



HONDURAS



Population 10,593,800 inhabitants

Territorial Extension 112,490 km²

GDP (US\$) 37,355,000,000

GDP per capita (US\$) 3,526

Armed Forces Personnel 19,786

Defence Budget (US\$) 461,868,166

The Secretariat of National Defence was created in 1954.

The Legal Framework

National Legislation

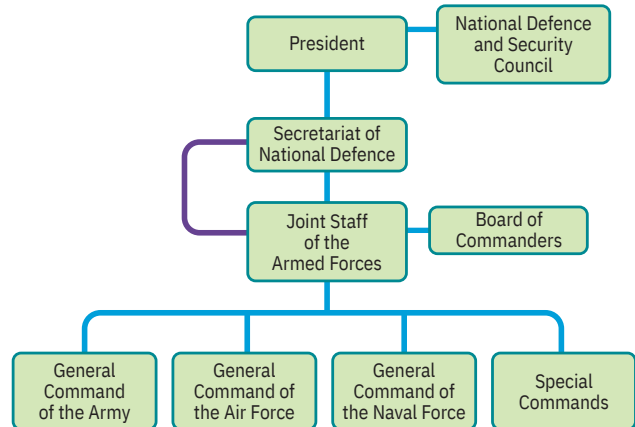
Systems and concepts

Law on Military Social Security (Decree N° 905 – 1980/04/29).
 Constitutional Law of the Armed Forces (Decree N° 39 – 2001/10/29. Last Amendment: Decree N° 230 - 2013/02/27).
 Special Law on the National Defence and Security Council (Decree N° 239 - 2011/12/12).
 National Intelligence Act (Decree N° 211- 2013/04/15).
 Inter-institutional Security Strategy Law and Comprehensive Government Security Response (TIGRES) (Decree N° 103 - 2013/06/27).
 Law on the protection of airspace sovereignty (Decree N° 347 - 2014/03/03).
 Firearms, ammunition, explosives and related materials control Act (Decree N° 101 – 2019/02/08. Last Amendment: Decree N° 146 – 2023/04/03).
 Law on transparency and access to public information and its rules of procedure (Decree N° 170 – 2006/12/30. Last Amendment: Decree N° 60 – 2022/07/02).
 Law for the classification of public documents related to national security and defence (Decree N° 418 –2014/03/07. Last Amendment: Decree N° 12 – 2022/03/15).

Military Organization

Military Penal Code (Decree N° 76 - 1906/03/01. Last Amendment: Decree N° 47 - 1937/01/22).
 Law on military service (Decree N° 98 - 1985/08/22).
 Personnel Act for members of the Armed Forces (Decree N° 231 - 2005/10/11).
 Law on the Military Social Security Institute (Decree N° 167 - 2006/11/27).
 Law on the Military Police of Public Order (Decree N° 168 - 2013/08/24. Last Amendment: Decree N° 286 - 2014/02/14).

The Defence System



Advisory and assistance functional relationship

Command reporting line

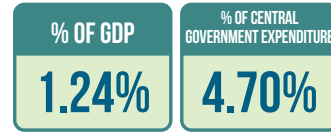
The President may receive the advice of the National Defence and Security Council. They exercise command of the Armed Forces, either directly or through the Secretary of Defence, who in turn has the Joint Staff as the highest military technical body for advice, planning, coordination and supervision. The Board of Commanders is the consultative body, composed of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Inspector General of the Armed Forces and the General Commanders of the Armed Forces. The Congress exercises the powers granted by the Constitution and permanently monitors defence-related issues through the National Defence Committee.

Source: Compilation based on the Political Constitution, *Ley Constitutiva de las Fuerzas Armadas* (Decree N° 39 – 2001/29/10. Last Amendment: Decree N° 230 – 2013/02/27, and *Ley Especial del Consejo Nacional de Defensa y Seguridad* (Decree N° 239 – 2011/12/12).

