



CUBA



Population 11,174,600 inhabitants

Territorial Extension 109,880 km²

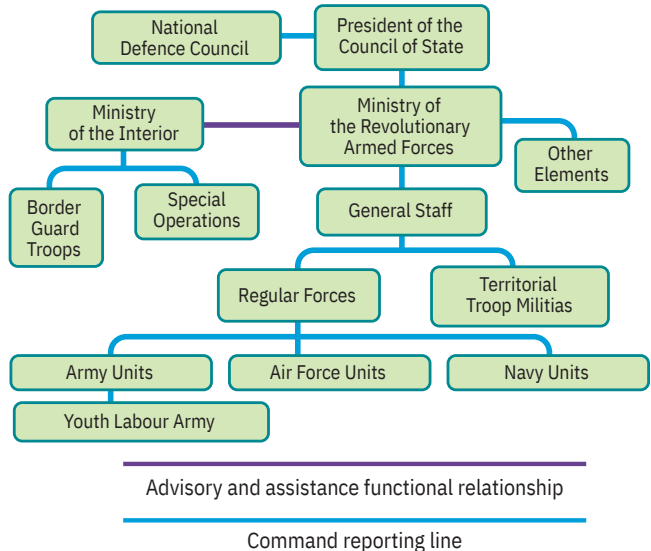
GDP (US\$) 26,393,429,167

GDP per capita (US\$) 2,361

Defence Budget (US\$) 118,850,000

The Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces was created in 1959.

The Defence System



Source: Compilation based on the National Defence Act (N° 75 - 1994/12/21).

The Legal Framework

National Legislation

Systems and concepts

Decree Law on the Organization of the State's Central Administration (DL N° 67 - 1983/04/19. Last Amendment: DL N° 147 - 1994/04/21).
 National Defence Act (N° 75 - 1994/12/21).
 Law on the Preparation of the Economy for Defence (DL N° 205 - 1996/03/25).
 Civil Measure System Act (N° 170 - 1997/05/08).
 National Defence Protection Act (N° 88 - 1999/02/16).

Military Organization

Decree Law on Social Security for Internationalists who fulfill Civil or Military Missions (N° 90 - 1985/12/02).
 Decree Law of social security for the Revolutionary Armed Forces (N° 101 - 24/02/1988. Last Amendment: DL N° 344 - 2017/01/17).
 Military Service Act (DL N° 224 - 2001/10/15).
 Military Prosecutor's Office Act (N° 101 - 2006/06/10).
 Military Procedure Act (N° 147 - 2022/02/01).
 Military Penal Code (N° 163 - 2023/11/20).

Functions

Powers of the State

The National Defence Council is constituted and prepared from peacetime to lead the country in conditions of war, during war, in a general mobilization or in a state of emergency. During exceptional situations it is the highest organ of state and political power. It is composed of the President of the Council of State, who presides over it, the first Vice-President of the Council of State and five other members appointed by the Council of State on the proposal of its President. The Provincial, Municipal and Defence Zone Councils are established and prepared from peacetime to conduct general mobilization under conditions of war, during war or in states of emergency in the respective territories. The National Assembly of People's Power exercises the powers conferred by the Constitution and monitors matters relating to defence on a permanent basis through the Commission for National Defence.

Ministerial Level

The Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces is the body responsible for directing, executing and monitoring the implementation of the policy of the State and the Government for the preparation of the country for defence, the defence of sovereignty and the preparation and conduct of armed struggle.

Military Level

The General Staff assists the Minister in leading the Revolutionary Armed Forces. The Army is the territorial grouping of forces and means of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. It has a Military Council, composed of the Chief of the Army, the Presidents of the Provincial Defence Councils of the Army Territory and other members designated by the Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. The provincial and municipal headquarters are military bodies subordinate to the commander of the army in the respective territories.

Source: Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean 2023, ECLAC (Territory and Population, 2023). *Oficina Nacional de Estadística e Información de la República de Cuba* (GDP), latest available data 2022. Defence budget: since 2016 the Defence function is included within the Public Administration, without disaggregation. No consistent data is recorded on military personnel, estimated to be between 40,000 and 50,000.

