



SAFETY AND SECURITY IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

STRATEGY OF THE FINNISH BORDER GUARD 2030



The Finnish Border Guard is tasked with ensuring border security at the eastern border, border crossing points and at sea, as well as search and rescue at sea and maritime pollution response. Crime prevention is part of all of the Finnish Border Guard's activities. The Finnish Border Guard is a territorial surveillance authority and a part of the Finnish defence system. It belongs to the European Border and Coast Guard.

The Finnish Border Guard is a competent, multi-sectoral authority that works with both internal and external security questions. The Finnish Border Guard operates on land, at sea and in the air in all conditions. The Finnish Border Guard is a key part of Finland's overall security. The work done at the external border of Europe supports security in Finland.

Cornerstones of the Finnish Border Guard include the competent staff who thrive in their work and are committed to the Finnish Border Guard values, the military organisation, up-to-date statutes and treaties, close international cooperation in bi- and multilateral partnerships, and advanced technology and information management.

Equality, non-discrimination and basic and human rights are respected and promoted in all activities. The operations of the Finnish Border Guard are legitimate and responsible. Communications of the Finnish Border Guard are effective, proactive and transparent, seeking to increase the citizens' sense of trust and security. The Finnish Border Guard is strengthening its performance to guarantee security at the eastern border and the Baltic Sea.

“ As a result of and in response to the changes in its operational environment, some of the key internal strategic impact drivers of the Finnish Border Guard include securing sufficient resources, obtaining competent staff, competence management and the ability to introduce and gain advantage of new innovations and technologies.

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

Russia's extensive attack on Ukraine and Finland's entry into a military alliance have resulted in fundamental, long-term changes of the Finnish security environment. The Finnish Border Guard's responsibilities span far and wide, and new types of security threats need to be taken into account, while the more traditional threats and preparation for them still remain topical. Hybrid operations by states on other states have become more common.

A wide array of methods is used. At the same time, the security environment has become more difficult to predict and unexpected changes can take place.

The limits between normal circumstances, disruptions and emergency conditions have become even more blurred. Transnational criminals and state actors are increasingly exploiting each other. Extensive migration from areas most vulnerable to crises, poverty or the effects of climate change is ongoing. It is possible that we will witness simultaneous multi-sectoral incidents that endanger border and maritime security.

The Baltic Sea region has become increasingly significant for the Finnish economy and the nation's psychological resilience to crisis. The Baltic Sea is a potential scene of foreign government influence operations. The risk of major multi-sectoral maritime accidents, incidents and environmental damage remains high.

The key internal strategic drivers of the Border Guard stemming from the changes in the operating environment and as a response to them include securing sufficient resources, gaining talented human resources, competent management, and the ability to introduce and implement new innovations and technologies.





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OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC POLICIES IN THE FINNISH BORDER GUARD'S OPERATIONS

I. BORDER SECURITY

Border control operations at the external borders of Finland are efficient and credible. The international operations of the Finnish Border Guard contribute to the safety and security of Finland and Europe.

The operations seek to reinforce border controls and improve the means to control extensive entry into the country. A modern system of barriers and monitoring will be built at Finland's eastern border. The system will also boost territorial surveillance.

The Finnish Border Guard's state of preparedness will remain high. Psychological resilience and the reliability of systems will be strengthened. The Finnish Border Guard's mobility, safeguards, night capability, influencing capability, management system and situational awareness system will be developed. The personnel's competence in multi-sectoral tasks will be boosted.

Infrastructure at border crossing points will be improved in compliance with EU requirements and traffic volume trends. Automated border control systems will be promoted. The safety of border crossing traffic will be ensured.

Crime prevention duties of the Finnish Border Guard will be developed, focusing on the prevention of serious offences in the organisation of illegal entry and human trafficking, as well as the investigation of maritime offences. The Finnish Border Guard's uncovering activities in crime investigation will be developed and online crime prevention activities will be strengthened.

