

H. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

There are many non-governmental organisations in Norway doing voluntary work in connection with defence. Some of these are described below. Any questions should be addressed to the organisations directly. The addresses are at the front of the book.

The Norwegian Atlantic Committee

The Norwegian Atlantic Committee was established in 1955. Its objective is to promote wider understanding of Norwegian foreign security and defence policy with particular emphasis on North Atlantic cooperation. The Committee is headed by a Board, with County Governor Alv Jakob Fostervoll as Chairman. The Board members consist mainly of MP's from the main political parties.

The Committee works both in Norway and abroad. The information and study programs cover Norwegian foreign and security policy issues, NATO alliance policies and negotiations on arms control. The Committee runs a scholarship program and a poller article series (www.dnak.org).

Another function of the Norwegian Atlantic Committee is to gain understanding abroad for Norwegian foreign and security policy, through meetings and conferences, individual study tours and groups visits to and from other countries.

The Norwegian Association of UN Veterans (FNVLF)

The Association was founded on 16 November 1960 as The Norwegian UN Military Officers' Association. In 1988 the Association adopted its present name, and it now accepts personnel of any rank who have served on the UN or NATO peace-keeping forces – rank and file as well as officers and NCOs – from all branches of the military. The Association receives financial support along with office supplies and other materials from the Ministry of Defence and the Norwegian Armed Forces.

Local branches of the Association have been established and cover the whole country from the Agder counties in the south to Svalbard in the far north. FNVLF is a non-profit, non-political organisation based on volunteer service. The Association's motto is "Friendship across borders".

Anyone who has taken part in international peace-keeping operations can become a member.

The Association's primary tasks are to maintain ties among the members and to look after the interests of these who have served on international peace-keeping forces. Support groups have been established at each local branch to help provide assistance to members and prevent post-traumatic complaints that unfortunately afflict some veterans of peace-keeping operations.

A foundation, FN-Soldatenes Hjelpefond (the UN Soldier's assistance Fund), has been established to provide quick economic assistance to soldiers who have experienced financial difficulty after their international peace-keeping service.

The Association hopes to establish a skills and welfare centre for UN and NATO Veterans at Krigsinvalidehjemmet Bæreia (a convalescence home for injured soldiers) in Kongsvinger, Norway.

The Association publishes the magazine, "Den Blå Beret, Sjekkposten" (The Blue Beret, Checkpoint), quarterly.

Folk og Forsvar (People and Defence)

"Folk og Forsvar" was founded on February 26, 1951. Members are 75 large nation-wide professional, cultural, humanitarian, and youth organisations. A Board consisting of 10 persons, with 5 deputies, is elected by a committee of representatives.

Through conferences, courses, seminars, visits to schools, lectures, study tours, etc. the organisation spreads information about our total defence (both the military defence and our civilian emergency planning/civil defence), and about our foreign and security policy as established by the Storting.

The organisation publishes the magazine "Folk og Forsvar", with a circulation of 15,000 and, at intervals, produces pamphlets/books on relevant topics/issues.

Kvinnens Frivillige Beredskap

(The Norwegian Women's Voluntary Defence Association)

"Kvinnens Frivillige Beredskap" (KFB) is a politically neutral organisation for nation-wide cooperation between professional, cultural and humanitarian organisations with a large number of women members.

KFB has a national network of county and local committees. HM Queen Sonja is KFB's Honorary President of Honour, and Princess Astrid, Mrs Ferner is the Patron.

KFB was founded in 1951 on the initiative of HRH Crown Princess Märtha, Ms. Claudia Olsen, chairman of the National Council of Women, and Prime Minister Einar Gerhardsen.

KFB's objectives are to:

- disseminate information about the country's Total Defence;
- work to strengthen the potential of the civil community to meet emergency situations and war, natural disasters, accidents, etc.;
- contribute to a coordinated and effective preparedness of member organisations.
- promote cooperation between the voluntary organisations and the preparedness authorities.

