessels operating from the bases at Haakonsværn, Sortland and Olavsvern.

3. Initial military service in NATO and some other countries (months)

	Army	Navy	Air Force
Austria ¹⁾	7		7
Belgium	Voluntary		
Bulgaria	12	12	12
Canada	Voluntary		
China ²⁾	48	48	48
The Czech Republic	12	12	12
Denmark ³⁾	4-12	4-12	4-12
Finland	6-12	6-12	6-12
France	10	10	10
Germany	10	10	10
Greece	up to 18	up to 21	up to 21
Hungary	9	9	9
Italy	10	10	10
Iceland	Has no military forces		
Luxembourg	Voluntary		
Netherlands	Voluntary		
Norway ⁴⁾	6-12	6-12	12
Poland	12	12	12
Portugal	4-8	4-12	4-12
Rumania	12	18	12
Russia	18-24	18-24	18-24
Slovakia	12	12	12
Spain	9	9	9
Sweden	7-15	7-15	8-12
Switzerland ¹⁾	15 weeks	compulsory	recruit school
Turkey	18	18	18
UK	Voluntary		
USA	Voluntary		

1) In these countries the short period of national service is followed by compulsory refresher training at frequent intervals.

2) Selective conscription.

3) Up to 24 months service in certain ranks.

4) Service in the Coastal Artillery is 12 and 6 months. Those assigned to military service in the Home Guard may get 6 months initial service in the Army. Chaplains, doctors, psychologists and dentists have 12 months of service.

Many countries have refresher training in addition to the national service, particularly in the Army. Moreover, in some countries the period of service is differentiated, so that certain specialists have a longer period of national service than other conscripts. In several countries, including Sweden and Denmark, persons most suitable are chosen to be officers, and thus do a much longer period of service than others.

Source: IISS, *The Military Balance 2000-2001*.

4. Women in The Armed Forces

No compulsory military service for women

Norwegian women are not obliged to do ordinary military service. They may apply voluntarily for admission to the Armed Forces' schools, to do initial military service which offers an opportunity for entry to Officer Candidate Schools, and for enlistment.

Declaration of willingness

After the first period of basic training, women must sign a declaration of willingness where they accept the same obligations and rights as men in accordance with the "Military Service Act" and the "Home Guard Act." This declaration of willingness implies, among other things, an obligation to appear for refresher training, mobilisation, and in time of war.

Terms of service

Women have the same terms of service and opportunities for advancement as men. Special rules apply, however, for education and service during pregnancy, when giving birth, or during breastfeeding. These provisions, together with those for leave of absence for welfare reasons, are based on the same guidelines as apply to other public servants.

All training in the use of weapons is the same for men and women. Officers' duty to obey posting orders is the same for both sexes. The same applies to the conscripts' obligation to serve in peacetime and in war. In the Strategic Plan for Equal Rights in the Armed Forces from October 1996, specific measures have been made to ensure real professional equal rights between women and men in the Defence Sector. Norway is today one of the few countries which allows women into all kinds of combat duty. In 1995, for example, the Norwegian Navy appointed the world's first female submarine commander.

Women who are unemployed upon completion of military service have the same right to a daily unemployment allowance as men who have completed their service.

Schools

Armed Forces schools on all levels, from basic training to higher education, are open to both sexes. This also applies to the Defence Sector's quota at civilian educational institutions. Women compete for admission on equal terms with men, except that physical requirements are slightly modified.

Initial service

As mentioned above, ordinary initial service (6-12 months) is open to women. During initial service, women may compete with men to be trained as officers promoted from the ranks. They have the same opportunities as men for training which

qualifies them for enlistment (three-year contracts), and equal opportunities for special training in the Home Guard.

The training provided by the Armed Forces to doctors, psychologists, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians and chaplains is open to both sexes.

Female nurses

Female nurses who are not permanently employed in the Armed Forces may, after entering into a voluntary contract, receive a short period of training which obliges them to serve in the event of mobilisation.

Service abroad

In principle, all service abroad where Norway has personnel (e.g. in NATO and the UN) is open to women. Today women are serving abroad at all levels, some in senior posts.

5. The Spokesman System in the Armed Forces

The Spokesman System in the Armed Forces has developed over many years. The system of platoon representatives can be traced back to 1912, while the present system is based on rules adopted in 1972 or later.

The Spokesman System is the cooperative organisation which assembles all representatives for the conscripts and representatives of the administrative and military leadership at all levels of the Defence Sector. The system is intended to serve two main purposes:

- to strengthen community spirit and enhance a relationship of trust between officers and men,
- to promote the well-being of the conscripts and their joint influence on service conditions to increase the effectiveness of each unit and of the Armed Forces in general.

The Spokesman System, as an organisation, includes bodies of representatives at local, regional and central levels (see chart).

