



ECUADOR



Population 18,190,500 inhabitants

Territorial Extension 256,370 km²

GDP (US\$) 121,592,000,000

GDP per capita (US\$) 6,684

Armed Forces Personnel 40,519

Defence Budget (US\$) 1,632,679,062

The Ministry of National Defence was established in 1935.

Legal Framework

National Legislation

Systems and concepts

Organic Law on national defence (N° 74 - 2007/01/19. Last Amendment: N° 35 - 2009/09/28).

Law on public and State security (N° 35 - 2009/09/28. Last Amendment: N° 263 - 2014/06/09).

Organic Reform Law to various legal bodies for the strengthening of institutional capacities and comprehensive security (RO Supplement N° 279 - 2023/03/29).

Organic Law on transparency and access to public information (N° 245 - 2023/02/07).

Military Organization

Law on military pensions (Codification N° 30 - 1961/11/06. Last Amendment: RO N° 399 - 2011/03/09).

Law on personnel of the Armed Forces (N° 118 - 1991/04/10. Last Amendment: RO N° 441 - 2015/02/20).

Law on social security for the Armed Forces (N° 169 - 1992/08/07. Last Amendment: RO N° 399 - 2011/03/09).

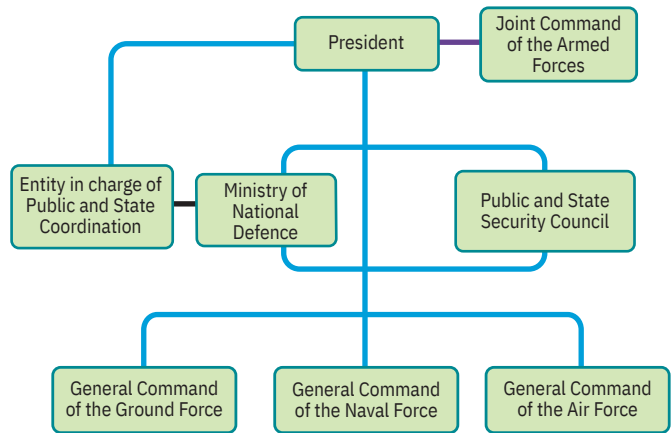
Law on recognition of armed combatants in conflict (N° 83 - 1995/03/31. Last Amendment: 2007/07/18).

Law amending the Penal Code to classify crimes committed in the military and police service (RO N° 196 - 2010/05/19).

Law on the recognition of national heroes and heroines (RO N° 399 - 2011/03/09).

Organic Law on personnel and discipline of the Armed Forces (RO N° 236 - 2023/01/24).

The Defence System



Advisory and assistance functional relationship

Command reporting line

The President may request the advice of the Public and State Security Council, composed of the Vice President, the Presidents of the National Assembly and the National Court of Justice, the Ministers of Coordination for Security, Defence, Government, Police and Religion, Foreign Affairs, the Chief of the Joint Command of the Armed Forces and the General Commander of the Police. The entity in charge of public and state Coordination is responsible for the global planning and coordination of the bodies that make up the Public and State Security System. The Ministry of Defence is the political, strategic and administrative organ of national defence. The Joint Command of the Armed Forces is the highest organ of planning, preparation and strategic conduction of military operations. The Assembly holds the powers granted by the Constitution and permanently monitors defence related issues through the specific committee.

Source: Compilation based on the *Ley orgánica de la defensa nacional* (N° 74 - 2007/19/01. Last Amendment: N° 35 - 2009/28/09); *Ley de seguridad pública y del Estado* (N° 35 - 2009/28/09. Last Amendment: N° 263 - 2014/09/06); and the *Ley Orgánica reformativa a varios cuerpos legales para el fortalecimiento de las capacidades institucionales y la seguridad integral* (R.O. N° 279 - 2023/03/29).

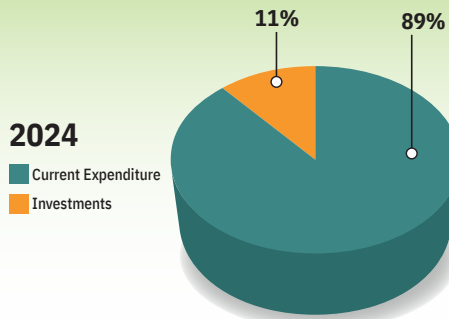
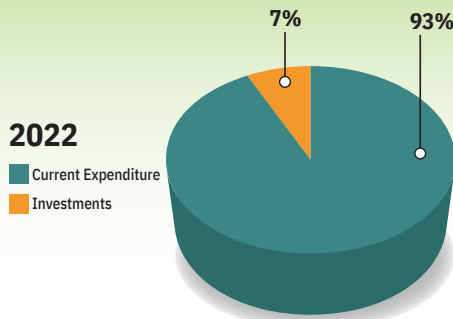
The Budget