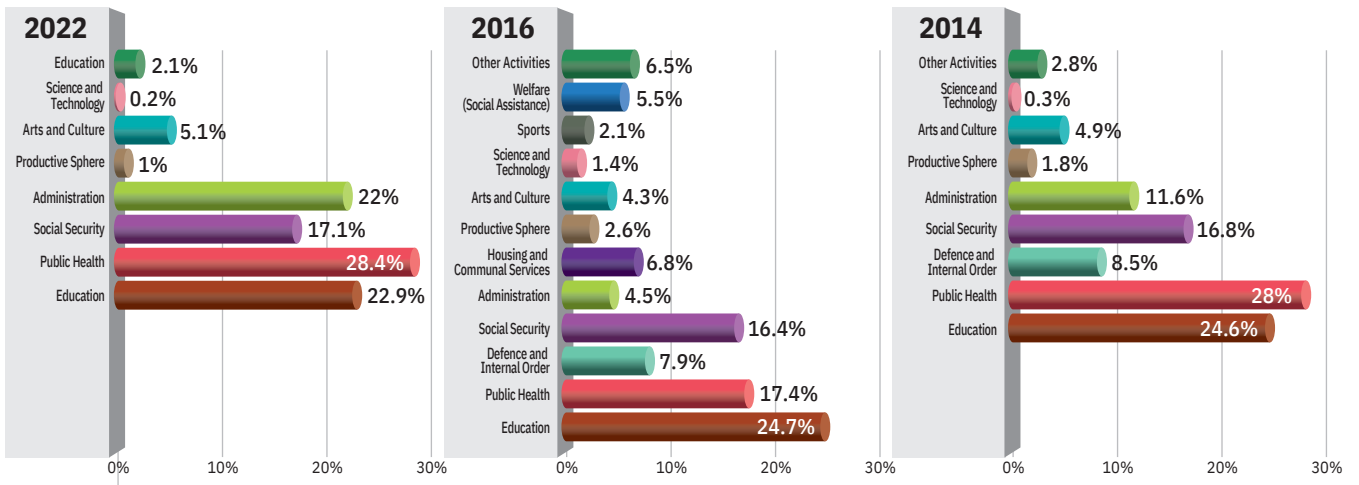
The Budget

State Budget. Execution of Budgeted Activities (in Millions of Cuban Pesos)

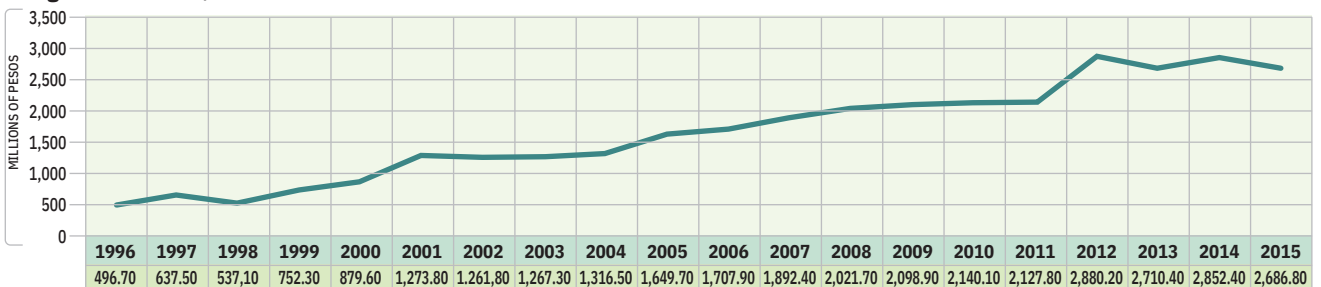
Budgeted Activities	2002		2006		2010		2014		2018		2022	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
Budgeted Activities	11,468.7		21,524.9		31,510.9		33,363.5		37,324.8		233,424.1	
Education	2,751.6	24.0%	5,310.0	24.7%	8,282.2	26.3%	8,203.0	24.6%	8,029.0	21.5%	53,468.0	22.9%
Public Health*	1,923.0	16.8%	3,734.8	17.4%	6,242.3	19.8%	9,349.8	28.0%	10,530.7	28.2%	66,374.6	28.4%
Defence and Internal Order**	1,261.8	11.0%	1,707.9	7.9%	2,140.1	6.8%	2,852.4	8.5%	-	-	-	-
Social Security	1,984.8	17.3%	3,526.0	16.4%	4,885.8	15.5%	5,589.0	16.8%	6,200.6	16.6%	39,968.1	17.1%
Administration***	611.1	5.3%	970.5	4.5%	1,446.0	4.6%	3,873.9	11.6%	8,722.4	23.4%	51,461.4	22.0%
Housing and Communal Services	873.6	7.6%	1,468.7	6.8%	1,718.1	5.5%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Productive Sphere	149.6	1.3%	554.9	2.6%	790.7	2.5%	592.4	1.8%	444.2	1.2%	2,408.2	1.0%
Arts and Culture****	395.6	3.4%	921.6	4.3%	1,384.4	4.4%	1,632.9	4.9%	1,802.1	4.8%	11,865.2	5.1%
Science and Technology*****	168.4	1.5%	292.2	1.4%	613.1	1.9%	100.4	0.3%	95.2	0.3%	488.6	0.2%
Sports	196.6	1.7%	455.0	2.1%	732.1	2.3%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Welfare (Social Assistance)	398.0	3.5%	1,188.3	5.5%	687.9	2.2%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Activities	754.6	6.6%	1,395.0	6.5%	2,588.2	8.2%	945.8	2.8%	1,086.1	2.9%	5,013.4	2.1%
Business Services, Real Estate and Rental	-	-	-	-	-	-	223.9	0.7%	414.5	1.1%	2,376.6	1.0%
Productive Activities*****	-	-	-	-	-	-	592.4	1.8%	444.2	1.2%	2,408.2	1.0%

