

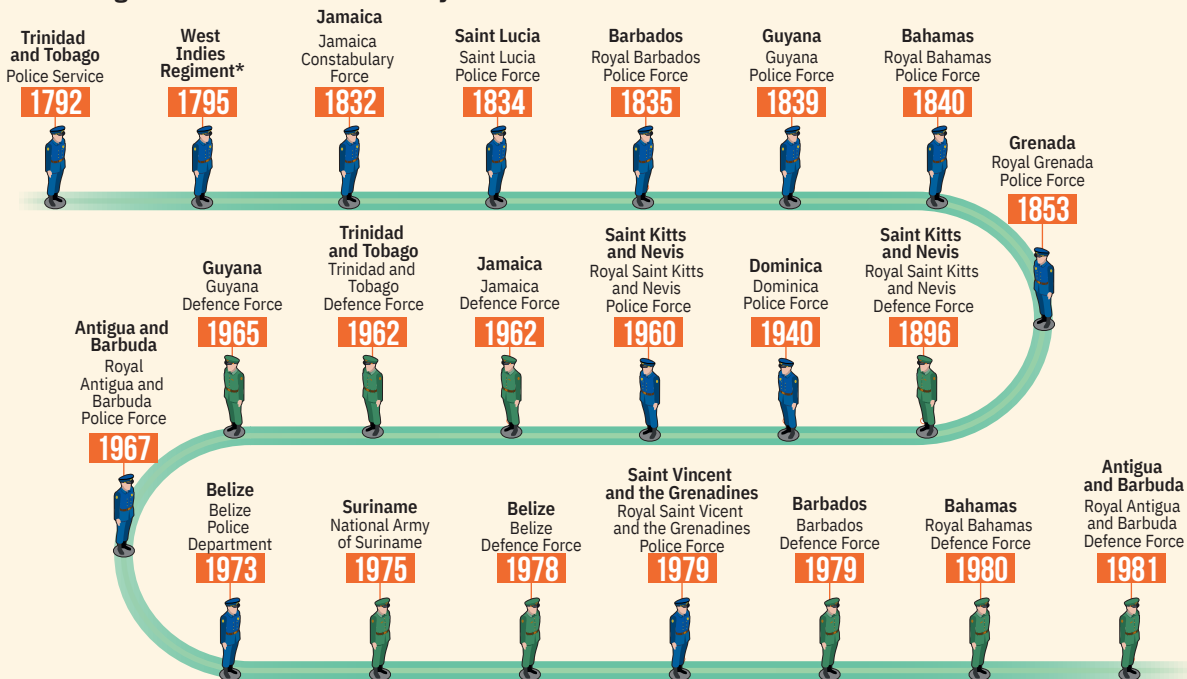
THE CARIBBEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY

The non-Spanish speaking Caribbean is an area of vast heterogeneity that from the foundation of common concerns has established cooperative spaces between states and international actors.

Risks and emergency management is one of the most pressing concerns; cooperation spaces in this area are an experience for other regions, and the activity of Caribbean States in international forums on this issue is intense. Although their realities differ from those of Latin America, they share the same hemispheric structures and historical agendas and neighborly relations.

The countries have constructed their political systems and structures on the foundation of their processes of decolonization and maintain strong links with countries such as Great Britain, United States, and Canada, both due to historical and linguistic reasons. The characteristics of their territories and populations influence the composition of regular-size defence forces and the presence of police and constabulary forces.

The Emergence of Defence and Security Forces in the Caribbean



*Created in 1795, the West India Regiment was an infantry unit of the British Army recruited and generally stationed in the British colonies of the Caribbean. The Regiment differed from similar forces recruited in other parts of the British Empire in that it formed an integral part of the regular British Army. As countries became independent, they started creating their own defence forces, which were no longer part of the West Indies Regiment.

Legal Framework

Antigua and Barbuda

Police Act (Chapter 330 - 1967/08/22. Last Amendment: N° 34 - 2020/12/31).
The Defence Act (N° 10 - 2006/10/06. Last Amendment: N° 18 - 2021/09/02).
The Visiting Forces Act (2007/03/21).
The Disaster Management Act (N° 13 - 2002/09/10).

Bahamas

Police Act (N° 205 - 1965. Last Amendment: N° 26 - 2013).
Defence Act (Chapter 211 - 1979. Last Amendment: N° 31 - 2020/12/09).
Disaster Risk Management Act (N° 39 - 2022/12/09).

Barbados

Defence (Amendment) Act (Chapter 159 - 1979/08/15. Last Amendment: 2021).
Police Act (Chapter 67 - 1961/10/16. Last Amendment: N° 2 - 2020).
Emergency Management Act (Chapter 160 - 2007/04/01).

Belize

Police Act (Chapter 138 - 1951. Last Amendment: 2018).
Defence Act (Chapter 135 - 1978. Last Amendment: 2020).
Disaster Preparedness and Response Act (Chapter 145 - 2000/12/31).

Dominica

Police Act (Chapter 14:01 - 1940. Last Amendment: N° 9 - 2018/05/14).
Emergency Powers (Disaster) Act (Chapter 15:02 - 1987. Last Amendment: 2020/04/08).

Grenada

Police Act (Chapter 44, revised laws of Grenada 1990. Last Amendment: N° 8 - 2006).
Disaster Management Bill (Chapter 203 - 2023/03/08).

Guyana

Police Act (Chapter 16:01 - 1957/08/09. Last Amendment: 1983/09/30).
Status of Visiting Police Forces Act (N° 7 - 2008/07/31).
Defence Act (Chapter 15:01 - 1966. Last Amendment: N° 8 - 2024/05/31).

Jamaica

The Constabulary Force Act (1935/12/19).
The Defence Act (1962/07/31. Last Amendment: N° 7 - 2017/04/07).
The Visiting Forces Act (N° 20 - 1975/04/11).
Disaster Risk Management Act (2015/02/19. Last Amendment: 2021/02/24).

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Police Act (2003).
Defence Act (1997).
National Disaster Management Act (Chapter 19:06 - 1999/01/06. Last Amendment: 2022/12/31).

Saint Lucia

Police Act (Chapter 14:01 - 2004).
Disaster Management Act (N° 30 - 2006/07/20).

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Police Act, 280.
National Emergency and Disaster Management Act (N° 15 - 2006/10/19).

Suriname

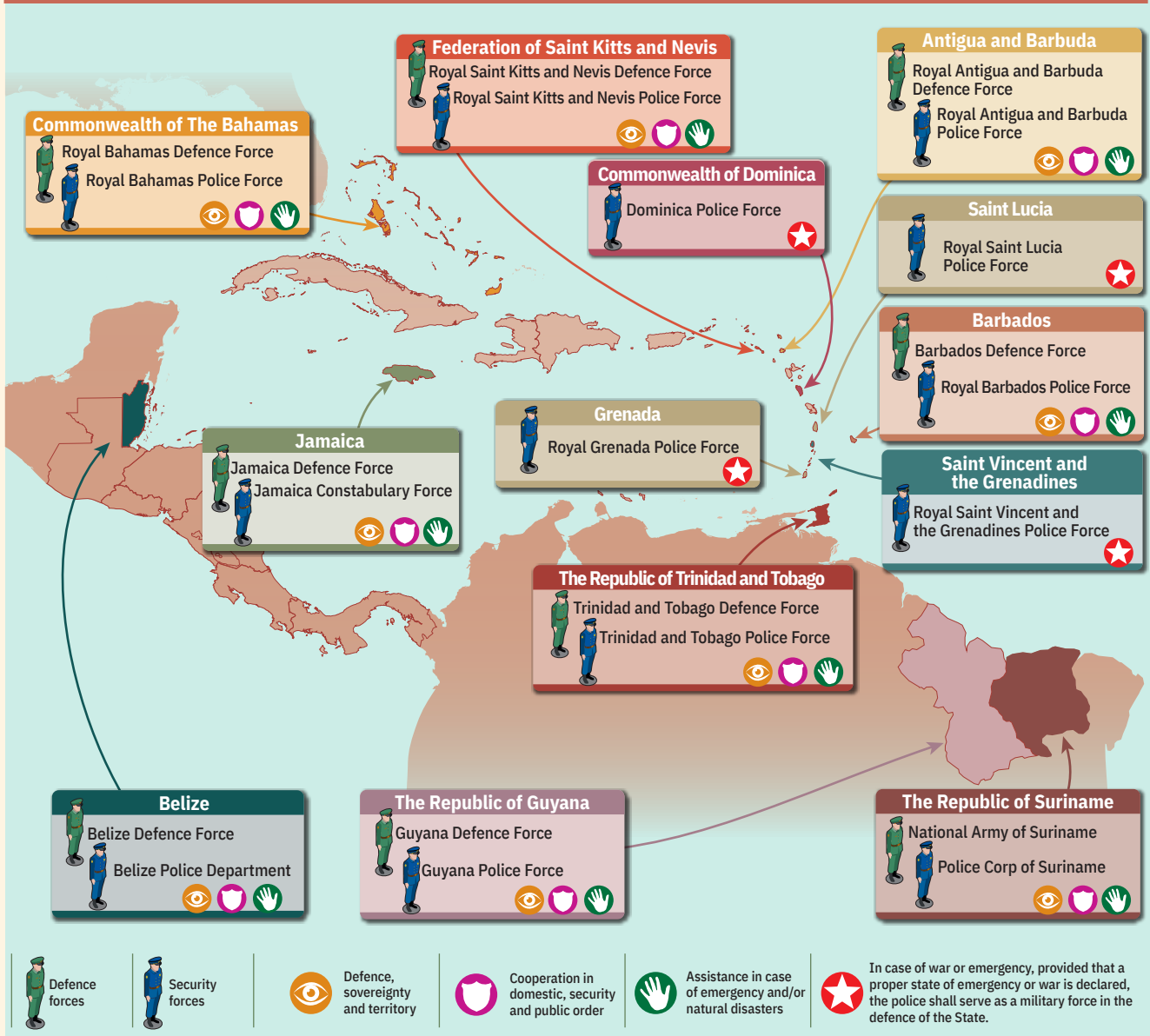
Law on the National Army (SB N° 27 - 1996/05/27).
Military Disciplinary Law (SB N° 7 - 1975/02/11).
Military Status Act (SB N° 28 - 1996/05/17).
Recruitment Law (SB N° 98 - 1970/07/10).