Defence budget, 2024 (in USD)

Entity	Personnel Expenditure	Goods and Services	Other Current Expenses	Other*	Total
Ministry of National Defence	1,215,212,463.16	114,929,700.00	35,714,020.22	176,063,902.26	1,541,920,085.64
Military Geographic Institute	8,397,760.85	13,935,492.63	202,793.90	1,668,505.61	24,204,552.99
National Ecuador Section of the Pan American Inst. of Geography and History	159,080.77	11,882.81	1,858.73	132,593.00	305,415.31
Presidential Military House	402,736.26	8,668,056.97	760,851.62	1,164,042.89	10,995,687.74
Puerto Bolivar Port Authority	886,803.15	213,275.83	26,005.27	3,576,363.79	4,702,448.04
Puerto Esmeraldas Port Authority	3,247,657.96	1,107,057.02	282,287.93	209,110.13	4,846,113.04
Guayaquil Port Authority	1,843,165.14	3,079,316.84	529,108.96	670,969.32	6,122,560.26
Manta Port Authority	1,932,469.40	606,737.46	424,318.34	170,352.54	3,133,877.74
Centre for Strategic Intelligence	3,478,278.31	18,126,097.28	31,534.12	12,823.38	21,648,733.09
Navy Institute for Oceanography and Antarctic	2,391,190.91	5,745,296.77	27,000.00	6,636,100.63	14,799,588.31
Total	1,237,951,605.91	166,422,913.61	37,999,779.09	190,304,763.55	1,632,679,062.16

* Includes current transfers or grants, expenditure on investment personnel, investment goods and services, public works, other investment expenditure, long-term assets (plant and equipment), public debt repayment and other liabilities.

