

Chapter 2

THE INSTITUTIONS

Defence System Organization

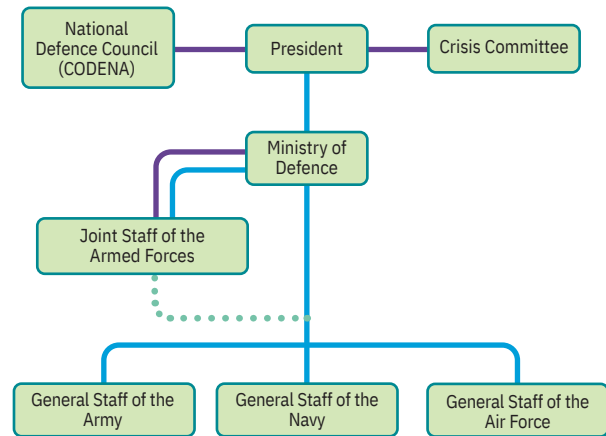
Chain of command design, political leadership-military relations, security and defence councils, and role of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the various institutional organizations.

Advisory and assistance functional relationship

Command reporting line

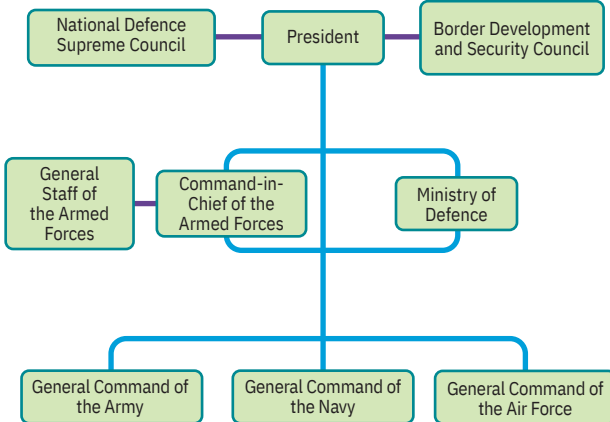
Joint planning and management relationship

ARGENTINA



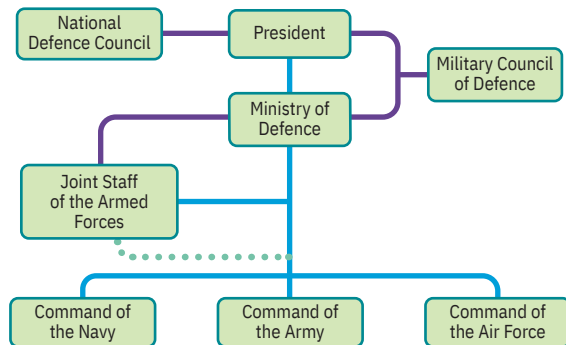
Source: Compilation based on *Ley de defensa nacional* (N° 23554 - 1988/05/05) and *Reglamentación de la Ley de defensa nacional* (Decree N° 727/2006 - 2006/06/13).

BOLIVIA



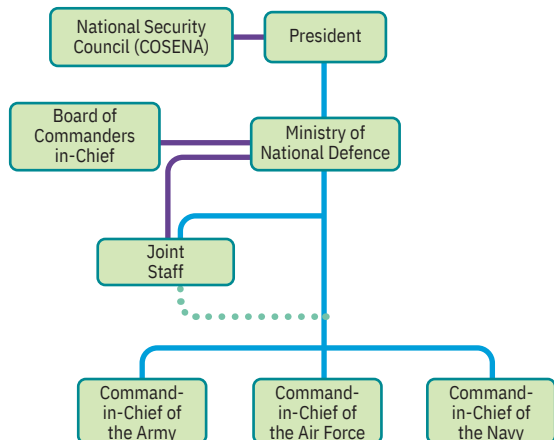
Source: Compilation based on *Ley orgánica de las Fuerzas Armadas* (N° 1405 - 1992/12/30).

BRAZIL



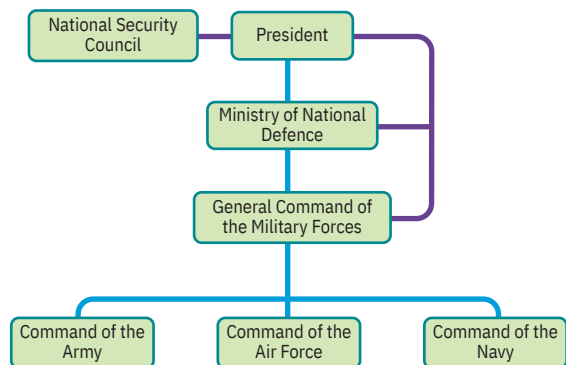
Source: Compilation based on the Political Constitution; *Lei que dispõe sobre a organização e o funcionamento do Conselho de Defesa Nacional e dá outras providências* (N° 8183 - 1991/04/11, Last Amendment: 2001/08/31); *Lei sobre as Normas Gerais para a Organização, o Preparo e o Emprego das Forças Armadas, para Estabelecer Novas Atribuições Subsidiárias* (Complementary Act N° 117 - 2004/09/02; modifies Complementary Act N° 97 - 1999/06/09); and *Lei Complementar da Defesa* (Complementary Act N° 136 - 2010/08/25; modifies Complementary Act N° 97 - 1999/06/09).

