

**The Swedish Women's Voluntary
Defence Organisation (Svenska Lottakåren)**

is a non-party political, voluntary defence organisation that recruits and trains women to serve in civil emergencies and in Sweden's military defence. Every year "Lottas" perform roles in national and international operations. The Swedish Women's Voluntary Defence Organisation is the only female defence organisation in Sweden and is organized in over 100 local corps.



THE SWEDISH WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY DEFENCE ORGANISATION:

MILITARY DEFENCE IN SWEDEN



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The task of the Swedish Armed Forces

The task of the Swedish Armed Forces is to defend Sweden and safeguard our security through missions in Swedish territory, in neighbouring areas and further afield. The Armed Forces also assist society in general, and other agencies and other countries where required. The Armed Forces works with other countries to maintain peace in Sweden. Our defence is thus increasingly based on international cooperation rather than being solely our responsibility.

Collaboration with other countries

European security policy has fundamentally changed since the end of the Cold War. Confrontation has been replaced by collaboration. Almost all European states are now members of both the EU and NATO. Sweden's security is built on solidarity with other countries with shared democratic values. The Swedish Armed Forces must be able to give support to and receive support from other nations, agencies and organisations to achieve greater impact.

The task of the Swedish Armed Forces is more complex today

What was previously defence against invasion has been replaced by a more complex and more active type of defence, involving rapid response and the opportunity to conduct operations outside Sweden. The operational organisation is made up of three components: contract units, units on standby and the Home Guard with the national defence forces.

The Home Guard

The Home Guard was the outcome of a government decision on 29 May 1940. The Second World War was raging just beyond Sweden's borders and there was an urgent need to protect local communities and those at home. Today the Home Guard is a voluntary unit in the Swedish Armed Forces. The most important tasks of the Home Guard are to guard, protect, carry out surveillance and support the civil community in various types of emergency. The Home Guard is taking on greater responsibility and a wider range of duties, and is consequently being allocated additional and more advanced resources than was previously the case.

Voluntary defence organisations to plays an important role in the defence forces

Sweden's voluntary defence organisations are independent organisations established on its citizens' own initiative. They are also non-profit organisations and independent of each other and of the Swedish Armed Forces with which they work. In total these organisations have approximately 400,000 members. The organisations recruit and train Swedish citizens on a voluntary basis to perform duties in the event of a civil emergency in Sweden and as part of Sweden's military defence.

The Swedish Women's Voluntary Defence Organisation (Lottakåren) is one of the organisations that train women for contracts primarily with the Home Guard, but also with the Air Force, the Army and the Navy.

The Swedish Women's Voluntary Defence Organisation will train you for a military contract

The Swedish Women's Voluntary Defence Organisation trains members for contracts and military postings within the Swedish Armed Forces. Training and missions can vary slightly from year to year, but primarily we train women for posts in the mess/field kitchens, management support/staff and military intelligence.

Where and when you are able to serve depends on the type of work you have chosen and, in peacetime, involves attending exercises and further training to maintain your skills. However, should a situation of war arise and the situation is critical, you will be ordered to serve in accordance with your contract with the Swedish Armed Forces.

Become a member of the Swedish Women's Voluntary Defence Organisation

Women of all ages who are registered in Sweden are welcome to join the Swedish Women's Voluntary Defence Organisation as member. As a member you have access to activities arranged by your local corps and courses open to alla members.

To be able to train for a contract with the Swedish Armed Forces you need to be a Swedish citizen. The contract is not a full time job.

Read more about our military training at www.svenskalottakaren.se.