* Public Health and Social Assistance, since 2008. ** Defence, since 2008. *** Public Administration, since 2008. **** Culture and Sports, since 2008. ***** Science and Technology Innovation, since 2008. ***** Since 2008. ***** Since 2008.

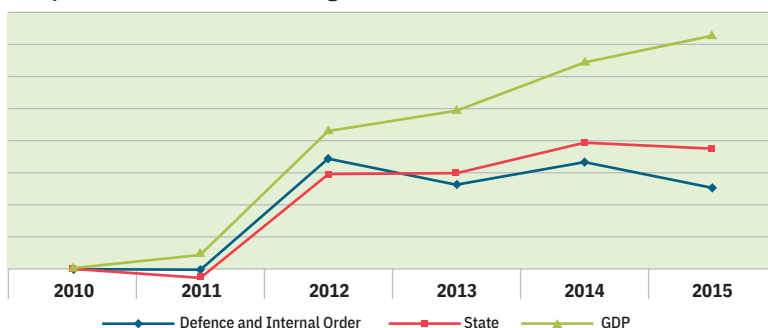
Since 2016, the Defence function has been included within the Public Administration, without disaggregation.



Budgeted Activities, Defence and Internal Order



Comparison of Increases in Budget (in %)



Year	Defence and Internal Order Budget (in %)	In relation to the State budget	In relation to GDP
2010		6.79%	3.33%
2011		6.92%	3.08%
2012		9.63%	3.94%
2013		8.37%	3.51%
2014		8.55%	3.54%
2015		7.62%	3.08%

Source: Compilation based on the data available on the Oficina Nacional de Estadística e Información (GDP), and Anuario Estadístico de Cuba 2022 Edición 2023. Exchange rate: 1 US\$ = 24 Cuban Pesos.

The Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces

Year of Creation*

1959

Average Tenure in Office for Ministers: 16 YEARS AND 2 MONTHS

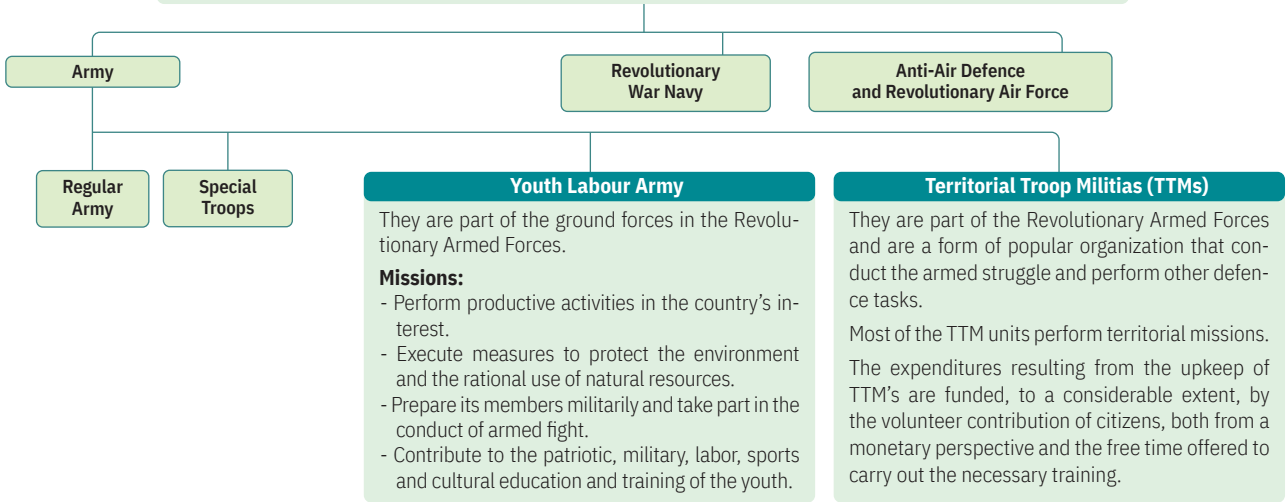
* The creation of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (MINFAR) through Law 600, which dissolved the former Ministry of Defence, emerged after the transformation of the Rebel Army into modern Armed Forces by merging with peasant, worker, student, and university militias.

Organizational Chart

The Revolutionary Armed Forces

General Mission

The Revolutionary Armed Forces are the main military institution of the State, whose main mission is to combat the aggressor from the very first moment and then, with the entire people, conduct the war during the time necessary, under any circumstance, until the victory is attained.



Cuban Military Doctrine

Defined as the set of scientifically reasoned ideas and conceptions adopted by the State on the essence, objectives, character, particularities and consequences of war; the country's preparation to successfully carry out such a mission and thereby try to avoid it; and the methods for its implementation and conduct, in order to face military aggression. The military doctrine is based on deterrence: it understands that the political, material and human costs of a military aggression against Cuba would be prohibitive and therefore lack any prospect of success.

War of All the People

It is the foundation of military doctrine. It is understood as the strategic defensive conception of the country and is based on the deployment of the territorial defence system.

Territorial Defence System

The set of political, economic, military, legal, security, internal order and civil defence measures and activities organized and carried out by State bodies and agencies, economic entities, social institutions and citizens from peacetime, throughout the different levels of the political-administrative division with the aim of ensuring the defence of the country. Cuba is territorially organized in 15 provinces and 168 municipalities

The mission of the defence zones is to carry out armed struggle in their locality; support the actions of regular troops and Territorial Troops Militias; maintain internal order; protect the civilian population; ensure stable production and services, supplies and continuity of life. Production and Defence Brigades are organized. In each zone there is a Defence Council, composed of civilian volunteers

Military Service

Active Military Service

It is performed at the units or detachments of the Revolutionary Armed Forces or at the Ministry of the Interior for a two-year period. The MINFAR may decide to replace the period of service for an alternative service, provided that military training is guaranteed. Both men and women who wish and expressly indicate their desire, may voluntarily join if they meet the proper requirements. The main mission is to provide men and women with the proper training and perfect physical fitness. Training centres exist at the various military units which provide a basic 5-week course to members called up.

Under the National Defence Act, military service is mandatory for all male citizens and voluntary for women.

Reservist Military Service

It involves the performance by male citizens (up to 45 years of age) of tasks relating to defence preparedness; to that end, they may be mobilized as many times as necessary, provided that the total time does not exceed one year. It is used to complete regular troops. Some of the combat means are kept in times of peace; only a minimum number of personnel is kept, particularly in those positions that require greater specialization and training.