The Budget

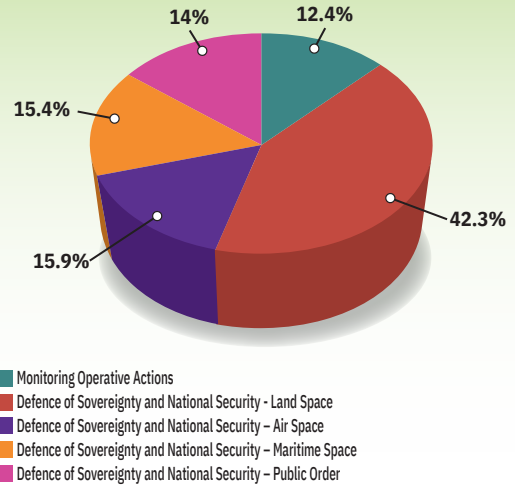
Defence Budget, 2024 (in Lempiras)

Programs	Amount
Central Activities	781,562,814
National Defence Strategic System	855,654,775
Defence of National Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity	8,184,445,616
National Security Operational Systems	729,983,869
Military Health System	161,783,178
Support Operations to Ecosystem and Environmental Sustainability	67,231,141
Industrial Production of the Honduran Armed Forces	208,618,108
Institutional Support Operations Command	197,231,335
Training and University Promotion	64,926,265
Transfers	134,213,623
TOTAL	11,385,650,724

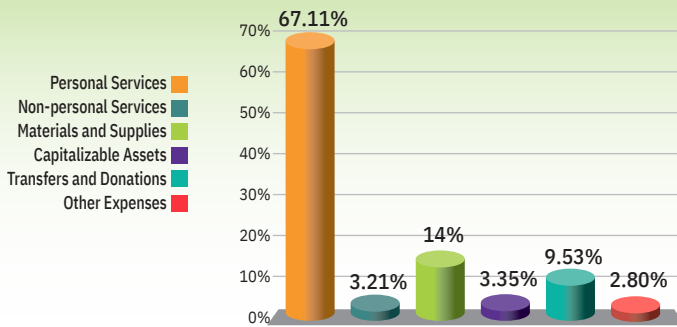


Budget 2024

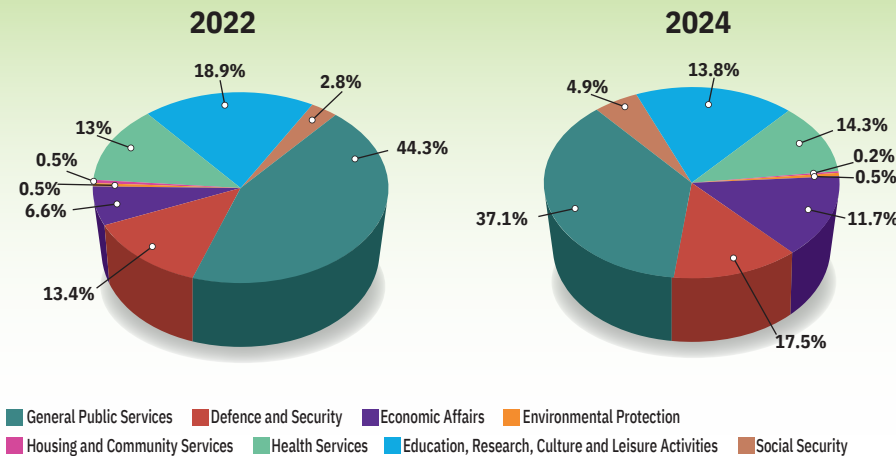
Defence of National Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity Programme