The Local Committee and the *Unit Committee* make up the local management of the organisation. The Local Committee consists of representatives from each platoon, representatives of the officers, and the company commander, who is the chairman. The platoon representatives are elected by the conscripts in each platoon. The platoon representatives elect a company representative to represent them on the Unit Committee. The Unit Committee consists of company representatives, a welfare officer and the unit commander/station commander, who is the chairman. The Unit Committees have specific powers of decision including the use of the welfare office.

The *Regional Council* is internal regional working committees which get together before every ordinary National Conference. The members of these councils are the principal spokesmen from the units in the different regions. The country is divided into 8 Regional Councils.

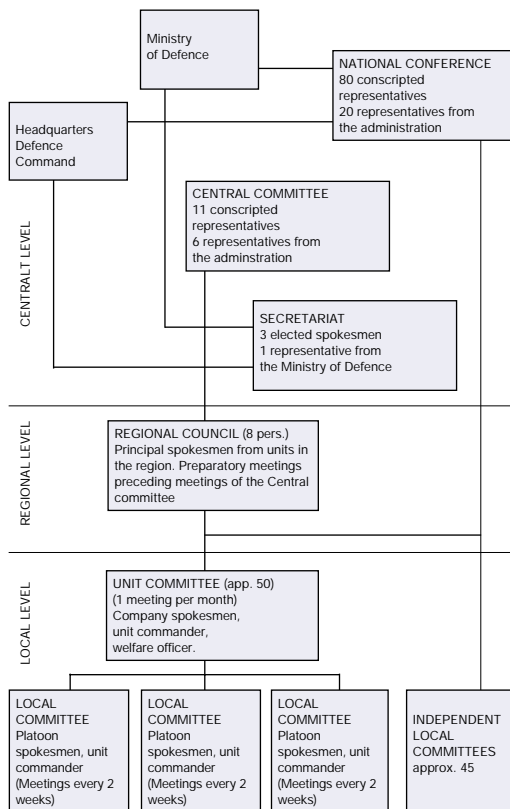
There are several bodies at the central level:

The *National Conference* is the highest liaison body in the Spokesman System. This conference elects the *Central Committee of Spokesmen in the Armed Forces*, on the recommendation of the respective Regional Councils. In addition

to the 11 conscript representatives, this Committee includes two representatives from the Ministry of Defence, two representatives from Headquarters Defence Command, and two of the chairmen of the Unit Committees, one from North Norway and one from South Norway.

The Central Committee has its own secretariat which is composed of conscripts and officials from the Ministry of Defence. The conscripts are elected at the annual National Conference and set the guidelines for next year's activities.

Additional members of the Central Committee secretariat include a conscript journalist and a conscript executive officer.



6. Military Courses and Special Education during Initial Service

The Armed Forces has a need to train personnel in a number of fields, not least for the use of advanced technical equipment. Therefore, personnel in all Services are offered courses in a number of different specialities. Some of these courses require special qualifications, others are open to everybody.

The courses include training in communications, firefighting, transport, logistics service and military police service. There are also courses to train personnel as teleprinter operators, photographic assistants, basic training instructors, radar operators, weapon crew commanders, and light aircraft assistants. Information about which courses are offered in each of the Services is available during basic training. Information leaflets are also sent to individuals prior to attending a conscription board and reporting for their initial service.

Special training

The Armed Forces select personnel to be trained as special forces. This training is demanding and requires high motivation by the participants. This type of training includes:

- The Naval Diving and Special Forces School. The school trains ordinary divers, mine clearance divers and special naval service units.
- Norwegian Army Special Operations Command. The school trains special parachute units.
- Study of the Russian language at the Norwegian Defence School of Intelligence and Security.
- Armed Forces Dog Training Establishment. The school trains dog handlers.

Information about this type of training may be obtained from the Armed Forces Recruiting and Media Centre. (See address on p. 6.)

Officer Candidate Course

In all three Services and in the Home Guard it is possible to undergo Officer Candidate Course training during initial service. Candidates for these courses are selected during basic training, when further information is available. The training lasts 6-8 months (dependent on Service branch). Not all the courses are offered at every call-up however. After completion of initial service the Officer Candidates are transferred to the mobilisation forces.

In addition the Navy offers a certain number of individuals with the required educational qualifications an opportunity to attend Officer Candidate School on completion of initial service.

7. Enlistment

The technical materiel in the Armed Forces is highly sophisticated. In order to achieve effective use of the materiel, the personnel in charge of daily operation and maintenance have to undergo relatively long and thorough training. When long training is required, dependence on conscripted personnel results in minimal utilisation of individual capability. Therefore the Armed Forces have chosen to use enlisted instead of conscripted personnel in these fields.

Enlisted personnel in the Army and the Air Force are called grenadiers. In the Navy they are known as seamen, able seamen or engineer assistants. The first contract is for three years, with an option to renew it for one, two or three years. It is thus possible to enlist for six years.

Information about the qualifications for enlistment and conditions during the period of enlistment may be obtained from the Armed Forces Recruiting and Media Centre.

