



DANISH HOME GUARD



# The Home Guard 2016 Results and key figures



# Increasing demand for the Danish Home Guard

2016 was yet another record year for the Home Guard, in which our effort for the Armed Forces, the Police, the general state of readiness and the Danish population was considerable.

Once again, the Home Guard's around 15,500 members of the active forces demonstrated their outstanding dedication to making a difference. Even though the number of volunteers declined slightly compared with the year before, they spent a total of more than 2.6 million hours in the Home Guard, thus contributing approximately 134,000 more man-hours than in 2015.

The Home Guard is in demand as a partner in the state of readiness of society, and both familiar and new capacities are popular with our partners. The large backlog of overtime within the Police led to a political decision to the effect that the Home Guard was to provide support at the border between Denmark and Germany. As a consequence, more than 130 members working under a contract have served as a border control force in Southern Jutland and on Lolland-Falster since the summer of 2016.

A completely new capacity became operative in January 2016. The two Britten-Norman Defender aircraft were requested to provide support for exercises and deployment by the Armed Forces, the Police and the Danish tax authorities, the number of flights in 2016 totalling 456.

Explosive device clearance, another relatively new capacity, also made an impact. The nine specially trained units assisting the Army's Ammunition Clearance Service by destroying explosive maroons and chrysanthemum shells were awarded the Volunteer Prize by the Danish Minister of Defence in 2016.

In order to strengthen retention, but also to promote the Home Guard, we held a large-scale national exercise over the Constitution Day weekend on 3-5 June 2016 with the participation of more than 5,000 soldiers from the Home Guard and foreign partners. Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess participated throughout the exercise. The exercise finished with a great parade attended by Her Majesty the Queen.

The Danes acknowledged our efforts by expressing a high level confidence in the Home Guard in Statistics Denmark's annual survey on their views on the Home Guard. More than four in five Danes thus express either confidence or great confidence in the Home Guard's ability to perform its tasks.

With its new capacities and an increasingly competent force, the Home Guard is in a strong position to support the Armed Forces and the Danish society in general on land, at sea and in the air.

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## More deployments in 2016

Again in 2016, the Home Guard was in demand as a partner in terms of the overall state of readiness of society, and its capacities were drawn upon to a substantial degree. The Home Guard supported the Armed Forces and the Police with personnel, aircraft, vessels and vehicles, e.g. in connection with tasks involving setting up roadblocks and other barriers, border control, floods as well as exercises and training.

The volunteer soldiers delivered more than 2.6 million man-hours, up 134,000 hours from the previous year. These hours include training, exercises and deployments, comprising efforts by the Army Home Guard, the Naval Home and the Air Force Home Guard alike. They cover short-term activities as well as long-term, permanent tasks such as guarding Danish waters and supporting the Army in Denmark as well as internationally.

The tasks are varied, but the main focus is to support the Armed Forces. The Home Guard is a military readiness organisation, but a significant part of the effort includes maintaining and developing skills by supporting partners.

This is why the Police, the Danish tax authorities and others also benefit from the efforts of the Home Guard's volunteer soldiers, who are based all over Denmark, so they are always ready to support and defend the country.

The Home Guard partners experience an increasing need for competent support. Accordingly, the number of support hours for both expected and unexpected deployments for all our partners increased from 331,960 hours in 2015 to 355,065 hours in 2016.

The overall efforts of the Home Guard in the readiness field were stable and satisfactory with a high total attainment rate and a high level of satisfaction among our partners.

In order to meet the growing need for support, we focus especially on building a state of readiness. The volunteer soldiers must be ready for deployment at all times, so training and exercise activities rose by 138,477 hours in total, or 8.5 per cent, compared with 2015.







## Competent and relevant support

The Home Guard provides safety and security for the Danish population as part of the joint mission of the Ministry of Defence.

In its feedback to the Home Guard, the Police state that the tasks were performed satisfactorily in 99.7 per cent of the 1,152 cases in which they requested the support of the Home Guard in 2016.

Time and time again, the volunteer soldiers are ready to perform their tasks within the requirement of 1 hour. In many cases, the volunteers are even ready to turn out at much shorter notice.