KFB cooperates with other information organisations, the Directorate of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning, the Defence Establishment and other emergency planning authorities.

KFB's magazine "KFB-bladet" is published four times a year with a print run of 8,500.

Norges Forsvarsforening (The Norwegian Defence Association)

«The matter of defence is a matter of peace». Under this motto "Norges Forsvarsforening" (NDA) strives to keep alive in our people at all times the will to defend the nation, and ensure that Norway will always have a defence which in a satisfactory way protects the country's freedom, independence and peace. The NDA, founded in 1886, is a civilian organisation, independent and politically neutral. Today the NDA consists of some 90 local associations with almost 10,000 individual members from all walks of life. NDA thus provides a natural forum for discussion and the exchange of views on defence and security policy issues. Through its provision of information, NDA makes an active effort, both through central and local associations, to increase awareness of defence and security policy and a better understanding and appreciation of Norway's overall defence concept. This is done through contact with political authorities, information in the media, meetings, lectures, seminars, publication of leaflets on special topics etc.

The association publishes the magazine "Norges Forsvar", issued 10 times a year. The special annual issue, "Norges Forsvars årnummer" (Norwegian Defence Review) is also published in English.

Norges Lotteforbund (Norwegian Women's Defence League)

"Norges Lotteforbund" (NLF) was founded in 1928 under the name "Norske Kvinners Frivillige Verneplikt" ("Norwegian Women's Voluntary Military Service"). The organisation was reorganised and given its present name in 1945.

HRH Crown Princess Märtha was the League's first patron, since followed by Princess Astrid, Mrs. Ferner.

NLF is a politically neutral organisation based on voluntary efforts. NLF organises the local "Lotte associations", at present 45. Under the motto "For home and country" NLF works to strengthen the nation's will to defend itself and to train women for participation in the total defence in peacetime as well as in time of war. Any Norwegian woman over 16 years of age who agrees with these goals may become a member ("lotte") after completing basic training.

NLF volunteers can be used in the welfare, medical office, transport, communications and catering services of the Armed Forces. They do this work in their spare time. An individual member who signs a voluntary service agreement and thus becomes available for deployment in the Armed Forces is called an "A-Lotte" (Lotte with an agreement) and is placed in the group "lawful combat personnel".

A school for NLF volunteers is arranged every year. The school offers several courses, organised by the Inspector General of the Home Guard, which provide necessary additional competence.

NLF publishes a membership magazine "Lottebladet" six times a year. The magazine is also distributed to units of the Armed Forces. Interested persons can become support members of NLF.

Norske Reserveoffiserers Forbund (Norwegian Reserve Officers' Federation)

"Norske Reserveoffiserers Forbund" (NROF) was founded in 1896, and was first called the Conscript Officers' Association. As of 1975, NROF has collected all reserve officers into one federation. NROF is an independent organisation of reserve officers in the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the Home Guard. The term reserve officer applies to men and women not permanently employed as officers in the Armed Forces, but who in the event of war will serve as officers in military posts. NROF's primary goal is to strengthen the Defence and promote the will of the population to defend the nation. Special goals are to:

- strengthen the position of reserve officers in the community;
- protect the interests of reserve officers during service;
- improve the reserve officers' military qualifications;
- promote international cooperation between reserve officers.

The NROF is politically neutral, and has HM King Harald V as its Patron. The Association has 64 local branch associations located throughout the country and a total membership of 10,000.

The Association magazine "Pro Patria" is published six times a year and has a circulation of 10,000.

Forsvarets Pensjonistforbund (The Retirement Association of the Norwegian Defence (RANOD))

The Association was founded in 1983. At present it consists of 48 local associations with a total membership of some 600. The purpose of RANOD is to defend the economical rights of the members and cooperates in this respect with central military and civilian authorities. RANOD also assists in solving problems related to pension and retirement.

RANOD's articles of association stipulate cooperation with the Norwegian Pensioner's Association and other public sector retirement associations. This cooperative activity represents about 260,000 members.