

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

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Questions

- 1. Is there any information to support the contention that a postponement based on engagement in higher education can only be obtained on one occasion for 5 years?**
- 2. Is there any information as to how it might be possible by law for a student to delay military service indefinitely?**

RESPONSE

- 1. Is there any information to support the contention that a postponement based on engagement in higher education can only be obtained on one occasion for 5 years?**

A search of the sources consulted did not locate conclusive information in relation to this question. Sources indicate that persons had the right to defer military service for educational purposes twice in Russia. However, other articles refer to proposals to restrict students to only one deferment during their studies and to the Duma approving a bill in its first reading in April 2006 that allowed university students to postpone military service “for the period of study, but no longer than the standard period of time needed to complete core coursework.” Further specific information on this issue was not located in the sources consulted. The following articles provide some information on the question.

Article 24(2) of the Russian Federation law ‘On the military duty and military service’ dated 28 March 1998 (amended to 19 July 2001), indicates that persons with “[t]he right to be granted an adjournment from the military draft” included citizens:

- a) making day studies in public, municipal, or non-governmental educational institutions of higher vocational education having State accreditation in relevant fields of training (majors)—for the period of studies.

The right to the aforementioned adjournment from the military draft shall be granted no more than twice (for obtaining vocational education of the given and higher levels in any two of the aforementioned types of educational institutions).

The citizens shall enjoy the right to adjournment for obtaining vocational education in the case of repeated entering in educational vocational institutions of the given level, or in cases of one-time use of an academic leave or one-time transfer to other educational vocational institution of the given level, in the case that the aforementioned adjournment has been granted to them not more than once;

б) receiving post-university vocational education by daytime studies in public, municipal, or nongovernmental educational establishments of higher vocational education having State accreditation in the corresponding fields of training (majors) and in scientific institutions, having licenses for educational activities by the educational programs of post-university vocational education—for the period of studying and defending qualification work;

в) having higher pedagogical education and continuously working in a pedagogical capacity in public, municipal, or non-governmental educational establishments of higher vocational education in rural area having State accreditation in the corresponding fields of training (majors)—for the period of this work (Government of the Russian Federation 1998, ‘Federal Law No. 53-03 dated March 28 1998 ‘On the military duty and military service’’ (Amended to 19 July 2001), Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) website, 28 March http://www.dcaf.ch/docs/eng-book/23_Military%20Duty.pdf – Accessed 28 August 2008 – Attachment 1).

An article dated 18 October 2002 refers to university students in Russia obtaining more than one deferment if they continued their studies. It is stated in the article that:

The fact is that going to university in Russia, as in the Soviet Union, means you can defer military service. If you continue your studies, you get another deferral, and if you keep studying until the age limit of 28, then you get taken off the conscription list altogether. In other words, getting a degree and then going on to postgraduate studies is not just a way to end up with a better-paid job, it’s also a way to stay out of the army (Malkov, Leonid 2002, ‘Russia’s cult of science education exposed’, *The Russia Journal*, 18 October <http://www.russijournal.com/node/12275> - Accessed 20 August 2008 – Attachment 2).

Another article dated 16 February 2002 indicates that:

The right to deferring military conscription in order to receive professional education will be granted to young men when they enter educational establishments for the second time only if their education in a previous vocational school or university lasted for no more than three years. In addition, the conscription deferral is granted to those students who have used up their academic leave or transferred to another educational establishment but not more than once.

An individual cannot use his right to conscription deferral for education purposes more than twice. This however covers deferrals granted to schoolboys who have reached conscription age while still at school [as received] (‘Russian students get additional deferral to military conscription till age 20’ 2002, *BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union – Political*, source: ITAR-TASS news agency, Moscow, 16 February – Attachment 3).

An *ITAR-TASS World Service* article dated 6 June 2005 refers to Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov, when “[a]sked to comment on possibility of cancelling deferment for students,” replying “that Russian students would preserve their right to postpone army service until their graduation from institutions of high learning.” According to the article:

“Deferment for students will remain in force. We are not going to cancel it, we don’t have such plans,” Ivanov emphasized.

