

1949
NEW ZEALAND

COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING

STATEMENT RELATIVE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SERVICES
AND THE OPERATION OF THE SCHEME

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Leave

COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING

REQUIREMENTS OF THE SERVICES AND OPERATION OF THE SCHEME

1. The compulsory Military Training Poll Act, 1949, provides for the taking of a poll on the adoption of a system of compulsory military training to meet the requirements of the non-regular forces. The introduction of such a system is necessary as a detailed examination of the position has disclosed that it would be impossible, under a system of voluntary service, to obtain the non-regular forces that are considered essential for New Zealand's defence requirements in the event of an emergency.

2. Although the personnel required for the non-regular Naval and Air Forces will be obtained on a voluntary basis from those who have registered in accordance with their liability (see paragraph 5 (1) below), the adoption of a system of compulsory training will assist those Services in completing the non-regular establishments that have been authorized. With regard to the Army, compulsory military training is absolutely essential if it is to be able to fulfil the tasks that are likely to present themselves in an emergency.

3. Arrangements will be made whereby men called up for training will be given the option of joining the non-regular Naval or Air Forces and, subject to Service requirements and the needs of Navy and Air, they will be accepted for these Services. Otherwise, they will be required to serve in the Army.

4. In order to assist in the understanding of the proposals, the following tables are published in this paper:—

MANPOWER REQUIRED AND AVAILABLE FOR THE NON-REGULAR FORCES

A. Availability

1. Numbers of males surviving in 18-years age group:—

1949	..	..	..	..	14,050
1950	..	..	..	..	13,350
1951	..	..	..	..	13,110
1952	..	..	..	..	13,280
1953	..	..	..	..	13,230
1954	..	..	..	..	13,550

Average number in age-group, 1949–54 inclusive: 13,430.

(2) Yield of fit and available males for training (18 years age group):—
Estimated numbers in Grades I and II (84 per cent. of 13,430) .. 11,280
Less intakes into regular forces as follows:—

	Total per Year.	From Outside Age-group.	From Age-group.
<i>Navy</i> —		(20 per cent.)	
Build-up from 2302 to 2664* over 3 years	121	24	97
Annual intake to maintain 2664, allowing for average length of service of 8 years	333	67	266
<i>Air Force</i> —		(50 per cent.)	
Build-up from 3096 to 4200* over 3 years	368	184	184
Annual intake to maintain 4200, allowing for average length of service of 10 years	420	210	210
<i>Army</i> —		(75 per cent.)	
Build-up from 2583 to 3800* over 3 years	406	304	102
Annual intake to maintain 3800, allowing for average length of service of 10 years	380	285	95
Total from within age-group			954**

NOTES.—*Excluding women as follows:—

Navy	..	..	..	125
Air Force	..	..	..	300
Army	..	..	..	290

But including 962 persons to be recruited in the United Kingdom.

**Once the regular forces have been built up to full strength annual intake will be reduced to provide for maintenance only, requiring a total of 571.

Numbers in Grade I and II remaining after intake to regular forces	10,326
Less estimated exemptions on grounds of conscientious objection, public interest or undue hardship (10% of the residue of 10,326) ..	1,033
Net number available for non-regular forces annually	9,293
Say	9,000

B. Requirements for Non-regular Forces

Navy—

To build-up and thereafter maintain 850* (three year period) 300

Air Force—

To build-up and thereafter maintain 1,450* (three year period) 500

Army—

To build-up and thereafter maintain at least 21,500* (three year period) .. 7,200

Total intake required 8,000

* Excluding (a) Women as follows;—

Air Force	..	..	..	..	50
Army	..	..	..	..	1,000

(b) Volunteers outside the age-group as follows:

Navy	..	..	..	..	150
Air Force	..	..	..	..	500
Army	..	..	..	..	3,000

It should be noted, however, that the figure for Army is a minimum one and that Army will take for training the whole of the fit men remaining available. The actual number will vary from year to year with the size of the age-group as a whole.

ESTIMATE OF PERCENTAGE OF LABOUR FORCE AFFECTED BY THE COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING SCHEME

These figures are estimated on the basis that 9,000 18-year olds will be called up each year under the Compulsory Military Training Scheme. The total available male labour force (including Armed Forces) is estimated to rise from 554,000 in 1950 to 563,000 in 1953, the decline in retirements from the labour force being greater than the decline in young persons entering it. The conversion from man-weeks to the equivalent of full-time withdrawal from the labour force is made on the basis of forty-eight working weeks per year.

