S.O.T. SYSTEMS OF TIMOR

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Rua de Ai Meti Laran, Comoro, Dom Aleixo, Dili

JOB PROFILE

Soldier (F-FDTL)

Militár (F-FDTL)

Public service, NGOs & security · ISCO-08 0 (armed forces)

Soldiers serve in the armed forces, on land, at sea or in the air. They are under military discipline and, while serving, are not free to take a civilian job. Some do military tasks; others do work much like civilian jobs, such as medical work, radio, cooking, office work or driving trucks. In Timor-Leste the armed forces are the F-FDTL, which are responsible for military defence.

TRAIN IN TIMOR	**To confirm** No national course listed; ask the F-FDTL
COURSE LENGTH	**To confirm** No published source yet
IN TIMOR	**1% of workers** Armed forces, Census 2022
ABROAD	**No official programme yet** Australia PEV: any job, with a job offer

WHAT YOU DO

Serve: Serve in the army, the navy or the air force; Do specific military tasks; Work as an infantry soldier, gunner, sailor or airman.

Discipline: Live and work under military discipline; Follow the orders of your officers; While serving, you are not free to take a civilian job.

Lead and supervise: Non-commissioned officers keep discipline; They supervise the work of other soldiers; Commissioned officers lead and manage units.

Civilian-type work: Medical work, as doctors and medics; Radio and communications; Cooking, office work and driving heavy trucks.

Based on the ILO description of ISCO-08 major group 0, Armed forces occupations (unit groups 0110, 0210 and 0310). The ILO gives no detailed task list for the armed forces.

WHERE YOU WORK

Land forces (Military bases and units); Naval Component (Watching the sea and fighting illegal fishing); Air Support Component (Watching the airspace and humanitarian missions); Disasters & peace missions (Helping civilians; UN peacekeeping).

Military life is physically hard and can be dangerous. You live by strict rules, may be sent far from home, and must be ready in emergencies.

The F-FDTL's main mission is to defend national independence, the country's territory and the people against any outside threat. They can also support civil authorities, peace operations and humanitarian work.

The government wants more training with partner countries, and more F-FDTL members in UN peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

Armed forces jobs are about 1% of all employment: 1.2% of working men and 0.6% of working women.

IS IT FOR ME?

You are good at: Physical fitness, Following orders, Staying calm in danger, Teamwork, Self-discipline.

You like: Serving your country, Being outdoors, Clear rules and order, Helping people in emergencies.

The F-FDTL is non-partisan: it must stay out of politics. The government also wants more women in the defence sector.

TRAIN FOR IT IN TIMOR-LESTE

- **No national certificate listed** · The published list of INDMO titles has no military course, and that list is incomplete.
- **National Defence Institute** · The government plans to make it a higher education school for national defence
- **Joint Academy for the defence and security forces** · Planned by the government

How the F-FDTL recruits and trains new soldiers, who can apply, for how long, and how promotion works: to confirm with the F-FDTL. The directory never shows a number without a source.

WHERE IT LEADS

- **Soldier** · Military tasks or civilian-type work
- **Non-commissioned officer** · Keeps discipline and supervises soldiers (ISCO 0210)
- **Commissioned officer** · Leads and manages units (ISCO 0110)

WORK ABROAD, SAFELY

- **Australia: Pacific Engagement Visa** · Soldiers serve their own country, and no official programme sends Timorese soldiers abroad to work. Australia's Pacific Engagement Visa allows any occupation, but you need a job offer from an Australian employer first.

Never pay a fixer. Join only through SEFOPE, the Timor-Leste government office for work abroad. No one can sell you a place, and a real overseas job never asks you for a recruitment fee.

SOURCES

1. ILO, ISCO-08 major group 0 Armed forces occupations: unit groups 0110 Commissioned armed forces officers, 0210 Non-commissioned armed forces officers, 0310 Armed forces occupations, other ranks https://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/isco08/
2. INETL with ILO, 2022 Census Thematic Report on Labour Force (Oct 2024), Table 4: employment by occupation and sex https://www.laohamutuk.org/DVD/DGS/Cens22/241203INETLThematic-report-labour-force_2022.pdf
3. APTC, Timor-Leste Skills Strategy 2022, Annex I (INDMO qualification titles) https://24045200.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/24045200/Files/Timor-Leste%20Skills%20Strategy%202023.pdf
4. Programme of the IX Constitutional Government 2023–2028 (18 Jul 2023), §6.9.1 Defence https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/EN-Programa-IX-Governo.pdf
5. Pacific Engagement Visa: any occupation, job offer needed (employer fact sheet 2025) https://pev.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/PEV%20for%20Employers%20Fact%20Sheet_2025.pdf
6. Labour Force Survey 2021, Table 29: average monthly wage of employees by occupation group https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40asia/%40ro-bangkok/%40ilo-jakarta/documents/publication/wcms_863064.pdf

From the Servisu jobs directory. Every figure has a source; "to confirm" means none yet. http://servisu.oftimor.com/jobs-directory/soldier/?lang=en