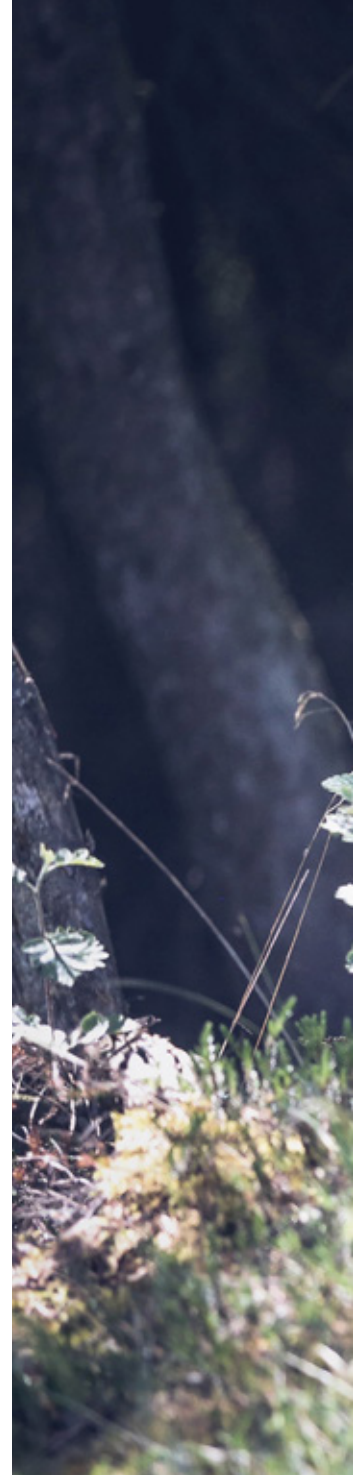
Society's need for both expected and unexpected support from the Naval Home Guard has grown steadily in recent years. In 2016, the Naval Home Guard was deployed unexpectedly 63 times in connection with rescue tasks at sea. The average response time was an impressive 26 minutes.

Again in 2016, the explosive device clearance units made a positive impact. Their expertise was called upon no less than 177 times all over Denmark. All tasks involving destruction of explosive maroons and chrysanthemum

shells, which can be extremely dangerous in the hands of unskilled persons, were executed in a satisfactory manner. The execution of tasks by the explosive device clearance units in the last couple of years (in 2015, the Home Guard deployed these units in more than 300 instances) have attracted attention, and as a result, they were awarded the Volunteer Prize by the Danish Minister of Defence in 2016.

Every year, Statistics Denmark conducts a survey on the Danish population's view on the Home Guard. In 2016, it showed that more than four in five Danes express either confidence or great confidence in the Home Guard's ability to perform its tasks. This was a substantial increase since 2004, when 63 per cent had confidence or great confidence in the Home Guard's ability to perform its tasks.

The same trend is seen in the answers to the question of whether the Home Guard contributes to the provision of safety and security. Support for the Home Guard amounted to 67 per cent in 2008, while it was as high as 80 per cent in 2016.







## Many new members with a military background

In 2016, the Home Guard continued to focus on securing its foundation by increasing the level of education among its members, and by ensuring appropriate recruitment of new skilled, volunteer soldiers. At the end of 2016, the Home Guard's active force consisted of 15,504 members out of a total of 45,323 members, which is slightly less than at the end of 2015.

Because of increased calls upon the Home Guard's capacities, new members are recruited on a regular basis. Several years of recruitment of young members have had a positive impact on the force in recent years.

The number of new members aged 18-34 was 806 in 2016, which is equivalent to about two thirds of all new members, since the total number of new contracts amounted 1,197. This rejuvenation of the active force is crucial to retain the Home Guard's ability to carry out new and more complex military assignments in future.

The total number of new members in 2016 represents a slight drop compared with the