The defence minister said that post-graduates would also be able to extend postponement from military service. However, he didn’t rule out that many students take post-graduate courses in order to avoid being called up (Konovalov, Alexander 2005, ‘Russian military medicine to develop as part of rear structure’, *ITAR-TASS World Service*, 6 June – Attachment 4).

A paper dated September 2006 on higher education in Russia indicates that “[t]he law on military duty and military service of 28 March 1998 provides deferment for students and doctoral candidates (article 24), and exempts Candidates in Science and Doctors of Science entirely from military service (article 23) (<www.mil.ru/articles/article3718.shtml>). In the spring of 2006, the Ministry of Defense put forth a proposal to repeal some of these deferments. This proposal triggered a wave of protests” (Kastueva-Jean, Tatiana 2006, ‘The “Greatness and Misery” of Higher Education in Russia’, Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI) website, September, p. 12 (Footnote 34) http://www.ifri.org/files/Russie/ifri_jean_education_sept2006_eng.pdf - Accessed 26 August 2008 – Attachment 5).

A chapter on Russia’s armed forces in a report on Russia dated March 2006 indicates that “[i]n October 2005, Vasiliy Smirnov, Head of the Chief Organizational and Drafting Board at the General Staff announced a list of deferments that the Ministry of Defense is planning to cancel by the 2006 spring draft”, including “deferments for Master students.” The report also indicates that:

Furthermore, in the draft of amendments to the Law on Military Service and Military Duty, there are items regulating the most controversial group – the students. The idea is that students will be getting only one deferment throughout the entire period of their studies (instead of the two existing right now for sabbatical and for other reasons of suspending education, and for the period of obtaining their bachelor’s degree (four years). Therefore students that want to get a master’s degree (six years) or a specialist diploma cannot use this deferment (‘Chapter 8: Armed forces – the problem of effectiveness’ in ‘Russia 2005 Report on Transformation’ 2006, Economic Forum website, March, p. 189 <http://www.forum-ekonomiczne.pl/docs/reportRu2006chapter08.pdf> - Accessed 19 August 2008 – Attachment 6).

An article dated 6 October 2005 in relation to the Russian Defence Ministry’s plan to reduce the number of deferments for military service, refers to Russia’s Education and Science Ministry not appearing “too agitated concerning the abolishment of two educational reasons for deferral. “As far as I understand, it is not the question of calling to arms young people in time of their post-graduate studies,” minister Andrey Fursenko said. “They will be offered to do military service either before or after the studies.” For the Education Ministry the crucial point is to maintain deferred service for students, ensuring the continuity of education. As to the Ministry of Defense, by keeping the students’ benefits, it plans to improve the educational level of the army by enlisting more graduates” (‘Getting Ready for a New Draft’ 2005, *Kommersant*, 6 October http://www.kommersant.com/p615243/Getting_Ready_for_a_New_Draft/ - Accessed 26 August 2008 – Attachment 7).

An article dated 22 May 2006 notes that the State Duma had “approved a bill in its first reading on 21 April that, if enacted, would change Russia’s current legislation regulating who must serve in the nation’s military and for how long, *prima-news.ru* reported the same day... The bill would also put limits on deferments to university students, stating that military service will be postponed ‘for the period of study, but no longer than the standard period of time needed to complete core coursework’” (‘Duma Amends Conscription Legislation in First Reading’ 2006, *Washington Profile*, Source: PRIMA News Agency, 22 May <http://www.washprofile.org/en/node/4979> - Accessed 20 August 2008 – Attachment 8).

According to a more recent article dated 29 April 2008, although service in the military “can be postponed for men in higher education” in Russia, some previous waivers in relation to the draft no longer applied, including former waivers for “post-graduate students” (Stolyarova, Galina 2008, ‘For God or Motherland’, *Transitions Online*, 29 April – Attachment 9).

Another article dated 1 October 2007 indicates that in relation to military service in Russia, “[s]tudents of universities and students of post graduate course (day departments) won’t be called up until they finish the studies” (‘Russia Draws to Color Last Time for 1.5 Years’ 2007, *Kommersant*, 1 October http://www.kommersant.com/p-11466/r_500/Fall_draft/ - Accessed 26 August 2008 – Attachment 10).