Trinidad and Tobago

Defence Act (Chapter 14:01 - 1962).
Disaster Measures Act (Chapter 16:50, N° 47, 1978/12/13. Last Amendment: 2014/12/31).
Police Service Act (Chapter 15:01 - 2006).

Source: Compilation based on the legislation mentioned above and official sites of the Ministry of Legal Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda, Ministry of Legal Affairs of the Bahamas, Parliament of Barbados, National Assembly of Belize, Government of Dominica, Royal Police of Grenada, Parliament of Guyana, Ministry of Justice, Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Government of Saint Lucia, Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, National Assembly of Suriname, and Ministry of National Security, Trinidad and Tobago.

Missions of Defence and Security Forces

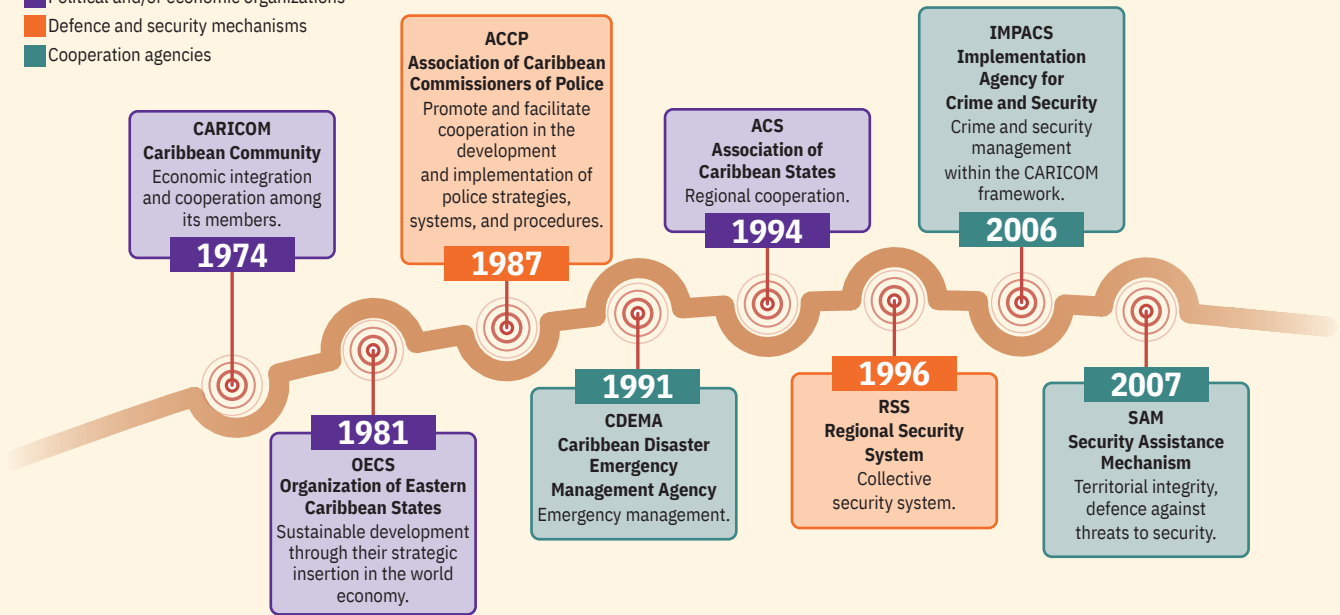


Antigua and Barbuda	Population: 94,300 inhabitants	Form of government: Parliamentary monarchy since 1981
Bahamas	Population: 412,600 inhabitants	Form of government: Parliamentary monarchy since 1973
Barbados	Population: 282,000 inhabitants	Form of government: Parliamentary monarchy since 1966
Belize	Population: 410,800 inhabitants	Form of government: Parliamentary monarchy since 1981
Dominica	Population: 73,000 inhabitants	Form of government: Parliamentary republic since 1978
Grenada	Population: 126,200 inhabitants	Form of government: Parliamentary monarchy since 1974
Guyana	Population: 813,800 inhabitants	Form of government: Semi-presidential republic since 1966
Jamaica	Population: 2,825,500 inhabitants	Form of government: Parliamentary monarchy since 1962
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Population: 47,200 inhabitants	Form of government: Parliamentary monarchy since 1983
Saint Lucia	Population: 180,300 inhabitants	Form of government: Parliamentary monarchy since 1979
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Population: 103,700 inhabitants	Form of government: Parliamentary monarchy since 1979
Suriname	Population: 623,200 inhabitants	Form of government: Presidential republic since 1975
Trinidad and Tobago	Population: 1,534,900 inhabitants	Form of government: Parliamentary republic since 1962

Source: Compilation based on Defence (amendment) Act, 2007 (Antigua y Barbuda). Defence Act, Chapter 211 (Bahamas). Defence (amendment) Act, Chapter 159, 2013 (Barbados). Defence Act, Chapter 135 (Belize). Police Act, Chapter 14:01 (Dominica). Defence Act, Chapter 15:01 (Guyana). Ministry of National Security and the Defence Act (Jamaica), Defence Act (Saint Kitts y Nevis). Webpage of the Ministry of Defence (Suriname). Defence Act, Chapter 14:01 (Trinidad and Tobago). Statistical Yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, ECLAC (Population).

Regional Organizations

- Political and/or economic organizations
- Defence and security mechanisms
- Cooperation agencies



Participation in Regional Organizations

Anglophone Caribbean and Suriname				Other dependencies and countries in the region				Latin America			
Antigua and Barbuda				Anguilla				Colombia			
Bahamas				French Antilles				Costa Rica			
Barbados				Dutch Antilles				Cuba			
Belize				Aruba (1)				Dominican Republic			
Dominica				Bermuda				El Salvador			
Grenada				Curacao				Guatemala			
Guyana				Cayman Islands				Haiti			
Jamaica				Turks and Caicos Islands (1)				Honduras			
Saint Kitts and Nevis				Virgin Islands				Mexico			
Saint Lucia				British Virgin Islands				Nicaragua			
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines				Montserrat				Panama			
Suriname				Saint Martin				Venezuela			
Trinidad and Tobago											

(1) Aruba, Curacao, the Netherlands Antilles and the Turks and Caicos Islands, along with France on behalf of French Guyana, Guadeloupe and Martinique, are associate members of ACS. Anguilla, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Venezuela have observer status in CARICOM

CARICOM	ACS	OECS	ACCP
IMPACS	RSS	SAM	CDEMA

Members of Organizations and Regional Systems

	Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas (CMDA)	Conference of American Armies (CEA)	System of Cooperation Among the American Air Forces (SICOFAA)	Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR)
Antigua and Barbuda				
Bahamas				
Barbados				
Belize		(1)		
Dominica				
Grenada				
Guyana				
Jamaica				
Saint Kitts and Nevis				
Saint Lucia				
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines				
Suriname		(1)		
Trinidad and Tobago			(1)	

(1) Observer members

In the CDMA process, Caribbean states show particular interest in non-traditional aspects of security (natural disasters, arms trafficking, drug trafficking, among others). Their final statements and speeches include the small island states of the Caribbean.

XII CMDA – Trinidad and Tobago

In 2016, the Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas was held in Trinidad and Tobago. The final declaration signed by the ministers of the hemisphere welcomed the holding of CDMA, held for the first time in the Caribbean Community, as a testimony to the commitment of this region to cooperation in the field of defence and security. They also recognized the specific problems and challenges faced by small island states.

Photo: Prime Minister's Office, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Source: Compilation based on official websites of the above-mentioned institutions and the 12th Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas, Declaration of the Port of Spain.

Multinational Exercises

References

● Anglophone Caribbean ● Other countries in the Caribbean ● Central America, Mexico, Haiti, Dominican Republic ● South America ● United States ● European countries ● Canada



PANAMAX

Biannual command post exercise aimed at enhancing multinational interoperability and strengthening security in the Panama Canal. Simulated defence of the Panama Canal against threats such as terrorism, natural disasters, and military aggression.

- Multinational force coordination.
- Crisis response and disaster relief.
- Maritime security operations.



TRADEWINDS

Annual exercise focused on enhancing regional security cooperation, disaster response capabilities and strengthening maritime and land forces in the Caribbean region. Focuses on countering transnational threats such as illicit trafficking, piracy and natural disasters.

- Maritime interdiction.
- Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
- Search and rescue missions.



COMMANDO FORCES

Annual exercise aimed at enhancing the skills, readiness and interoperability of special operations teams. Focuses on military-to-military relationships, increases training knowledge and improves regional security.

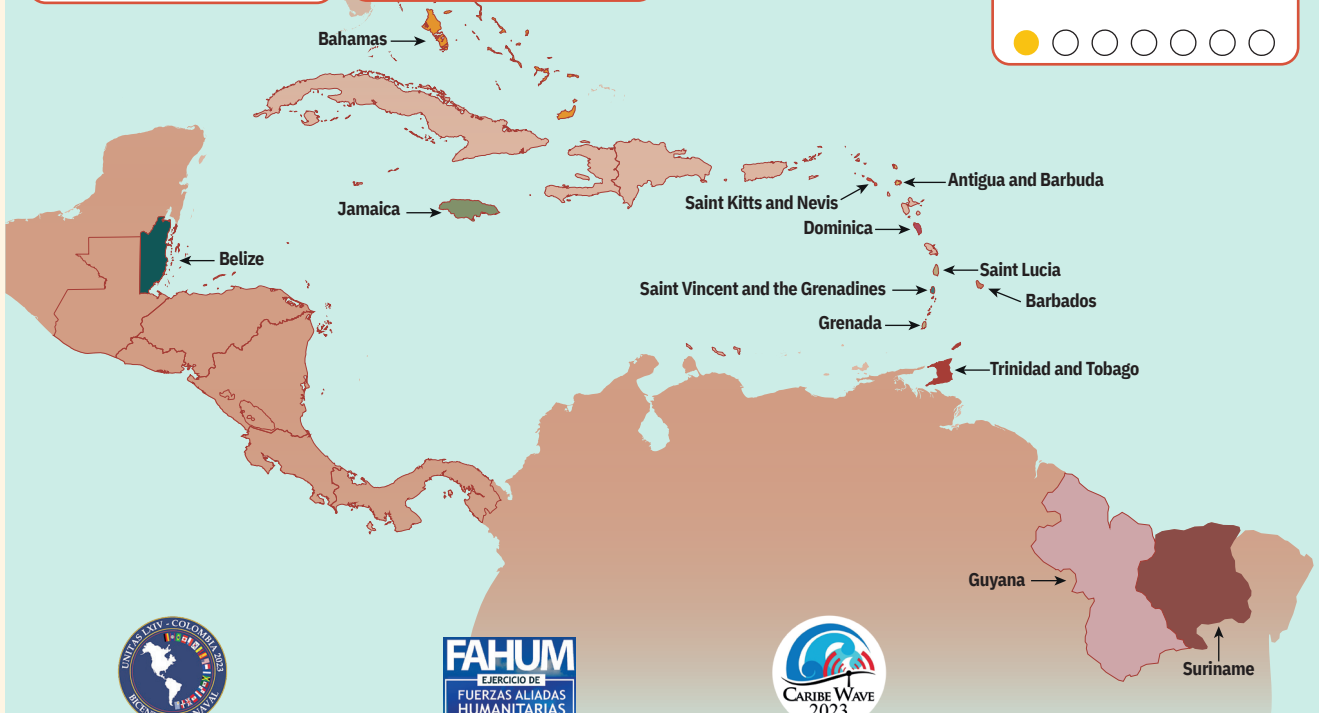
- Special operations training
- Counterterrorism drills.
- Tactical operations.
- Hostage rescue missions.