The authority's powers will be adjusted to ensure efficient and effective operations in all security situations and the utilisation of new technology. Data acquisition and coercive measures will be developed to correspond to the security situation. The Finnish Border Guard will be provided with improved opportunities to support the intelligence authorities.

The Finnish Border Guard's scope of action at internal borders will be developed. The Finnish Border Guard will preserve its ability to reintroduce internal border control.

The aviation efforts of the Finnish Border Guard will provide safe, efficient and flexible support for the operations in all circumstances, focusing on the Finnish Border Guard's core duties. The aircraft fleet will be harmonised. Unmanned aircraft operations and related counteractivities will be developed.

The Finnish Border Guard has a vital role in ensuring the safety of people, property and the environment in sparsely populated areas and the archipelago, and action will be taken to ensure the high level of activity and visibility of the Finnish Border Guard in these areas.

The Finnish Border Guard will participate in all border security operations that are vital to stability in Europe. The Finnish Border Guard seeks to advocate the development and strengthening of the European border security legislation and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. The Finnish Border Guard's capability of receiving operative backup from the European Border and Coast Guard Agency will be further developed. Bilateral operative border security cooperation will be increased.



2. MARITIME SECURITY

Constant presence at sea and a high level of preparedness for management and taking action in all security missions will be maintained. The Finnish maritime search and rescue (SAR) system includes resources to help all in need and prevent environmental damage.

Immediate response preparedness for safety operations and visible presence at sea and in the archipelago will be guaranteed. Up-to-date situational awareness and a continuously high level of preparedness for management and in terms of the equipment are ways to ensure the completion of multi-sectoral maritime safety missions in all conditions. The satellite, aircraft, surface vessel and underwater capacities will be utilised in cooperative activities to maintain security. Operational focus points will be defined and implemented through up-to-date risk assessments and plans.

Measures will be taken to prepare for extensive influence operations in the marine environment through cooperation of the maritime authorities. The Finnish Border Guard will be actively involved in the development of the critical maritime protection infrastructure, seeking to ensure, in its part, adequate resources and legal competence to intervene in any maritime activity that could be a threat to Finnish interests. Surveillance activities and search and rescue missions at sea will always take into account crime prevention needs.

Maritime safety and operational capacity in sea areas will be enhanced by introducing new surveillance and rescue equipment. Two new offshore patrol vessels will be deployed for operative use by 2026. Measures will be taken to prepare for a lifecycle update of patrol vessel Turva in the early 2030s. A lifecycle update of the patrol vessel fleet will take place by 2026. New patrol aircraft will be deployed for operative use by 2027.

Performance in all weather conditions will be ensured by replacing the heavy hovercraft capacity by 2027.

Cooperation between maritime security authorities at the national level and related coordination and performance will be developed, taking into account the requirements of the EU Maritime Security Strategy and the impact of the NATO membership on preparedness and situational awareness cooperation.

Preparedness for the management of multi-sectoral incidents will be developed through international cooperation, in particular with the coast guard authorities of Sweden, Estonia, the Baltic Sea region, the other Nordic countries, the Arctic area and the North Atlantic Ocean.

Surveillance resources offered by the European Union will be utilised, focusing on Frontex and EMSA. Contributions to the development of surveillance systems and other resources will be made to ensure that they will better meet the needs of the northern Baltic Sea maritime environment during all seasons.

3. MILITARY DEFENCE AND DEFENSIVE PREPAREDNESS

The Finnish Border Guard is capable of immediately safeguarding Finland's territorial integrity and providing military defence. As a part of the national defence system, the Finnish Border Guard participates in NATO's collective defence.

The Finnish Border Guard's status and duties in military defence will remain at a high level. The Finnish Border Guard and the Finnish Defence Forces will work in close and constant cooperation. The focus points of preparedness include the eastern border, the eastern parts of the Gulf of Finland and the Åland Islands. Territorial surveillance and safeguarding of territorial integrity are inherent parts of all the duties of the Finnish Border Guard.