2. Is there any information as to how it might be possible by law for a student to delay military service indefinitely?

As previously mentioned, the article dated 18 October 2002 indicates that in Russia, “getting a degree and then going on to postgraduate studies” was “a way to stay out of the army.” It is stated in the article that:

Russia is known for having a very high percentage of Ph.D.s and many Russian students stay in the university system well into their late-twenties.

...One of the very important reasons why Russians are so educated is not cultural tradition, but compulsory military service. It seems surprising that something so important to young Russians’ decision making should be so little realized in other countries.

The fact is that going to university in Russia, as in the Soviet Union, means you can defer military service. If you continue your studies, you get another deferral, and if you keep studying until the age limit of 28, then you get taken off the conscription list altogether. In other words, getting a degree and then going on to postgraduate studies is not just a way to end up with a better-paid job, it’s also a way to stay out of the army.

As state university education is free in Russia, your career, and your ability to avoid the draft depend not so much on your material and social status, but on your determination to study hard. Conscription is not only an incentive to get into university; it’s an incentive to stay there, because if you drop out, the army will be waiting (Malkov, Leonid 2002, ‘Russia’s cult of science education exposed’, *The Russia Journal*, 18 October <http://www.russijournal.com/node/12275> - Accessed 20 August 2008 – Attachment 2).

Another article on the Russian armed forces from a book entitled *The Russian Context: The Culture behind the Language* published in 2002 notes that “[y]ou can put off service only if you get a deferment (отсрочка), usually for obtaining a college degree (получение высшего образования). Those with an advanced degree are not called up. Some major universities have an obligatory course for men only on military skills (военная подготовка). Completing

this course exempts one from the draft” (Mansour, Dr. Lawrence, ‘Armed Forces’ in Gerhart, Geneva & Boyle, Eloise M. (eds) 2002, *The Russian Context: The Culture behind the Language*, Slavica Publishers, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana http://www.sras.org/russian_military_life - Accessed 19 August 2008 – Attachment 11).

Pursuant to Article 23 of the Russian Federation law ‘On the military duty and military service’ dated 28 March 1998 (amended to 19 July 2001), citizens “having a scientific degree of a candidate of science or doctor of science as provided by the State system of attestation” had “[t]he right to be released from military draft”. The answer to Question 1 above provides information on persons who had “[t]he right to be granted an adjournment from the military draft” under Article 24(2) of the law. According to Article 24(3) of the law, “[a]djournment from the military draft on the grounds stipulated by sub-Clauses ‘a’, ‘б’, ‘в’, ‘ж’ and ‘з’ of Clause 1 and sub-Clauses ‘б’, ‘в’, ‘г’ and ‘д’ of Clause 2 of the present Article shall also extend to the citizens enlisted in the reserve with conferment of an officer’s military rank” (Government of the Russian Federation 1998, ‘Federal Law No. 53-03 dated March 28 1998 ‘On the military duty and military service’ (Amended to 19 July 2001), Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) website, 28 March http://www.dcaf.ch/docs/eng-book/23_Military%20Duty.pdf – Accessed 28 August 2008 – Attachment 1).

The paper dated September 2006 on higher education in Russia indicates that “[t]he law on military duty and military service of 28 March 1998 provides deferment for students and doctoral candidates (article 24), and exempts Candidates in Science and Doctors of Science entirely from military service (article 23) (<www.mil.ru/articles/article3718.shtml>).” The paper also indicates that “[i]n the spring of 2006, the Ministry of Defense put forth a proposal to repeal some of these deferments. This proposal triggered a wave of protests” (Kastueva-Jean, Tatiana 2006, ‘The “Greatness and Misery” of Higher Education in Russia’, Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI) website, September, p. 12 (Footnote 34) http://www.ifri.org/files/Russie/ifri_jean_education_sept2006_eng.pdf - Accessed 26 August 2008 – Attachment 5).

An article dated 3 April 2006 which refers to a “bill aimed at canceling conscription deferments” in Russia that had been approved by Cabinet the previous week, indicates that the military would “not call up candidates and doctors of sciences” and that students and post-graduate students would “not be conscripted” (‘Defense Ministry pushes ahead with abolishing conscription exemptions’ 2006, *WPS: What the Papers Say*, 3 April – Attachment 12).

