

EL SALVADOR

Population 6,364,900 inhabitants

Territorial Extension 21,040 km²

GDP (US\$) 35,333,000,000

GDP per capita (US\$) 5,525

Armed Forces Personnel 24,023

Defence Budget (US\$) 261,429,393

The Ministry of National Defence was created in 1939.

Legal Framework

National Legislation

Systems and Concepts

Organic Law of the Armed Force of El Salvador (DL N° 353 - 1998/07/30).
 Law on the State Intelligence Agency (DL N° 554 - 2001/09/21).
 National Defence Act (DL N° 948 - 2002/10/03).
 Transitional law to declare the presumed death of members of the Armed Forces of El Salvador as a result of disappearance (DL N° 744 - 2020/10/14).

Military Organization

Military Justice Code (DL N° 562 - 1964/05/29. Last Amendment: DL N° 368 - 1992/11/27).
 Military Decorations Act (DL N° 520 - 1969/10/24).
 Law on the Institute of Social Security of the Armed Force (DL N° 500-1980/12/03. Last Amendment: DL N° 1027 - 2002/11/20).
 Law on the establishment of the Armed Force pharmaceutical centre (DL N° 278 - 1985/01/22. Last Amendment: DL N° 259 - 2019/03/21).
 Law on military service and reserve of the Armed Force (DL N° 298 - 1992/10/08. Last Amendment: DL N° 664 - 2011/05/11).
 Law on military career (DL N° 476 - 1995/11/30. Last Amendment: DL N° 247 - 2016/02/10).
 Law on the control and regulation of firearms, ammunition, explosives and similar articles (DL N° 665 - 1999/07/26. Last Amendment: DL N° 319 - 2019/05/23).
 Special law against terrorist acts (DL N° 108 - 2006/10/17. Last Amendment: DL N° 341 - 2022/03/30).
 Special law for the regulation and control of pyrotechnics (DL N° 810 - 2014/10/24. Last Amendment: DL N° 401 - 2019/10/30).
 Law regulating the continuity of benefits and social benefits for military veterans of the Armed Force and ex-combatants of the Farabundo Martí Front for National Liberation who participated in the internal armed conflict (DL N° 210 - 2019/01/23. Last Amendment: DL N° 816 - 2023/08/10).

The Defence System

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    graph TD
      President -- Advisory --> NSC[National Security Council]
      President -- Command --> MND[Ministry of National Defence]
      MND -- Advisory --> JCS[Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Force]
      JCS -- Command --> JSAF[Joint Staff of the Armed Force]
      JSAF -- Command --> GSA[General Staff of the Army]
      JSAF -- Command --> GSAir[General Staff of the Air Force]
      JSAF -- Command --> GSN[General Staff of the Naval Force]
      JSAF -- Command --> ISU[Institutional Support Units]
    
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Advisory and assistance functional relationship
 Command reporting line

The President is advised by the National Security Council, composed of the Vice President, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Government, Economy and Defence, the General Director of the National Civil Police, the Executive Director of the State Intelligence Agency and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Force. The Minister of Defence is the communication line for all the orders issued by the President to the Armed Force, through the Joint Staff, responsible for the conduction of the branches and the support units, and advisory body for everything related to the employment and administration of the institution. The Joint Chiefs of Staff advice the Minister on aspects related to military policy and the employment of the military power in national defence. The Legislative Assembly holds the powers granted by the Constitution and permanently monitors defence-related issues through the Defence Committee.

Source: Compilation based the Constitution of El Salvador, *Ley orgánica de la Fuerza Armada* (DL N° 353 - 1998/07/09) and *Ley de defensa nacional* (DL N° 948 - 2002/10/03).

