



GUATEMALA



Population 18,092,000 inhabitants

Territorial Extension 108,890 km²

GDP (US\$) 110,035,000,000

GDP per capita (US\$) 6,081

Armed Forces Personnel 19,276

Defence Budget (US\$): 411,683,024

The Ministry of National Defence was established in 1945.

Legal Framework

National Legislation

Systems and Concepts

Constitutive Law of the Guatemalan Army (DL N° 72-90 – 1990/12/13. Last Amendment: DL N° 14-2022 – 2022/03/18).

Law of the Executive Body (DL N° 114-97 – 1997/12/12. Last Amendment: DL N° 1 - 2012 – 2012/02/07).

Civil Security Forces Support Act (DL N° 40-2000 – 2000/06/16).

Law on the General Directorate for Civil Intelligence (DL N° 71-2005 – 2005/10/12).

Framework Law on the National Security System (DL N° 18-2008 – 2008/04/15).

Military Organization

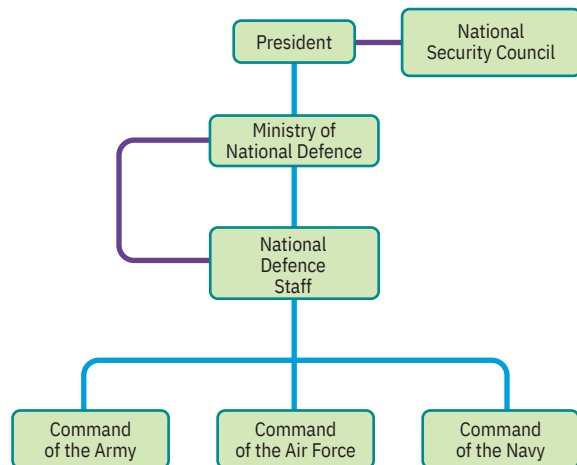
Military Code (Decree N° 214 – 1878/09/15. Last Amendment: Decree N° 41-96 – 1996/07/10).

Organic Law of the Military Social Security Institute (DL N° 75-84 – 1984/07/20. Last Amendment: DL N° 52-2022 – 2022/11/07).

Law on civic service (Decree N° 20-03 – 2003/05/12).

Law on weapons and ammunition (Decree N° 15-09 – 2009/04/21. Last Amendment: Decree N° 6-2017 – 2017/04/03).

The Defence System



Advisory and assistance functional relationship

Command reporting line

The **Technical Secretariat of the National Security Council** is the permanent, professional and specialized body that ensures the functioning of the Council through technical and administrative support. Its duties include:

- Carry out the technical and administrative tasks required for the functioning of the Council.
- Formulate the draft national security policy.
- Follow up policies, plans and directives as determined by the Council.
- Keep communication mechanisms active between members of the system.

The President is advised by the National Security Council, composed of the Vice-President, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Interior and Defence, the Secretary for Strategic Intelligence and the Attorney-General. The President issues the orders through a General or Senior Officer who holds the position of Minister of Defence, who has the General Staff of the National Defence Staff as technical and consulting body, responsible for the command of the Army.

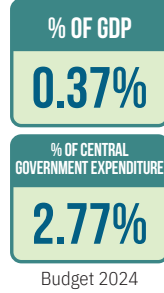
The Congress exercises the powers conferred by the Constitution and monitors defence matters on a permanent basis through the National Defence Committee.

Source: Compilation based on the *Ley marco del sistema nacional de seguridad* (DL N° 18-2008 – 2008/04/15); and *Ley Constitutiva del Ejército de Guatemala* (DL N° 72-90 – 1990/12/13).

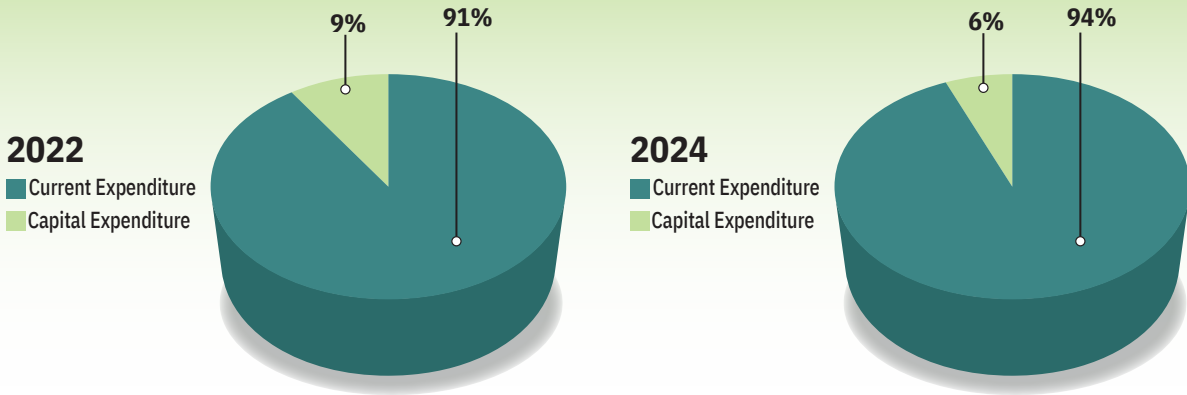
The Budget

Defence Budget, 2024 (in Quetzales).