The material preparedness and competence of the Finnish Border Guard and the border troops will be developed in line with the more demanding security environment. The composition of the border troops will be developed in cooperation with the Defence Forces.

Conscripts completing their military service in the border troops receive training in three units and during military refresher courses and voluntary training. The high level of military competence among the staff will be maintained.

Conscripts completing their military service will be used more extensively in tasks supporting the Finnish Border Guard in all security situations.

The security operations and security competence of the Finnish Border Guard will be strengthened in all levels of operation.

The Finnish Border Guard will participate in NATO operations from the starting point of national defence. Interoperability of the Finnish Border Guard will be ensured by participating in defence planning and key exercises, by using harmonised systems of situational awareness and management, and by training the personnel. To promote collective defence and national security, staff will be appointed to NATO structures. The Finnish Border Guard will build readiness to participate in the operations as its duties and resources allow.





STRATEGY ENABLERS

I. PERSONNEL

The Finnish Border Guard has reliable and competent personnel who have excellent cooperation skills. The Finnish Border Guard is an attractive place to work. The staff are motivated and thrive at work.

The Finnish Border Guard will ensure that it has sufficient personnel resources to respond to changes in the security situation and the growing international obligations. The Finnish Border Guard will recruit more personnel.

Competence of the personnel corresponds to the multi-sectoral tasks of the Finnish Border Guard and the increasingly challenging security environment. Personnel competence will be efficiently yet cost-effectively developed. Diverse learning environments and other means of developing competence will be open-mindedly utilised. Particular attention will be paid to technical competence as surveillance technology and the Finnish Border Guard's powers evolve.

Basic and further training of the Finnish Border Guard's personnel takes place at the Border and Coast Guard Academy. The Border and Coast Guard Academy cooperates with authorities and other educational institutions, both in Finland and internationally.

Recruitment and well-being at work are supported by offering high-class terms of employment, motivating remuneration and systematic action to promote equality and non-discrimination at work. Tools and administrative processes will remain efficient, clear and modern. A safe operational culture will be developed and promoted in all tasks.





2. TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

The Finnish Border Guard has efficient, well maintained equipment, technology and facilities. Uninterrupted operations are ensured even during disruptions or emergency conditions.

The opportunities provided by emerging technologies will be utilised in a timely manner. Employee input in routine tasks will be decreased by introducing digital and robotics solutions. New surveillance, biometrics and analytics solutions will be used to improve border security.

Continuity of operations will be ensured by increasing materials and equipment, boosting more efficient and flexible use of maintenance staff, and improving maintenance competence in operative units.

The data required by the Finnish Border Guard in its operations and its management will be secured by modernising the Border Guard information system.

The performance and reliability of surveillance devices, defensive equipment, safety devices and vehicles will be ensured to secure appropriate surveillance and influencing capabilities. Modern facilities will be designed and equipped based on the changing needs, taking into account security requirements.

Cyber protection and the preparedness for managing cyber security incidents will be improved.

The capabilities of the Finnish Border Guard to take advantage of new innovations will be promoted by building competence and engaging in more in-depth cooperation with businesses and other stakeholders.



3. ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENT

The administration of the Finnish Border Guard will effectively and economically support the operations of the Border Guard. The administrative organisation is modern and light, using innovations that increase efficiency.

The current state of the administration of the Finnish Border Guard and related development opportunities will be investigated. Based on the investigation results, the administration will be developed in connection with other development measures, gradually by sector. The administrative organisation will be streamlined and the number of administrative tasks will be decreased.

Streamlining the administrative activities alongside the development and updating of the guidelines guiding the Finnish Border Guard's operations will be a key goal.

The personnel will be consulted during the development of the administrative operations. The working hours spent by operative staff in administrative duties will be reduced.

The achievement of the strategic goals and the anticipation of changes in the operative environment will be supported by means of knowledge management and active development of personnel competence. The current research and development arrangements will be redefined as a part of knowledge management.





**VALUES OF THE
FINNISH BORDER GUARD**

RELIABILITY

COMPETENCE

COOPERATION



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