8. Officer training

The Armed Forces offer education in many different fields. Some of the schools are listed below. Further information may be obtained from the Armed Forces Recruiting and Media Centre.

Officer Candidate Schools

All three Services have their own officer candidate schools, offering basic officer education for operations, administrative and technical officers.

The Officer Candidate School normally comprises one year of education followed by one year of obligatory service as sergeant or petty officer.

However, some of the branches at the Naval Officers Candidate School are of 4 years duration, combining Officer Candidate School and Military Academy.

Education at the technical Schools takes from one to three years.

All education leads to compulsory service. As a rule, the compulsory service lasts as long as the schooling.

Training to become a pilot or navigator lasts approximately 30 to 35 months. The compulsory service is 12 years for pilots and 8 years for navigators.

Army Officer Candidate Schools:

School name, abbreviation, and location. (Note: Norwegian abbreviations are used).

Officer Candidate School for:

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|----------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| - Field Artillery | BSFA | Haslemoen, Solør |
| - Cavalry | BSK | Rødsmoen |
| - Army Signals | BSHSB | Jørstadmoen, Lillehammer |
| - Army Medical Corps | BSHS | Lahaugmoen, Skedsmo |

Army Technical Schools:

The Army College of

- | | | |
|---------------|-----|--------------------------|
| - Engineering | HIS | |
| - Telematics | HIS | Jørstadmoen, Lillehammer |

Royal Norwegian Navy Officer Candidate School:

Officer Candidate School for the Navy	BSSF	Karljonansvern, Horten
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Royal Norwegian Air Force Officer Candidate Schools:

Air Force Flying School	LFS	Bardufoss
Officer Candidate School for the Air Force	LBS	Kjevik

Joint Service educational establishments

Military Police (MP) School		Sessvollmoen
Russian language course:		
Norwegian Defence School of Intelligence and Security.	FSSES	Oslo

18 months. No compulsory service.

Military Academies

Advanced officer training is given at the Military Academies. These are:

The Military Academy,	KS	Linderud, Oslo
The Naval Academy	SKSK	Laksevåg, Bergen
The Air Force Academy	LKSK	Trondheim

Education at a Military Academy consists of two stages. Stage 1 takes two years and gives the necessary qualifications to compete for admission to Stage 2. Some of the branches at the Naval Academy Basic Course are of 3 years duration. Applicants for admission to Stage 1 must have completed Officer Candidate School or course and at least one year's service as an officer. Stage 2 also takes two years, and normally requires a candidate to have served for a period following Stage 1.

Staff Colleges

The Armed Forces' highest education is provided at the Staff Colleges. These are:

The Armed Forces Fortress, Staff College	FSTS	Akershus
Army Logistics and Management College	HFS	Oslo Fredriksten Commandery, Halden

Education at the Staff Colleges takes place in two stages. Staff College I (FSTS I) is conducted at the Armed Forces Staff College and provides basic staff education on a single-Service basis. The duration is up to 3 1/2 months. The further stage of staff training, (FSTS II), again conducted at the Armed Forces Staff College but on a joint-Service basis, covers a period of 7-10 months depending on Service branch .

Other Colleges

Norwegian National Defence College	FHS	Akershus Fortress, Oslo
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The Norwegian National Defence College offers courses covering up to 6 months for military and civilian officials, representatives of the media, the educational system, business and organisations working within the field of total defence.

9. Norwegian military ranks and the British and American equivalents

The Army

Norway	Great Britain	United States
General	General	General
Generaløyntant	Lieutenant General	Lieutenant General
Generalmajor	Major General	Major General
Brigader	Brigadier	Brigadier General
Oberst	Colonel	Colonel
Oberstøyntant	Lieutenant Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel
Major	Major	Major
Kaptein	Captain	Captain

The Navy

Norway	Great Britain*	United States
Admiral	Admiral	Admiral
Viseadmiral	Vice Admiral	Vice Admiral
Kontreadmiral	Rear Admiral	Rear Admiral
Flagg-kommandør	Commodore	Rear Admiral (lower half)
Kommandør	Captain RN	Captain N
Kommandør-kaptein**	Commander	Commander
Orlogskaptein***	Senior Grade	Senior Grade
Kapteinøyntant	Commander	Commander
	Lieutenant	Lieutenant
	Commander	Commander

* Designations apply only to the Royal Navy and not to the Royal Marines.

** National description in English: Commander Senior Grade.

*** National description in English: Commander.

The Air Force

Norway	Great Britain	United States
General	Air Chief Marshal	General
Generaløyntant	Air Marshal	Lieutenant General
Generalmajor	Air Vice Marshal	Major General
Brigader	Air Commodore	Brigadier General
Oberst	Group Captain	Colonel
Oberstøyntant	Wing Commander	Lieutenant Colonel
Major	Squadron Leader	Major
Kaptein	Flight Lieutenant	Captain