Current and Capital Expenditure



% OF GDP

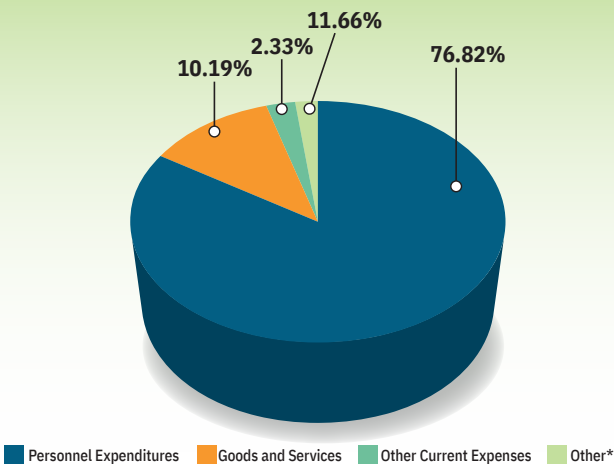
1.34%

% OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE

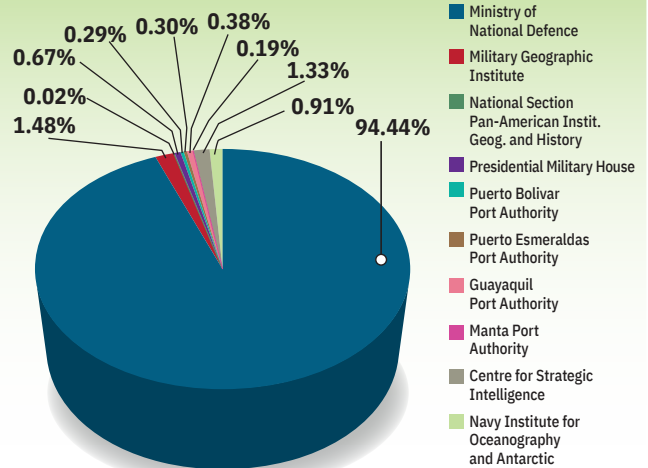
4.59%

Budget 2024

Distribution by Expenditure Item

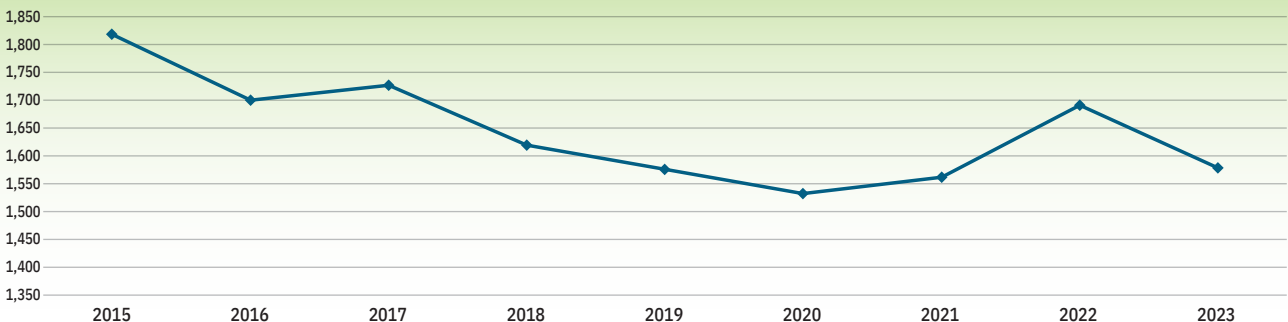


Distribution, by Unit



* Includes current transfers or grants, expenditure on investment personnel, investment goods and services, public works, other investment expenditure, long-term assets (plant and equipment), amortisation of government debt and other liabilities.

Sector Expenditure. Evolution 2015-2023, in millions of US\$



Source: Compilation based on the *Proforma del Presupuesto General del Estado para el período fiscal 2024 y para período fiscal 2022*. IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024). Exchange Rate: 1 US\$ = 1 US\$.

The Ministry of National Defence

YEAR OF CREATION*

1935

Average Tenure in Office for Ministers:
2 YEARS AND 8 MONTHS

MISSION

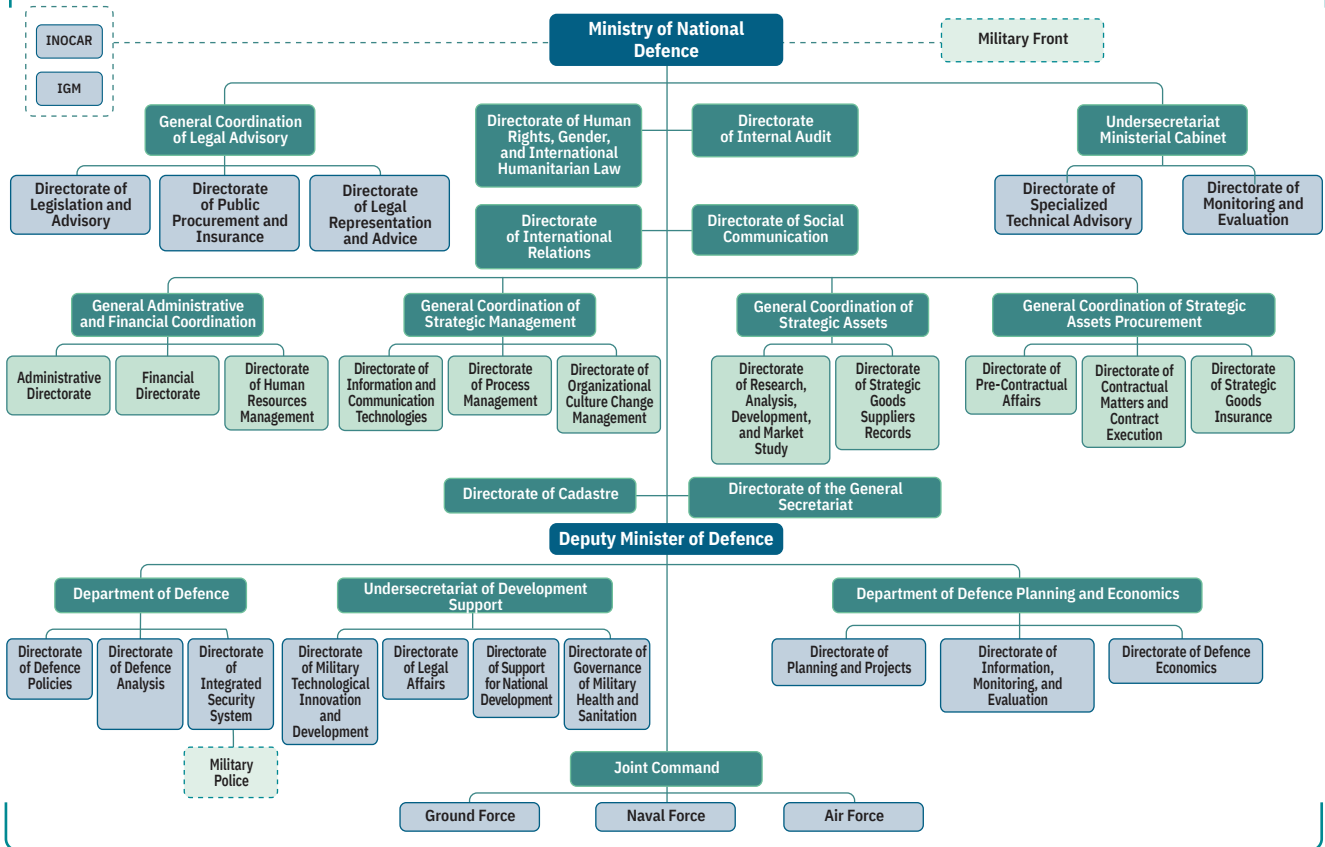
It is the political, strategic and administrative body of national defence. As the lead agency, issues policies for the defence and administration of the Armed Forces and affiliated agencies, through guidelines and directives, in order to ensure and maintain sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as support internal security and national development with its contingent.