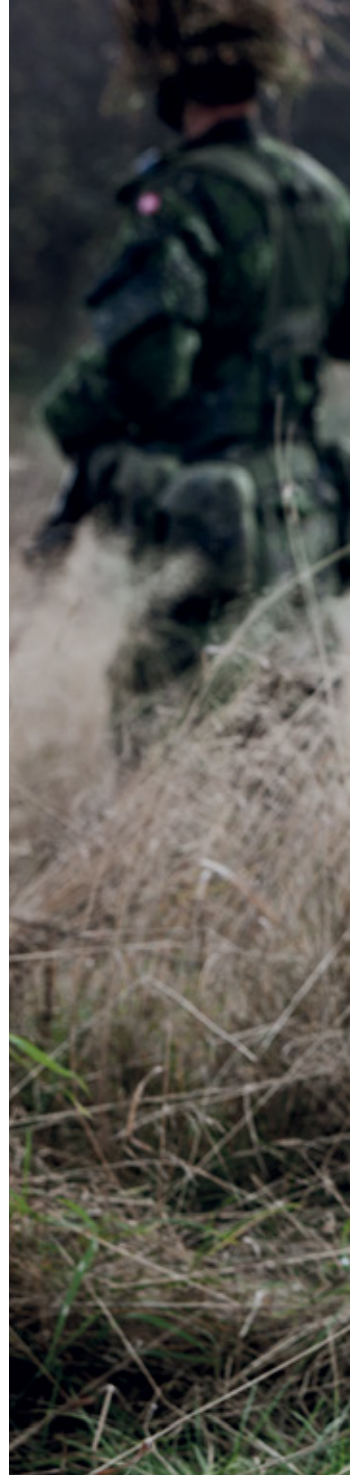
year before when the Home Guard signed contracts with 1,276 new members.

In 2016, 262 women signed up. Women thus accounted for 22 per cent of the recruits and about 15 per cent of the total number of volunteers.

The share of new female members has been growing in recent years, which is seen as a positive sign, since the Home Guard wishes to reflect the diversity of the population in terms of gender, age and ethnical background.

In recent years, the Home Guard has focused on recruiting new members with a background from the military service. This effort has no doubt contributed to the fact that 35 per cent of the new members, 415 in total, have a military background.

The Home Guard needs to see a higher influx of new members in 2017. To that end, the Home Guard has set up a task force for recruitment and retention to provide the best possible conditions for the Home Guard of the future.









## Balanced finances

The overall result for 2016 was satisfactory with balanced finances. The Home Guard thus achieved a lower rate of consumption of approximately DKK 3 million, equivalent to 0.5 per cent of the combined appropriation allocated. In 2016, the appropriation allocated to the Home Guard in the Finance Act consisted of the fixed appropriation plus a supplementary appropriation (due to the refugee and migrant situation) – totalling just over DKK 0.5 billion.

The balance between meeting the requirements of the state of readiness and at the same time building up and maintaining robustness is a permanent challenge. We are consequently looking forward to the conclusion of a favourable Danish Defence Agreement for 2018-2022, providing the funds for equipment required by the Home Guard. Provision of funds for replacement of the Home Guard's equipment is essential if the Home Guard is to maintain its current support and activities.

Out of the total spending in 2016, by far the largest amount was spent on the Home Guard's state of readiness tasks – more specifically on posting units, training and deployment.

Once again, the Home Guard provided a very large number of hours in 2016 in connection with the posting of units, training, deployment and auxiliary functions. More than 2.6 million hours in total.

In order for the Home Guard to remain an attractive partner in matters of readiness, it is important that the Home Guard is able to accommodate requests for support from the Armed Forces and interested parties. It is the aim of Home Guard that operative capacities should always be ready and available and always match the requirements of its partners.

The Home Guard has succeeded in maintaining quality solutions when performing tasks and ensuring room to manoeuvre for the tasks with the highest priority, including the posting of capacities and training related to the national state of readiness obligation, posting of units in Denmark and tasks to support the international commitment of the Armed Forces.

In the course of 2016, efforts were made to implement the airborne capacity of the Home Guard, now comprising two aircraft with advanced sensory equipment.







## Focus on a new agreement and the Arctic in 2017

2017 will be a key year for the Home Guard with regard to all core tasks. For its main tasks, i.e. posting of units, training and deployment, the Home Guard will strengthen its position in terms of the skills and relevant depth of Denmark's defence and preparedness. The Home Guard expects a steady increase in the demand for support for the Armed Forces and Denmark's overall state of readiness.

It is essential for the Home Guard's continued relevance and credibility that we are able to ensure relevant and suitable volunteer military readiness in future in order to provide the required support. This calls for capacities that are well-organised, equipped for the task and at the required training level.

In the coming years, the Home Guard will focus on deployment of a readiness force, while at the same time preparing for new tasks abroad: deployment of the first independent guard duty contribution since Kosovo for the UN mission MINUSMA in Mali as well as support for the Armed Forces in connection with the Danish VJTF (Very High Readiness Joint Task Force) contribution in the context of NATO.