The article dated 22 May 2006 notes that the State Duma had “approved a bill in its first reading on 21 April that, if enacted, would change Russia’s current legislation regulating who must serve in the nation’s military and for how long, *prima-news.ru* reported the same day... The bill would also put limits on deferments to university students, stating that military service will be postponed ‘for the period of study, but no longer than the standard period of time needed to complete core coursework’” (‘Duma Amends Conscription Legislation in First Reading’ 2006, *Washington Profile*, Source: PRIMA News Agency, 22 May <http://www.washprofile.org/en/node/4979> - Accessed 20 August 2008 – Attachment 8).

RRT *Research Response RUS33535* dated 28 July 2008 includes information on compulsory military service obligations in Russia and on possible avenues by which a person might avoid military or alternative service altogether (RRT Research & Information 2008, *Research Response RUS33535*, 28 July, (Questions 1 & 11) – Attachment 13). The research response refers to a paper dated October 2006 which indicates that a bill that reduced the number of grounds for deferral of military service in Russia “passed its third reading by the Duma on 14 June 2006,²⁶ with the changes to deferrals now presented as four abolitions and five amendments²⁷ – which made little substantial change to the impact on potential conscripts.” The paper summarises the originally proposed deferrals from conscription that were to be abolished in Russia from 2008, including deferrals for “[t]hose awaiting state assignment to a place of work following higher education” and “[s]tudents in vocational education” (Giles, Keir 2006, ‘Where Have All the Soldiers Gone? Russia’s Military Plans versus Demographic Reality’, Conflict Studies Research Centre, October, p. 4 – Attachment 14).

An article dated 1 April 2008 notes that “students at vocational schools above the age of 20 can also be called up for duty now” (Krainova, Natalya 2008, ‘Conscripts Face Only a Year in Spring Call-Up’, *The Moscow Times*, 1 April – Attachment 15). Another article dated 14 June 2006 indicates that the conscription deferment for seminary students had been cancelled (‘Russian Duma shortens army service, cancels deferments’ 2006, *BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union*, source: Russian news agency RIA Novosti, Moscow, 14 June – Attachment 16).

According to the previously mentioned article dated 29 April 2008, although service in the military “can be postponed for men in higher education,” some previous waivers in relation to the draft no longer applied, including former waivers for “post-graduate students” (Stolyarova, Galina 2008, ‘For God or Motherland’, *Transitions Online*, 29 April – Attachment 9). The further article dated 1 October 2007 indicates that in relation to military service in Russia, “[s]tudents of universities and students of post graduate course (day departments) won’t be called up until they finish the studies” (‘Russia Draws to Color Last Time for 1.5 Years’ 2007, *Kommersant*, 1 October http://www.kommersant.com/p-11466/r_500/Fall_draft/ - Accessed 26 August 2008 – Attachment 10).

A summary of Russian Federation legislation from 1-31 July 2006 by Russian audit firm Femida-Audit includes reference to Federal Laws No. 103-FZ and No. 104-FZ of 6 July 2006. Federal Law No. 103-FZ “[a]mends Articles 32, 35 and 38 of the Federal Law on the military duty and military service”, and Federal Law No. 104-FZ “envisages a switchover from January 1, 2008 to the 12-month-long draft military service, changing and abandoning of a number of reasons of granting respites, as well as exemption from the military service for students having undergone training at military chairs and having graduated from institutions of higher professional education” (‘Daily Monitoring of the Legislation’ 2006, Femida-Audit website, 1-31 July <http://www.femida-audit.com/en/legislation.php?&bdt=2006-07-01> – Accessed 28 August 2008 – Attachment 17).

According to an article dated 4 April 2008, the conscription campaign commencing in April 2008 was to “be longer than the usual three months (April 1 to July 15).” There was “an emphasis in this conscription campaign... on young men with higher education. Hence the decision to prolong the conscription campaign. It will give graduates time to get their diplomas. The abolition of military departments at colleges and universities notwithstanding, more and more people with higher education are to be drafted into the Army and Navy” (‘The

army counts on more conscripts than usual, every fourth of them with university or college diploma' 2008, *WPS: Defense & Security*, 4 April – Attachment 18).