UNEX 2024

UNEX is a Regional Security System activity designed to test the efficiency of security organizations within RSS Member States in responding to hazard events and crime and security operations. It also aims to strengthen regional and national response plans to transnational organized crime.

- Joint military and law enforcement operations.
- Disaster response simulations.
- Counter-narcotics exercises.
- Search and rescue operations.



UNITAS

Annual exercise aimed at boosting interoperability, maritime security and regional cooperation among naval forces. Longest-running multinational maritime exercise, promotes security and stability and focuses joint naval operations.

- Live-fire exercises.
- Search and rescue drills.
- Anti-submarine warfare.
- Amphibious landings.
- Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations.



Humanitarian Allied Forces (FAHUM)

Exercise focused on improving multinational collaboration and disaster response readiness, concentrating on humanitarian assistance. Simulated scenarios including natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes to practice coordination, logistics and emergency response.

- Disaster response simulations.
- Coordination of humanitarian aid.
- Interoperability training.



CARIBE WAVE

Annual exercise aimed at testing and improving tsunami response capabilities. Simulates tsunami scenarios triggered by seismic events to evaluate the effectiveness of warning systems and emergency response protocols.

- Tsunami warning and alert dissemination.
- Evacuation drills.
- Public awareness and education campaigns.



CARIBEX

Exercise focused on strengthening maritime security, improving regional cooperation and the operational readiness of naval forces.

- Interoperability training.
- Joint naval exercises.
- Maritime patrols and interdiction.



Source: Compilation based on the official sites of the Regional Security System (RSS), Caribe Wave, and the US Southern Command

Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)

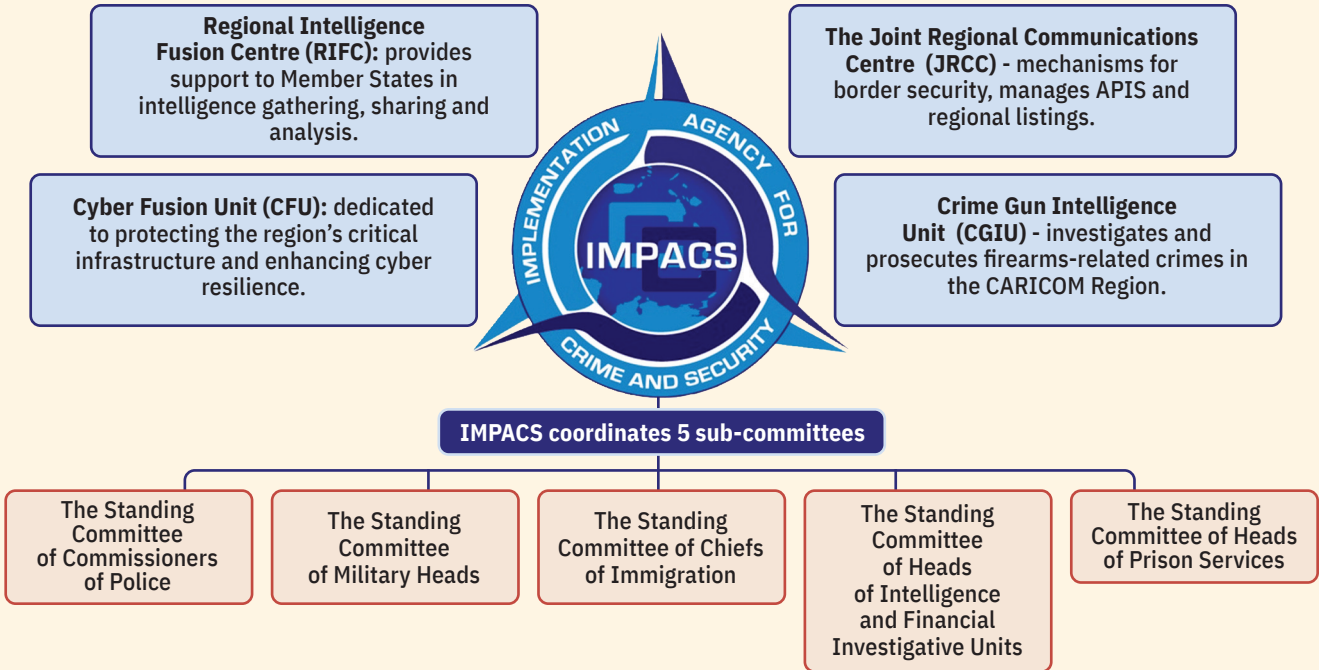
Operational center of CARICOM’s crime and security management structure, tasked with researching, monitoring and evaluating programs, analyzing data, preparing background documents and reports and overseeing the development and implementation of projects within the regional crime and security agenda.

Year of creation **2006**

Seat  **Trinidad and Tobago**

2001 Conference of Heads of Government established a **Regional Task Force on Crime and Security**.

2005 Conference of Heads of Government established the **Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)**.



Main Projects

Expand Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS)

Expanding APIS - electronic data interchange system established for the collection, processing and analyzing of passenger and crew data to facilitate travel and to target high risk travelers.

Regional Integrated Ballistic Information Network

Combating illicit firearms through ballistic identification and information sharing among CARICOM member states and international partners, enhancing regional and international collaboration in preventing and addressing firearms trafficking.

Integrated Border Systems for the OECS

Aims to create a Maritime Single Window (MSW) for the OECS member states. This digital platform will centralize maritime documentation and enhance border control operations by integrating various agencies' requirements and improving coordination.

Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative

Enhancing the capacity of personnel in the criminal justice systems to combat human trafficking. Key achievements include a regional

training program on human trafficking and anti-human trafficking and Operation Carisica, which led to over 170 arrests and the rescue of more than 60 trafficking victims, including vulnerable children.

Digital Transformation Project - OECS

Enhancing digital services, technologies, and skills in Eastern Caribbean countries. The project focuses on improving cybersecurity, data protection, and privacy by building trust in online transactions, strengthening digital infrastructure, and creating a supportive regulatory environment.

Caribbean Basin Security Initiative CBSI-Connect

Law enforcement educational institutions in the Caribbean are collaborating and sharing training within the CBSI initiative that unites CARICOM members and the Dominican Republic with the USA to address security threats through funding and initiatives aimed at reducing illicit trafficking, increasing public safety, and promoting social justice.

Strategic Plan CARICOM IMPACS 2024 – 2029

Under the slogan “mutual security through cooperation,” this strategic plan seeks to make IMPACS the leading regional security organization in the Caribbean, so that it continues to promote safe communities in the region. Among the points of the plan to achieve the objectives is innovation to strengthen capacities in resilience, management, and agility to improve the impact and result of activities.

Caribbean Maritime Security Strategy (CMSS)

It is a strategy formulated in collaboration with the Caribbean states that seeks to implement an action plan to protect the region’s maritime security and interests. The CMSS strategy presents an action plan to strengthen understanding of maritime security threats; build capacities; and increase cooperation among countries for response and research.

State Parties:

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Cricket World Cup (ICC T20)

In 2024, the Cricket World Cup was played in the United States, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

The preparations for a previous Cricket World Cup had been the starting point for thinking of a regional security strategy that would be geographically dispersed and cover all CARICOM member states. In May 2024, CICTE held, with support from the Government of Canada, the Technical Experts' Meeting to strengthen safety coordination for major sporting events in the Caribbean. It was attended by both regional organizations and government representatives



Photo: Official website of CARICOM.

A Single Domestic Space

A single domestic space was established between Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. This means that visitors and residents of countries could move freely, only completing the migration formalities in the first country of arrival.



Source: Compiled based on the official website of CARICOM, IMPACS, and the Cricket World Cup 2024.

Regional Security System (RSS)

Collective security system whereby members agree that any armed attack against any of them, whether by a third state or other sources, represents and armed attack against all of them. Security forces are comprised of military and police personnel, contributed by each Member State.

Year of creation **1996**

Host Country **Barbados**

Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.



Working Areas

Asset Recovery

Targeting organized crime by recovering criminal assets and enforcing money laundering laws:

- Financial investigations and asset recovery.
- Asset management and disposal.
- Counter terrorism and terrorist financing.
- ARIN-CARIB network

Operations

Coordinating security, humanitarian and disaster response operations:

- Air Wing.
- Maritime.
- Department of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response.
- RSS Security Response Mechanism.

Policing and Risk Management

Strategic policy advice on law enforcement and common policing standards:

- Digital Forensics Lab.
- Transnational organized crime Task Force.
- Office of Professional Responsibility.