MANDATES

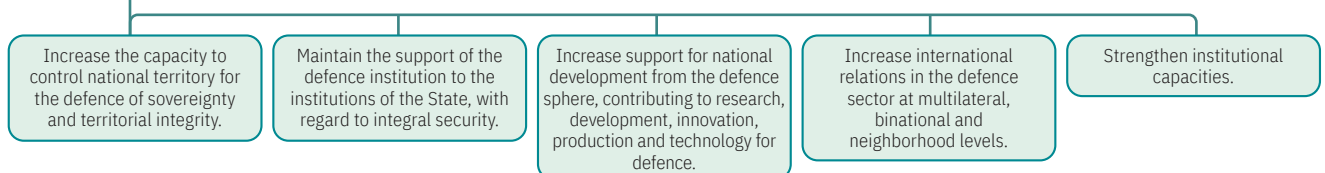
- Administer the Armed Forces in accordance with policies and directives issued by the President of the Republic.
- Act as legal representative of the Ministry of National Defence and the branches of the Armed Forces.
- Direct the national defence policy.
- Issue policies for strategic corporate planning.
- Coordinate and support the State security policy.
- Develop the Military Defence Directive.
- Issue the rules, agreements and internal management regulations of general application in the three branches of the Armed Forces as well as the internal management regulations of each Force.
- Prepare and submit for consideration by the President of the Republic draft conventions, resolutions, agreements, decrees and laws designed to enable the Armed Forces to better fulfil their constitutional mission.
- Plan and coordinate with the relevant State agencies the participation of the Armed Forces in the social and economic development of the country.
- Consider and decide on the budget proposals submitted by the Ministry of National Defence, the Joint Command, the Land Forces, the Navy and the Air Force and their affiliated or dependent entities, applicable to the general budget of the State; and to give them the corresponding procedure.
- Exercise the functions of Vice-chair of the National Defence Board, in accordance with the law.
- Submit the Organic Regulations of the Armed Forces to the Presidency of the Republic for approval.
- Delegate their legal representation to the Deputy Secretary, the Chief of the Joint Command, Force Commanders, and other authorities, in accordance with the Administrative Legal Status of the Executive Function, for signing agreements.
- Hear and resolve disputes or claims concerning the resolutions of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces.
- Submit to the President and other competent authorities the technical reports issued by the various bodies of the Armed Forces.
- To ensure that members of the Armed Forces respect human rights in the performance of their duties.
- Those contained in the Constitution, relevant laws and regulations.

*The year of establishment is the date on which the term "Defence" becomes part of the name of the institution (The name "Ministry of Defence" arises from the Executive Decree on 26 September 1935, previously called "Ministry of War, Navy and Aviation" created in 1930; the previous name was "Ministry of War and Navy", created in 1843).

Organizational Chart



Strategic Institutional Objectives



Source: Ley Orgánica de la Defensa Nacional, R.O. N° 4 – 2007/19/01. Last Amendment 2023/29/03; Estatuto Orgánico de Gestión Organizacional Ministerio de Defensa, R.O. 209 – 2014/19/11. Last Amendment 2017/ 20/04; the official website of the Ministry of National Defence; and Plan Estratégico Institucional de Defensa 2024-2025.

The Armed Forces

General Mission

The fundamental mission of the Armed Forces is to defend sovereignty and territorial integrity. (Constitution, Art. 158).

The Armed Forces, as part of the public security forces, have the following missions: to preserve national sovereignty; to defend the integrity, unity and independence of the State; and to guarantee the legal and democratic order of the social rule of law. They additionally contribute to the social and economic development of the country; may participate in economic activities related exclusively to national defence; and intervene in other aspects concerning national security, according to the law.

(Ley orgánica de la defensa nacional, N° 74 - 2007/01/19. Last Amendment: N° 35 - 2009/09/28, Art. 2).

The **Joint Command of the Armed Forces** is the highest organ for planning, preparation and strategic conduct of military operations and for advising on military policies, war and national defence.

Specific Missions

Land Force

Develop the ground power to attain the institutional objectives while ensuring defence and contributing to the security and development of the Nation, in order to achieve the objectives derived from strategic military planning.

