



# *Universal Conscription in Norway*

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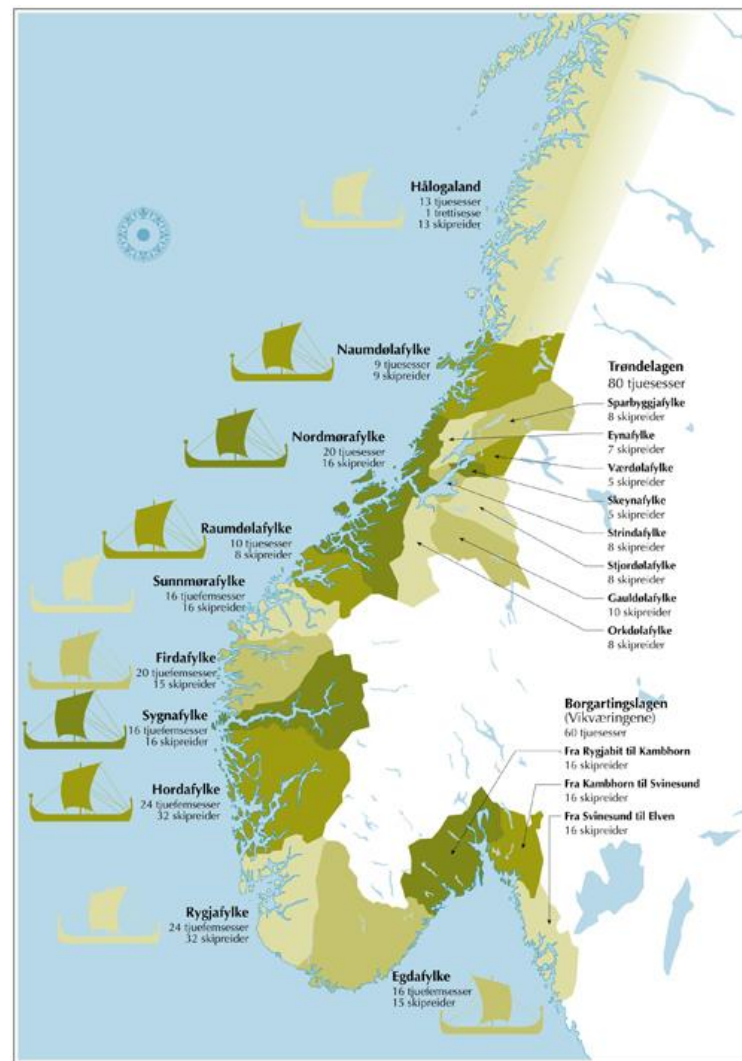
## *Historical backdrop*

- The Norwegian conscription system of today dates back to the Viking Age.
- «Leidang» (sea defence and offensive war) and «landvern» (territorial defence) was organized to defend and build the young nation Norway.



## *Historical backdrop*

- Haakon the Good Adelsteinsfostre was the first Norwegian king to organize the «leidang» around year 950.
- At its peak around year 1270 the «leidang» system could mobilize about 27 000 men in 300 ships, from a population of about 3-500 000 people.
- The «leidang» and «landvern» existed until the early 18th century.





## *Historical backdrop*

- The Norwegian Constitution was adopted by the Norwegian Constitutional Assembly at Eidsvoll May 17<sup>th</sup> 1814.
- One article formulated the general conscription:

*Article 119 (prev. 109):*

*As a general rule every citizen of the State is equally bound to serve in the defence of the country for a specific period, irrespective of birth or fortune.*

- Only partial general conscription until 1876/1897.



## *Recent developments*

- Conscription at its historical peak during the Cold War.
- Large reduction of conscripts since the 1990s .
- Increased need for:
  - Recruit the most suitable and motivated from the entire population.
  - Competence and a more even gender balance.
- On June 14<sup>th</sup> 2013 the Parliament decided to extend conscription to include women.



## *Recent developments*

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- The revised Compulsory military service act came into effect January 1st 2015.
- All women and men born January 1<sup>st</sup> 1997 and later are included.
- Conscripts from this class met to undergo military service in the summer of 2016.
- Norway the first country in NATO introducing universal conscription.