The Budget

% OF GDP

0.74%

% OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE

5.10%

Budget 2024

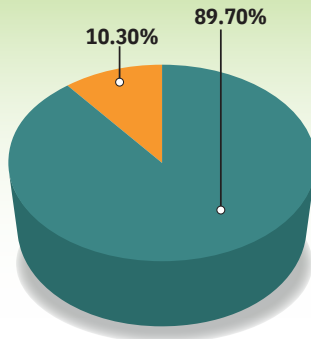
Budget Defence Branch, 2024 (USD)

	Remunerations	Procurement of Goods and Services	Financial and Other Expenses	Current Transfers	Investment in Fixed Assets	Current Expenditure	Capital Expenditure	TOTAL
Institutional Management and Administration	3,964,675	2,338,325	156,645	222,000	-	6,681,645	-	6,681,645
Senior Management	3,441,255	2,338,325	156,645	222,000	-	6,158,225	-	6,158,225
Institutional Financial Management	523,420	-	-	-	-	523,420	-	523,420
Institutional Operational Management	214,454,314	33,550,680	1,601,175	2,200	-	249,608,369	-	249,608,369
Army Operations and Institutional Support Actions	214,454,314	33,296,680	1,288,660	-	-	249,039,654	-	498,079,308
Air Force Operations	-	-	152,200	2,200	-	154,400	-	154,400
Naval Force Operations	-	254,000	160,315	-	-	414,315	-	414,315
Support to Other Entities	-	-	-	2,000,000	-	2,000,000	-	2,000,000
Armed Forces Pharmaceutical Centre	-	-	-	2,000,000	-	2,000,000	-	2,000,000
Other Public Interventions	-	600,000	-	-	2,539,379	-	3,139,379	3,139,379
Institutional Equipment	-	-	-	-	1,139,379	-	1,139,379	1,139,379
Strategic Communications	-	600,000	-	-	1,400,000	-	2,000,000	2,000,000
TOTAL	218,418,989	36,489,005	1,757,820	2,224,200	2,539,379	258,290,014	3,139,379	261,429,393

Current and Capital Expenditure

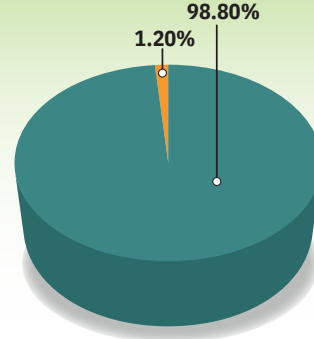
2022

■ Current Expenditure
■ Capital Expenditure



2024

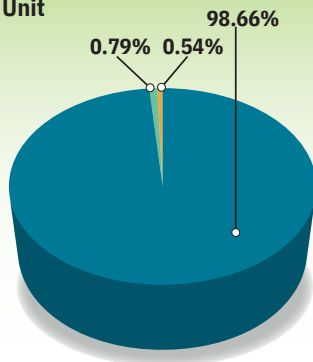
■ Current Expenditure
■ Capital Expenditure



Operational Management Unit

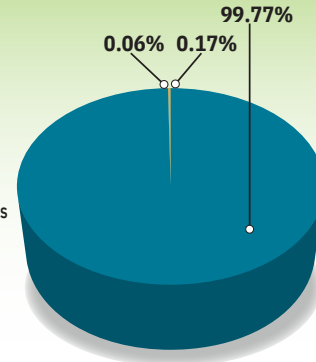
2022

■ Army Operations and Institutional Support Actions
■ Air Force Operations
■ Naval Force Operations



2024

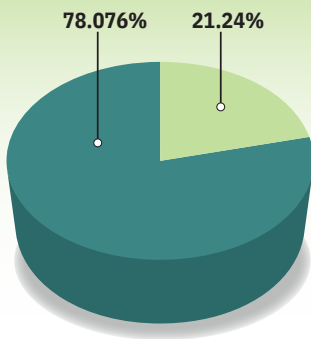
■ Army Operations and Institutional Support Actions
■ Air Force Operations
■ Naval Force Operations