Naval Force

Achieve and maintain the highest degree of readiness of the Naval Power and promote the development of maritime interests, in order to contribute to the defence of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to the country's socio-economic progress.

Air Force

Develop military air power to achieve institutional objectives that guarantee defence and contribute to the security and development of the Nation.

Armed Forces Personnel

ARMY

Rank	Female	Male
OFFICERS		
Army General	0	0
Major General	0	1
Brigadier General	0	19
Colonel	1	245
Lieutenant Colonel	30	483
Major	74	625
Captain	127	718
Lieutenant	107	708
Second Lieutenant	40	440
Cadet	53	538
Total	432	3,779

4,211

TROOPS

Senior Sergeant Major	0	0
Sergeant Major	0	385
Master Sergeant	0	414
First Sergeant	0	2,037
Second Sergeant	0	4,407
First Corporal	171	4,948
Second Corporal	93	4,197
Soldier	163	3,815
Total	427	20,203

20,630

Total by Service

24,841

AIR FORCE

Rank	Female	Male
OFFICERS		
Air Force General	0	0
Lieutenant General	0	0
Brigadier General	0	7
Colonel	0	57
Lieutenant Colonel	19	178
Major	18	176
Captain	24	218
Lieutenant	33	179
Second Lieutenant	14	184
Cadet	24	174
Total	132	1,173

1,305

TROOPS

Senior Sergeant Major	0	13
Sergeant Major	0	266
Master Sergeant	0	474
First Sergeant	0	546
Second Sergeant	0	961
First Corporal	191	840
Second Corporal	114	816
Soldier	95	576
Total	400	4,492

4,892

Total by Service

6,197

NAVY

Rank	Female	Male
OFFICERS		
Admiral	0	0
Vice Admiral	0	2
Rear Admiral	0	7
Captain	5	123
Commander	22	190
Lieutenant Commander	23	305
Lieutenant	40	271
Lieutenant Senior Grade	45	265
Ensign	48	165
Midshipman	41	213
Total	224	1,541

1,765

TROOPS

Senior Sergeant Major	0	12
Sergeant Major	0	170
Master Sergeant	10	321
First Sergeant	0	730
Second Sergeant	62	1,429
First Corporal	208	2,663
Second Corporal	82	1,130
Seaman	60	839
Total	422	7,294

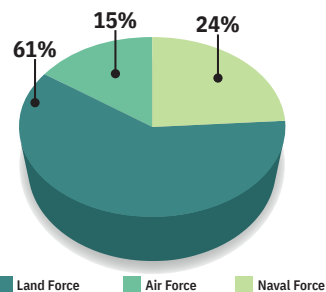
7,716

Total by Service

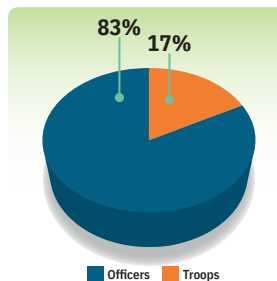
9,481

40,519
Total Armed Forces

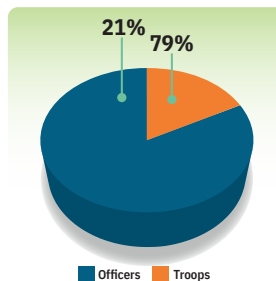
Distribution of the Armed Forces Personnel



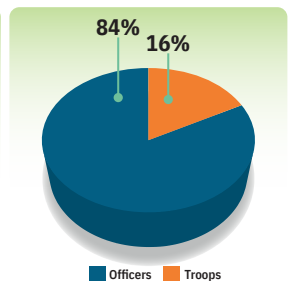
LAND FORCE



AIR FORCE



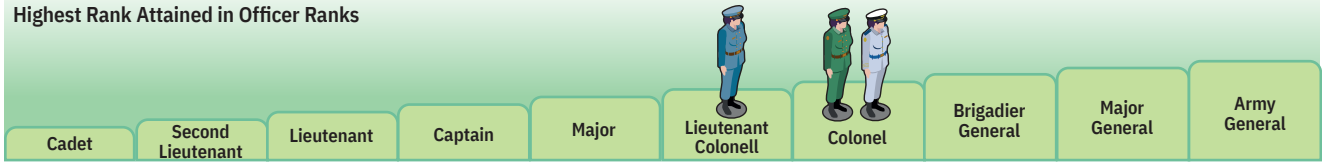
NAVAL FORCE



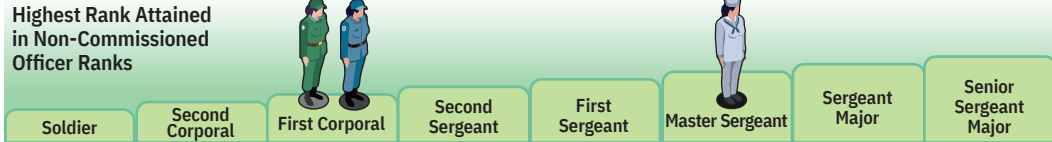
Source: Compilation based on information provided by the Ministry of National Defence; Ley orgánica de la defensa nacional; and the official website of the Joint Command of the Armed Forces.

