

The Kuwait National Guard

Year of creation : 1967

Affiliation : Supreme Defence Council

Status : Military

Address : Al Asima, Khalkiya, Kuwait-City

Website : www.kng.gov.kw



History

The National Guard was created by a decree of the Emir on 6th June 1967. It is under the authority of the Supreme Defence Council. It is the successor to the infantry and cavalry units that defended the country during Operation “VANTAGE” in 1961 alongside the British against the attempted invasion by neighbouring Iraq.

Missions

These are defined by the 1967 decree as follows:

- to act in support of the armed forces;
- to protect the authorities;
- to participate in the defence of the nation;
- to carry out any other mission assigned by the Superior Defence Council.



These general missions can be translated into the following specific tasks:

- protecting sensitive locations throughout the country;
- maintaining order in support of MOI (Ministry of the Interior) units;
- participating in the defence of national sovereignty in the event of conflict, alongside the MOI and MOD (Ministry of Defence);
- protecting public personalities;
- protecting the population from internal and external threats;
- intervening in the event of terrorist actions;
- opposing the actions of irregular soldiers, snipers or infiltrated commandos.

Personnel

Personnel are recruited exclusively from among the Kuwaiti population. The Guard has approximately 12,000 men, including 1,000 officers. The officer-to-enlisted ratio is relatively low (20%).

The National Guard recruits officers with university degrees. Military training is provided at academies run by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior, then within its own training system, and even at foreign schools.



Organisation

The National Guard reports to the Higher Defence Council, chaired by the Prime Minister. It has its own budget.

It is organised into three battalions and a training unit.

The Guard has three main locations:

- The command post and administrative headquarters in the Khalkiya district;
- The training unit and military academy at Camp Soumoud;

- The training and IT centres in the ‘Camp de la Libération’ district.

Equipment

Most of the equipment was replaced after the Gulf War, and the Guard's equipment comes from various sources, including 120 Renault Trucks Défense ‘SHERPA’ armoured vehicles and 6 CARACAL helicopters (Airbus).



Cooperation

The Kuwait National Guard has been a member of the FIEP since 2019