Source: Compilation based on the *Ley de defensa nacional* (N° 75 – 1994/12/21), and official sites of the ministries of Foreign Affairs and of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Deployment

The military region, subordinated to the Army, is the tactical-operational grouping of forces designed to defend a designated operational region, generally the province. Military regions are structured according to military sectors, which generally correspond to political-administrative divisions at the municipal level. Their basic mission is to conduct activities related to preparation for the defence of the population and of subordinate units, which is always carried out in coordination with agencies, institutions and social and mass organizations.



Single Surveillance and Security System

In 1991, at the beginning of the special test periods, a single surveillance and security system was designed. It coordinates the efforts against subversion led by the Ministry of Interior and the National Police.

Cuba considers it is a normal arrangement given the conflict with the United States, and therefore sees it as an integral part of its revolutionary defence system, State security and defence committees of the revolution (neighborhood volunteers), and other State organizations.

Baraguá Strategic Exercise

With its latest edition, held at the end of 2023, it seeks to strengthen coordination between the commands of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) and the Ministry of the Interior.

Strategic Exercise Moncada

Moncada is a military exercise developed systematically over the years aimed at training and cohesion of the Forces, especially chiefs, governing bodies, and troops, in an unconventional conflict scenario. In 2023 it was developed in the Guamuhaia massif, provinces of Cienfuegos, Santa Clara and Sancti Spiritus.

Military Prosecutor's Office

The Military Prosecutor's Office is an organ of the Attorney-General's Office, it is vertically organized with hierarchical and functional independence from any local or military body and is subordinate to the Attorney-General of the Republic.

In 2022 a new law on the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic was enacted. Its provisions included "defining in a law the organization, functions and structure of the military prosecutor's office, as well as the election, appointment, dismissal and responsibility of military prosecutors". In May 2024, this particular law was approved.

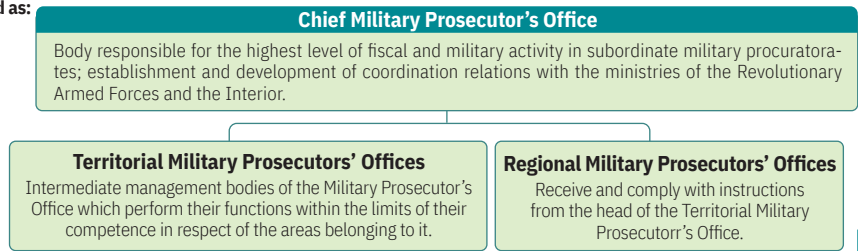
The law provides that military prosecutors and personnel responsible for the management of the Military Prosecutor's Office are part of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and subject to the laws, regulations and other provisions governing the performance of military service.

Mission: to conduct criminal investigations, exercise control over them and carry out public criminal proceedings on behalf of the State before military courts, as well as to ensure strict compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba, laws and other legal provisions in the ministries of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Interior.

Objectives:

- a) To protect the legitimate rights and interests of members of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Interior against violations of the law committed by chiefs in the exercise of their functions.
- b) Contribute to the prevention of crime, other violations of legality and the elimination of factors that condition or encourage them.
- c) To contribute to the strengthening of military and labour discipline and to the legal education of members of the FAR and the Interior Ministry and of other persons, in compliance with the Constitution, laws and other normative provisions.

It is organized as:



The Armed Forces and the Economy

Union of Military Industries (UIM)

Its mission is to ensure the repair of armament and the technology applied in FAR ground, air and sea units.

The General Repair Base system and other industrial companies have facilities all across the country. It includes large workshops specialized in tanks, artillery, aviation, naval aspects, radio communications, transportation, radars and metallurgic production.

Other sectors:

- Habanos S.A.:** exporter and distributor of Cuban tobacco abroad.
- Comercio Interior y Mercado Exterior:** initially, this company focused on imports and exports. It has expanded to businesses operating in dollars (supermarkets, gas stations, car rentals, travel agencies, real estate and television services).
- Industria Cítrica:** mixed company held by the Cuban Government and an Israeli company.
- Instituto Nacional de la Reserva Estatal (INRE):** supervises national strategic reserves in case of emergency.
- Unión Agropecuaria Militar:** founded in 1990, composed of farms and food production centers.