CHILE

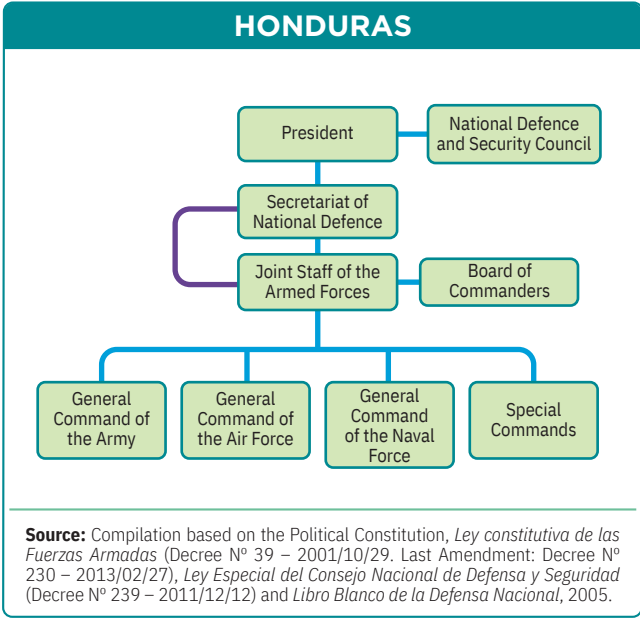
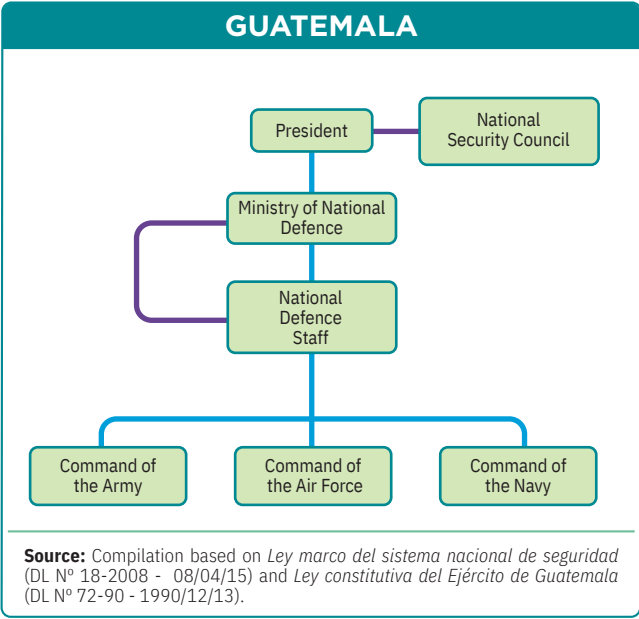
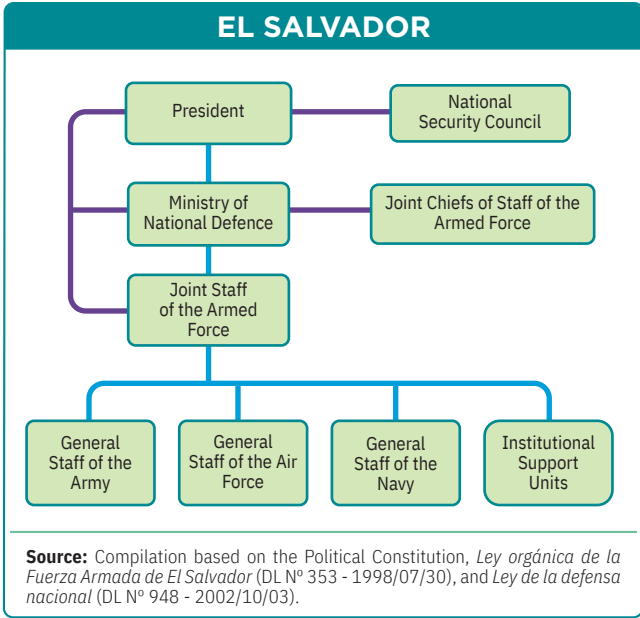
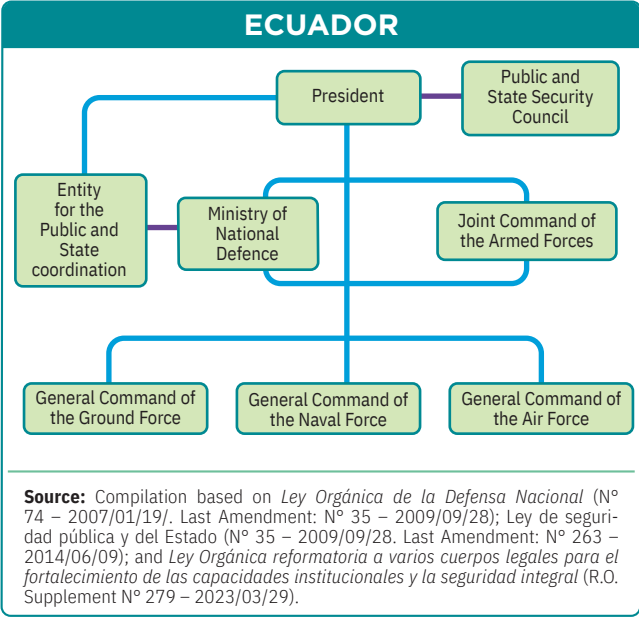
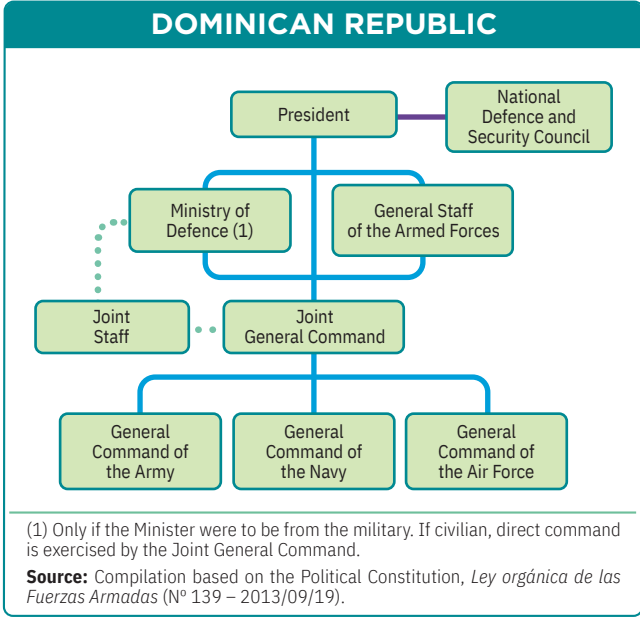
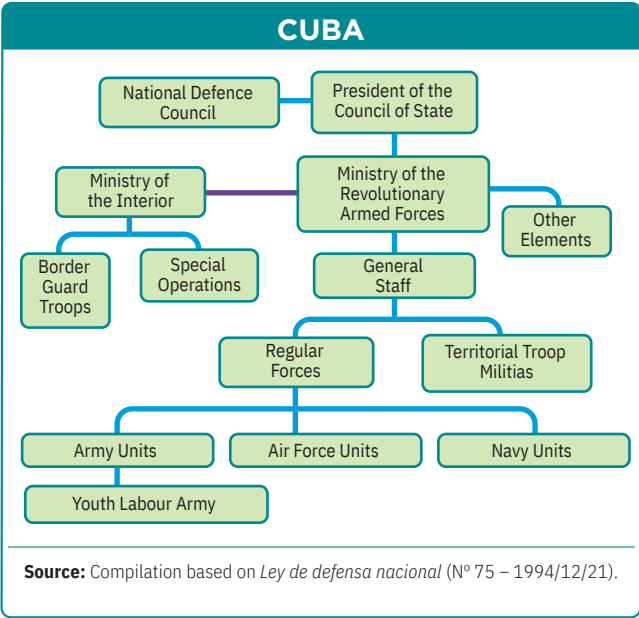