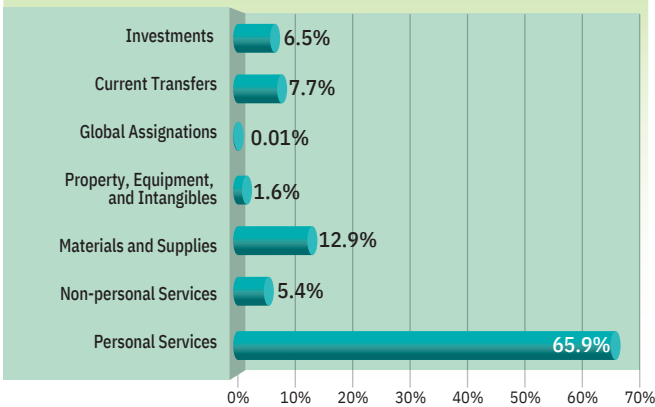
Description	Total
Central Activities	848,425,626
Activities common to Education, Health and Shipyard Services Programmes	401,234,491
Defence of Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity	1,356,400,896
Risk Management and Environmental Protection	205,366,316
Protection of Aquatic Areas	9,727,950
Internal and External Security	202,452,391
Non-programme Items	198,643,590
TOTAL	3,222,251,260



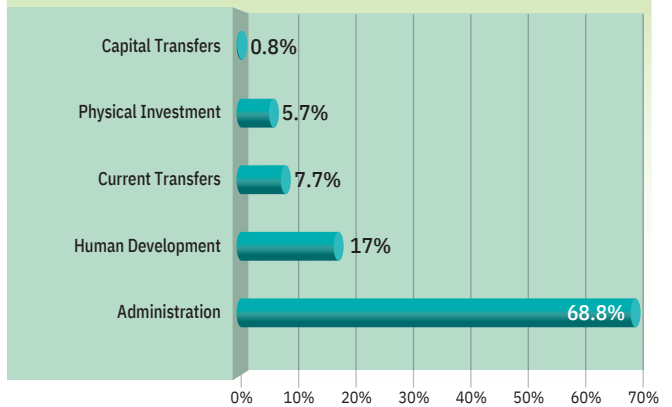
Current and Capital Expenditure



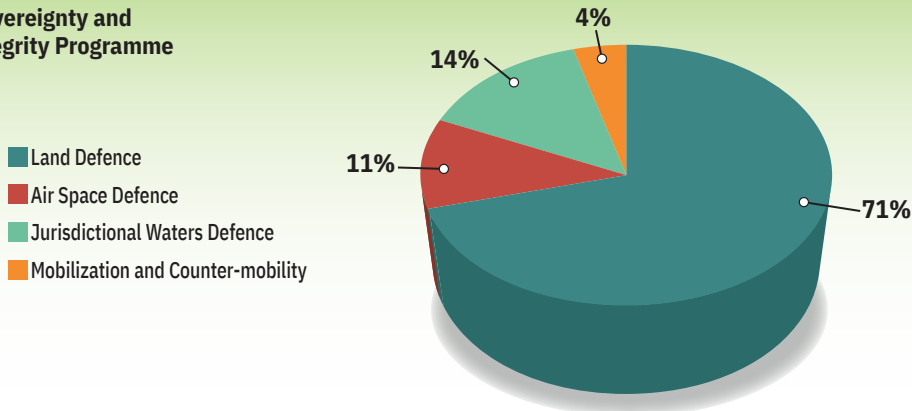
Budget by Object of Expenditure, 2024



Distribution by Subgroup



Defence of Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity Programme



Source: Compilation based on the Ministry of Public Finances, *Acuerdo Gubernativo 1-2024*; General Budget of the State Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2023 and Multi-annual 2023-2027. IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024). Bank of Guatemala (Exchange Rate: 1 US\$ = 7.82702 Quetzales, January 2024).