Strategic Services and International Affairs

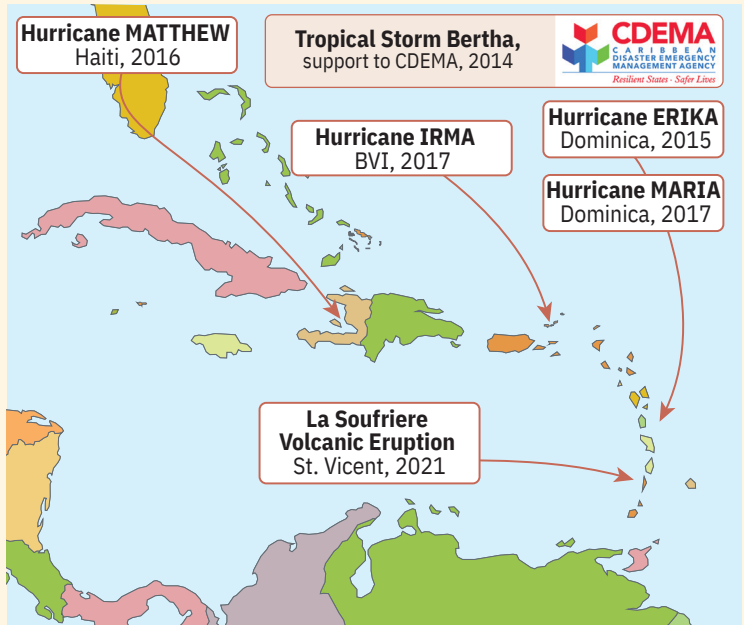
Coordinates RSS strategic programming, resource mobilization, policy research, project management, and IT services:

- Resource mobilization.
- Stakeholder engagement.
- Strategic planning.

Training and Doctrine

Developing, coordinating, and delivering training programs for RSS personnel:

- Training Institute.
- Training prospectus.

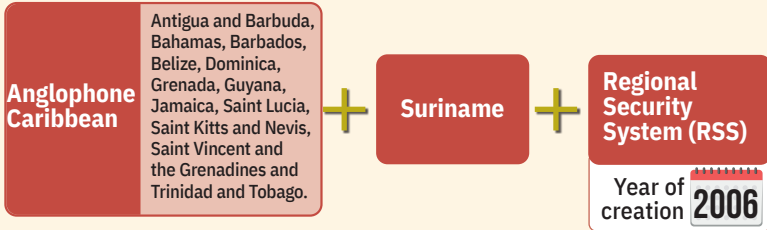


The Department of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (DM/HA)

coordinates responses to natural and manmade disasters with the CDEMA CU's Regional Response Mechanism. It mobilizes and deploys the **CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU)**, composed of military, police and fire personnel, to affected Caribbean Member States. The CDRU coordinates humanitarian relief efforts, including distributing supplies and restoring critical infrastructure, in close collaboration with other disaster management officials.

Source: Compilation based on the official website of the Regional Security System (RSS).

Security Assistance Mechanism



Treaty to establish a security assistance mechanism, creating a link between different actors (the RSS and non-member States, the English-speaking Caribbean and Suriname).

Objectives:

- Disaster response.
- Regional resource mobilization and deployment for national and regional crisis management and fight against crime.
- Combat and elimination of threats to national and regional security.
- Preservation of the territorial integrity of participating States.

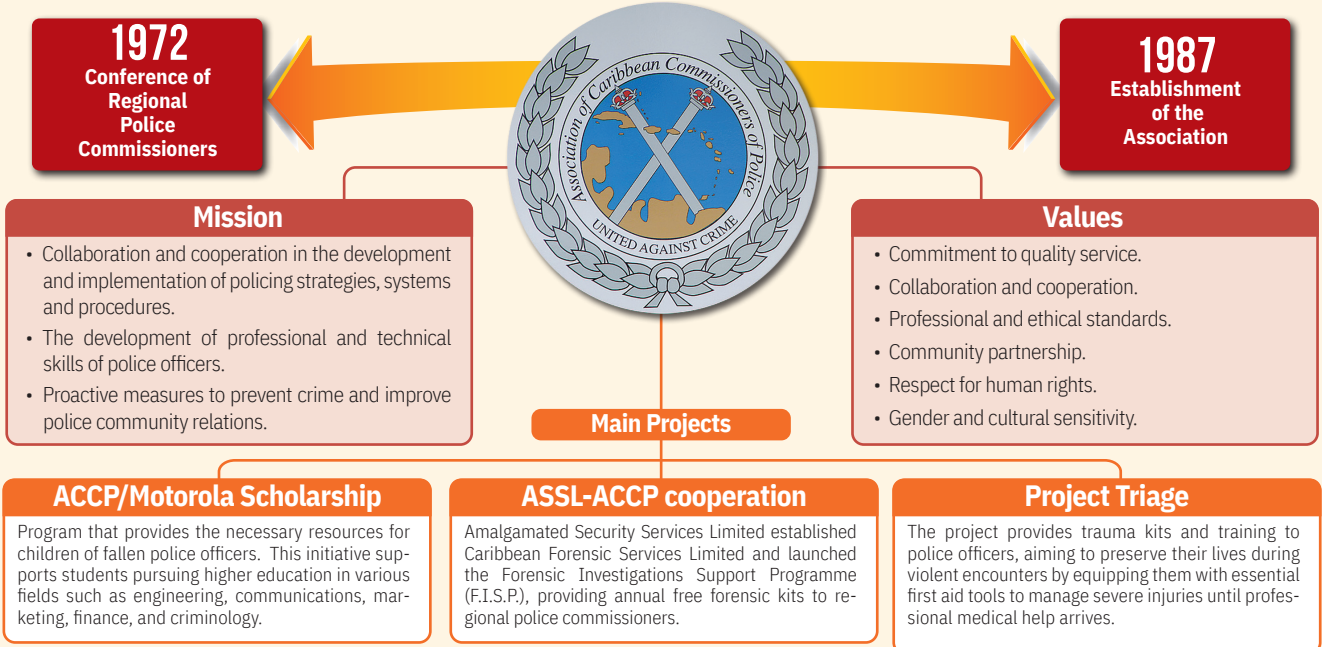
A Joint Coordination and Strategic Planning Committee, comprised of the Regional Security System (RSS) Coordinator and the Security Chiefs of the Member States, has been established for its implementation. Where Defence Forces exist, both their Commander and the Commander of the Police Force are members of the Committee.

Source: Compilation based on the *Treaty Establishing the Regional Security System* (05/03/1996), and information provided by the Permanent Secretariat of the RSS (Central Liaison Office, Barbados).

Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP)

ACAP works to promote regional cooperation in the fight against criminal activities in areas including narcotics, terrorism and organized crime, as well as the exchange of information in criminal investigation, sharing of common services which may include training, forensic analysis and research and the effective management of law enforcement agencies.

Year of creation **1987** | Host Country Barbados



38^o Annual General Meeting, Belize



It was held in May 2024 and representatives from 18 countries participated. The meeting was held under the theme “Enhancing Regional Security through Enhanced Law Enforcement Cooperation”, addressing strategies that Caribbean countries can use to address transnational crime, illegal arms and drug trafficking, and armed violence. (Photo: official website of the ACCP. 2024 Meeting in Belize).

Source: Compilation based on the official website of the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP)

Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) is a regional organization that coordinates disaster response and management across its Member States in the Caribbean. It provides support in disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery to strengthen the region's resilience to natural and man-made hazards.

Year of creation **1991**

Host Country **Barbados**

1991

CDERA is created by the decision of Heads of Governments of CARICOM.

2009

The concept of emergency management is adopted and expands the scope of their action.

Functions

- Mobilising and coordinating disaster relief.
- Mitigating or eliminating the immediate consequences of disasters in Participating States.
- Providing immediate and coordinated response by means of emergency disaster relief to any affected Participating State.
- Providing reliable and comprehensive information on disasters affecting any Participating State to interested inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations.
- Coordinating the adequate emergency disaster response capabilities among the Participating States.

Structure

Council
Highest political body.
Heads of Government of participating States.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Technical and programmatic advisory arm of the CDEMA, comprised of the National Disaster Coordinators and representatives of specialized regional organizations.

Coordinating Unit
Deals with longer-term mitigation issues and is managed by an Executive Director appointed by the Council.

Caribbean Safe School Programme

Partnership for advancing safe school implementation at the national level among Caribbean countries led by Ministries of Education.

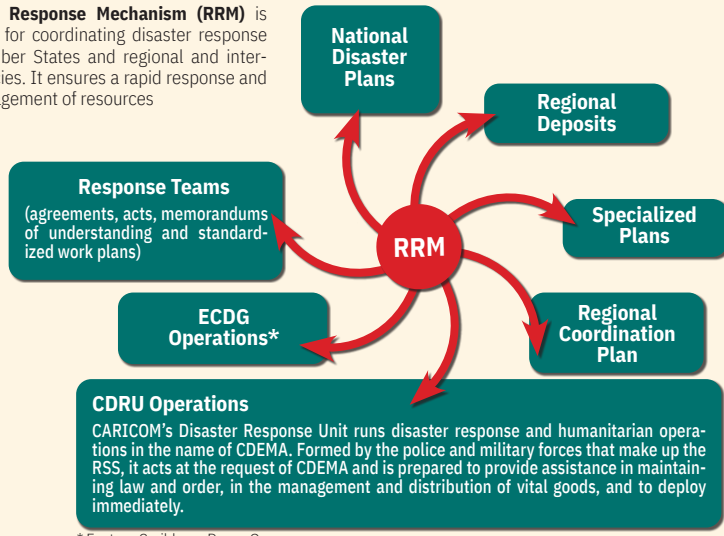
CDEMA Regional Training Centre

Builds capacity for Comprehensive Disaster Management and sets standards for CDM capabilities, through multi-stakeholder collaboration and engagement.

DIPECHO Caribbean Projects

Aimed to enhance disaster preparedness and risk reduction in various Caribbean countries through Integrated Early Warning Systems (EWS) and improved information management, fostering regional cooperation and mutual learning in disaster risk reduction.

The **Regional Response Mechanism (RRM)** is an agreement for coordinating disaster response between Member States and regional and international agencies. It ensures a rapid response and effective management of resources



* Eastern Caribbean Donor Group

Early Warning Systems Project

Strengthening integrated early warning systems for more effective disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean through knowledge and the transfer of tools.

Model Safe School

Enhances the resilience of the education sector to natural hazards by implementing comprehensive risk management and safety measures in schools across several Caribbean countries.