Source: Compilation based on the Political Constitution, *Ley del Estatuto Orgánico del Ministerio de Defensa Nacional* (N° 21174 - 2020/02/04).

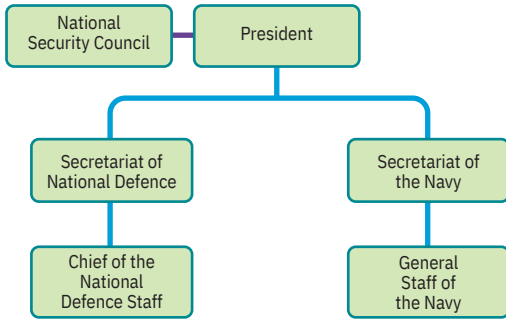
COLOMBIA



Source: Compilation based on the Decree modifying the organizational structure of the Ministry of National Defence including other provisions such as (N° 1,512 - 2000/08/11, Last Amendment: Decree N° 1,381 - 2015/07/22) and the Decree joining the National Security Council, the Higher National Defence Council, and the Commission created by Decree 813 of 1983 (Decree N° 4,748 - 2010/12/23, Last Amendment: Decree N° 741 - 2021/07/02).

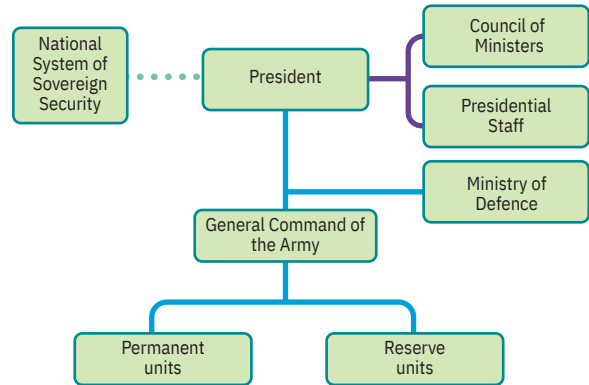


MEXICO



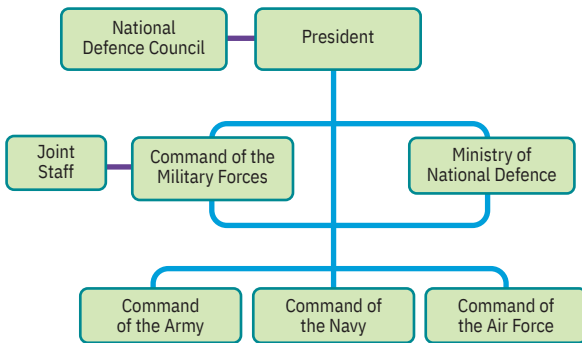
Source: Compilation based on the Political Constitution, *Ley orgánica de la Administración Pública Federal* (DOF 1976/12/29. Last Amendment: DOF 2024/04/01), *Ley orgánica de la Armada de México* (DOF 2012/12/30. Last Amendment: DOF 2023/12/01), *Ley Orgánica del Ejército y Fuerza Aérea Mexicanos* (DOF 1986/12/26. Last Amendment: DOF 2014/03/05) and *Ley de Seguridad Nacional* (DOF 2005/01/31. Last Amendment: DOF 2021/05/20).

NICARAGUA



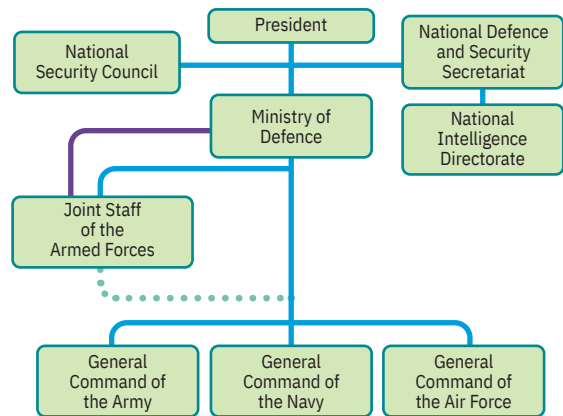
Source: Compilation based on *Ley de organización, competencia y procedimientos del Poder Ejecutivo* (Nº 290 – 1998/06/03. Last Amendment: Nº 929 – 2022/02/06), *Ley de la Defensa Nacional* (Nº 748 – 2010/12/22) and *Ley de seguridad soberana de la República de Nicaragua* (Nº 919 – 2015/12/18).