The Ministry of National Defence

YEAR OF CREATION*

1945

Average Tenure in Office for Ministers:
1 YEAR AND 5 MONTHS

MISSION

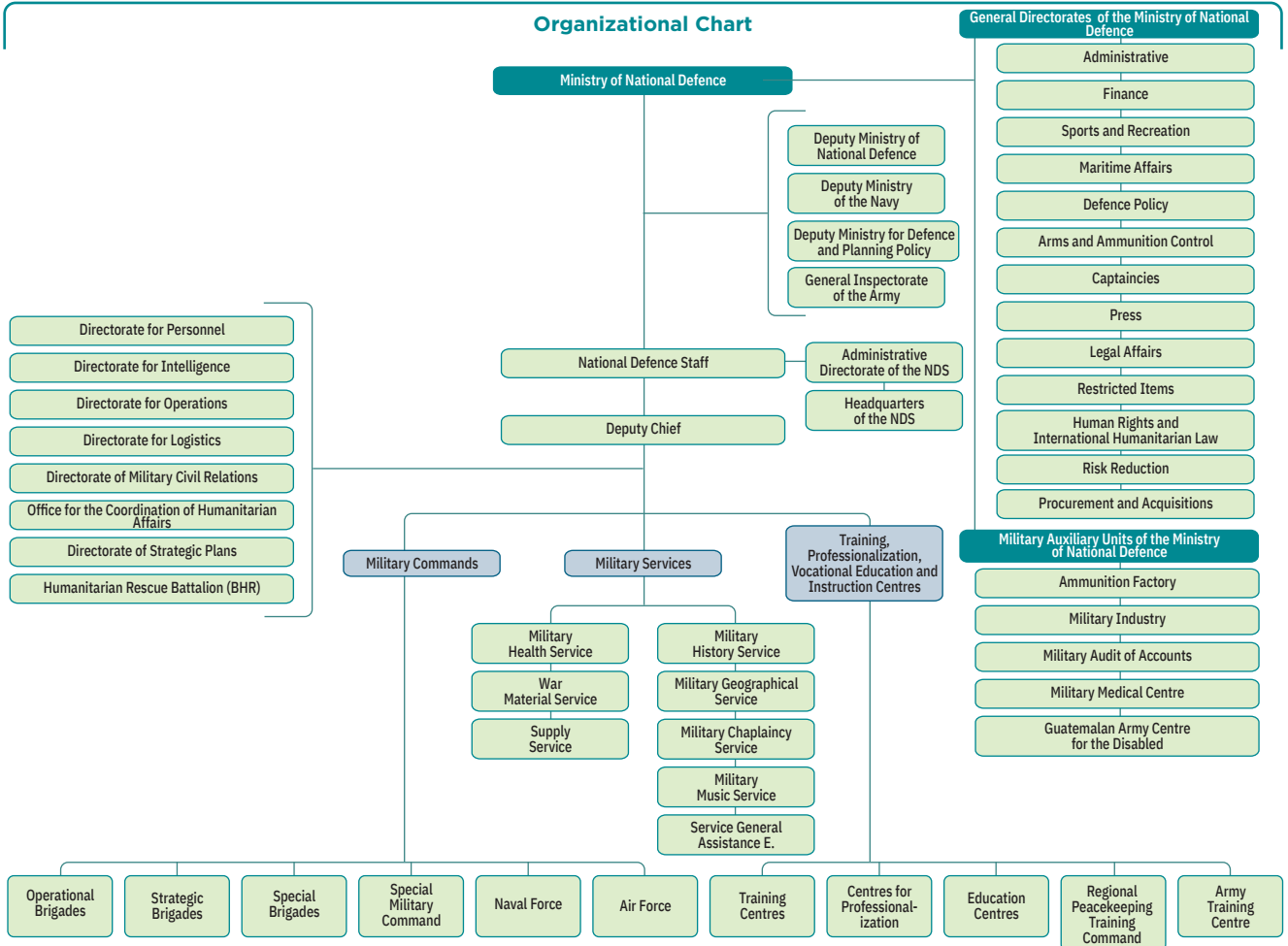
Maintain the independence, sovereignty and honour of Guatemala; the integrity of the territory, peace and internal and external security.
Exercise, under the orders of the President, command and administration of the Guatemalan Army
It serves as the communication body between the Guatemalan Army and other State agencies.

MANDATES

- Issue the necessary measures to maintain the sovereignty and integrity of the national territory and to protect and guard the borders.
- Act as the communication conduit between the Presidency and the Army, and constitute the general administrative, organizational and managerial centre for the Army.
- Oversee everything related to the regime, mobilization and doctrine of the Army, in accordance with its Constitutive Law.
- Manage the acquisition, production, maintenance and improvement of war equipment.
- Address matters related to the hierarchy, discipline, instruction and health of troops and quartering places.
- Administer matters related to military promotions, withdrawals and exceptions in accordance with the law, and act in accordance with the Political Constitution and other laws concerning the administration of justice to members of the Army.
- Organize and administer the military services established by law and military logistics; controlling, in accordance with the law, production, import, export, consumption, storage, transfer, loan, transformation, transport, acquisition, possession, disposal, conservation of military-type weapons intended for military use, ammunition, explosives and all kinds of flammable substances for military use.
- Take the necessary measures to ensure that, in the event of a restriction on constitutional rights, the military authorities assume their respective powers and issue appropriate orders for the provision of their cooperation in cases of emergency or public calamity, in accordance with the Law of Public Order.

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

Organizational Chart



National Defence Policy

Presented in 2022 in the framework of the bicentennial of national Independence, sets out the following substantive pillars:

Defence of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Environmental protection and management for disaster risk reduction.

Governance, security and prosperity.

Regulation of aquatic spaces.

Eight transformation axes are established:

- 1) socio-human;
- 2) political-economic;
- 3) environmental;
- 4) energy;
- 5) technology;
- 6) nutrition;
- 7) geostrategic;
- 8) intelligence.

Source: Compilation based on the *Ley del Organismo Ejecutivo* (DL N° 114-97 – 1997/12/12); *Política Nacional de Defensa* 2021-2032; and Ministry of National Defence, Operative Multi-annual Plan 2024-2028.

The Armed Forces

General Mission

The Guatemalan Army is an institution designed to maintain the independence, sovereignty and honor of Guatemala, territorial integrity, peace and internal and external security. It is composed of forces of land, air and maritime forces. Its organization is hierarchical and based on the principles of discipline and obedience. The Army will cooperate in public emergency or calamity situations. (Political Constitution, Arts. 244 and 249).

TOTAL ARMED FORCES
19,276

Special Missions



Army

Its fundamental mission is the preservation of territorial integrity, ground deterrence and the organization for the military defence of the Nation, as well as structuring the human, territorial, economic and material resources assigned to it by the State. In peacetime, its principal efforts will be devoted to education, training, strategic readiness, peacekeeping operations and humanitarian support missions, both domestically and abroad. Its mission also includes organizing, training and equipping the forces necessary to react effectively and conduct military operations of any nature (territorial integrity, deterrence and ground military defence) as ordered by the senior leadership.