Other Public Interventions

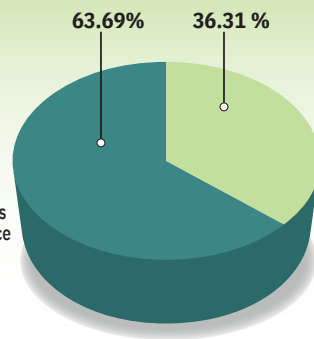
2022

■ Institutional Equipment
■ Strategic Communications System of the Armed Force



2024

■ Institutional Equipment
■ Strategic Communications System of the Armed Force



Source: Compilation based on *Ley de Presupuesto, Portal de Transparencia Fiscal*, ejercicios 2022 y 2024. IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024). Exchange Rate: 1 US\$ = 1 US\$.

The Ministry of National Defence

YEAR OF CREATION*

1939

Average Tenure in Office for Ministers:
2 YEARS AND 4 MONTHS

MISSION

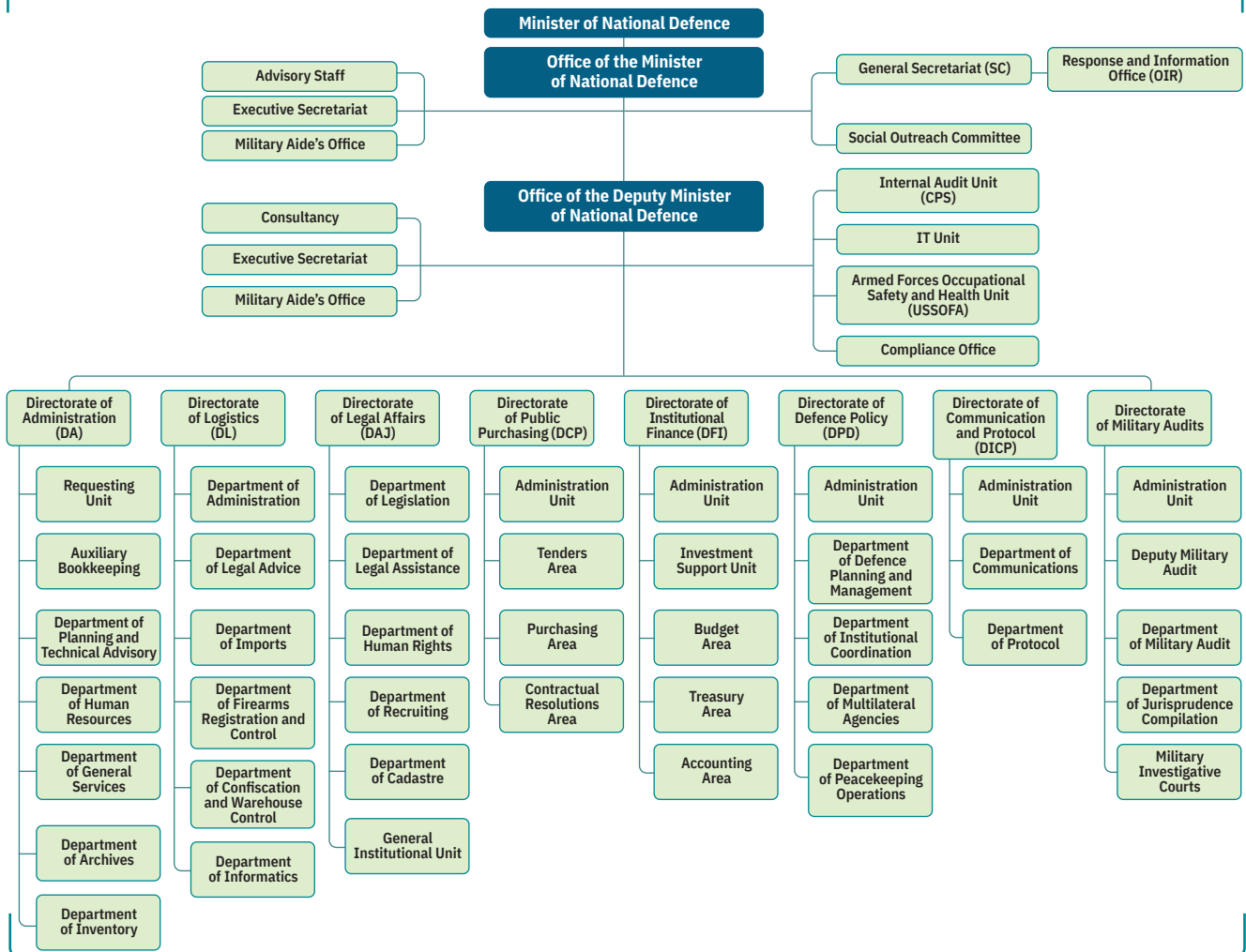
It is the body responsible for advising the President of the Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Force on matters relating to national defence policy. It is the senior leader of the Secretariat of State and the conduit for all orders and instructions emanating from the General Command to the various levels of command of the Armed Force, through the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