PARAGUAY



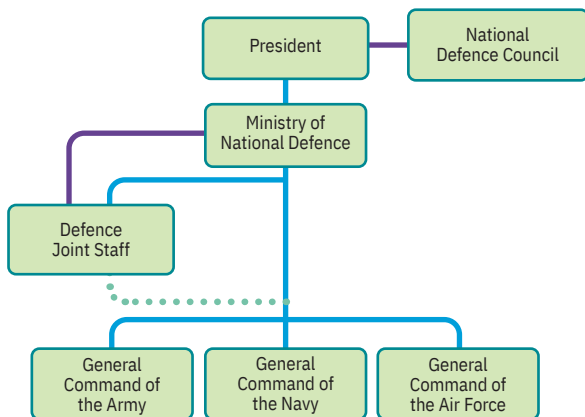
Source: Compilation based on Constitution of Paraguay, *Ley de defensa nacional y de seguridad interna* (Nº 1337 – 2009/04/14. Last Amendment: Law Nº 5.036 – 2013/08/22), *Ley de organización general de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Nación* (Law Nº 216 – 1993/06/16. Last Amendment: Law Nº 4067 – 2010/11/08).

PERU



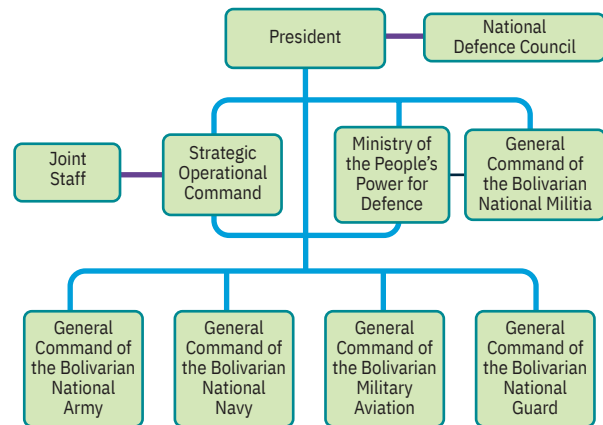
Source: Compilation based on *Ley de organización y funcionamiento del Ministerio de Defensa* (Nº 29605 – 2010/10/22) and *Ley del sistema de seguridad y defensa nacional* (Nº 28478 – 2005/03/23).

URUGUAY



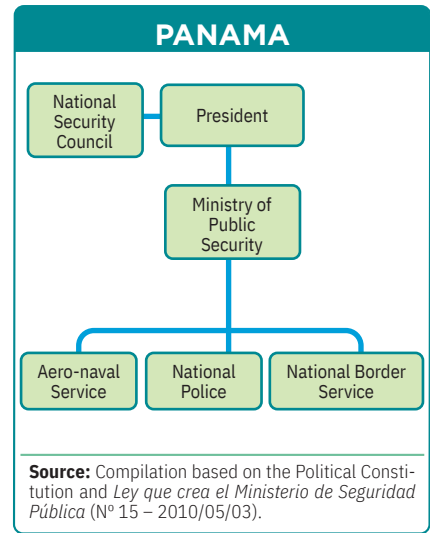
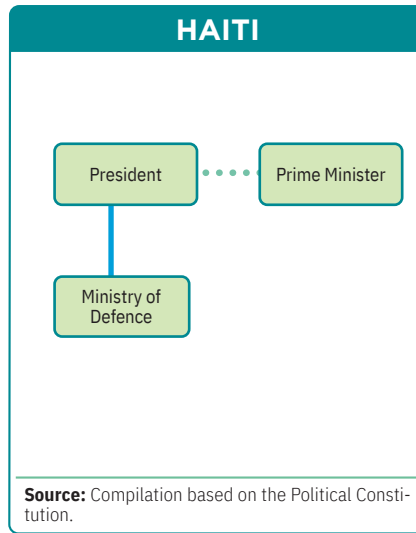
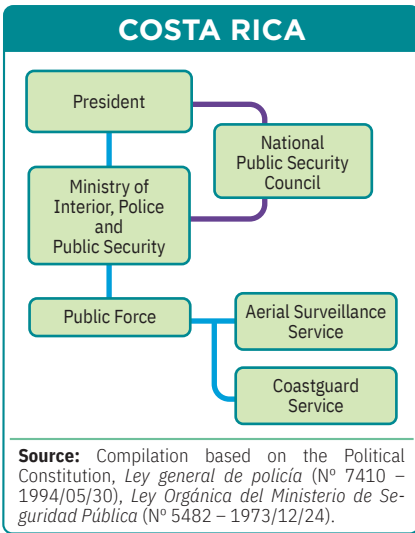
Source: Compilation based on the *Ley marco de defensa nacional* (Nº 18650 – 2010/08/03. Last Amendment: Act Nº 18896 – 2012/05/10).

VENEZUELA



Source: Compilation based on the Political Constitution, *Ley orgánica de seguridad de la Nación* (GO Nº 37594 – 2002/12/18) and *Ley orgánica de la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana* (Extraordinary GO Nº 6020 – 2011/03/21).