Naval Force

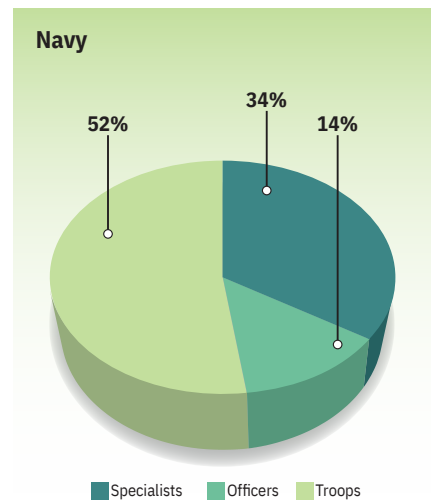
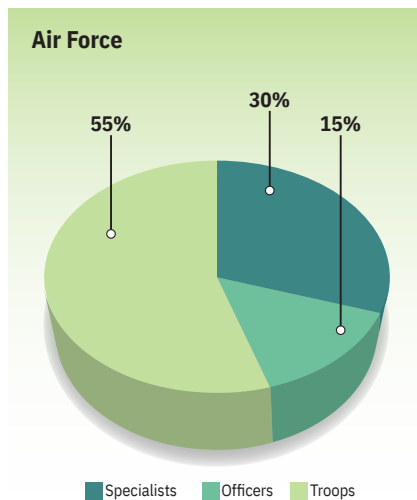
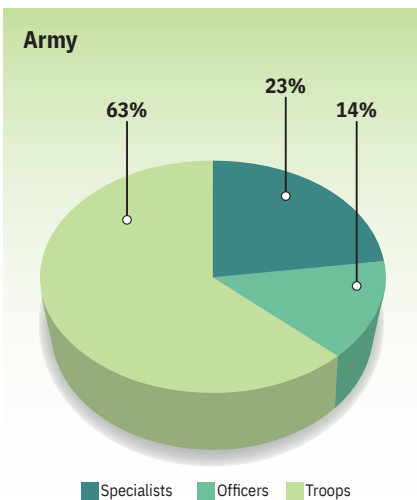
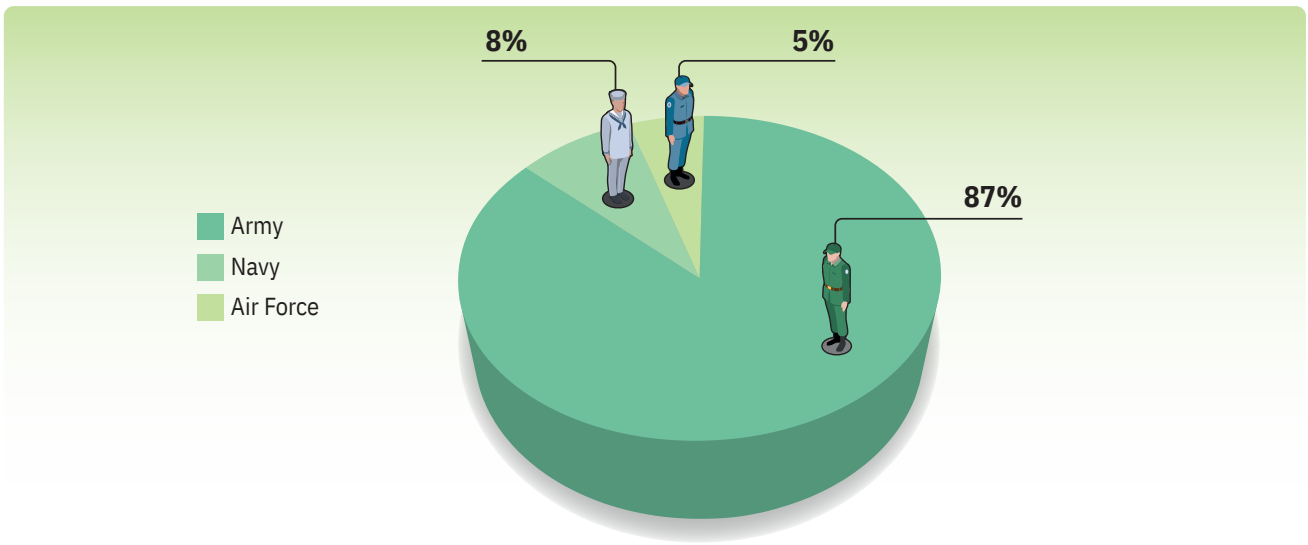
Guarantee national sovereignty in the maritime territory, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone, and inland waters, lakes and rivers of the Republic, exerting control over maritime borders in order to contribute, together with the Army and the Air Force, to ensure national defence.



Air Force

Conduct air operations to maintain and guarantee the sovereignty of national airspace, including through aerial warfare and dissuasion, as well as support land and maritime units, with the purpose of neutralizing any threat against national objectives. It shall also cooperate with other State institutions in national efforts.

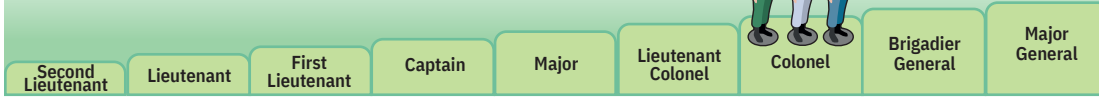
Distribution of Personnel



Source: Compilation based on the General Budget of the State Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2023, the official website of the Ministry of National Defence and Constitutive Law of the Guatemalan Army (DL N° 72-90 - 1990/12/13. Last Amendment: DL N° 14-2022 - 2022/03/18); percentages according to last reliable data 2016.

Women in the Armed Forces

Highest Rank Attained in Officer Ranks



Of the total number of Armed Forces **15.7%** are women.

Note: Army hierarchy, for illustrative purposes. In the Navy, Colonel is equivalent to Captain. In the Air Force, the name of the rank is the same.