Women in the Armed Forces

Highest Rank Attained in Officer Ranks



Highest Rank Attained in Non-Commissioned Officer Ranks

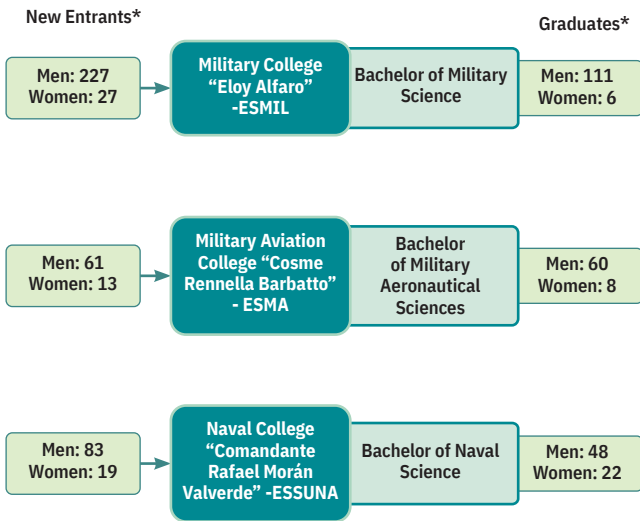


Of the total number of officers and NCOs, **4.9%** are women.

Note: Army hierarchy, for illustrative purposes. In the Naval Force, Colonel is equivalent to Captain. In the Air Force, the designation is the same. For troop personnel, it applies the same designation to all three forces

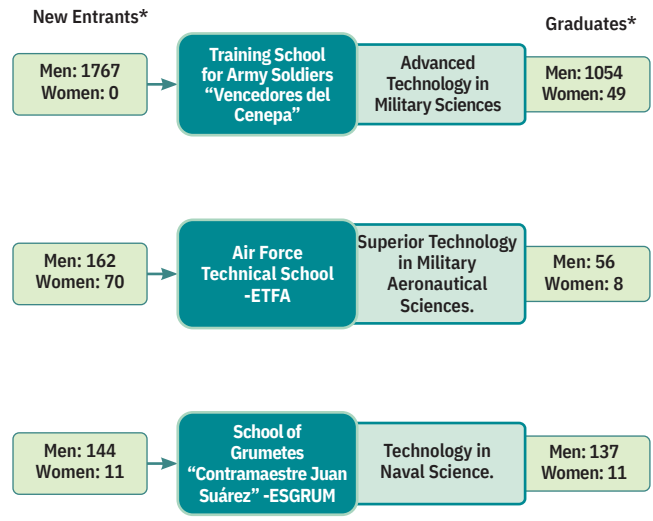
Military Education

Career Path for Officers



* Year 2023.

Career Path for Non-Commissioned Officers



* Year 2023.

Army

OFFICERS

Army War Academy

- Advanced Officer weapons course
- Basic Officer course on weapons and services
- Master's degree in Security and Defence

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Iwias School "Coronel Gonzalo Barragán"

- Superior technology in military operations of Iwias jungle

Air Force

OFFICERS

Air War Academy

- Promotion course
- Basic Officer course
- Officer's advanced course
- Master's Degree in Defence and Security, Aerospace Strategic Planning

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Advanced School of Aereotechnicians - FAE

- Continuing training courses for promotion to the immediate grade.
- Air Infantry School
- Aerial Infantry

Naval Force

OFFICERS

Naval War Academy

- Common phase course
- Naval weapons administration course
- Command course

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Naval Infantry School "Rear-Admiral Napoleon Cabezas Montalvo" - ESDEIM

- Superior Technology in the Marine Infantry
- Crew Training
- Naval Aviation School
- Specialized courses in aviation

School of Specialties and Training "Almirante Renán Olmedo González"

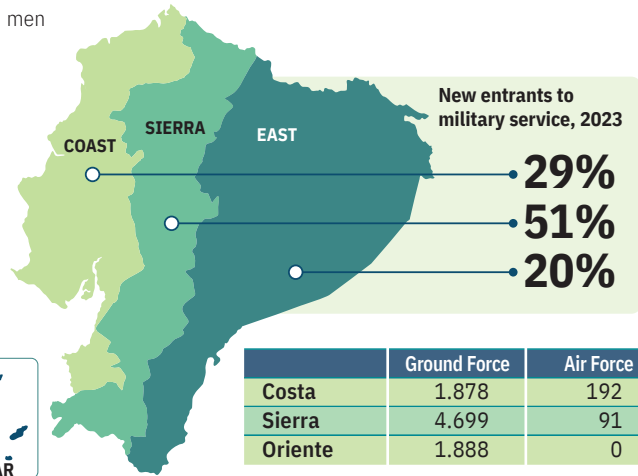
Source: Compilation based on information provided by the Ministry of National Defence and websites of the above-mentioned institutions.