Defence and Public Security Systems



Responsibilities of the Ministries of Defence

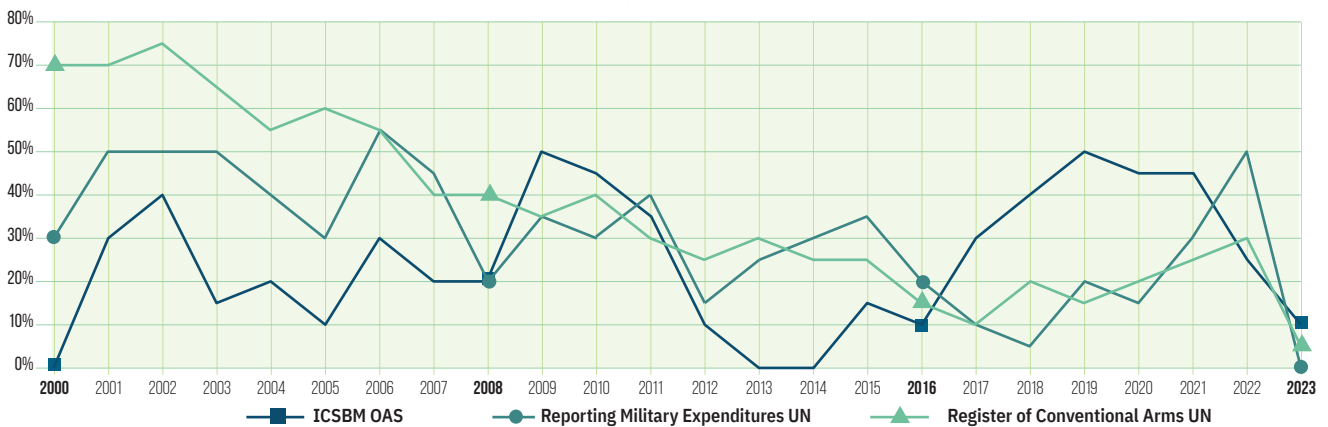
Country	Responsibility
Argentina Ministry of Defence	The Ministry of Defence exercises the direction, organization and coordination of the activities that are proper to national defence and are not exclusively or directly conducted by the President or assigned to other officials, bodies or organizations. (<i>Ley de Defensa Nacional</i> , N° 23554 – 1988/05/05, Sec. 11).
Bolivia Ministry of Defence	The Ministry of Defence is the political and administrative body of the Armed Forces. The Minister of Defence is the legal representative of the armed institution before the public powers. (<i>Ley orgánica de las Fuerzas Armadas</i> , N° 1405 – 1992/12/30, Sec. 22).
Brazil Ministry of Defence	The Minister of Defence exercises the senior leadership of the Armed Forces, on the advice of the Military Council of Defence as the permanent consultation body, the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces, the secretariats and other bodies, in accordance with the law. (Law on the general rules for the organization, preparation and employment of the Armed Forces, to establish new subsidiary duties – Complementary Act N° 117 – 2004/09/02. Last Amendment: Complementary Act N° 136 – 2010/25/08, Sec. 9).
Chile Ministry of National Defence	The Ministry of National Defence is the highest body for assisting the President in the government and administration of national defence. (<i>Ley del Estatuto Orgánico del Ministerio de Defensa Nacional</i> , N° 20424 – 2010/02/04, Sec. 3. Last Amendment: N° 21174 – 2019/09/26, Sec. 3).
Colombia Ministry of National Defence	Responsible for the conduct of the Military Forces and National Police as instructed by the President of the Republic, formulating and adopting the sector policies, general plans, programs and projects for the defence of national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, as well as maintaining constitutional law and order and ensuring a democratic society. (<i>Decreto por el cual se modifica la estructura del Ministerio de Defensa Nacional y se dictan otras disposiciones</i> , N° 1512 – 2000/08/11. Last Amendment: Decree N° 113 – 2022/01/25, Sec. 2, 3, 4).
Costa Rica Ministry of Interior, Police and Public Security*	Preserve and maintain national sovereignty; contribute to the strengthening of the principle of legality, through respect and general observance of the Political Constitution and laws; ensure security, peace and public order in the country. (<i>Ley Orgánica del Ministerio de Seguridad Pública</i> , N° 5482 – 1973/12/24. Last Amendment: <i>Ley General de Policía</i> , N° 7410 – 1994/05/26).
Cuba Ministry of Revolutionary Armed Forces	It is the body responsible for directing, executing and controlling the implementation of the State and Government policy with respect to the country's preparation for defence, the defence of national sovereignty in the entire national territory, the preparation and execution of armed combat, and the contracting, acquisition, production and use of war material to meet the Ministry of Defence requirements. (<i>Ley de la defensa nacional</i> , N° 75 – 1994/12/21, Sec. 37).
Dominic Republic Ministry of Defence	The Ministry of Defence is the highest authority within the defence system assigned to the President of the Republic for administering the Armed Forces. It advises the President on matter of security and defence and is responsible for the elaboration and execution of the defence policy. (<i>Ley orgánica de las Fuerzas Armadas</i> , N° 139 – 2013/09/19, Sec. 35 and 38).
Ecuador Ministry of National Defence	The Ministry of National Defence is the political, strategic, and administrative body of national defence. As the governing body, it issues defence policies and manages the Armed Forces and affiliated organizations through guidelines and directives, in order to guarantee and maintain sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as to support internal security and national development with its contingent. (<i>Ley Orgánica de la Defensa Nacional</i> , R.O. N° 4 – 2007/19/01. Last Amendment: 2023/29/03. <i>Estatuto Orgánico de Gestión Organizacional Ministerio de Defensa</i> , R.O. Special Edition, 209 – 2014/19/11. Last Amendment: 2017/20/04, Sec. 1).
El Salvador Ministry of National Defence	It is the main advisory body to the President of the Republic and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces regarding National Defence. It advises the various levels of the National Defence System on matters pertaining to National Defence policies; coordinates with the Action Fields' Directorates to support the Military effort; and directs the Military Action Field. (<i>Ley de la defensa nacional</i> , DL N° 948 – 2002/03/10, Sec. 18 and 19).
Guatemala Ministry of National Defence	The Minister of National Defence, under the orders of the General Commander in Chief of the Army (the President of the Nation), shall conduct and manage the Army of Guatemala. It is the communication agency between the Army of Guatemala and the other government bodies. (<i>Ley constitutiva del Ejército de Guatemala</i> , DL N° 72-90 – 1990/12/13. Last Amendment: DL N° 14 – 2022/03/18).
Haiti Ministry of Defence	It is the central body of the Haitian State whose mission is to formulate the Government's policy in the field of Defence in all its dimensions, within the framework of the general policy defined by the Head of Government. It is responsible for regulating and controlling all public or private actions related to its area of competence. (Decree 1990/05/31, Sec. 2).