NDRM Programme

Aims to enhance disaster risk management and reduce vulnerability to natural hazards in the Caribbean through improved preparedness, risk reduction, and capacity building initiatives.

For better coordination, the mechanism is divided into four subregions:

- Northwest:**
led by Jamaica, and covers: Bahamas, Belize and Haiti.
- East:**
led by Antigua and Barbuda, and covers: Anguilla, Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Virginia Islands.
- Centre:**
led by Barbados, and covers: Dominica, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- South:**
led by Trinidad and Tobago, and covers: Grenada, Guyana and Suriname.



Flood in Guyana, 2021. Photo: CDEMA's official Facebook account.

Haiti Earthquake (2021)

In the context of the 7.2 earthquake that struck Haiti in 2021, CDEMA deployed members of the CARICOM operational assistance team and elements of the sub-region coordination unit..

Source: Compilation based on information from the official website and X account of the CDEMA.

Specific Support Programme for CDEMA

The program was created in 2017 from the need to respond to hurricane seasons affecting the region. After an initial review of the regional response supported by Canada, the UK and UNICEF, the Specific Support Programme for CDEMA was designed and launched, with financial support from the Government of Canada.



Objectives



Supports: Emergency management authorities | The CDEMA Coordination Unit | National emergency management organizations

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is composed of experts in disaster management, gender relations, regional security, and international development agencies, including:

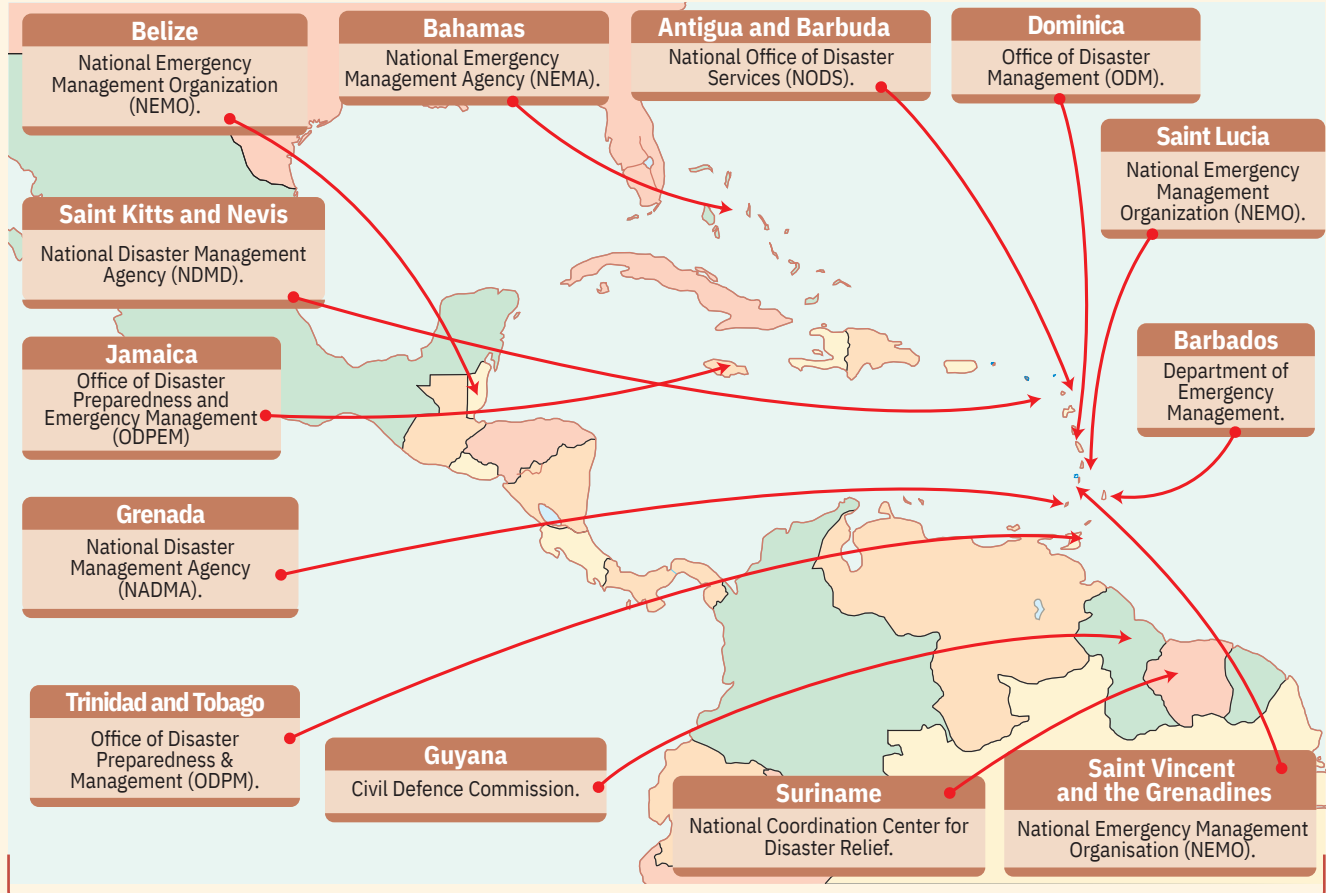
- Global Affairs Canada.
- The CDEMA Coordinating Unit.
- European Union delegation in Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM.
- United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.
- USAID - Eastern and Southern Caribbean.
- The Regional Security System.
- One representative from each of the four CDEMA sub-regional focal points.
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean.
- UN Women Multi-Country Office - Caribbean.

Women and children are one of the key groups that require assistance

Canada has committed its financial assistance to the programme for this year

Caribbean Early Recovery Fund Established to support local projects in countries

National Organizations in CDEMA



Source: Compilation based on information on the official website and X accounts of the CDEMA and the Regional Response Mechanism, official websites of the governments and agencies of the countries mentioned above

The Caribbean - Canada Defence Relationship

Military Training Cooperation Programme (MTCP)

It is an international training programme conducted by the Canadian Department of National Defence, which seeks to promote understanding and strengthen the capabilities of non-NATO military forces through training, counseling, and face-to-face training in Canada.

Participating countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

Latin America and the Caribbean Operational Support Centre

The Canadian Armed Forces have operational support centers for their overseas operations, which allow for easy movement of people, material, equipment and supplies, as well as to provide humanitarian assistance and rapid response to disasters or emergencies. Jamaica hosts the Latin America and Caribbean operational support center.

Caribbe Operation

It is an initiative coordinated by the Canadian Joint Operations Command to support the mission to combat drug trafficking in international waters. In this context, ships and aircraft are deployed in the Caribbean Sea on a rotating basis. In operation CARIBBE 2024, a Canadian vessel was deployed to assist in the seizure of 800 kilograms of contraband and illicit substances.

Caribbean Military Academy

Based in Jamaica, and founded on the foundation of centres of excellence that were established with support from Canada, since 2019 the Academy has been providing professional military education to the entire Caribbean. An agreement with the University of the West Indies allows for academic degrees.

Caribbean Special Tactics Centre (CSTC)



Provides training and certification to security for specialized professional security forces. All courses are open to Caribbean partner nations and units within the Jamaica Defence Forces (JDF), and throughout the Caribbean. It was created out of a memorandum of understanding between the defence forces of Jamaica and Canada.

Photo: © Caribbean Military Academy.

Exercise Tropical Dagger

Sponsored by the Global Affairs Canada Anti-Crime Program and the US Southern Command, Canadian Special Operations Forces Command is conducting this training exercise with countries in the region.

Source: Compilation based on official sites of the Caribbean Military Academy and the Department of National Defence of Canada; annual reports from the Directorate of Military Training and Cooperation.

Antigua and Barbuda



Official name: Antigua and Barbuda
Office of the Prime Minister
Parliamentary monarchy since 1981
Member of the Commonwealth

Population: 94,300 inhabitants

Territorial Extension: 440 km²

GDP (in USD): 2,127,000,000

% of Defence Budget over GDP: 0.47%

Office of the Prime Minister

Royal Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force

Personnel: 306 Regular Forces

1st Battalion
 Coast Guard
 Service and Support Unit

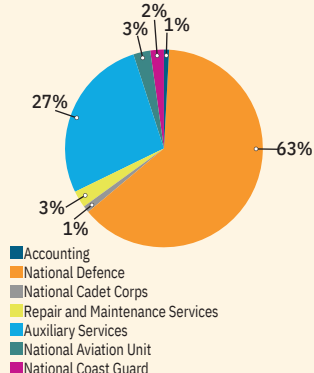
Personnel: Reserve Forces

Responsible for the country's defence and other tasks as determined by the Defence Committee.

Regular Forces Personnel, by sex



Distribution of Defence Budget, 2024



The Antigua and Barbuda National Cadet Corps is an organization of young people who volunteered to be cadets during their high school studies. Its main objective is to train young people in the military field, but also to promote certain attitudes such as discipline, loyalty, leadership and citizenship.

The Force actively collaborates with the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy, especially through the Coast Guard Intelligence Unit.

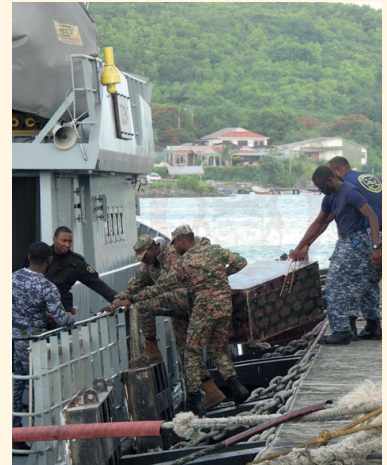
Legal Framework

Police Act (Chapter 330 - 1967/08/22. Last Amendment: N° 34 - 2020/12/31).
 The Defence Act (N° 10 - 2006/10/06. Last Amendment: N° 18 - 2021/09/02).
 The Visiting Forces Act (2007/03/21).
 The Disaster Management Act (N° 13 - 2002/09/10).

National Advisory Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response

The members of the Committee shall be:


- The Prime Minister as President.
- An alternate Chairperson to be appointed.
- The Minister responsible for public security.
- Any other members deemed relevant by the Prime Minister, such as: the Police Force; the Defence Force; the Fire Service; the Meteorological Department; the Public Services Authority; the ministries responsible for public health; environment, public safety, public works and local government; and persons and non-governmental organizations as the Prime Minister may consider.



