

Professional Army



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Operační program Vzdělávání pro konkurenceschopnost

Název projektu: Inovace magisterského studijního programu Fakulty ekonomiky a managementu

Registrační číslo projektu: CZ.1.07/2.2.00/28.0326

Warm-up

Work in pairs

- In your opinion, which is better – professional or conscript army? Why?
- What are the advantages/ disadvantages of a professional army?
- What are the advantages/ disadvantages of a conscript army?

Read the text and answer the following questions.

- 1 Why do some societies reject the idea of professional armed forces?
- 2 Why are conscripts soldiers cheaper than regulars?
- 3 Why do conscription-based forces have fewer problems with readiness and unit cohesion?
- 4 What is the negative effect of unit cohesion?

A regular army?

When political and military leaders ask *What sort of an army will we need for the 21st century?*, the most common answer is *A fully professional army*. Regular armies may be a good solution for large rich countries. However, this solution is not always the best for smaller nations, especially countries with a developing economy.

The first problem is cultural and social. Although a number of countries have a long tradition of voluntary service, in some societies the idea of a professional mercenary army is not widely accepted. A second problem is cost. Although there may be a high social cost of taking a young man out of education or work, conscript soldiers are quite cheap. The conscript accepts a lower standard of living, he is unaccompanied by his family and he needs little support. The regular soldier, by comparison, is expensive. He must be paid at rates similar to the commercial world and be provided with housing and other social support.

Although, a country might be capable of supporting a very large conscription-based army, it might only be able to afford a very small regular force. For many countries, this will have important consequences for their national defence.

A further problem has to do with readiness and cohesion. Since they get little leave, conscripts are always available for service. Regular soldiers, however, require longer leave periods and will frequently be away, either on leave or on training courses. In addition, many conscripts based militaries use unit rotation and replacement which results in high readiness and unit cohesion once units are formed and fully trained. Many regular professional militaries, on the other hand, employ individual rotation and replacement. This system means a continuous movement of personnel into and out of units and can reduce small unit cohesion and affect readiness. In addition, many professional forces have problems in getting soldiers to stay on. For example, the British Army, despite paying salaries to regular soldiers, has many problems getting them to re-enlist after five years of service.

Resource: S. Mellor-Clark: Campaign 3



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Match the words and their definitions.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. conscription | a) time permitted away from work |
| 2. individual rotation | b) to join the armed forces as a career |
| 3. professional army | c) compulsory enlistment for military service |
| 4. cohesion | d) entire unit moves to a theatre, completes its tour of duty and returns home |
| 5. unit rotation | e) continue in the military when your first contract is over |
| 6. leave | f) the bonds or "glue" that bring people together |
| 7. to enlist | g) all-volunteer army |
| 8. mercenary | h) soldier who fights for any country or group that pays them |
| 9. readiness | i) a unit stays in theatre for the duration of a mission and personnel move into and out of unit |
| 10. to reenlist | j) willingness or a state of being prepared for something |

Match the words with their synonyms.

- abandon
- mandatory
- modern
- experience
- rich
- cohesion
- available
- regular
- affect

- practice
- wealthy
- steady
- influence
- compactness
- up-to-date
- leave
- affordable
- obligatory

Fill the gaps in the text. Use the following words.

warfare recognition armies conscription strength missiles
soldiers unskilled train modern

Some countries, like Britain, have already abandoned peace-time _____. Unfortunately, they haven't done so for idealistic reasons, but from a simple _____ of the fact that modern _____ is a highly professional business. In the old days large _____ were essential. There was _____ in numbers; ordinary _____ were cannon fodder. But in these days of inter-continental ballistic _____, of push-button warfare and escalation, _____ manpower has become redundant. In a mere two years or so, you can't hope to _____ conscripts in the requirements and conditions of _____ warfare. So why bother? Leave it to the professionals!

Resource: L.G.Alexander: For and against

Decide whether the following statements support idea of professional or conscript army.

- 1 First step to peace: abolish conscriptions.
- 2 Valuable character training: stress on physical fitness, initiative, etc.
- 3 Two years in armed forces provide valuable experience of men; help a young man to grow up.
- 4 Careers, studies disrupted; even course of lives altered.
- 5 No strength in numbers; no need for cannon fodder.
- 6 Two years not enough to train conscripts; modern warfare is highly professional.
- 7 Many examples of conventional warfare in recent times.
- 8 Helps unskilled men to acquire skills (e.g. driving, vehicle maintenance, etc.)
- 9 Useless experience: men forget what they learnt.
- 10 Aim of peacetime conscription: national defence.

Resource: L.G.Alexander: For and against



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Questions? Suggestions?

Thanks for your attention.



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