

Russia Shrinks Armed Forces to 1.9 Mln People

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Andrei Lyubimov / Moskva News Agency

The number of people in Russia's Armed Forces has decreased by almost 300 to just over 1.9 million men and women, according to a decree [published](#) Monday on the government's legal portal.

The country's Armed Forces include ground troops, the Navy and Aerospace Forces. A decree signed by Putin in November which went into force on Jan. 1, puts the total number of servicemen and women at 1,902,758.

That constitutes a drop of 293 people compared to the 1,903,051 stipulated in an earlier decree, state-run news agency TASS reports.

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Some 40 percent of those employed by the Defense Ministry have noncombat roles, including

cooks, drivers and medical personnel.

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