	Equivalent of Full-time Withdrawals from the Labour Force.	Estimated Total Male Labour Force.	Withdrawals as Percentage of Total Labour Force.*
1950—9,000 recruits for 14 weeks	2,625	554,000	·44
1951—9,000 recruits for 14 weeks 9,000 recruits for 2 weeks	3,000	557,000	·50
1952—9,000 recruits for 14 weeks 18,000 recruits for 2 weeks	3,375	560,000	·55
1953—9,000 recruits for 14 weeks 27,000 recruits for 2 weeks	3,750	563,000	·61

*After making an adjustment to allow for the fact that 8 per cent. of the withdrawals will be students and that students are not included in the total labour-force figures.

In addition, the build-up of the regular forces to the approved establishment will, by 1953, involve the withdrawal of a further 42 per cent. of the total labour force. The overall percentage (including all regular and non-regular forces) at the end of 1953 is estimated at 2.13 of the total labour force.

ESTIMATED INDUSTRIAL DISTRIBUTION OF 9,000 EIGHTEEN-YEAR OLDS
(INCLUDING MAORIS)

Primary industry	..	..	..	..	..	3,050
Secondary industry	..	..	..	..	..	2,650
Transport and communication	..	..	..	..	..	660
Distribution and finance	..	..	..	..	..	1,320
Public administration and professional	..	..	..	..	..	440
Domestic and personal services	..	..	..	..	..	160
Full-time students	..	..	..	..	..	720
Total	..	..	..	..	..	9,000

FINANCE

The estimated annual cost of defence preparedness (including a system of compulsory military training) averaged over a period of the next five years is £17,250,000. At the present time expenditure is £9,441,000. The annual cost per head of population at the present time is, therefore, £5 4s. When a full scheme is in operation the cost is estimated at £(N.Z.)9 9s. per head of population. This compares with the estimated cost in the United Kingdom per head of population—viz., £(Stg.) 15 2s.

5. *Operation of the Compulsory Military Training Scheme.*—The following is an outline of the main features of the Compulsory Military Training Scheme to be adopted:—

REGISTRATION

(1) On reaching the age of 18 years all male British subjects ordinarily resident in New Zealand will register at the nearest District Office of the Department of Labour and Employment, either in person or by registered letter. Every person so registering will be enabled to indicate his preference as to the Service to which he would like to be posted for training.

As far as is compatible with the requirements of each Service, the recruit will be posted in accordance with the preference he has indicated. Owing, however, to the limited requirements of the Air Force and Navy, no assurance can be given that every man will be able to serve in the branch of the Services which he prefers.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND OTHER PRELIMINARIES

(2) Following registration, the Department of Labour and Employment will arrange for medical examination of the applicants. Those found fit for training will be served with an enlistment notice, and may then apply for postponement of service.

(3) The Department of Labour and Employment will then notify the appropriate service (Navy, Army, or Air) of the particulars of those who have not applied for postponement or who have been made available for service by determination of a Postponement Committee.

(4) The appropriate Service will then issue a notice calling the recruit up for a period of fourteen weeks' full-time training, which will normally commence in the year following that in which the recruit reached the age of eighteen years.

(5) In certain cases, the final selection of recruits for the Service to which they will be ultimately posted may be deferred until after calling-up notices have been issued. Pending such final selection the recruits will be called up by Army.

ARMY TRAINING

(6) Army propose to hold two training periods each of fourteen weeks' duration for Army recruits in each year. One will be held in the summer months (commencing probably in January) and the other in the winter months (commencing in May). The latter period has been selected in order to meet the requirements of the farming industry and those engaged in seasonal occupations. An endeavour will be made to meet the wishes of other recruits as to the camp in which they prefer to train. Owing, however, to the necessity of keeping the numbers under training in each camp at a required strength, this may not always be possible.

NOTE.—Two camps are proposed rather than three, as the instructional staffs are also required to train all regular force troops and to hold regular force courses and examinations. They are also required to hold courses for Territorial Officers and N.C.O.s and, wherever possible, to assist with Territorial unit camps.

NAVAL AND AIR FORCE TRAINING

(7) Naval and Air Force recruits will be called up for their period of full-time training in a manner similar to that proposed by Army, with the possible qualification that it may prove desirable to spread this training over three intakes instead of two. This, however, remains to be decided. Such a procedure would reduce any adverse effect on industries and occupations of a seasonal nature.

SUBSEQUENT TRAINING

(8) Following the completion by the Army recruit of his period of fourteen weeks' full-time camp, he will be posted to a Unit of the Territorial Force where he will be required to serve for three years, carrying out in each year fourteen days in camp and six days' other training (week-end camps and equipment parades). At the end of four years he will be posted to the Reserve, where he will remain for six years. No training is required while on the Reserve, but in the event of war or national emergency reservists may be called up for continuous service. The soldier must notify any change of address.

(9) The procedure in the Navy and Air Force subsequent to the completion of the full-time training period will be generally similar to that adopted by Army.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (2,525 copies), £23.

By Authority: R. E. OWEN, Government Printer, Wellington.—1949.

Price 6d.]