Policy on Military Women in the Guatemalan Army

Launched in 2024, its objective is to strengthen the observance and enforcement of the rights of women serving in the military so that their development is integral and meritocratic in all areas of the Guatemalan Army.

The Policy addresses the issue of women in the Armed Forces, based on six strategic axes:



Military Education



Military Aviation School / 1913

Military Pilot training course.

Military Aviation Technical School / 1983

Training in: Air Reserve Assistants; Aircraft Mechanic Expert; Bachelor of Science and Humanities.

Naval School of Guatemala / 1960

Training of Naval Officers.

School of Communications and Electronics/ 1981

Training of personnel in the areas of telecommunications and electricity.

Military School of Music / 1872

Bachelor of Science and Arts with a specialization in music.

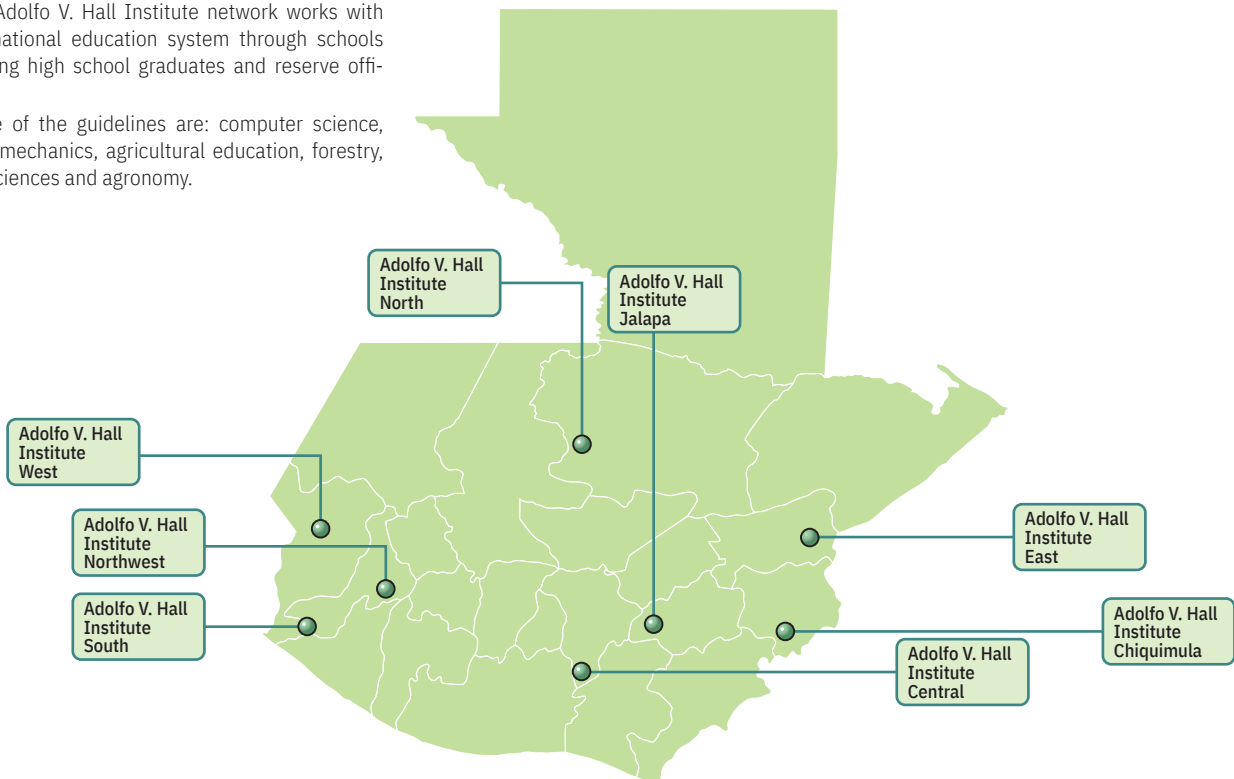
Military School of Nursing Assistants

Training of Nursing Assistants.

Adolfo V. Hall Institutes

The Adolfo V. Hall Institute network works with the national education system through schools training high school graduates and reserve officers.

Some of the guidelines are: computer science, auto mechanics, agricultural education, forestry, life sciences and agronomy.



Source: Compilation based on the official website of the Ministry of National Defence and *Política de la Mujer Militar del Ejército de Guatemala*.

Civic Military Service

In November 2010, by Government Agreement No. 345-2010, the Regulations of the Law on Civic Service were approved. These regulations define the modality of civic service, its organization, principles, forms of participation, exceptions and modalities for providing the service. The purpose of this training is to train Guatemalans for armed defence.

Civic service is aimed at young people between 18 and 24 years of age, through the completion of 728 hours of service. Young people aged 16 and under 18 may perform civic service in the social sphere. Methods of providing civic service:

Military service:
Performed in the different military commands, services and units.

Social Service:
Civil in nature, it focuses on the implementation of programs, projects and services for collective benefit and community assistance.

Military Exercises

The Armed Forces conducted several exercises in the national territory during 2022 and 2023. They regularly participate in bilateral and multilateral military exercises, especially with neighbouring countries of the region. These include:



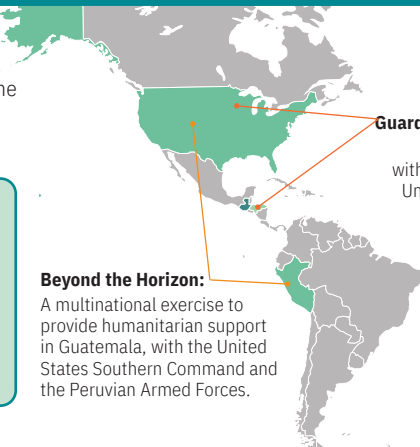
Multinational:

Multinational Combined Exercise Cooperation IX: multinational with Forces members of SICOFAA.