MANDATES

- Endorse and communicate the general orders, decrees, agreements, provisions and orders of the President concerning the Secretariat under its responsibility.
- Attend the Legislative Assembly to respond to any inquiries.
- Submit to the Legislative body a report on the work of the National Defence Branch, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- Propose the preliminary draft budget for the National Defence Branch.
- Propose draft laws related to the National Defence Branch.
- Represent before the Executive body the views and interests of the Armed Force in the discussion and analysis of national problems with regard to their constitutional function, and before the Legislative body, where necessary.
- Promote by all means the operational and administrative efficiency of the Armed Force.
- Ensure the improvement of the economic and social situation of the Armed Forces personnel, submitting to the President's consideration any necessary draft laws and regulations.
- Supervise the actions and decisions of the authorities of the Armed Force, so that they comply with the constitutional provisions, laws, regulations and doctrine in force, as well as with the national defence policy formulated by the Presidency.
- Propose to the President of the Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Force promotions, appointments, removals, assignments, resignations and licensing of members of the military, based on the proposal of the Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Force.
- Serve on the National Security Council.
- Attend meetings of the Council of Ministers.

*The year of establishment is the date on which the term "Defence" becomes part of the name of the institution

Organizational Chart



Ministry of National Defence Budget Priorities

- Support public security tasks to prevent the expansion of criminal structures in the country.
- Continue the progressive equipping of military units in order to ensure that they function optimally within their missions.
- Strengthen activities related to registration, issuance of documents, control and regulation of firearms, ammunition, explosives and similar items.
- Strengthen and modernize the branches of the Armed Force to ensure effective border surveillance.
- Improve the equipment, financial resources and facilities of soldiers to enable them to carry out their work effectively.
- Maintain and strengthen the presence of the Armed Force abroad.
- Provide medical assistance to members of the Armed Force and their family group.

Source: Compilation based on *Ley orgánica de la Fuerza Armada de El Salvador* (DL N° 353 - 1998/07/30) and the General Budget of the Nation 2024.

The Armed Forces

General Mission

The mission of the Armed Force is to defend the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the territory. The President of the Republic shall exceptionally order the Armed Force to maintain internal peace, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. The Armed Force cooperates in actions for public benefit as assigned by the Executive and assist the population in cases of national disaster. (Constitution of the Republic, Art. 212).

In 2016, the **Institutional Gender Unit** was created to promote non-discrimination, equality and equity; provide legal advice; carry out awareness activities; and promote gender equity.

Specific Missions



Army

Its mission is to defend the country's sovereignty and land, in coordination with and support of the other branches of the Armed Force; provide assistance to the population in cases of national disasters; collaborate in works of public benefit and exceptionally contribute to the maintenance of internal peace.



