



Autumn Conscription Campaign Begins in Russia

OE Watch Commentary: On 30 September 2020, according to an article published by *TASS*, President Vladimir Putin signed a decree formalizing the conscription of 128,000 Russian citizens for military service. The decree also releases from military service all those whose terms have expired, and obligates Russian government officials at regional levels to ensure the safe and effective implementation of the conscription campaign.

The article cites Colonel-General Evgeny Burdinsky, head of the Main Organizational and Mobilization Directorate of the Russian Armed Forces, who stressed that the mobilization of these new recruits would be done cautiously in the context of the global pandemic. Military commissariats, he noted, have already been provided with the requisite medical equipment, and the preventative measures taken during the Spring 2020 conscription will continue.



Parade Victory Day. 9th of May, Samara area.

Source: <https://pixabay.com/photos/parade-victory-day-the-9th-of-may-716561/>, Free for commercial use, no attribution needed

Conscription is still a significant part of military recruitment in Russia, and it occurs every Spring and Autumn. According to a related *RIA Novosti* article, Russian men between the ages of 18 and 27 are eligible for conscription. Exemptions are provided for men who are ruled unfit to serve for health reasons, or who engage in alternative forms of state service, or who earn a scientific degree from a university. The sons and siblings of those who died as a result of their military service are also exempt, as well as other categories. The conscription campaign began on 1 October and will continue until 31 December 2020. The *TASS* article notes as well that in the Spring 2020 conscription, 135,000 new recruits were called up; Burdinsky attributes the smaller number for autumn conscription to an increase in volunteer recruits serving under contract. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rodger)**

“According to a decree signed on Wednesday by the President of Russia, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Vladimir Putin, from October 1 to December 31, 128,000 people will be called up for military service.”

Source: “В России начинается осенний призыв в армию (Autumn Conscription for the Army Begins in Russia),” *TASS*, 30 September 2020. <https://tass.ru/armiya-i-opk/9597203>

The 2020 autumn recruiting campaign, which began on Thursday, will be the second (after the spring), which takes place during the coronavirus pandemic. According to a decree signed on Wednesday by the President of Russia, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Vladimir Putin, from October 1 to December 31, 128,000 people will be called up for military service. The draft campaign will take place in all 85 regions of the Russian Federation.

In the spring conscription 135,000 recruits were called up. Colonel-General Yevgeny Burdinsky, head of the Main Organizational and Mobilization Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, explained ... that the decrease in the number of conscripts is associated with an increase in the number of servicemen serving under contract.

The whole range of anti-epidemic measures taken in the spring will be extended to the autumn campaign. The military enlistment offices and military units have created the necessary stocks of medical equipment, medicines and medicines. All involved premises and vehicles will be regularly disinfected, barrier control with temperature measurement will remain, masks and sanitizers will be issued.

Source: “Призыв на военную службу в России (Conscription for Military Service in Russia),” *RIA Novosti*, 1 October 2020. <https://ria.ru/20201001/prizyv-1577930050.html>

Conscription for military service - the statutory involvement of citizens for the performance of military duties (conscription) in the ranks of the armed forces and other troops; an integral part of the manning of the armed forces. Russian men between the ages of 18 and 27 are eligible for conscription.