RESOLUTE SENTINEL: multinational conducted annually.

UNITAS: multinational conducted annually.

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

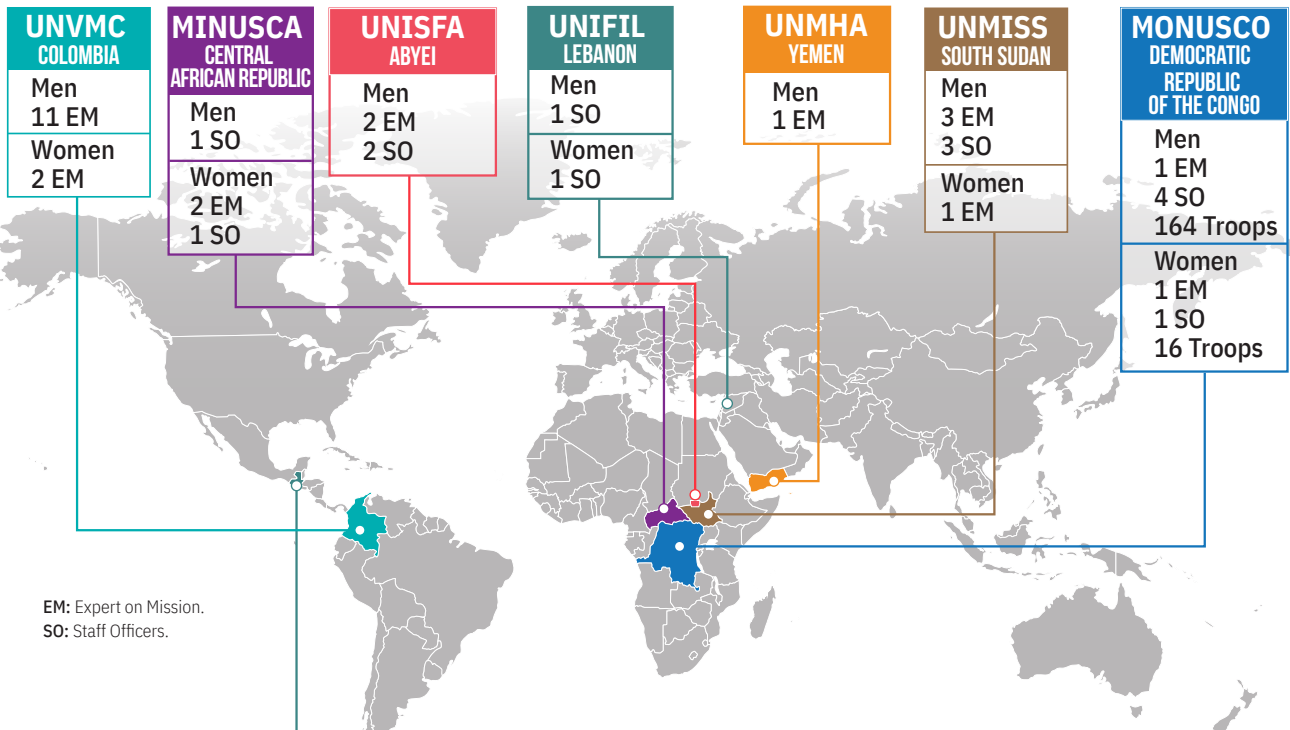


Guardian of Central America 2023: annual multinational exercise, with Honduras, Guatemala and the United States, to improve military cooperation.

Beyond the Horizon:

A multinational exercise to provide humanitarian support in Guatemala, with the United States Southern Command and the Peruvian Armed Forces.