Deploying for the Caribbean Disaster Relief Unit in July 2024. Photo: Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force.

Source: Compilation based on the laws mentioned above; Budget Estimates 2024; Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (exchange rate, August 2024); Statistical Yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, ECLAC (territory and population, 2023); IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024).

Bahamas

	Official name: Commonwealth of the Bahamas	Population: 412,600 inhabitants
	Ministry of National Security	Territorial Extension: 13,880 km²
	Parliamentary monarchy since 1973	GDP (in USD): 14,390,000,000
	Member of the Commonwealth	% of Defence Budget over GDP: 0.47%

Ministry of National Security

Royal Bahamas Defence Force

Personnel: 1,831 Regular Forces

Squadron Air Wing Department

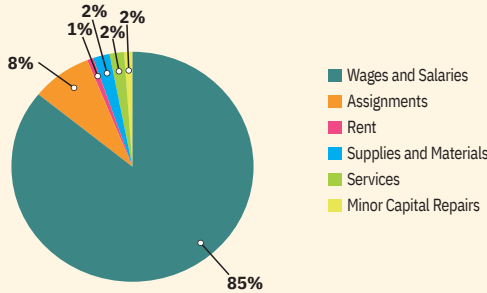
Reserve Forces

Its mission is to defend the sovereignty of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, provide assistance to law and order enforcement and carry out humanitarian tasks together with their local and international partners.

Legal Framework

Police Act (N° 205 - 1965. Last Amendment: N° 26 - 2013).
 Defence Act (Chapter 211 - 1979. Last Amendment: N° 31 - 2020/12/09).
 Disaster Risk Management Act (N° 39 - 2022/12/09).

Distribution of Defence Budget, Fiscal Year 2023/2024



Maritime rescue mission of the Defence Force. Photo: official site of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force.

Naval officers take the Young Naval Officer course at the Britain Royal Navy College for 9 months.

In June 2024, a four-day workshop and seminar on ethics and military justice was held to begin the process of reforming the military justice system and establish new ethics regulations.

The Bahamas Defence Force held a workshop on prevention and response to domestic violence cases, to encourage the creation of inclusive and safe environments for staff.


Inter-Ministerial Committee on Disaster Risk Management

The following are members of the Committee:

- The Prime Minister, as President.
- Ministers responsible for: disaster risk management; finance; national development planning; tourism; housing; transport; public works; health; agriculture; environment; international relations; public services; social welfare; communications; and national security.

Source: Compilation based on the laws mentioned above; Budget Draft Estimates 2024/2025; Central Bank of The Bahamas (exchange rate, August 2024); Statistical Yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, ECLAC (territory and population, 2023); IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024).

Barbados

	Official name: Barbados	Population: 282,000 inhabitants
	Office of the Prime Minister	Territorial Extension: 430 km²
	Parliamentary monarchy since 1966	GDP (in USD): 6,863,000,000
	Member of the Commonwealth	% of Defence Budget over GDP: 0.63%

Office of the Prime Minister

Barbados Defence Force

Personnel: 626 Regular Forces

1st Battalion Coast Guard

Air Wing

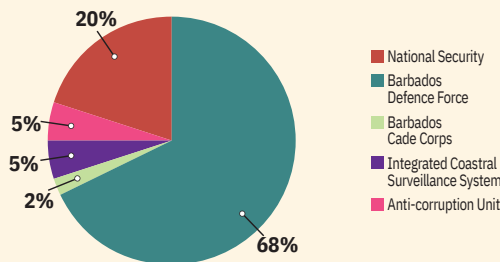
Reserve Forces

Its mission is defending the country from external invasions or attacks, patrol the coastal zone to prevent contraband and other illegal activities and assist other agencies in the case of natural or manmade disasters.

Legal Framework

Defence (Amendment) Act (Chapter 159 – 1979/98/15. Last Amendment: 2021).
 Police Act (Chapter 67 – 1961/10/16. Last Amendment: N° 2 - 2020).
 Emergency Management Act (Chapter 160 – 2007/04/01).

Distribution of Defence Budget, Fiscal Year 2023/2024



Department of Emergency Management

The government established an Emergency Management Department, which is conformed with:

- A Director, who facilitates and coordinates the development and implementation of plans.
- An Emergency Management Advisory Council, which recommends policies, programmes and activities to improve the risk management programme, and reviews activity reports.

Its functions are:

- Review government programs and activities related to emergency management.
- Develop and recommend policies to promote emergency management.
- Collect, analyze and interpret related information and conduct research.
- Conduct education and information dissemination programmes in this area.
- Provide technical advice on the matter to the government.


Barbados is the host country of the Caribbean Emergency Disaster Management Agency (CDEMA), the Regional Security System (RSS), and the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP).

Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC)

Established in 2006 as part of regional initiatives for the 2007 World Cricket Championship. It is one of the two sub-agencies of CARICOM - IMPACS, and its mission is to provide an effective method of passenger control to strengthen and ensure security of the region's borders. Assists in the detection of people traveling with stolen, lost or false documents through identification and monitoring of movements of persons considered a threat to regional security.

Source: Compilation based on the laws mentioned; Budget Estimates 2024; Eastern Central Bank of Barbados (exchange rate, August 2024); official website of CARICOM IMPACS; Statistical Yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, ECLAC (territory and population, 2023); IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024).

Belize

	Official name: Belize	Population: 410,800 inhabitants
	Ministry of National Defence and Border Security	Territorial Extension: 22,970 km ²
	Parliamentary monarchy since 1981	GDP (in USD): 3,296,000,000
	Member of the Commonwealth	% of Defence Budget over GDP: 1.1%

Ministry of National Defence and Border Security

Belize Defence Force

Personnel: 1,636
Regular Forces

- 1st and 2nd Battalion
- Service and Support Battalion
- Volunteer Battalion
- Special Boat Unit
- Air Wing
- National Coast Guard*

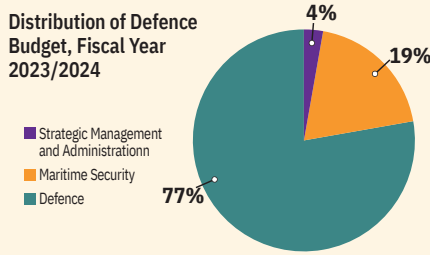
Reserve Forces

*Independent from the Defence Forces.

The Defence Force may provide assistance in matters of public security when required by the Ministry of Security.

Operation Fast Ball
In July 2024, the Ministry of National Defence and Border Security and the Defence Forces activated *Operation Fast Ball* to begin preparations for the arrival of Hurricane Beryl, thus mitigating its impact.

It is responsible for the defence of Belize, for bringing support to the civilian authorities in maintaining order, and other functions defined by the Governor General.



Belize - Mexico
Joint foot, vehicle and boat patrols are conducted along the Hondo River (boundary between these countries), as well as meetings between authorities to coordinate such border control activities.

Legal Framework

Police Act (Chapter 138 – 1951. Last Amendment: 2018).
Defence Act (Chapter 135 – 1978. Last Amendment: 2020).
Disaster Preparedness and Response Act (Chapter 145 – 2000/12/31).



Community support missions. Road repair. Photo: official Facebook account of the Belize Defence Force.


The National Disaster Preparedness and Response Advisory Committee

Composed of:

- The Prime Minister as President.
- Alternate Chairperson to be appointed.
- Any other members the Prime Minister considers relevant, such as the Police Force; the Defence Force; the Fire Service; the ministries responsible for public health, environment, public works and local government; and persons or organizations as determined by the Prime Minister.

Source: Compilation based on the laws mentioned above; Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for fiscal year 2024-2025; Central Bank of Belize (exchange rate, August 2024); social media of Belize Defence Force; Statistical Yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, ECLAC (territory and population, 2023); IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024).

Dominica

	Official name: Commonwealth of Dominica	Population: 73,000 inhabitants.
	Ministry of National Security and Legal Affairs	Territorial Extension: 750 km ²
	Parliamentary monarchy since 1978	GDP (in USD): 708,000,000
	Member of the Commonwealth	% of Security Budget over GDP: 1.70%

Ministry of National Security and Legal Affairs

Dominica Police Force

Personnel: 619
Regular Forces

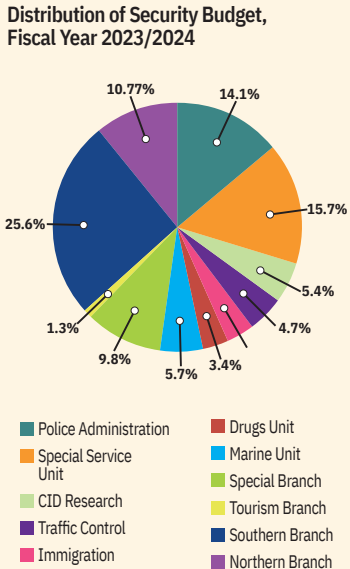
- Departments
- Marine Unit

Reserve Forces

Commission of the Police Service
Created under the Dominica Constitution Order, it has the power to appoint and remove officials in the Police Force below the rank of Deputy Chief of Police, and to exercise disciplinary control.

In the event of a disaster or emergency, the President may declare a state of emergency and assume emergency powers. In these cases, the President is authorized to issue orders to secure the elements essential for the preservation of the health, welfare and safety of the community.

Its mission is to protect and serve, guaranteeing the safety of all.



Legal Framework

Police Act (Chapter 14:01 – 1940. Last Amendment: N° 9 - 2018/05/14).
Emergency Powers (Disaster) Act (Chapter 15:02 - 1987. Last Amendment: 2020/04/08).



Assembly of Mobile Unit during training for the management of ODM disaster response. Photo: Office of Disaster Management (ODM) Facebook account.

Office of Disaster Management (ODM)

Within the government of Dominica, the ODM is responsible for coordinating disaster programming at all stages and implementing Integrated Disaster Management. Works in collaboration with the National Organization for Emergency Planning and with national, regional and international actors to plan and organize disaster response.

Source: Compilation based on the laws mentioned above; Budget Address 2024; Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (exchange rate, August 2024); official website of the Office of Disaster Management (ODM); Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, ECLAC (territory and population, 2023); IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024).

