

# National Army - our source of strength and pride

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The Azerbaijani Army is 100 years old. On 26 June 1918, by a decision of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the first regular military unit, a Special Azerbaijani Corps, was established. The Declaration of Independence adopted on 28 May of that year stated that Azerbaijan must have a regular army and create its own armed forces to defend itself from foreign interference and neutralize domestic enemy forces. The government aimed to create a 25,000-strong army. On 1 August, the Azerbaijani Ministry of War was established and Khosrov bay Sultanov was appointed as first defense minister. Significant steps were taken to establish a regular army, which is considered to be an important attribute of statehood because the interests of great powers converged on the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. In the 23-month period of the existence of the ADR, our people were able to create their own army. As a result of the great efforts of the talented generals of the time, such as Samad bay Mehmandarov and Aliaga Shikhlinski, important measures were taken to turn the Azerbaijani army into a professional military entity. There were many deficiencies in the army building during that period. The Republic experienced problems ranging from external pressure and difficulties in obtaining military equipment to the shortage of professional military personnel. But in spite of all this, the National Army and the Ottoman Empire's Caucasus Islamic Army quickly liberated Baku and its surrounding districts from Armenian-Bolshevik occupation. These military units showed great competence in crushing revolts against the national government in Mugan and Asgaran and defeated Armenian regular army units that trespassed the Azerbaijani border in Gazakh ... Following Soviet occupation of Azerbaijan in April 1920, the National Army was abolished.

After the restoration of the state independence of Azerbaijan, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan made a decision to establish the National Army on 9 October 1991. It was the time when aggression, territorial claims and threats against Azerbaijan reached their culminating point. Some neighboring states did not conceal their intentions to split the young Azerbaijani state and take over a part of its territory. Therefore, after Azerbaijan restored its state independence, the establishment of the National Army became the most important issue on the country's agenda. Thanks to our soldiers and officers who showed outstanding bravery in the First Karabakh War, the plan to split our state were nipped in the bud.

After Azerbaijan declared its state independence, our country was faced with a serious crisis in the military sphere. The main task facing Azerbaijan, which had no regular army, was to control the situation in the battles for Karabakh, a task that was very difficult to implement. The material and technical support of the army was extremely problematic. However, all of the country's capabilities were gradually mobilized for the building of a national army to prevent defeat in the war. First serious steps were taken