Military Service

According to the 2008 Constitution, it is voluntary for both men and women, and lasts for one year.

Process:

- Registration: process by which citizens update their data.
- Classification: medical examinations determining suitability for military service.
- Quartering (three calls: February, May and August): those assessed as suitable are incorporated into the military installations where they will perform their service.



Military Exercises

The Armed Forces conducted various exercises on national territory during 2022 and 2023, including:

- National Exercise for Preparation and Response to the 'El Niño' Phenomenon (ENOS-2023): carried out with the support of the Risk Management Secretariat, involving prevention and preparation actions to mitigate the consequences of 'El Niño.'
- The Armed Forces conducted war games to assess their capacity and preparedness for military operations related to internal security support, maritime space surveillance, and territorial control.

They regularly participate in bilateral and multilateral military exercises, especially with neighboring countries in the region. Among them:

ANDES III: binational exercise with the Colombian Air Force.



Multinational:
Multinational Combined Exercise Cooperation IX: multinational with the participating forces of SICOFAA..
Resolute Sentinel 2023: multinational driven annually.
Multinacional PANAMAX: among others, final conference of planning and execution of the exercise.

TRANSOCEANIC XXXI: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Colombia and the United States.

UNITED: binational exercise with the Peruvian Air Force.

Participation in Peace Operations

MINUSCA
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
Women
2 SO

MINURSO
WESTERN SAHARA
Men
2 EM
Women
1 EM

UNISFA
ABYEI
Men
1 EM
1 SO

UNMISS
SOUTH SUDAN
Men
1 EM
2 SO

EM: Experts on Mission.
SO: Staff Officers.



Ecuador has the **Ecuadorian Missions of Peace School (UEMPE)**, created in 2003. All trained personnel at UEMPE are able to perform security or humanitarian assistance tasks in the area of peace operations.

45 officers and **20** non-commissioned officers were trained in 2022 and 2023.
20% of the staff trained at UEMPE in 2022 and 2023 were women.



Ecuador contributes **10** military personnel to United Nations peace operations, which represent **0.5%** of the total contributed by Latin America.

Source: Compilation based on information provided by the Ministry of National Defence; *Memoria Anual 2023 del Ministerio de Defensa Nacional*; and statistics from the UN Department of Peace Operations, Contribution of Uniformed Personnel to the UN by Mission and Personnel Type, in its various presentations. Data as of April 2024.

Community Support

The Armed Forces, in support of other State institutions, executed a total of 23,252 security operations in 2022 and 2023, including support to the Ministry of Public Health regarding distribution centers, vaccination points, and Transportation and security for health personnel, especially to reach difficult-to-access areas.



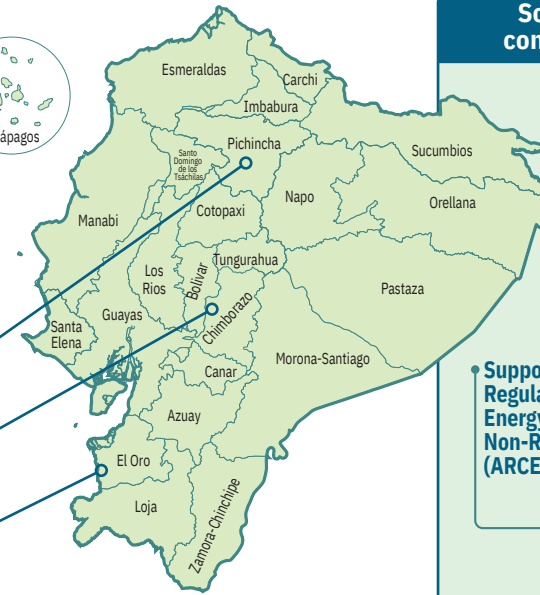
Humanitarian support to residents of the Galapagos islands

Use of Hualcopo and Calicuchima ships and Naval Force aircraft for the transport of food, medicine and other supplies.

