



## Kazakhstan's Substitute Draft to Combat Coronavirus

**OE Watch Commentary:** Although the government of Kazakhstan has been using fewer conscripts to fill the ranks of its armed forces over the past several years, the annual draft remains an important part of maintaining readiness. Contract soldiers currently make up an estimated 75 percent of the country's armed forces, with the rest of the positions filled by conscripts. The accompanying excerpted article reports on how the Kazakh government is dealing with the draft amid the nationwide state of emergency due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The article, from the Russian-language news website *Inform Buro*, reports that due to the state of emergency, “the spring draft was suspended,” along with the discharge of conscripts in the spring. However, the government appears to have found a substitute during its state of emergency. The article notes that, those fit for military service will be drafted for “special groups to combat the spread of coronavirus,” based on a decree signed by Kazakh President Qassym-Zhomart Toqaev in early April. The article mentions that this will not be a national draft, but instead that “the number of soldiers and the terms of service [will be] established by local authorities.”

The Deputy Chief of the General Staff mentions that the conscripts in the special groups “will serve at checkpoints, patrol, disinfect and guard facilities and participate in flood control” and that “in regions where military units are garrisoned, there may not be a draft.” The article also reports that those drafted “will receive the same salary as they get now,” that they “will serve close to their place of residence so that they can spend the night at home” and that the “same benefits for military personnel will be provided for those conscripted into the special groups.” **End OE Watch Commentary (Stein)**



Quarantine in Nur-Sultan. 26 March 2020.

Source: Yakov Fedorov via Wikimedia, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2020-03-26\\_Quarantine\\_in\\_Nur-Sultan-1.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2020-03-26_Quarantine_in_Nur-Sultan-1.jpg), CC BY SA 4.0

***“The Deputy Chief of the General Staff of Kazakhstan, Ruslan Shpekbayev, told reporters that the special conscripts would patrol settlements, engage in sanitation and participate in the response to possible floods in the spring.”***



## Continued: Kazakhstan's Substitute Draft to Combat Coronavirus

**Source:** “Daniyar Aysarov, “Спецсборы военнообязанных во время ЧП. Как будут служить призывники (Special groups of draft eligible people at the time of the emergency situation. How the conscripted will serve),” *Inform Buro*, 7 April 2020. <https://informburo.kz/stati/specsbory-voennoobyazannyh-vo-vremya-chp-kak-budut-sluzhit-prizyvniki.html>

*The special groups of draft eligible people could last from 10 day to 3 months. The dates will be determined by local officials. On April 2, Kazakh President Qassym-Zhomart Toqaev signed a decree on the drafting of those who are eligible for special groups to combat the spread of the coronavirus. It is unknown how many will be conscripted, because the number of soldiers and the terms of service are established by local authorities. It is known that more than 500 volunteered...*

*Who will be drafted into the special group, how much will they receive and how will they serve...The army has categories of fitness for service:*

*“A” – is fit for military service*

*“B” – is fit for military service with minor restrictions*

*“V” – is limited for military service*

*“G” – temporarily unfit for military service*

*“D” – is not suitable for military service in peacetime, limited in wartime*

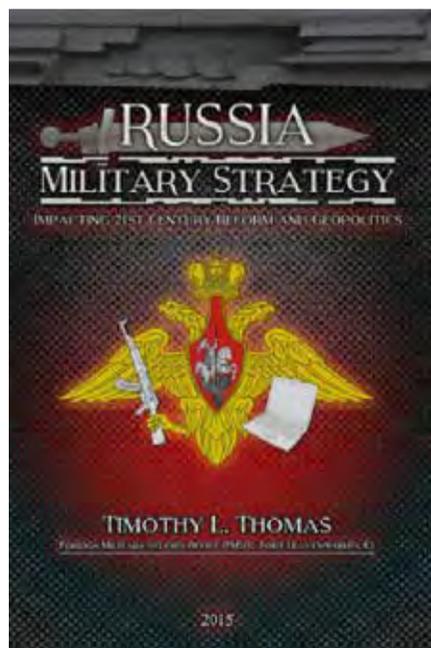
*It has been announced that the special groups will be only those eligible for category A*

*...The conscripts who have a job will receive the same salary as they get now...The plan is that the conscripts will serve close to their place of residence so that they can spend the night at home. The same benefits for military personnel will be provided for those conscripted into the special groups...*

*Because of the state of emergency in Kazakhstan, the spring draft was suspended. Therefore, a special appeal was required not throughout Kazakhstan, but in regions where there is help needed. The discharge of conscripts in the spring was also suspended...*

*The Deputy Chief of the General Staff of Kazakhstan, Ruslan Shpekbayev, told reporters that the special conscripts would patrol settlements, engage in sanitation and participate in the response to possible floods in the spring. “Those eligible for military service will not be transferred to other regions. They will serve at checkpoints, patrol, disinfect and guard facilities and participate in flood control” said Shpekbayev...*

*The Ministry of Defense said that the draft will be staggered, depending on need. In regions where military units are garrisoned, there may not be a draft. In regions where there are not enough resources of the armed forces to ensure the emergency and quarantine, special drafts will take place...There are plans to draft 100 in Nur Sultan and 200 in Almaty. The number of people planned to be called up in Shymkent is unknown...*



### RUSSIA MILITARY STRATEGY: IMPACTING 21ST CENTURY REFORM AND GEOPOLITICS by TIMOTHY L. THOMAS

Russian military's main tasks are to maintain the combat readiness of the Armed Forces and to ensure the Russian Federation's defensive capability. Russia's military heritage will assist this process tremendously. Combat readiness includes updated strategic thought, new equipment revelations, and future-war projections. Defensive capability includes not just protecting Russia's territory, but also the security of the nation's national interests and conduct of geopolitics. Capturing the essence of these developments is the goal of this book. In the process a few templates for understanding Russian military thought and actions are offered for further consideration and use.

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