Navy

Its mission is to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State in territorial waters and in a combined form in the Gulf of Fonseca and the island territory in coordination with the other branches of the Armed Force; to protect maritime wealth, the national subsoil and seabed; to provide assistance to the population in cases of national disasters, to collaborate on works for the benefit of the public and exceptionally to contribute to the maintenance of internal peace, as well as performing the tasks of maritime jurisdiction for the enforcement of shipping laws; and collaborating with the respective authorities in the enforcement of tax and immigration laws.



Air Force

Defending the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of national airspace; to support ground forces in the performance of their respective missions; to provide assistance to the population in cases of national disaster; to collaborate in works of public benefit; and exceptionally to contribute to the maintenance of internal peace.

Armed Forces Personnel

Number of Personnel

OFFICERS

3,976

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS (NCOs)

1,477

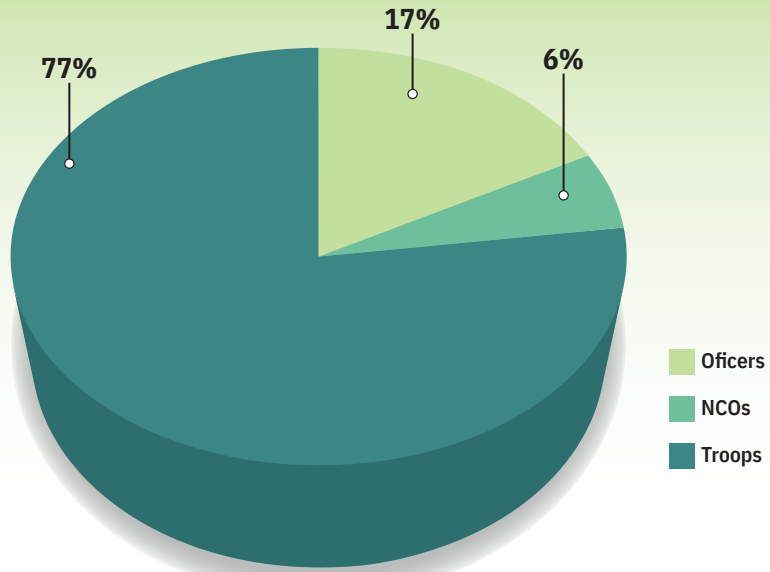
TROOPS

18,570

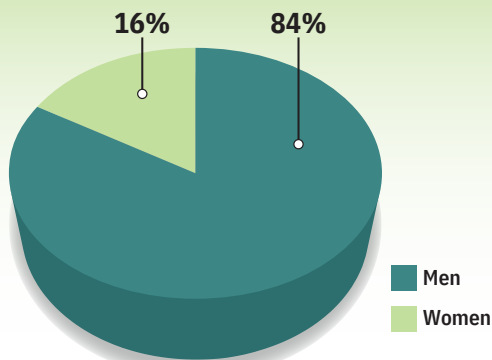
TOTAL:

24,023

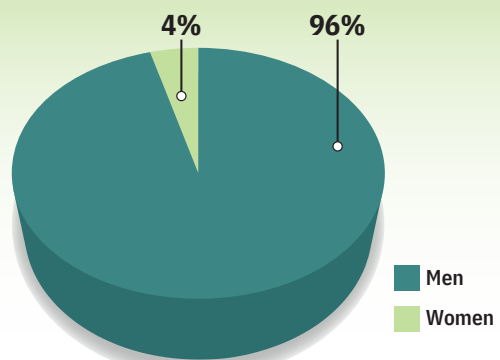
Personnel. Distribution by Rank.



Officers. Distribution by Sex



Troops. Distribution by Sex



Source: Compilation based on *Ley Orgánica de la Fuerza Armada de El Salvador* (DL N° 353 - 1998/07/30). Personnel: most recent reliable data 2016.

