

Today in Pärnu, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves visited the largest exercise for reservists, organised since the restoration of independence called "Siil 2008". The infantry battalion exercise, which has been planned since the beginning of the year, is designed to practice and test the main components related to the military readiness of the defence forces and to the execution of a mobilisation of defence forces.

Lieutenant General Ants Laaneots, head of the Defence Forces and Army Chief of Staff Colonel Urmas Roosimägi gave the Head of State an overview of the general concept of the exercise. President Ilves visited the location of the battalion formation in Audru.

"I am very pleased that such an exercise has been organised. Constant and systematic follow-up training is essential in a national defence system based on compulsory military service," President Ilves said.

He acknowledged the reservists that answered the call for the exercise and arrived to serve on time. The Head of State also thanked the head of the Defence Forces and the Western Defence District for organising the first estimable reserve exercise in the last decade.

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