Grenada



Official Name: Grenada

Office of the Prime Minister

Parliamentary monarchy since 1974

Member of the Commonwealth

Population: 126,200 habitants.

Territorial Extension: 340 km²

GDP (in USD): 1,406,000,000

% of Security Budget over GDP: 1.86%

Ministry of National Security¹

Royal Grenada Police Force

Personnel: 1,190 Regular Forces



Departments

Coast Guard

Reserve Forces

¹Ministry of National Security, Internal Affairs, Public Administration, Information and Disaster Management.

Special Victims Unit

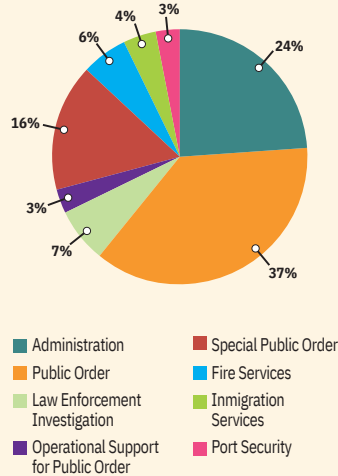
Within the Grenada Police Force, a special unit was established with a hotline to facilitate access to complaints for victims of domestic and sexual violence. Both service providers and the first line of response have been trained, and efforts are being made to understand, raise awareness and mobilize about these crimes.

Its mission is to protect and serve, guaranteeing the safety of all.

Legal Framework

Police Act (Chapter 44, revised laws of Grenada 1990. Last Amendment: N° 8 - 2006). Disaster Management Bill (Chapter 203 - 2023/03/08).

Distribution of Security Budget, 2024



Parade for the 50th anniversary of Independence. Photo: official Facebook account of the Royal Grenada Police Force.



National Emergency Advisory Council

The members of the Council shall be:

- The Minister responsible for disaster management, as chairman.
- The Permanent Secretary with responsibility for disaster management, as an alternate.
- One representative from each ministry, to be appointed by the Minister.
- A representative of the Police Force, representing the Office of the Commissioner of Police, the Special Services Unit and the Fire Department.
- Any other members the Minister considers relevant, such as: private sector, labor and farmers; faith organizations; health organizations; non-governmental organizations; disaster management experts; and, any other person the Minister deems appropriate.

Source: Compilation based on the above-mentioned laws; Estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year 2024; Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (exchange rate, August 2024); Gender Budget Statement 2024; Statistical Yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, ECLAC (territory and population, 2023); IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024).

Guyana



Official name: Republic of Guyana

Office of the President

Semi-presidential republic since 1966

Member of the Commonwealth

Population: 813,800 inhabitants.

Territorial Extension: 214,970 km²

GDP (in USD): 21,178,000,000

% of Defence Budget over GDP: 0.95%

Office of the President

Guyana Defence Force

Personnel: 4,150 Regular Forces



1st and 2nd Battalion

Service and Support Battalion

Engineers Battalion

Artillery Company

Special Forces Squadron

Coast Guard

Air Corps

Reserve Forces

Education

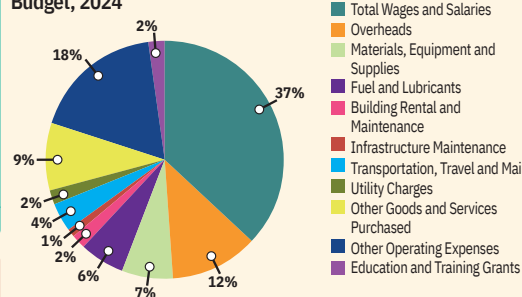
Guyana Defence Force's Schools have trained many officers and soldiers from other Caribbean Commonwealth countries. Since 1981, Guyana has provided training to future officers at Colonel Ulric Pilgrim Officer Cadet School, who are also trained at the Royal Military Academy (Sandhurst, United Kingdom), the Royal Naval Academy (Dartmouth, United Kingdom) and in Brazil.

Its mission is to defend the integrity of Guyana, assist the civil authorities in maintaining law and order when required, and contribute to the economic development of the country.

Legal Framework

Police Act (Chapter 16:01 - 1957/08/09. Last Amendment: 1983/09/30). Status of Visiting Police Forces Act (N° 7 - 2008/07/31). Defence Act (Chapter 15:01 - 1966. Last Amendment: N° 8 - 2024/05/31).

Distribution of Defence Budget, 2024



The Defence Force mobilizes to assist after Hurricane Beryl. Photo: official Facebook account of the Guyana Defence Force

Civil Defence Commission

Established in 1982, it is responsible for planning and implementing operations, plans and programmes related to disaster management in Guyana. Its mission is to reduce losses, property damage and improve quality of life by coordinating and supporting the development of a comprehensive disaster risk management system, including preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. Since 2021, a project to provide the infrastructure necessary for rainwater use is being developed.

Source: Compilation based on the above laws; Estimates of the Public Sector 2024; Bank of Guyana (exchange rate, August 2024); social media of the Guyana Defence Force; Statistical Yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, ECLAC (territory and population, 2023); IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024).

Jamaica



Official name: Jamaica

Office of the Prime Minister

Parliamentary monarchy since 1962

Member of the Commonwealth

Population: 2,825,500 inhabitants.

Territorial Extension: 10,990 km²

GDP (in USD): 20,098,000,000

% of Defence Budget over GDP: 1.4%

Office of the Prime Minister

Jamaica Defence Force



Personnel: 3,199 Regular Forces

- 1st and 2nd Infantry Battalion
- 3rd Battalion (Reserve)
- Service and Support Battalion
- Engineer's Regiment
- Combat Support Battalion
- Coast Guard
- Air Wing

Reserve Force

Its mission is to provide the military capacity to dissuade and/or eliminate threats against the State and/or the country's interests.

Legal Framework

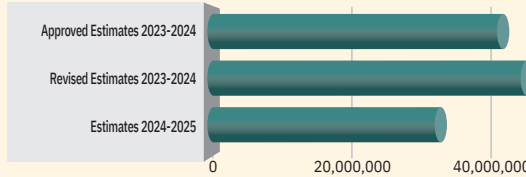
The Constabulary Force Act (1935/12/19).

The Defence Act (1962/07/31. Last Amendment: N° 7 - 2017/04/07).

The Visiting Forces Act (N° 20 - 1975/04/11).

Disaster Risk Management Act (2015/02/19. Last Amendment: 2021/02/24).

Defence Budget Trends (in thousands of JMD)



The Jamaica Combined Cadet Force (JCCF) has approximately four thousand six hundred (4,600) cadets and officers; it is the largest cadet force in the region.



The Chief of the Jamaica Defence Forces, Vice-Admiral Antonette Wemyss-Gorman, is the first female Head of a Military Force in the region. Photo: Official website of the Jamaica Defence Force.

The **Caribbean Special Tactics Center (CSTC)**, with training and certification for units across the Caribbean, was created in 2018 and operates within the Caribbean Military Academy.

Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management

This office aims to coordinate and advance the development and implementation of integrated disaster management systems, to improve emergency preparedness; and implement measures necessary to mitigate disasters.

The Office shall consist of:

- A Director-General.
- A Board of Directors.
- Any other person, agent, employee or official whom the Board of Directors considers appropriate to include.

In the event of a disaster, the Director-General may require public officials to assist in any manner determined by the Director-General, including the use of public agency resources. In relation to the personnel and resources of the defence and security forces, this power is exercised in consultation with the head of the relevant force.

Red Stripe Exercise 2024

The Jamaica Defence Forces conducted with the British Armed Forces the Red Stripe exercise to improve the integration of capabilities between maritime, air and cyber command. The 4th Battalion and the Air Wing of the Defence Force participated

Source: Compilation based on the laws mentioned above; Estimates of Expenditure 2024/2025; Newsletter of the Jamaica Defence Force, October - December 2021; official site of the Jamaica Defence Force; Bank of Jamaica (exchange rate, August 2024); Statistical Yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, ECLAC (territory and population, 2023); IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024).

Saint Kitts and Nevis



Official name: Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Office of the Prime Minister

Parliamentary monarchy since 1983

Member of the Commonwealth

Population: 47,200 inhabitants.

Territorial Extension: 260 km²

GDP (in USD): 1,134,000,000

% of Defence Budget over GDP: 0.42%

Office of the President

Royal Saint Kitts and Nevis Defence Force



Personnel: 179 Regular Forces

- Company
- Service and Support Platform
- Coast Guard

Reserve Forces

The Coast Guard has 42 personnel.

Its mission is to defend life and property from all attacks on land, air and sea; contribute to the development of the national community by supporting the achievement of its objectives; and assist the National Agency for Emergency Management in National Disasters.

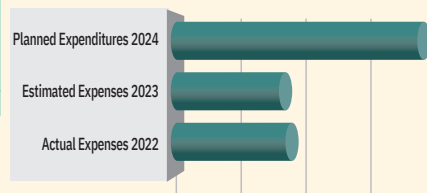
Legal Framework

Police Act (2003).

Defence Act (1997).

National Disaster Management Act (Chapter 19:06 – 1999/06/01. Last Amendment: 2022/12/31).

Evolution of Budget for National Defence and Regional Security



The Defence Force deploying its team to support the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) following Tropical Storm Ernesto. Photo: Royal Saint Kitts and Nevis Defence Force official website.

Hurricane Beryl

In July 2024, the Defence Force deployed a team to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to support and mitigate the impact of Hurricane Beryl on that country. 200 tarpaulins and 37 water boxes were transported, and humanitarian assistance, security and disaster relief activities were carried out. The team deployed was part of the **Caribbean Disaster Relief Unit**.

One of the objectives set for the Force is the reconstruction of the Cadet Corps.

Basic Course

The basic training course for the Defence Force takes five months, and covers such topics as patrolling, mapping and navigation, tactics, physical training, domestic security and the use of firearms.

Disaster Management Department


It is the agency responsible for coordinating the overall policy of the Government related to disaster management, control, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Its Board of Directors is composed of:

- A Director General.
- The Disaster Manager for the Island of Nevis.
- Two members of Nevis selected by the island administration.
- Any other person considered by the Prime Minister.