Women in the Armed Forces

Highest Rank Attained

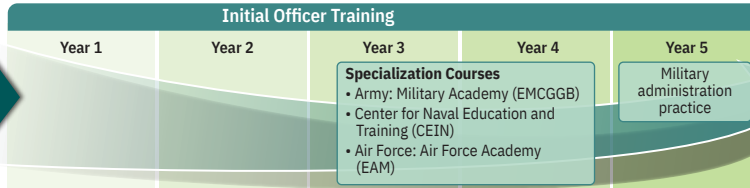


Of the total Armed Force, **11.7%** are women

Note: These ranks correspond to the Army, as an example. The equivalent rank for Lieutenant is Lieutenant in the Air Force and Lieutenant Senior Grade in Navy. The Command corps includes officers who have been educated at military academies from the beginning of their careers, different to those who develop a career in the civilian sphere and are then incorporated to the military.

Military Education

MILITARY ACADEMY
Men and women
aged 17 - 22



Graduate as:
• Second Lieutenant of the Armed Force
• Bachelor in Military Administration

Military Service

Compulsory for all men. Women can voluntarily enter. In March 2011, Art. 5 of the Military Service and Reserve Act was reformed, providing that military service shall be for a period of 18 months.

Military Exercises

The Armed Forces conducted various exercises in the national territory during 2022 and 2023, including tasks of border protection, territorial control, public security and community support.

They regularly participate in bilateral and multilateral military exercises, especially with neighbouring countries of the region. These include:



Multinational exercises:

RESOLUTE SENTINEL 2023: multinational, conducted annually.

Multinational PANAMAX: Among others, final conference of planning and execution of the exercise.

UNITAS: multinational, conducted annually.



Guardian of Central America 2023: annual multinational exercise with Honduras, Guatemala and the United States, to improve cooperation in military matters.

Participation in Peace Operations

MINUSMA MALI
Men
4 Troops

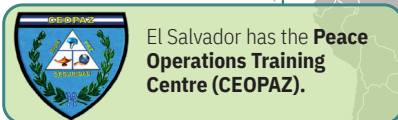
MINURSO WESTERN SAHARA
Men
1 EM

UNISFA ABYEI
Men
1 EM

UNIFIL LEBANON
Men
47 Troops
Women
5 Troops

UNMISS SOUTH SUDAN
Men
1 EM
Women
1 SO

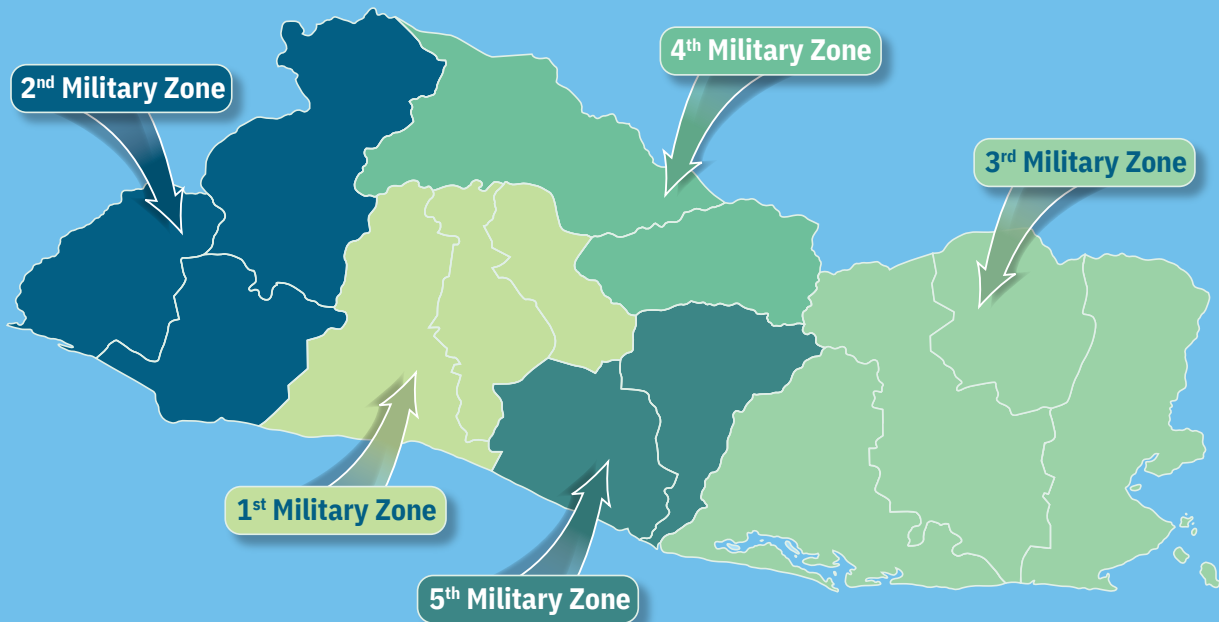
EM: Experts on Mission
SO: Military Staff Officers.