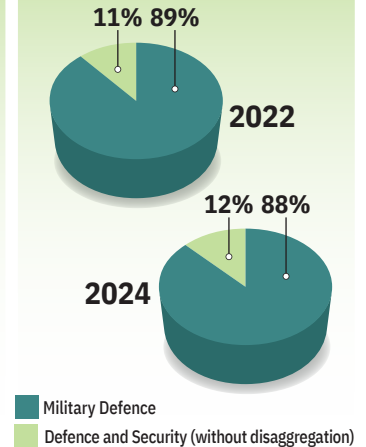
Budget by Expenditure Item



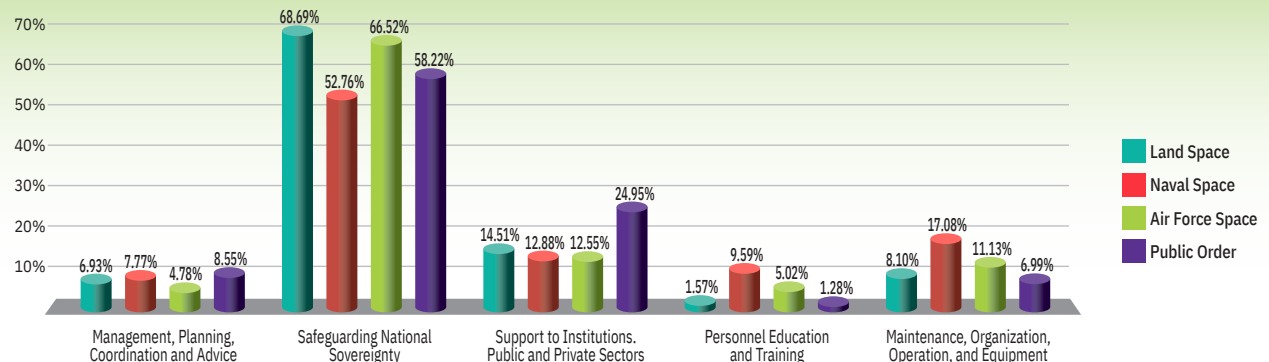
General Budget by Function



Distribution, Defence and Security Function



Sovereignty Defence Programme, by Spaces



Source: Compilation based on *Ley orgánica del presupuesto*, Decreto Legislativo 62/2023, and information available on the Secretariat of Finances, SEFIN. IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024). Central Bank of Honduras (Exchange Rate: 1 US\$ = 24.6513 Lempiras, January 2024).

The Secretariat of National Defence

YEAR OF CREATION*

1954

**Average Tenure in Office for Secretaries:
2 YEARS 6 MONTHS**

MISSION

The Secretariat of National Defence is the State institution responsible for advising the President of the Republic on the formulation, coordination, implementation and evaluation of national defence policies; as well as managing the resources necessary to ensure the effective performance of the missions assigned to the Armed Forces.

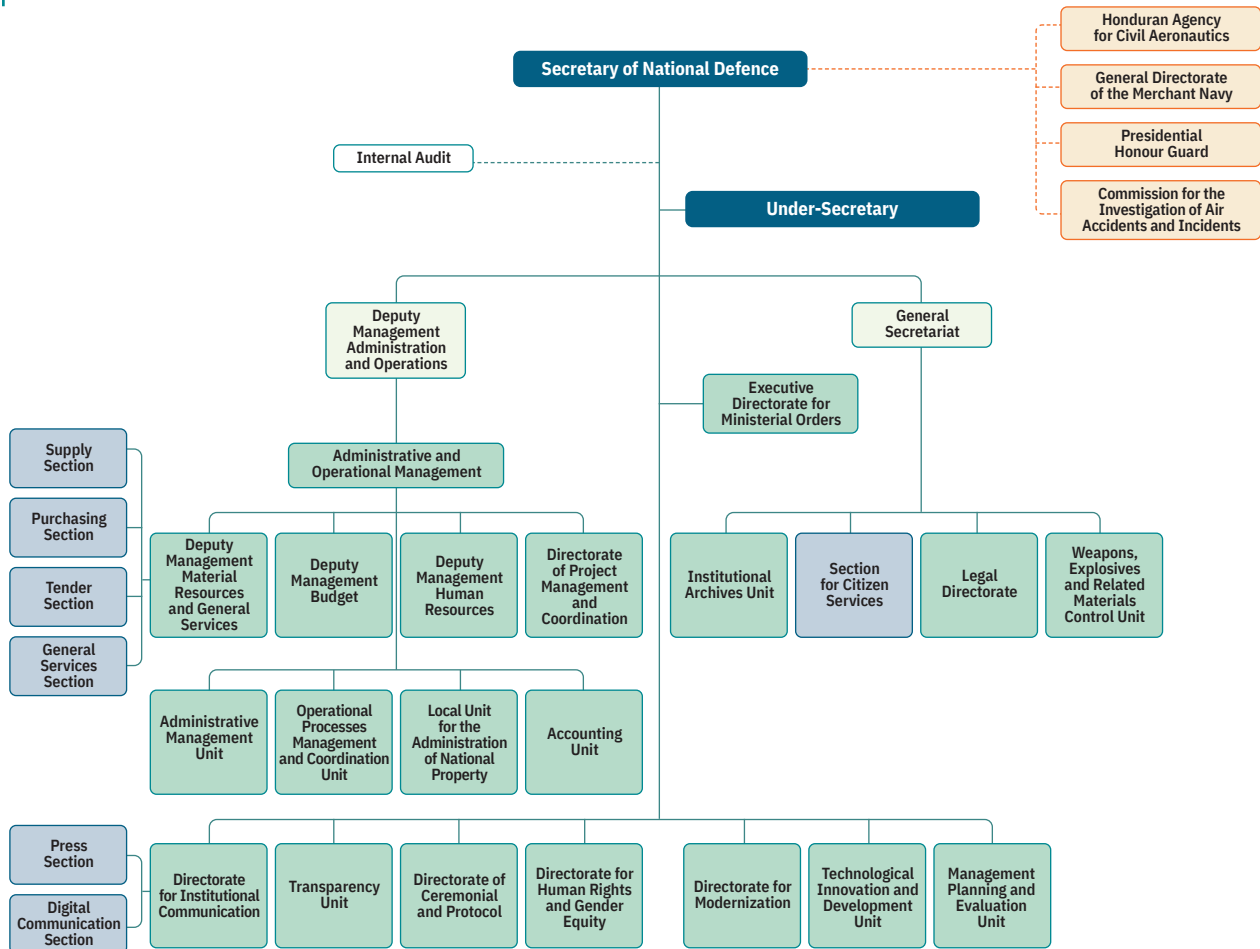
It is responsible for protecting national interests and objectives, thus contributing to the well-being and development of the Honduran population in ensuring its democratic processes and respecting its sovereign will.