An article dated 29 June 2007 also indicates that:

Only girls will evidently have post-graduate and master-degree studies starting from 2008. The period of the spring draft will be prolonged for 15 days and will last until July 15. This means that graduates of higher educational institutions of conscript age will simply have no time to pass exams for the continuation of their education. They will have to go to military registration and enlistment offices straight from the graduation ceremony.

...It turns out that many youths will be deprived of the possibility to continue their education through master and post-graduate studies. They will be drafted to the army immediately after the graduation party or their graduation from bachelor studies ('Prolongation of the spring draft will deprive youths of a possibility to have post-graduate and master studies' 2007, *WPS: Defense & Security*, 29 June – Attachment 19).

Another article dated 1 February 2008 notes that a "way to evade conscription" was "to enroll at a civilian college or university where military training (in so-called "cadet departments") is available. This allows students to qualify as reserve officers without actually serving in the armed forces." It is stated in the article that:

For tens of thousands of youths every year, the way to evade conscription is to enroll at a civilian college or university where military training (in so-called "cadet departments") is available. This allows students to qualify as reserve officers without actually serving in the armed forces. In recent years these departments have produced about 150,000 to 180,000 reserve officers annually, about ten times more than needed.

However, the article also indicates that:

In 2005, the number of civilian institutions of higher education where this option was available was reduced from 229 to 35. The remaining institutions are being upgraded to orient them toward students who genuinely want to serve in the military, and they will have to do so as contract officers for a period of five or six years, depending on military specialty.

This change was in line with a key provision of the Defense Ministry's 2003 reform proposal, which expanded conscription and simultaneously shortened the draft period. Reducing the number of deferrals for conscripts, another important step in this direction, was accomplished in 2006, when nine of the 25 draft deferment categories were abolished (Barany, Zoltan 2008, 'Resurgent Russia? A Still-Faltering Military', *Policy Review*, 1 February – Attachment 20).

A further article dated 31 March 2006 notes that "many students in "military departments," who could count on becoming reserve officers after graduation, will now be forced to do regular service as the number of those departments is reduced from 229 to 35. Another 33 departments will be transformed into military training centers in 2008, graduates of which will be obliged to sign three-year service contracts as officers. Punishment for evading service after graduation from a military department is also being toughened" (Taratuta, Yulia & Safronov, Ivan 2006, 'Defense Ministry Stocks Up on Recruits', *Kommersant*, 31 March http://www.kommersant.com/p662414/Defense_Ministry_Stocks_Up_on_Recruits/ - Accessed 26 August 2008 – Attachment 21).

An article dated 15 June 2006 refers to the Russian Duma passing a bill that shortened the military conscription requirement to one year and eliminated some military exemptions. “Also on Wednesday, the Duma passed a companion bill that requires university students to complete the one-year service requirement after finishing their studies. Currently, students are exempt from service if they take military classes along with regular coursework” (Pantesco, Joshua 2006, ‘Russia lower house passes bill to shorten military conscription requirement’, Jurist website, 15 June <http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/paperchase/2006/06/russia-lower-house-passes-bill-to.php> - Accessed 26 August 2008 – Attachment 22).

The summary of Russian Federation legislation from 1-31 July 2006 by Russian audit firm Femida-Audit includes information on Federal Law No. 96-FZ of 3 July 2006, which “entered into force from January 1, 2008”:

The Law introduces a system of contracts of education under military training programs for contract military service. The citizen undergoing intra-mural studies in an institution of higher professional education fit for military service on medical grounds and meeting specified requirements may conclude a contract with the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation to undergo military training program in the training centre of the higher educational institution. Such student will get additional stipends during study depending on training achievements.

The contracts of military training in the training centre may be concluded by citizens up to 24 years of age. The results of the military training permit graduates of civil higher educational institutions to enter the contract military service.

The contract of training of reserve officers at the military chair may be concluded by citizens up to 30 years of age. The specified age limit permits the citizen to be in the first priority reserve for at least 10 years after study (until 45 years of age) (‘Daily Monitoring of the Legislation’ 2006, Femida-Audit website, 1-31 July <http://www.femida-audit.com/en/legislation.php?&bdt=2006-07-01> – Accessed 28 August 2008 – Attachment 17).