Safety and rescue operations in the mudslide in Gasca, Pichincha Province (January 2022)

Landslide in Alausi, Chimborazo Province (March 2023)

The Undertow in Zaruma, Gold Province (December 2022)



Some operations conducted in 2023:

Support to Petroecuador EP for the protection of the National Hydrocarbon System (SHN)

1,221
OPERATIONS

Support to the Agency for Regulation and Control of Energy and Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources (ARCERNR)

576
OPERATIONS

Risk and Emergency Management

Protocol for Emergency Response



Operations in support of the Risk Management Secretariat

Operations	2022	2023
Security	3,345	1,269
Air support (missions)	22	129
Flight hours SGR support	32:21	129:56
Results		
Rescued persons	97	433
Ordinary capsules, detonators (units)	318	6
Explosives	267	-
Fuel (gallons)	46	-
Ammonium nitrate reinforced blocks (units)	2,150	-
Persons apprehended	11	-
Load carried (kg)	-	3,494
Medical evacuation	-	2
Kits delivered	-	206,454
Humanitarian logistics (kits delivered)	-	20,645
Removal of debris (tonnes)	-	928

Protocols and plans

Activation of the Armed Forces and the National Police in response to natural and anthropogenic disasters.

Armed Forces Military Plan for Internal Defence "ESCUADO", Annex K "Plan of Support of the Armed Forces to the National Secretariat for Risk Management in the event of natural or anthropogenic disasters"

The General Directorate of Multidomain Operations of the Armed Forces is responsible for arranging the activation of the Operational Commands (CO) once an emergency or crisis situation occurs.

10,327

military personnel were trained to strengthen the integration of international humanitarian law into the Armed Forces between 2022 and 2023, under the Agreement on International Cooperation between the Ministry of National Defence; the Ecuadorian Red Cross Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Source: Compilation based on information provided by the Ministry of National Defence; Emergency Operations Committee Manual 2017; and Ministry of National Defence, Management Report 2023.

Risk and Emergency Management

Once the emergency or crisis situation is presented, depending on whether it is local, regional or national, the different Technical Working Tables (MTT) and Working Groups (GT) are activated at each level (cantonal, provincial or national). Military delegates in each jurisdiction attend the plenary to coordinate activities supporting the Risk Management Secretariat under the Zeus Plan, contingency plans in each Operational Command and subordinate units, and the National Plan to Address the Child Phenomenon (ENOS).

Photo: Ecuadorian Army. Assisting in evacuation, search and rescue.



Training and Education

The Special Forces Brigade No. 9 PATRIA (9BFE), through its special units, has training and certification in search, rescue and evacuation of wounded, dead, lost persons, etc., to carry out activities in support of the Secretariat for Risk Management. It was renamed in 1986; previously called Special Forces Brigade No.1 Patria, created in 1975 by Decree published in R.O. 246-5.

Internal Order

CAMEX Operations

These are weapons, ammunition and explosives control operations (CAMEX), which contribute to the control of illegal activities related to illegal mining, drug trafficking, smuggling, illegal logging, etc.

In 2023, the following were decommissioned:

417 firearms

33,872 ammunitions

2,260 explosives

76,190 detonating cords

1,165 pieces of dynamite

2,468 kilograms of scheduled substances

35,897 gallons of fuel

Some operations carried out in support of the National Police:

Support to the National Police in accordance with Executive Decrees No. 681, 706 and 824 which declared states of emergency for serious internal disturbances in some of the provinces of the country:

5,954
OPERATIONS

Support to the National Police for security of the outer perimeter area of prisons in accordance with Executive Decree N° 823 of 2023:

3,311
OPERATIONS

Executive Decree No. 110 of January 2024 provided for the mobilization and intervention of the National Police and the Armed Forces throughout the national territory, and all the detention centres that form part of the National Social Rehabilitation System, determining that this action shall be temporary, subsidiary, extraordinary, conditional, and regulated. The Commission is responsible for monitoring and reporting serious disturbances. The mobilization of the Armed Forces and their involvement in public order are complementary to the actions of the National Police, in compliance with the legal framework in force for public security and the State.

Until the end of July 2024 have been executed:

Employment of nearly 31,000 members of the Armed Forces

186,000 military operations

Seizure of 2,700 lethal weapons and 63,000 explosives

Seizure of 64 tons of drugs

Destruction of 33 clandestine runways

JANUARY
2004

Executive Decree No. 110, which provides for mobilization and intervention throughout the national territory and within private detention centres.

APRIL
2024

Executive Decree No. 218, declares the Detention Centres as security zones under the joint leadership and responsibility of the Armed Forces and the Police.

JULY
2024

Executive Decree No. 318, declares a state of emergency for 60 days due to serious internal disturbances and internal armed conflict in the provinces of Guayas, Los Rios, Manabi, Orellana, Santa Elena, El Oro and the canton of Camilo Ponce Enriquez of the province of Azuay.