Country	Responsibility
Honduras Secretariat of National Defence	It ensures that the national defence policy will be duly executed by the Armed Forces; it represents Honduras at international defence organizations; and authorizes, regulates and controls all matters related to weapons, ammunitions and explosives. In relation to military matters, it is the administrative organization of the Armed Forces; it countersigns decrees, agreements, orders and decisions; it secures the preparation and implementation of plans and programs, and orders their elaboration or updating; it recommends officer promotions to the President; and supervises, inspects and exerts control over the organization and performance of the Armed Forces. (<i>Ley constitutiva de las Fuerzas Armadas</i> , Decree N° 39-2001 – 2001/10/29, Last Amendment: Decree N° 230 – 2013/02/27, Sec. 5).
Mexico Secretariat of National Defence Secretariat of the Navy	The Secretariat of National Defence exercises the High Command of the Army and Air Force. It is responsible for organizing, equipping, educating, training, and managing the land and air Armed Forces in accordance with the instructions received from the President of the Republic. (<i>Ley Orgánica del Ejército y Fuerza Aérea Mexicanos</i> , DOF 1986/26/12. Last Amendment: DOF 2023/03/05, Sec. 16 and 17). The Secretariat of the Navy exercises the High Command of the Mexican Navy. It is responsible for proposing, formulating, and conducting naval policy and strategy; operating and managing naval power; and participating in the formulation of national security policy and plans. (<i>Ley Orgánica de la Armada de México</i> , DOF 2002/30/12.. Last Amendment: DOF 2022/01/12, Sec. 5 and 7).
Nicaragua Ministry of Defence	It is the advisory body of the President of the Republic in relation to the formulation and implementation of National Defence plans and policies. (<i>Ley de la Defensa Nacional</i> , N° 748 - 2010/22/12).
Panama Ministry of Public Security*	The Ministry of Public Security has the function of maintaining and defending national sovereignty, ensure security, peace and public order in the country, and protect the life, honor and property of its nationals and the foreigners that are under its jurisdiction (<i>Ley de Creación del Ministerio de Seguridad Pública</i> , N° 15 -2010/04/14, Sec. 1).
Paraguay Ministry of National Defence	The administrative responsibilities of the Nation's Armed Forces fall under the National Ministry of Defence. (<i>Ley de organización general de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Nación</i> , N° 216 – 1991/11/20. Last Amendment: Act N° 4067 - 2010/08/11, Sec. 48).
Peru Ministry of Defence	It is the main executive body of the national security and defence system, responsible for formulating, coordinating, implementing, executing and supervising the national defence policy in the military sphere, as well as for designing, planning and coordinating this policy in the non-military arena, in accordance with current laws in effect. (<i>Ley del sistema de seguridad y defensa nacional</i> , N° 28478 – 2005/03/23, Sec. 18).
Uruguay Ministry of National Defence	It has the power and competence over the political conduct of national defence areas determined by the laws and the Executive Branch within the framework of their powers, in particular, of all matters related to the Armed Forces. It exercises the command and supervision of all activities carried out by the Armed Forces. (<i>Ley marco de defensa nacional</i> , N° 18650 - 2010/03/08. Last Amendment: N° 19889 - 2020/07/09, Sec. 14 and 15).
Venezuela Ministry of the People's Power for Defence	It is the highest administrative body as regards the military defence of the Nation, responsible for the formulation, adoption, monitoring and assessment of the policies, strategies, plans, programs and projects of the defence sector. The President and Commander-in-Chief is entitled to issue operational orders through the Ministry of the People's Power for Defence (<i>Ley Constitucional de la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana</i> , GO N° 6508 - 2020/30/01, Sec. 26 and 30).

* By constitutional determination, Costa Rica and Panama do not have Armed Forces.

Transparency Measures

Evolution in Latin America of Submissions to the UN and OAS Registers.



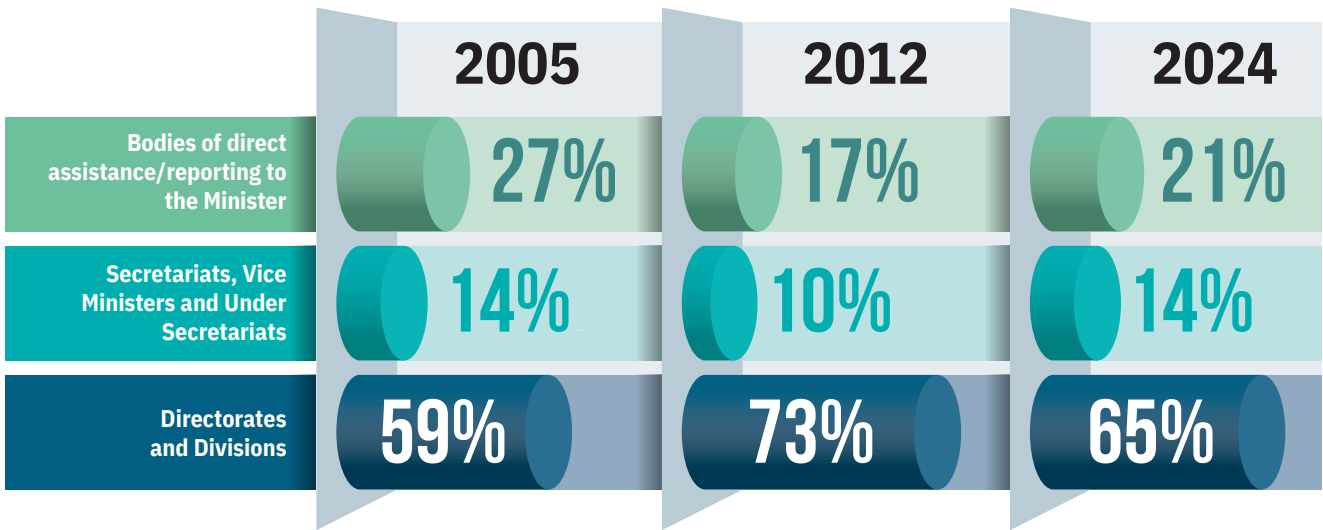
Reporting to UN and OAS Registers

	2000	2008	2016	2023
ICSBM OAS	0 OF 19 COUNTRIES SUBMITTED REPORTS	1 OF EACH 4.75 COUNTRIES SUBMITTED REPORTS	1 OF EACH 9.5 COUNTRIES SUBMITTED REPORTS	1 OF EACH 9.5 COUNTRIES SUBMITTED REPORTS
Military Expenditures UN	1 OF EACH 3.33 COUNTRIES SUBMITTED REPORTS	1 OF EACH 5 COUNTRIES SUBMITTED REPORTS	1 OF EACH 5 COUNTRIES SUBMITTED REPORTS	0 OF 20 COUNTRIES SUBMITTED REPORTS
Register of Conventional Arms UN	1 OF EACH 1.43 COUNTRIES SUBMITTED REPORTS	1 OF EACH 2.5 COUNTRIES SUBMITTED REPORTS	1 OF EACH 6.67 COUNTRIES SUBMITTED REPORTS	20 OF 20 COUNTRIES SUBMITTED REPORTS

Register/Instrument: Average number of reports submitted in each period (for the calculation of reports submitted to the OAS, all countries considered in this publication, with the exception of Cuba, have been included).

