

Maneuvering toward the draft



Almost any Czech age 18-60 can apply to join the army, either as a [career soldier](#), [active reservist](#), [inactive reservist](#) or [voluntary pre-draftee](#), but Army Chief of Staff Karel Řehka said yesterday that the current recruitment system is unsustainable and that some other form of "[mandatory or voluntary service](#)" will need to be considered. This greater emphasis on active military service is part of the strategy of a "[whole of government](#)" and "[whole of society](#)" approach to defense. The army doesn't have enough soldiers for this new strategy, but the [government froze army salaries](#) for this year, despite a [huge jump in the defense budget](#). There is money to pay in advance for F-35s, but not for making the army more attractive today as an employer. Is the Fiala government "merely" incompetent, or did it intentionally want to create a staffing crisis in the army as an excuse for imposing a military draft? Petr Kolář, an adviser to Pres. Petr Pavel and to defense contractor Colt CZ, wants to go even further. He said in Jan. that the CR needs to [convert to a war economy](#). That would be the ultimate "whole of government" and "whole of society" approach.

Read this later today in [Czech](#)



WHO ARE WE?

- an independent, non-profit, membership-based organisation
- a platform for senior members of local and international companies to meet, share experiences and look for opportunities to do business together



Find out more:

info@ibforum.cz

www.ibforum.cz