## *Current situation*

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- Conscription take place from 18 years of age.
- All citizens between 19 and 44 years are now encompassed.
- People with dual citizenship can be conscripted.
- Total service duration is 19 months (normally 12 months, but could be 6 or 18).
- In times of war citizens between 18 and 55 years that are service proficient can be called upon as reinforcements.





## *Current situation*

- Facts and figures:
  - Each class consists of about 60 000 women and men.
  - Entire class has to complete a self declaration (formerly session part 1).
  - 17 500 -19 000 conscripts are after a pre-selction called in for session (formerly session part 2).
  - Normally about 14 000 are service proficient, of which about 10 000 are conscripted.
  - About 8000 conscripts complete compulsory military service each year.

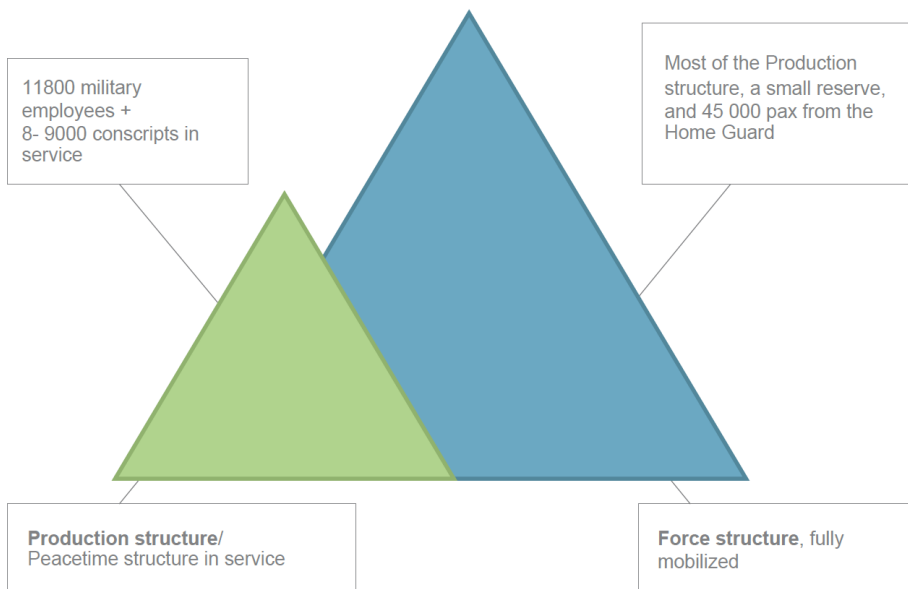




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## *Current situation*

- Today's model for force generation:



## *Current situation*

- Statistics from the first class (2016 contingent) of universal conscripts:
  - 83 % of all conscripts thrive, 90 % of the women thrive
  - 50 % of all conscripts are positive to continued service
  - 4 of 10 consider a military career
  - 14 % of all conscripts have been harassed, 18 % of the women have been harassed (% is declining)
  - 5 % of all conscripts have been sexually harassed, 15 % of the women have been sexually harassed (% is declining).





## *Current situation*

- Statistics from the first class (2016 contingent) of universal conscripts:
  - 43 % of all conscripts live in mixed sex rooms, 63 % of the women live in mixed sex rooms
  - 85 % of all conscripts living in mixed sex rooms are positive to it, 72 % of all conscripts not living in mixed sex rooms are positive to it
  - 84 % of all conscripts would have completed compulsory military service if it was voluntary, 90% of the women would have completed compulsory military service if it was voluntary.







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## *Current situation*

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- Adaption of personal clothing and equipment to both sexes.
- Adaption of barracks and other buildings facilities.
- Systematical and targeted work with organizational culture and leadership.
- Effects of the ongoing Land Power Study on universal conscription.



## *Conclusion*

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- Universal conscription is founded on a long and solid tradition in Norway.
- As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 conscription includes all women and men, and conscription is now truly universal.
- Experiences so far are positive, but there are challenges ahead that requires attention.