An article dated 18 October 2006 which refers to “General of the Army Nikolai Pankov, Deputy Defense Minister” speaking “about the upcoming changes in the military organization of Russia”, indicates that “the institution of the so-called two-year officers, namely graduates of military departments of civil higher educational institutions drafted to the military service for two years,” would end on 1 January, 2008. It is stated in the article that:

the institution of the so-called two-year officers, namely graduates of military departments of civil higher educational institutions drafted to the military service for two years, will be liquidated from January 1, 2008. Pankov explains, “In circumstances when the Armed Forces transit to the contract basis it is not logical to maintain officers drafted from the reserve for two years, of course, if they themselves do not wish to serve voluntarily.

The officers’ mobilization reserve of the Russian Armed Forces will be formed from graduates of military departments of civil higher educational institutions (formation of these departments is only starting). Graduates of such departments will be obliged to serve in the army at least for three years. Students of higher educational institutions will not be drafted to the army during service but after graduation they will be obliged to serve for one year (‘Serious changes will happen in the military organization of Russia in the near future’ 2006, *WPS: Defense & Security*, 18 October – Attachment 23).

Another article dated 29 November 2007 which also refers to the comments of Army General Nikolay Pankov, indicates that “Army Gen Aleksey Maslov” had said that the Defence Ministry had “made a decision to relieve the graduates of military departments at civilian higher education institutions from conscript service in the armed forces... ‘Unless they would like to serve as volunteers,’ he added.” (‘Russia: Reservist officers will no longer be enlisted to Ground Troops’ 2007, *BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union*, source: Interfax-AVN military news agency website, Moscow, 29 November – Attachment 24).

A more recent article dated 28 March 2008 refers to Russian President Vladimir Putin signing “changes to the military service regulations concerning citizens, who go through military training at military training centers and civil universities under a contract with the defense ministry.” According to “Col. Gen. Viktor Zavarzin, who chairs the State Duma defense committee”:

“There will be 37 centers, four of them at medical universities. They will be opened at the country’s leading universities, which will guarantee high quality of training for specialists majoring arts and sciences,” said the head of the committee.

Students of these universities, who decided to undergo training at such centers, should sign an agreement with the Defense Ministry obliging them to do the military service under a minimum three-year contract once they graduate. Students who have signed such agreements will not pay university’s tuition fees (‘Russia sets regulations for military training at civilian universities’ 2008, *Russia & CIS General Newswire*, 28 March – Attachment 25).

The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers report on Russia for 2008 also notes that:

Legal amendments in July 2006 were aimed at improving the professionalism of officers. They provided for the introduction of military training centres in civilian higher-education establishments and of new rules for existing military departments in such institutions. Full-time students could enlist free of charge in a military training centre but had to give a commitment to undertake a three-year military service contract on graduation. If they failed to do the service, they had to refund their tuition costs and be conscripted.¹⁸ By 2003 nearly half the 1,304 higher-education institutions were private, following the ending of the state monopoly of education.¹⁹ The government was the only body entitled to establish institutions for professional military education,²⁰ but it could teach in civilian educational institutions if it had the consent of students and parents, and at Ministry of Defence cost ²¹ (Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers 2008, *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008 – Russian Federation*, 20 May – Attachment 26).

An article dated 18 July 2007 indicates that “[i]t was no accident that former military departments were closed everywhere except for several universities like MGU, MGIMO etc where children of state officials and rich people would keep getting lieutenant ranks and would not serve.” The article also indicates that in relation to military service in Russia, “the main organizational and mobilization department (GOMU) of the General Staff” put “the main hope on students and graduates of the higher educational military institutions.” It is stated in the article that:

It was no accident that former military departments were closed everywhere except for several universities like MGU, MGIMO etc where children of state officials and rich people would keep getting lieutenant ranks and would not serve. The rest will be drafted en masse after graduation. In 2009, up to a half of the draftees will have higher of special education and in the next few years this proportion may reach 60%. Those who entered higher educational institutions in 2007, in 2006 and in 2005 when there was already a shortage of 18-year old youths would refill the deficit in 2009 and later. The General Staff permitted them to enter higher educational institutions and did not object to preserving of the right to delay the service for students ('Mobilization and drafting system in Russia is at death's door already and proposed reforms will accelerate the lethal outcome inevitably' 2007, *WPS: Defense & Security*, 18 July – Attachment 27).