Participation in Peace Operations



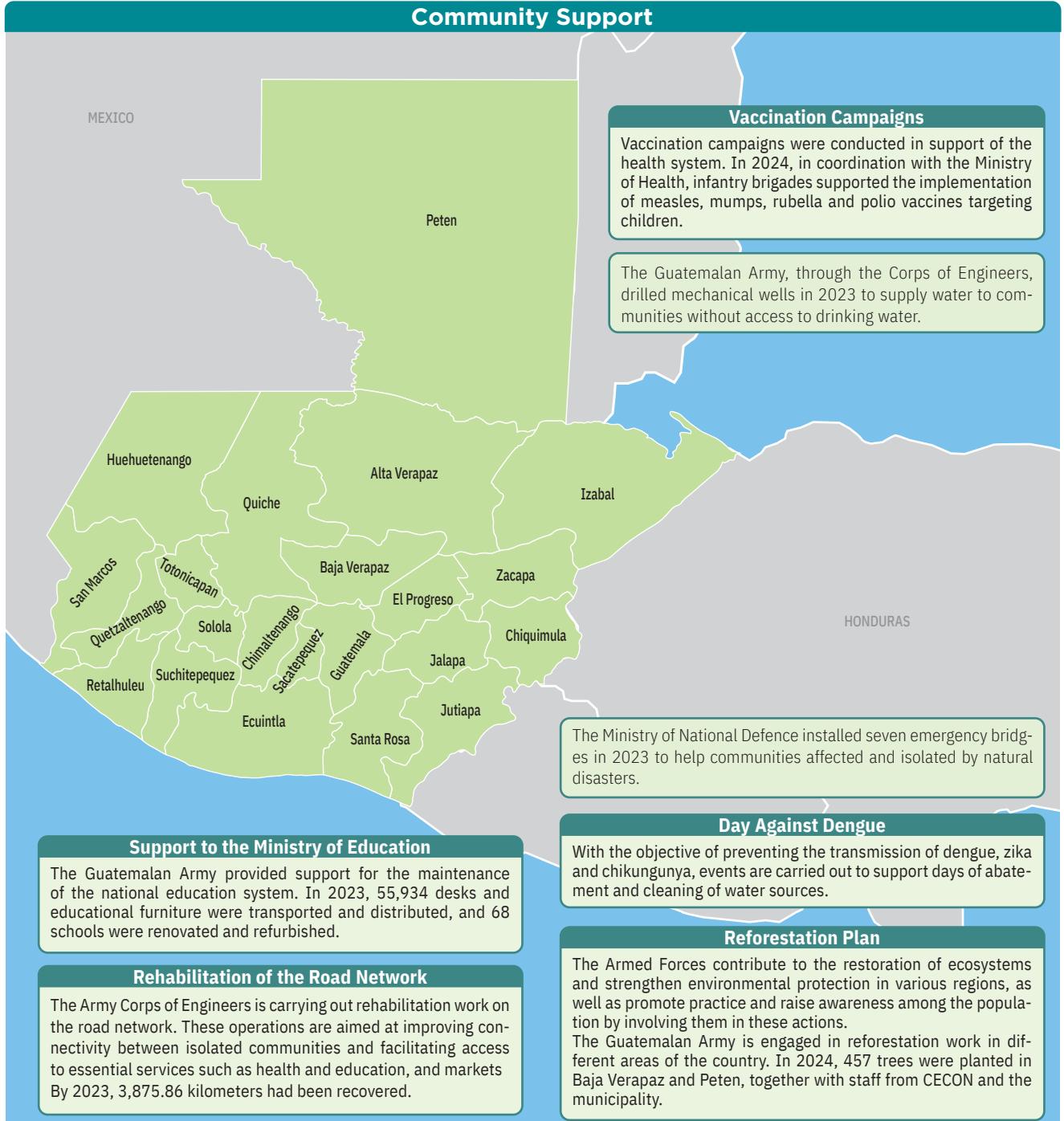
EM: Expert on Mission.
SO: Staff Officers.

Guatemala has the **Regional Peacekeeping Operations Training Centre (CREOMPAZ)**, established in 2005.

Guatemala contributes **218** military personnel to United Nations peace operations, which represent **10.82%** per cent of the total contributed by Latin America.

Source: Compilation based on the *Ley del Servicio Cívico* (Decreto N° 20-2003); *Reglamento del Servicio Cívico* (AG 345-2010); and statistics from the official website of the UN Department of 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



Vaccination Campaigns

Vaccination campaigns were conducted in support of the health system. In 2024, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, infantry brigades supported the implementation of measles, mumps, rubella and polio vaccines targeting children.

The Guatemalan Army, through the Corps of Engineers, drilled mechanical wells in 2023 to supply water to communities without access to drinking water.

Support to the Ministry of Education

The Guatemalan Army provided support for the maintenance of the national education system. In 2023, 55,934 desks and educational furniture were transported and distributed, and 68 schools were renovated and refurbished.

Rehabilitation of the Road Network

The Army Corps of Engineers is carrying out rehabilitation work on the road network. These operations are aimed at improving connectivity between isolated communities and facilitating access to essential services such as health and education, and markets. By 2023, 3,875.86 kilometers had been recovered.

Day Against Dengue

With the objective of preventing the transmission of dengue, zika and chikungunya, events are carried out to support days of abatement and cleaning of water sources.

Reforestation Plan

The Armed Forces contribute to the restoration of ecosystems and strengthen environmental protection in various regions, as well as promote practice and raise awareness among the population by involving them in these actions. The Guatemalan Army is engaged in reforestation work in different areas of the country. In 2024, 457 trees were planted in Baja Verapaz and Peten, together with staff from CECON and the municipality.

The Ministry of National Defence installed seven emergency bridges in 2023 to help communities affected and isolated by natural disasters.

Risk and Emergency Management

National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED)

It is a decentralized entity created to prevent disasters or reduce their impact on society. It consists of:

- Public and private sector units and entities.
- The Minister of National Defence is the coordinator of the National Council, or in his absence, its deputy.
- The Executive Board for Disaster Reduction is the body responsible for taking decisions on immediate and urgent implementation, and consists of the Coordination of the National Council, the Executive Secretariat of CONRED, and any member of the National Council who is not a State official.

To manage disaster and emergency response, CONRED works with:

Center for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid and Assistance

Responsible for coordinating the process of administering international humanitarian aid and assistance, it is activated when national response capacities are exceeded. It is a temporary mechanism whose validity depends on the magnitude of the disaster or emergency.

Incident Command System

It seeks to bring all response groups (such as Fire departments, Police, Emergency Committees, Armed Forces, etc.) under the same system in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the response, as well as a rapid, coordinated and effective deployment.

Source: Compilation based on the *Memoria de Labores 2023-2024 del Ministerio de Defensa Nacional*; the official X account of the Guatemalan Army; the official website of the CONRED; and the *Informe de Rendición de Cuentas del Ministerio de Defensa Nacional 2023*.

Risk and Emergency Management

Guatemalan Army Humanitarian and Rescue Brigade

It is responsible, within the Guatemalan Army, for carrying out humanitarian and rescue operations, under orders from the National Defence Headquarters. As part of the CONRED National Response Plan, it aims to assist in the event of disasters or emergencies caused by natural or human-induced events and in humanitarian assistance at the national and international levels, at the request of any State.