Main other Firms with Military Management

- Aero Gaviota** (Airline/Tourism).
- Agrotex** (Agriculture).
- Almest** (Tourism/Real Estate).
- Antex** (Technical Consultancy).
- Almacén Universal** (Free Trade Zone).
- Complejo Histórico – Militar Morro Cabaña** (Military Museums/Monuments).
- División Financiera** (Stores for the Collection of Currencies – TRD)
- Gaviota S.A.** (Tourism).
- Geo Cuba** (Cartography/Real Estate/ Mining Interests).
- Sasa S.A.** (Automobile Service and Spare Parts).
- Sermar** (Exploration in Cuban Waters/ Naval Repairs).
- Tecnotex** (Imports/Exports)

Source: Compilation based on the *Ley de la Fiscalía Militar* (Nº 166 - 2024/05/22); *Ley de la Defensa Nacional* (Nº 75 - 1994/12/21); and on the official sites of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba and Granma Agency.

Military Education and Training

Its purpose is the education and training of senior, middle and basic level officers in the command and technical profiles, and the extended education and post-graduate training, according to the requirements of the Party, the State and the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Missions:

- Educate officers loyal to the Motherland, the Communist Party of Cuba and the State, with a high communist and internationalist conscience, a profound hatred towards imperialism, a high sense of responsibility, discipline and military ethics as well as command and direction qualities and the knowledge and professional abilities that may enable them to fulfill their missions in times of war and peace in the different specialties and levels.
- Organize and conduct the training and education of subordinate personnel.
- Provide an update to officers regarding scientific and technological and military breakthroughs. Support their training for their appointment to higher positions or other specialties.
- Train officers and PhD in military science.
- Become advocates of military traditions, ethics, regulatory order, discipline, reputation and military posture and hygiene, as part of the officers' education and advancement process.

General Antonio Maceo University of Military Sciences
Army. 1963. Havana.

General Antonio Maceo University of Military Sciences
Army. 1980. Santiago de Cuba



- Officer of the Revolutionary Army
- Bachelor in Military Sciences
- Bachelor in Social Sciences (political-military specialty)
- Military Engineer
- Engineer in Means

Granma Naval Academy
Navy. 1916, 1959, 1987. Havana



- War Navy Officer
- Bachelor in Naval Sciences
- Bachelor in Nautical Sciences
- Radio-electric Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Hydrography and Geodesy Engineer

Jose Marti Technical Military University
Aviation. 1967.



- Radio-electronic Engineer
- IT engineer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Pilot and Navigator
- Air Traffic Controller

The Camilo Cienfuegos Military Schools

The first school opened in 1966, as a result of the calls for primary and secondary education. The pre-university training began in 1977.

Locations



The Camilo Cienfuegos Military Schools are subordinate to the FAR. Admission is selective, and the curricula and syllabuses are similar to those of the Ministry of Education and suited to the specific and vocational interests of military life. They are designed to provide a bachelor's degree in science and literature. Graduates are a direct entry to military training centres where FAR cadres are trained.

The **Military University of Legal Sciences "Comandante Arides Estevez Sanchez"** was founded in 1983 to prepare officers with a legal profile for the career of counterintelligence and as military prosecutors.

The **National Defence College** was founded in 1990 as a higher education center attached to the MINFAR. It is responsible for the postgraduate education of the country's principal military and civil cadres in relation to understanding and development of national security and defence.

The **FAR Medical Sciences University** was founded in 1981. It uses the facilities of the central military hospitals, hospitals and polyclinics of the national health system, as well as the medical units of the FAR. It has special polygons and classrooms. Its students graduate as Doctors in Medicine, with several specialties.

The **Academy of the Revolutionary Armed Forces General Maximo Gomez** was founded in 1963 in order to update officers in scientific, technological and military advances, and to train them for occupying more senior positions. Main courses:

- First Rank Specialties in Command and Tactical Staff.
- Second Rank Specialties in Command and Tactical-Operational Staff.
- Third Rank Command and Operational-Strategic Staff.
- Master's Degree in Military Pedagogy.
- Doctorate in National Defence.