Source: Compilation based on reports submitted by the States to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the United Nations Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures from 1992 to 2023 and reports submitted by States to the OAS on the Implementation of Confidence and Security-Building Measures in the 1997-2023 period.

Evolution of Defence Ministry Structures, 2005 – 2024 (in %)

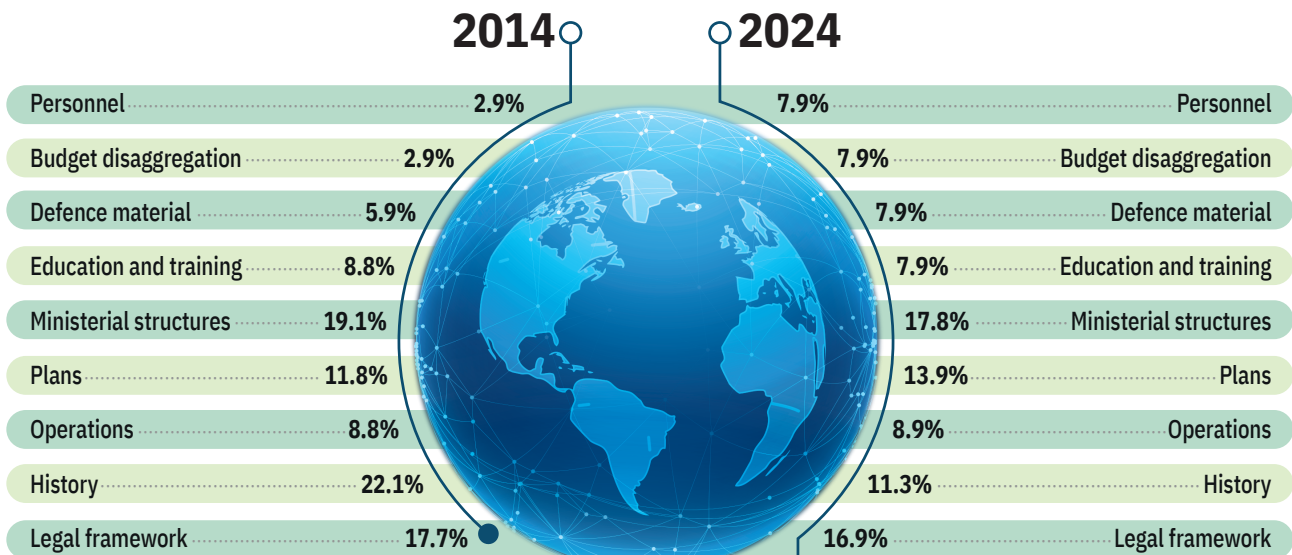


Note: In the case of “Directorates,” this category includes other agencies, departments, and divisions according to the designation of each country. For comparison purposes, the specific bodies of the Armed Forces, Defence Councils, sports federations or commissions, the military diocese, companies and industries, schools, and other institutes or study centers have been excluded.

Source: Compilation based on the organizational charts of the Ministries of Defence of: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The cases of Costa Rica and Panama are not included since the table specifically refers to Ministries of Defence.

The evolution of the defence through the websites of the respective ministries (2014 – 2024)

What are the most frequently reflected contents?



Note: Other issues are presented in addition to those cited, such as: gender, human rights, peace operations, military service, events, visits and agenda, among others.

