

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

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Questions

- 1. On what basis and for how long can a student engaged in higher education obtain a deferment of military service in Russia?**
- 2. Is it possible by law for a student to defer military service for a sufficient period to be able to avoid service altogether?**

RESPONSE

- 1. On what basis and for how long can a student who is engaged in higher education obtain a deferment of military service in Russia?**
- 2. Is it possible by law for a student to defer military service for a sufficient period to be able to avoid service altogether?**

The abovementioned questions were forwarded to Dr Alexey Muraviev - a strategic affairs analyst and Associate Lecturer in International Relations and Strategic Studies at Curtin University of Technology - for his advice (RRT Research & Information 2008, Email to Dr Muraviev, 22 September – Attachment 1).

Dr Muraviev provided the following advice:

- 1. On what basis and for how long can a student who is engaged in higher education obtain a deferment of military service in Russia?**

The following basis could be used to justify a deferral from a national (military service) for students with an age range between 18 and 27:

1. State of health determined by the medical commission of a local military commissariat (local recruitment office): the draftee is considered to be physically unfit for military service;

2. Religious believes (pacifist views);
3. That an academic institution would have a military department which would allow a student (who is fit for military service) to undertake specialised military training during his studies and graduate as a non-commissioned officer. However, a student will have to sign a contract with the Ministry for Defence and should be prepared to serve at least two years as an officer, if he will be called up after graduation. Alternatively, he'll be placed in the organised reserve with a possibility of being reactivated.
4. Sexual orientation (there is a speculation that gays are not enlisted in the military)

2. Is it possible by law for a student to defer military service for a sufficient period to be able to avoid service altogether?

Yes, but this primarily relates to points 1 and 2. Recently, there has been a review of conditions for deferral on the grounds of a change of a time of national service from 18 months to 12, with much fewer options being left available. A change of national service term places additional pressures on providing more recruits annually to satisfy manpower requirements (Muraviev, Dr. A 2008, Email to Research and Information, 13 November. - Attachment 3).

Further questions were forwarded to Dr Muraviev on 2 October 2008. These are as follows:

The applicant has Russian Military Ticket. Under the heading, "Information on medical certificates and vaccinations", it states that the applicant was "declared as fit with limitation for military service 'B'. Is subject to further medical certification."

It also includes the following details under the heading, "V. Being in reserve":

Category of Reserve	2
Enlistment group	RA
Personnel	Soldiers
Military Profession	999
Full code of Military Profession	999000A
Name of military duties and military profession	Having no military training, is limited; fit for military service.

Questions

1. What, if any, is the significance of being "fit with limitation for military service 'B'"?
2. Do the entries in relation to the reserve indicate that the person has been enlisted into the military reserve?
3. If so, what are the implications for this in terms of compulsory military service?

The Military Ticket also contains an entry (on p.4) as follows:

11 Undergoing Military Service in Peacetime
Did not serve

4. What is the significance of this, if any, in relation to compulsory military service obligations? (RRT Research & Information 2008, Email to Dr Muraviev, 2 October – Attachment 2).

In answer to these Dr Muraviev provided the following comments:

1. What, if any, is the significance of being “fit with limitation for military service ‘B’”?

The principal significance is where the recruit can, but more importantly, cannot undertake national (military) service. Usually, recruits with such limitations (I assume that this classification is based on the state of a recruit’s health) wouldn’t be enlisted into special operations/forces units (airborne troops, marines, *spetsnaz* units, navy, air force and some other).

I think, such a recruit could be enlisted in a logistical support unit playing secondary roles in wartime.

2. Do the entries in relation to the reserve indicate that the person has been enlisted into the military reserve?

3. If so, what are the implications for this in terms of compulsory military service?

Any person who either undertook national service or did receive specialized military training (for example, as a non-commissioned officer) is placed in the national organized reserve (until the age of 50). However, its future ‘stand-by’ status is subject to certain conditions based primarily on a state of health of a recruit. If a medical commission in a local military commissariat (army regional recruitment office) detects any physical and/or health deficiencies, a recruit may undertake national service in a secondary role (not a front line) unit, and will be reactivated in a wartime situation to perform this role.

Certain serious medical conditions release the draftees from undertaking national services. This category of draftees receives the so-called ‘White Ticket’.

The Military Ticket also contains an entry (on p.4) as follows:

*11 Undergoing Military Service in Peacetime
Did not serve*

4. What is the significance of this, if any, in relation to compulsory military service obligations?

The first point has no serious obligations. The secondary is serious for any draftee with an age gap of 18 to 27 who was qualified fit for military service (particularly without any restrictions) (Muraviev, Dr. A 2008, Email to RRT Research &Information 11 November – Attachment 3).

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Search Engines

AlltheWeb search engine <http://www.alltheweb.com/>

Google search engine <http://www.google.com.au/>

Yahoo search engine <http://search.yahoo.com>

Copernic search engine

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)
ISYS (RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights
Watch, US Department of State Reports)
MRT-RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. RRT Research & Information 2008, Email to Dr Muraviev, 22 September.
2. RRT Research & Information 2008, Email to Dr Muraviev, 2 October.
3. Muraviev, Dr. A 2008, Email to Research and Information, 13 November.