It has the **Training, Humanitarian Assistance and Rescue School**, and conducts drills to improve preparedness and response to a disaster or emergency.



Flood Relief Support

The Guatemalan Army carries out flood support operations. In the first months of 2024, 231 support operations were carried out in the departments of Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango, Solola, Escuintla and Sacatepequez. Employed 2,318 personnel and benefited approximately 6,337.

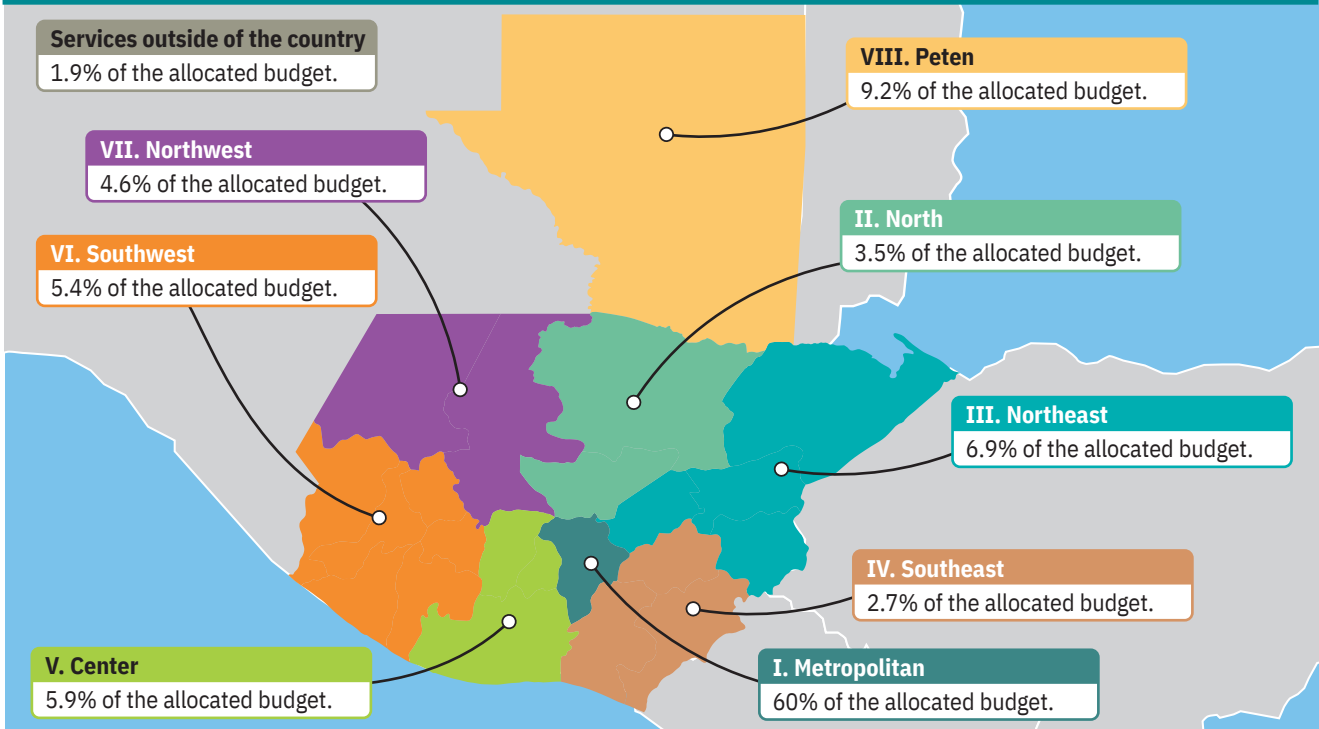
Assistance with Wildfire Management

In support of the National Coordination for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) and the National Council for Protected Areas (CONAP), the Guatemalan Army, with its specialized units, carries out forest fire mitigation operations. In 2023, operations were carried out that allowed to mitigate 3,889 hectares of fire.

Protection of Aquatic Areas

In 2023, 33,851 operations were carried out for the regulation of boats and ships in aquatic spaces. Patrols, visits and inspections were carried out to protect life and the aquatic environment.

Internal Order



Inter-institutional Operations

The Guatemalan Army, in conjunction with the National Civil Police, the Inter-Agency Council for the Prevention of Tax Fraud and Smuggling and the National Council for Protected Areas, carried out 251,162 military operations in 2023 to ensure the security of the population.

In 2023, the Army disabled and destroyed 13 clandestine landing strips in the departments of Peten, Retalhuleu, Escuintla, and Alta Verapaz.

Military Operations Against Transnational Organized Crime

In 2023, based on the operations conducted by the Guatemalan Army, the following was achieved:

- Seizure of 3,621 packages of cocaine.
- Seizure of 3 aircrafts.
- Eradication of 539,248 marijuana plants; 7,976,525 coca shrubs; and 321,983 opium poppy plants.

Territorial Control Plan in Border Areas

It aims to strengthen security in the border areas of the country and combat any transnational threat. It is led by the Ministries of Interior and National Defence, unifying efforts for the development of joint operations at the borders.

In 2023, the Guatemalan Army conducted 900 operations on the border between Guatemala and Mexico. Checkpoints were also established along various border routes to ensure the safety of the population.

In 2023, the Guatemalan Army, together with El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico, conducted 31,364 bi-national patrols to control vehicular and fluvial crossings at borders.

Source: Compilation based on the Multi-annual Operative Plan 2024-2028 of the Ministry of National Defence; official website of the Ministry of National Defence; and the official X account of the Army of Guatemala.