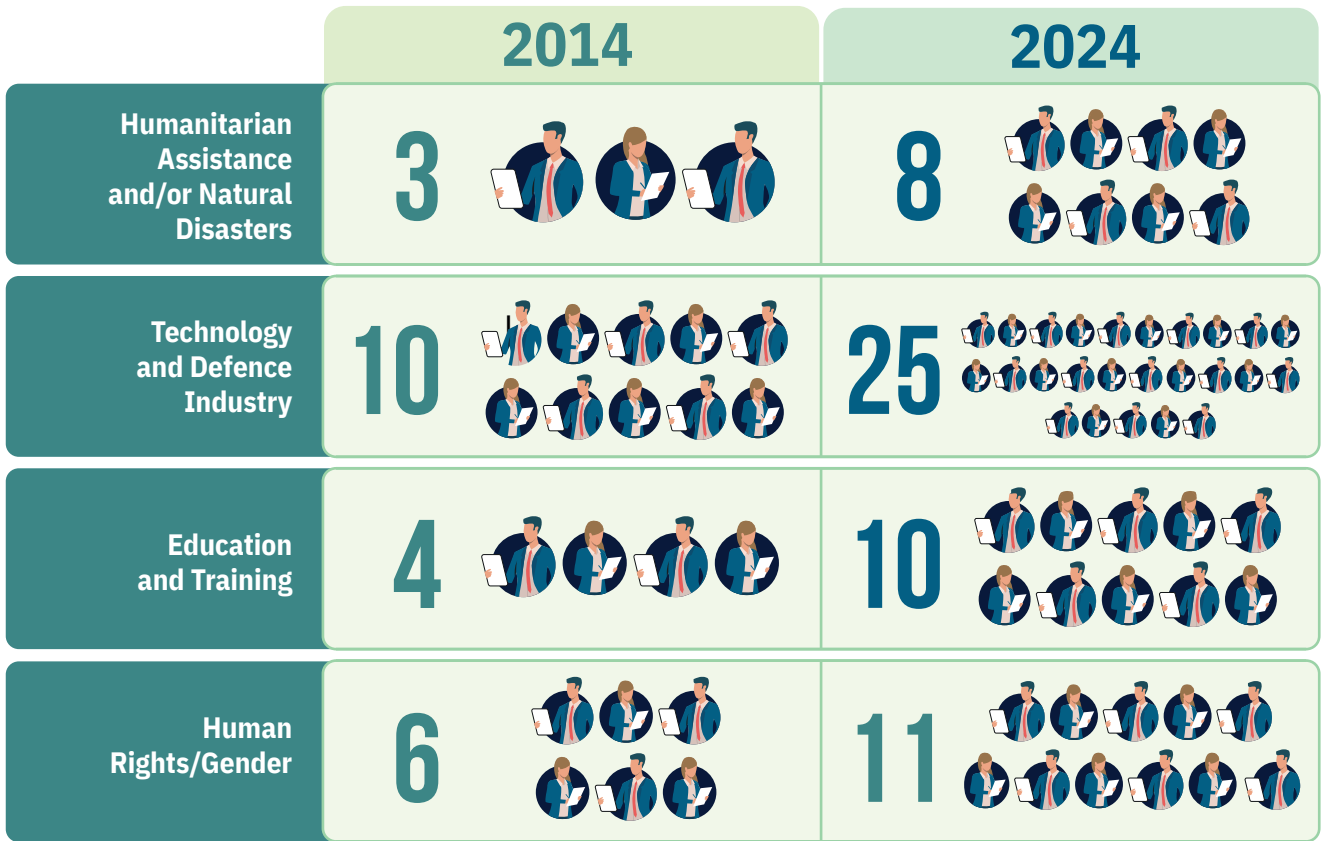
WHAT OTHER TOPICS ARE REFLECTED IN 2024 ON THE WEBSITES OF THE MINISTRIES OF DEFENCE?

- 25% of the ministries reflect information on **Gender**.
- 30% of the ministries reflect information on **Human Rights**.
- 20% of the ministries reflect information on **Peace Operations**.
- 30% of the ministries reflect **Statistical Information**.
- 20% of the ministries reflect information on **Military Service**.

Source: Compilation based on the websites of the Ministries of Defence of: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The cases of Costa Rica and Panama are not included.

Evolution of Topics in Ministerial Structures

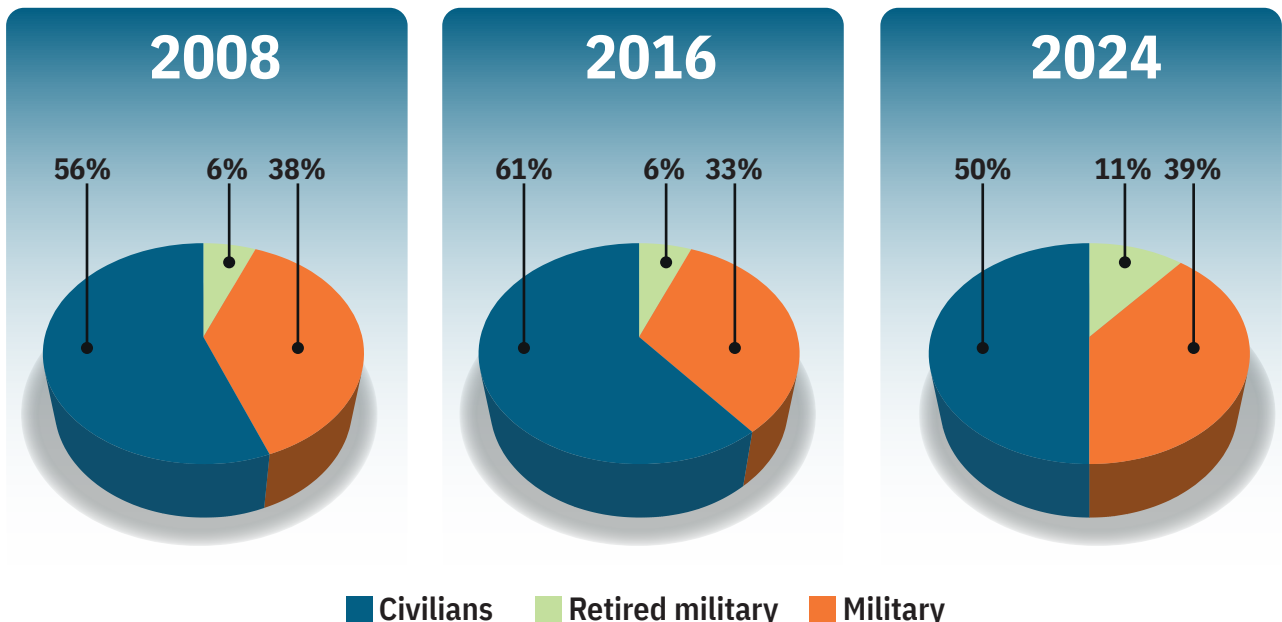
(According to offices up to management level in each country)



Note: Offices and departments of the Ministries or Secretariats of Defence are considered up to the third institutional level. By constitutional determination, Costa Rica and Panama do not have a Ministry of Defence, so the structures of the Ministries of Public Security are considered. For the case of Defence Technology and Industry, offices related to technological development, defence industry, modernization, innovation, and defence material development are included. The cases of Cuba and Haiti are not considered.

Source: Compilation based on the websites of the Ministries of Defence of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Uruguay; the Ministry of Popular Power for Defence of Venezuela, the Ministry of Public Security of Costa Rica and Panama, the Secretariat of National Defence of Honduras, the Secretariat of National Defence and the Secretariat of the Navy of Mexico.

Condition of Defence Ministers



Source: Compilation based on the websites of the Ministries of Defence of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Uruguay; the Ministry of Popular Power for Defence of Venezuela, the Secretariat of National Defence of Honduras, the Secretariat of National Defence, and the Secretariat of the Navy of Mexico.