Source: Compilation based on the above-mentioned laws; Estimates for the year 2024, Volume 1; Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (exchange rate, August 2024); official site of Royal Saint Kitts and Nevis Defence Force; Statistical Yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, ECLAC (territory and population, 2023); IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024).

Saint Lucia

	Official name: Saint Lucia	Population: 180,300 inhabitants.
	Ministry of Home Affairs, Justice, and National Security	Territorial Extension: 620 km²
	Parliamentary monarchy since 1979	GDP (in USD): 2,582,000,000
	Member of the Commonwealth	% of Security Budget over GDP: 0.76%

Ministry of Home Affairs, Justice, and National Security

Royal Saint Lucia Police Force

Personnel: 1,070 Regular Forces

Departments Marine Unit

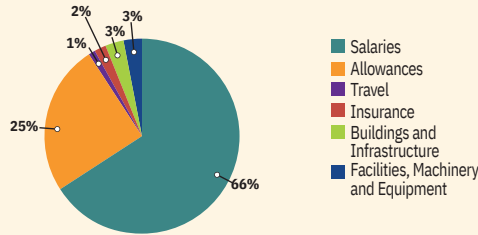
Air Wing

Reserve Forces

Its functions include the maintenance of law and order, the preservation of peace, the protection of life and property, the prevention and detection of crime, and the enforcement of all laws and regulations.

The police are deployed in two divisions in Saint Lucia territory: North and South.

Distribution of Budget, Police Force, Fiscal Year 2023/2024



Legal Framework

Police Act (Chapter 14:01 – 2004).
Disaster Management Act (N° 30 – 2006/07/20).



The Saint Lucia Police Force collaborating with the Caribbean Disaster Relief Unit and SSR in support of Caribbean countries, following Hurricane Beryl. Photo: Royal Saint Lucia Police Force official Instagram account.

Key Programme Objectives. National Security (2024/2025)

- Improving public perception through participation in the fight against crime.
- Increase security and citizen protection.
- Take a proactive approach to crime prevention and problem solving to improve citizen security.
- Provide a safer road traffic environment through public awareness.
- Provide a professional police service through capacity building and training.
- Improve border management in collaboration with other security agencies and stakeholders.


National Emergency Management Advisory Committee

Members of the Committee will be:

- The Minister responsible for risk management as Chairman.
- An alternate Chairperson to be appointed.
- Any other members the Minister considers relevant, such as: the Police Force; the Special Services Unit; the Fire Service; the Ministries responsible for public health, environment, public works and local government; and persons and non-governmental organizations as the Prime Minister considers appropriate.

Source: Compilation based on the laws mentioned above; Estimates of revenue and expenditure 2024/2025; Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (exchange rate, August 2024); Statistical Yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, ECLAC (territory and population, 2023); IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024).

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

	Official name: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Population: 103,700 inhabitants.
	Office of the Prime Minister	Territorial Extension: 390 km²
	Parliamentary monarchy since 1983	GDP (in USD): 1,128,000,000
	Member of the Commonwealth	% of Security Budget over GDP: 1.46%

Ministry of National Security

Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force

Personnel: 1,121 Regular Forces

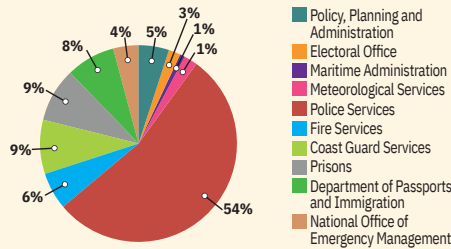
Rapid Response Unit Special Services Unit

Coast Guard Fire Department

Reserve Forces

Its functions include preserving public peace; preventing and detecting crime; assisting in fire protection; and maintaining order.

Budget Distribution. Ministry of National Security, 2024



Legal Framework

Police Act, 280.
National Emergency and Disaster Management Act (N° 15 – 2006/10/19).

National Emergency Management Organization

It is the central organization responsible for coordinating disaster management. It consists of:

- An Emergency National Council.
- An Emergency National Executive Committee.
- District Disaster Management Committee.

The following are members of the National Emergency Council:


- The Prime Minister, as President.
- An alternate Chairperson.
- The Attorney General.
- Ministers responsible for: disaster management, national security, labour, housing, telecommunications, health, environment, social development and energy.
- Permanent secretariats in the ministries responsible for: disaster management, national security, labour, agriculture, tourism, education, social development and energy.
- The Cabinet Secretary.
- The Director-General of Finance and Planning.
- The Director of the National Emergency Management Organization.
- The following shall also be members: the Commissioner of Police; the Director of Airports; the Chief of Engineers; the Head of the Medical Office; the Port Authority; and the Public Information Officer.

Key Programme Objectives 2024

- Amend national security legislation.
- Change traffic laws.
- Strengthen the Police Crime Data Management System.
- Train officers in the use of electronic devices for crime detection.
- Train officers in the use of the new radio system and continue to expand the network.
- Develop the Human Resources Department to strategically manage human resources and digitize the records system.

Source: Compilation based on the laws mentioned above; Budget 2023; Estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year 2024; Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (exchange rate, August 2024); Royal Saint Kitts and Nevis Defence Force official website; Statistical Yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, ECLAC (territory and population, 2023); IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024).

Suriname

	Official name: Republiek van Suriname	Population: 623,000 inhabitants.
	Ministry of Defence	Territorial Extension: 163,820 km²
	Presidential Republic since 1975	GDP (in USD): 4,337,000,000
		% of Defence Budget over GDP: 0.9%

Ministry of National Defence

National Army of Suriname
Personnel: 2,000 Regular Forces

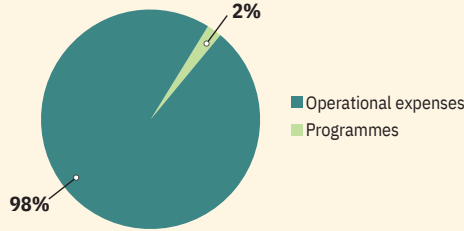
- 1st and 2nd Infantry Battalion
- Special Defence Forces Company
- Naval Service
- Air Corps

Reserve Forces

The mission of the National Army is to:

- Defend the territorial integrity of Suriname.
- Assist the civil power in maintaining law and order.
- Contribute to the country's economic development.

Distribution of the Defence Budget, 2024



Legal Framework

Law on the National Army (SB N° 27 - 1996/05/27).
Military Disciplinary Law (SB N° 7 - 1975/02/11).
Military Status Act (SB N° 28 - 1996/05/17).
Recruitment Law (SB N° 98 - 1970/07/10).



Minister of Defence Krishna Mathoera handing out certificates to officers and firefighters who attended courses at the Military School. Photo: official website of the Suriname National Army.

Internal security is mainly a responsibility of the Police Forces. However, the Armed Forces can be involved in domestic issues when required.

In December 2023, fourteen officers participated in the first Command and Staff Course, reaching the highest possible level of military training in the country.

Operation Ghabiang

In February 2024, the first edition of the military exercise was held with the participation of the Coast Guard in the districts of Paramaribo, Wanica and Para, where more than 200 soldiers and military teams were deployed on-scene to test conflict management capabilities and combat functions. It will be an annual exercise and the first major military exercise in the country.

National Coordination Center for Disaster Management

Coordinates services to provide effective and immediate disaster relief. Its role is the prevention and management of crises and emergencies. It becomes an executive body in case of crisis. The District Commissioner has a leading role.


Pillars in operations



Non-governmental organizations may also be convened/summoned.

Source: Compilation based on the laws mentioned above; *Financieel Jaarplan 2024*; Central Bank of Suriname (exchange rate, August 2024); official site of the Surinamese Defence Force; Statistical Yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, ECLAC (territory and population, 2023); IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024).

Trinidad and Tobago

	Official name: The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago	Population: 1,534,900 habitantes.
	Ministry of National Security	Territorial Extension: 5,130 km²
	Parliamentary republic since 1962	GDP (in USD): 28,365,000,000
	Member of the Commonwealth	% of Defence Budget over GDP: 0.75%

Ministry of National Security

Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force
Personnel: 5,044 Regular Forces

- 1st and 2nd Battalion
- 3rd Battalion
- Service and Support Battalion
- Coast Guard
- Air Guard

Reserve Forces

Its mission is to defend Trinidad and Tobago from external and internal threats, assure national interests and provide support to state and non-state agencies that seek national development.



Hospital emergency campaign during the Cricket World Cup (ICC T20) matches in Trinidad and Tobago. Photo: Official Facebook account of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force.

Cricket World Cup (ICC T20)

The Defence Force and the Police were part of the security system for the games held in Trinidad and Tobago at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy. With the participation of almost 20,000 spectators, they were key to maintaining security protocols. The Engineer Regiment deployed an emergency field hospital outside the stadium.

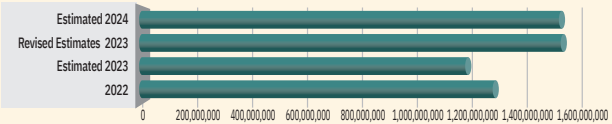
In December 2023, 113 new recruits were initiated into the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment, while in April 2024 75 new recruits were incorporated into the Reserve Forces.

Trinidad and Tobago is the host country of the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS).

Legal Framework

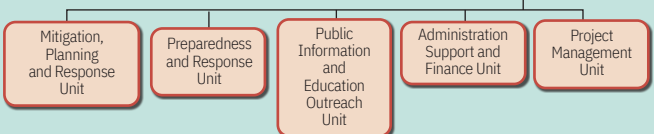
Defence Act (Chapter 14:01 – 1962).
Disaster Measures Act (Chapter 16:50, N° 47, 1978/12/13. Last Amendment: 2014/12/31).
Police Service Act (Chapter 15:01 – 2006).

Current Expenditure Account and Development Programme (Functional, Defence).



Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management

Created in 2005, is a division within the Ministry of National Security whose mission is to build capacity for disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change in conjunction with other agencies, and to coordinate responses and reconstruction operations in order to protect persons, the environment and the economy, and ensure a nation resilient from disasters.



Source: Compilation based on the laws mentioned above; Estimates of development programme for the financial year 2024; Draft estimates of expenditure for the financial year 2024; Trinidad and Tobago Central Bank (exchange rate, August 2024); Official site and official Facebook account of Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force; Statistical Yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, ECLAC (territory and population, 2023); IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024).