El Salvador contributes **60** military personnel to United Nations peace operations, which represent **3%** of the total contributed by Latin America.

Source: Compilation based on the official website of the Ministry of National Defence of El Salvador and statistics from the official website of the UN Department for Peace Operations, Contribution of Uniformed Personnel to UN by Mission and Personnel Type, in its various submissions. Data closed as of April 2024.

Community Support



Dengue Fumigation Campaigns

Eradication days are held to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and prevent the spread of dengue in all areas of the country.

Permanent Patrols in Rural and Urban Areas

Elements are deployed in commercial and tourist areas.

Territorial Control Plan

It is the government strategy to reduce crime rates and strengthen public security with the participation of the Armed Force, which, in coordination with the National Police, carry out security operations throughout the territory.

Deployment in Public Transport

Elements of the Armed Force maintain their deployment at stops and boarding points for public transport, providing a preventive presence.

Internal Order

The San Carlos Command provided support to the General Directorate of Penal Centres, with the deployment of Task Groups and Penal Support Groups. External security, deterrent patrols and vehicle checks were carried out in 9 high-risk penal centres.

Perimeter security operations were also carried out in 4 less-risk penal centres to strengthen security.

In 2022, 310 Joint Community Support Groups, together with the National Police, were deployed to 565 schools at risk. Foot patrols, vehicle checks and patrols, and search of persons and vehicles were carried out.

The Zeus Command carried out preventive patrols in 22 municipalities in 14 departments, supporting the public security tasks of the National Police. Foot patrols, vehicle checks and patrols, searches of persons and vehicles, and seizure of drugs, firearms and money.

Sumpul Task Force

Responsible for permanently guarding the border crossings not enabled, combating transnational crime networks, and supporting the General Directorate of Immigration and General Directorate of Customs. Carries out constant patrols in the area, and preventive ground and air duties to prevent drug trafficking, human trafficking, tax evasion and smuggling.

The Sumpul Task Force performed in 2022:

- 110,572 foot patrols.
- 35,880 vehicle checks and patrols.
- 90,000 records of people.
- 1,388 apprehensions.
- Seizure of 149.61 pounds of drugs and 84 marijuana plants.
- Seizure of 33 firearms.
- 241 interventions during attempted migration to the United States.

Trident Naval Task Force

Responsible for conducting operations to maintain control of the country's maritime interests and combat threats from drug trafficking, illegal fishing, immigration, piracy, and smuggling. It coordinates with local and national authorities, and maintains constant patrols in the territorial sea.

Naval Task Force Trident also performs community support and emergency response tasks at sea.

Vulcano Task Force

Responsible for public security tasks in the capital, in support of the National Police. It seeks to minimize criminal actions in order to ensure security, starting with the conduct of patrols, searches and controls. The Vulcano Task Force also performs community support tasks, delivering food parcels to vulnerable populations in the capital.