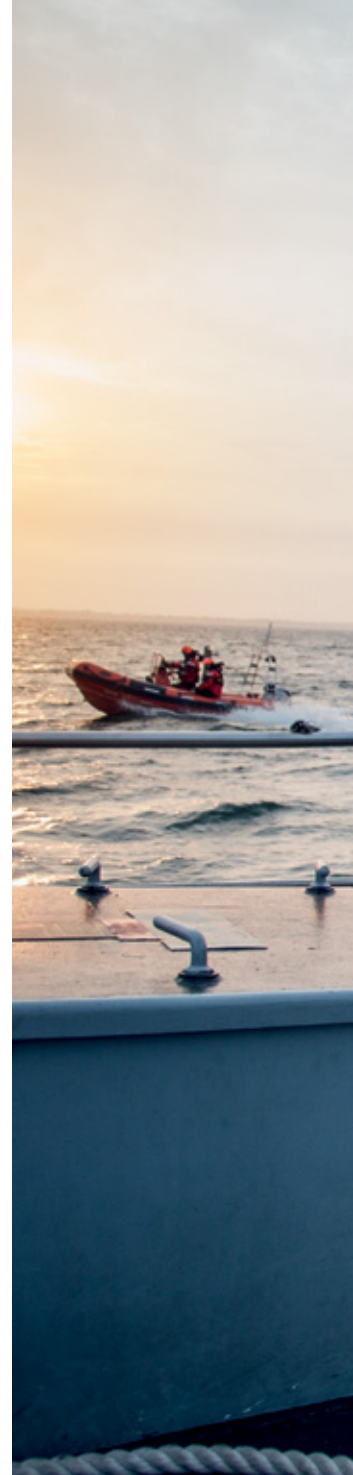
The Arctic also has the Home Guard's atten-

tion. To that end, the Home Guard Command, in cooperation with the Danish Emergency Management Agency, is developing a pilot project concerning the establishment and operation of a volunteer Greenlandic emergency management organisation.

In 2017, the Home Guard will continue our established cooperation with partner countries in the international field, including our cooperation with Norway, Sweden and volunteer organisations in the Baltic States, development cooperation with Georgia and training and exercise cooperation with the US National Guard.

An important task in 2017 will be our participation in connection with the preparations for political negotiations on a new Danish Defence Agreement with effect from 2018. Our key task in this connection is to communicate the Home Guard's need for funds to maintain its current ability to support the Armed Forces and society.

Finally, the Home Guard will remain in close contact with our partners in 2017 in order to be able, whenever necessary, to provide personnel for any new tasks that require support due to developments in Denmark and our neighbouring countries.







## Facts about the Home Guard

- The Home Guard is a volunteer military organisation offering a permanent state of readiness.
- The task of the Home Guard is to support the Armed Forces – nationally as well as internationally. In addition to this, the Home Guard supports the police, the Danish Emergency Management Agency and other authorities.
- The Home Guard also contributes internationally with guard duty, build-up of military capacity, and support for civilian reconstruction.
- In 2016, the volunteer soldiers of the Home Guard delivered 2.644,138 man-hours, including training and emergency exercises.
- According to the Statistics Denmark survey "Views on the Home Guard 2016", 81 per cent of the Danish population have confidence or great confidence in the Home Guard's ability to carry out its duties. In 2004, the figure was 63 per cent.
- At end-2016, the Home Guard consisted of 45,323 volunteers.
- At end-2016, the active force consisted of 15,504 volunteer soldiers. The remaining 29,819 volunteers are part of the Home Guard reserve.
- Approximately 15 per cent of the volunteers are women. In 2016, 22 per cent of the new recruits were women.
- In 2016, 1197 new volunteers signed contracts. 415, or just under 35 per cent of those had a background in the Armed Forces. 806 of the new recruits were 18-34 years old.
- In 2016, the appropriation allocated to the Home Guard in the Finance Act amounted to just over DKK 0.5 billion, including a supplementary appropriation to support border control carried out by the Police.
- The Home Guard has a combined military and civilian leadership. The Commander of the Home Guard is responsible for the training and posting of units and managing the Home Guard. The Commissioner of the Home Guard is responsible for recruitment and popular support.





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### **Joint mission of the Ministry of Defence**

Together we work for Danish security and interests and the security of citizens.

### **Joint vision of the Ministry of Defence**

- We operate and develop tasks so that we get the most out of the resources we have available.
- The Ministry of Defence wants to be a professional and widely recognised collaboration partner.
- Joint capacity and drive will be created through loyal and confident cooperation.

DANISH HOME GUARD  
COMMAND



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