Source: Compilation based on the *Ley de la defensa nacional* (Nº 75 – 1994/12/21); *Decreto Ley Nº 29 modificativo de la ley Nº 1307* (2021/04/16); and on the official website of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Civil Defence

Cuba is conceived “as a system of defensive measures of state nature”. Those measures are executed in peace times and in exceptional situations to protect the population and the national economy in the event of natural disasters or other types of contingencies, including those caused by environmental deterioration.

The Cuban territory is organized into 15 provinces. Within each province, the conception and practice of the Defence Councils in the defence areas are key in case of disasters. In exceptional situations, in the municipalities, more than 1,400 defence zones are activated; these zones have been the basis of the territorial defence structure since 1984.



Principles of Civil Defence:

- Management at the highest level.
- Protection is multifaceted.
- National and institutional reach.
- Differentiated form for protection planning and organization.
- Effective cooperation with the Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Interior.
- Organization in line with the country's socio-economic development.

Meteoro Exercise:

The region's most sustained civil defence effort, with almost 40 years of existence. It has been held in Cuba since 1986 and is one of the main activities carried out by Civil Defence to reduce the impact of disasters. The exercise seeks to prepare and carry out actions to respond to extreme situations of hydrometeorological or technological disasters. The last edition was held in June 2024.

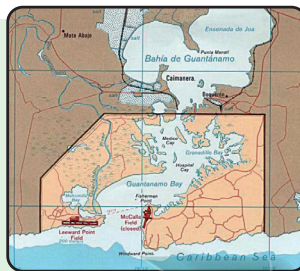
The defence zones, in exceptional situations, become the highest representative bodies of the State and assume this authority in the territories.

Guantanamo Naval Base

The US Guantanamo Bay naval base is a facility located in an area of 117.6 km² of Cuban national territory, occupied since 1903 as a result of the Agreement on Coaling and Naval Stations signed between the United States Government and the Government of Cuba. This was based on the imposition of an amendment approved by Congress and signed by President McKinley in March 1901, which became known as the Platt Amendment.

Platt Amendment (1901)

Gave the United States the right to intervene in Cuba, as a condition for the withdrawal of American troops from Cuban territory and the island's independence.



Article II of that agreement literally stated the right to do “all things necessary to fit the premises for use as coaling or naval stations only, and for no other purpose”. In addition to the agreement of February 1903, on May 22nd of the same year a Permanent Treaty of Relations between Cuba and the United States was signed, in which the 8 provisions of the Platt Amendment are taken literally and turned into the articles that formed the Treaty.

Treaty of 1934

Repeals the Treaty of 1903, and thus the Platt Amendment. Maintains the permanence of the Guantanamo Naval Base.

Twenty-one years later, on May 29th 1934, in the spirit of the “Good Neighbour” policy of the United States under the presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a new Treaty of Relations between the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America was signed, repealing that of 1903, and thus the Platt Amendment. The permanence of the Guantanamo naval base remained in this new Treaty, and the full validity of the rules that established it. The supplementary agreement stipulated that the United States would pay the Republic of Cuba for the lease of the area of 117.6 km², the sum of two thousand dollars a year in annual cheques, which Cuba has refused to collect.

Number of US Military Personnel Permanently Assigned (2014-2024)

	Army	Navy	Marine Corps	Air Force	Coast Guard	TOTAL
March 2024	125	442	43	0	6	616
March 2022	151	445	37	0	6	639
March 2020	142	539	125	0	7	813
March 2018	144	533	148	0	6	831
March 2016	134	514	140	0	6	794
March 2014	237	534	139	0	6	916

Besides active-duty military personnel, an average of **264** civilians are usually added. Reserve military personnel decreased from **141** in March 2014 to **0** in March 2024.

Source: Compilation based on historical sources; *Ley del sistema de defensa civil* (Nº 170 - 1997/08/05); and sites of Cubadefensa and Agencia Cubana de Noticias. On Military Personnel: US Department of Defence, Number of Military and DoD Appropriated Fund (APF) Civilian Personnel Permanently Assigned.