An undated document on the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence website also provides information on the changes to defence education in Russian civil institutes. It is stated in the document that:

In the light of this policy 33 leading institutes of the country are planned to host military training centres. These centres will ensure a high-quality training possibilities to provide officers entering service on a contract basis. The aforementioned institutes educate both technical and human [sic] science expertise.

Students will be accepted for senior divisions on the base of a three-year contract. Those who sign their contract are to be educated at the expense of the state budget. Moreover, the Ministry of Defence plans to pay an additional allowance to those students. Eventually, they are expected to earn 4 to 5 times as much money as their college mates.

...[General of the Army] Nikolay Pankov said officers of Reserve will also come from the specified institutes. So, every their student will have possibilities either to become an officer of Reserve, or attend a military training centre for consequent contract service, or choose none of the said.

Moreover, the Ministry of Defence, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and Science, has determined 35 more institutes with senior divisions, constantly providing high-class education. Their graduates are suggested to avoid conscription.

Gen. Pankov noted that the elite graduates must be employed by their specialty that's why the Russian Armed Forces will completely reject conscription of officers policy still existing in the Russian Army. He said this policy is the relic of old times ('New Personnel Policy' (Undated), The Russian Federation Ministry of Defence website <http://www.mil.ru/eng/1862/12069/12571/index.shtml> - Accessed 25 August 2008 – Attachment 28).

An article dated 19 June 2008 indicates that "Russian citizens of the conscription age who are abroad for studies or other reasons are not obligated to register with military commissariats at their place of birth or at their previous address" and were 'exempt from military service', according to "Maj-Gen Yevgeniy Burdinskiy, chief of the conscription department of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff". The Russian Defence Ministry was "working on a mechanism of calling up about 10,000 citizens of the Russian Federation of the conscription age who are registered as "students" at foreign universities." According to the article:

“We are not talking about Russian students who really study at foreign universities. They are subject to the same deferments as those for students studying in Russia. We want to draft for military service, in accordance with the constitution, primarily those who are falsely registered as students abroad or are outside Russia for other reasons”, Maj-Gen Yevgeniy Burdinskiy, chief of the conscription department of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, explained to Interfax.

“According to rough estimates, there are about 10,000 such citizens at the moment”, Burdinskiy said.

He noted that currently, in accordance with the law on military conscription and service, Russian citizens of the conscription age who are abroad for studies or other reasons are not obligated to register with military commissariats at their place of birth or at their previous address. “Therefore, in fact these citizens are exempt from military service”, the general said.

However, Burdinskiy admitted that this issue would not be easily solvable because Russian embassies and consulates abroad do not have precise information on Russian citizens of the conscription age staying there (‘Russian defence ministry wants to draft 10,000 conscripts from abroad’ 2008, *BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union*, source: Interfax-AVN military news agency website, Moscow, 19 June – Attachment 29).

Although dated, a document last modified on 27 February 2001 on the Soldiers’ Mothers of St. Petersburg website includes advice to conscripts on their rights regarding deferment from military service at that time (‘Defending Conscripts’ Rights’ 2001, Soldiers’ Mothers of St. Petersburg website, 27 February http://www.soldiersmothers.spb.org/eng/Books_eng.htm - Accessed 21 August 2008 – Attachment 30).

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Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org>

War Resisters’ International website <http://www.wri-irg.org/>

Economic Forum website http://www.forum-ekonomiczne.pl/index_eng.php

Soldiers’ Mothers of St. Petersburg website <http://www.soldiersmothers.spb.org/eng/>

Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) website

<http://www.dcaf.ch/>

International News & Politics

BBC News <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

Region Specific Links

Kommersant website <http://www.kommersant.com/>

Search Engines

Copernic <http://www.copernic.com/>

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)

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