MANDATES

- Ensure that the national defence policy is properly implemented.
- Represent Honduras in international defence agencies.
- Authorize, regulate and control the production, import, export, storage, lending, transport, purchase and sale of weapons, ammunition, explosives and other similar implements in accordance with the law.
- In relation to matters of concern to the Armed Forces:
 - The functions of the administrative body of the said bodies.
 - The endorsement of decrees, agreements, orders and ordinances issued by the General Commander of the Armed Forces.
- The endorsement of agreements and administrative orders and instructions issued by the Armed Forces Command.
- Conducting matters relating to the performance of voluntary military service in accordance with the law.
- Ensure that the operational and development programmes of the Armed Forces are implemented.
- Order the preparation or updating of national defence plans.
- Supervise, inspect and control the organization and operation of the Armed Forces.

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

Organizational Chart



Strategic Objectives of the Secretariat of National Defence

1. Ensure the defence of territorial integrity and national sovereignty.
2. Improve the support services required by public and private sector institutions.
3. Improve the training and education of military personnel in military training centres and units.
4. Improve medical care for members of the Armed Forces and their families.
5. Conserve and protect ecosystems and the environment, in order to mitigate the effects of climate change for the benefit of the Honduran population.

Source: Compilation based on *Ley Constitutiva de las Fuerzas Armadas* (Decree N° 39 – 2001/10/29); Secretariat of Finances, *Informe de seguimiento y evaluación de la ejecución presupuestaria física y financiera al segundo trimestre 2024*; and the official website of the Secretariat of National Defence.

The Armed Forces

General Mission

The Armed Forces are constituted to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic, maintain peace, public order and the rule of the Constitution, the principles of free suffrage and alternance in the exercise of the Presidency of the Republic. Cooperate with the National Police in maintaining public order.

They cooperate with the Secretariats of State and other institutions, at their request, in literacy, education, agriculture, environmental protection, transport, communications, health and agrarian reform. Participate in international peace missions, on the basis of international treaties, provide logistical support, technical advice, communications and transport, fight against drug trafficking, and collaborate with staff and facilities to deal with natural disasters and emergency situations, as well as in programmes for the protection and conservation of the ecosystem, academic education and technical training of their members and others of national interest.

They also cooperate with public security institutions, at the request of the Secretary of State in the Security Office, to combat terrorism, arms trafficking and organized crime, as well as in the protection of the powers of the State and the Electoral Tribunal, at the request of the latter, in their installation and operation.

(Constitution, Arts. 272 y 274)

Specific Missions



Army

The Army is the force responsible for defending the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic in the land space.



Naval Force

The Naval Force contributes to the fulfillment of the constitutional mission assigned to the Armed Forces, mainly in maritime, fluvial, lacustrine and island areas, maintaining the security and control of coasts and maritime borders and preserving marine resources in territorial waters, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf.



Air Force

The Air Force contributes to defending the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic, especially in respect of airspace.

Joint Staff

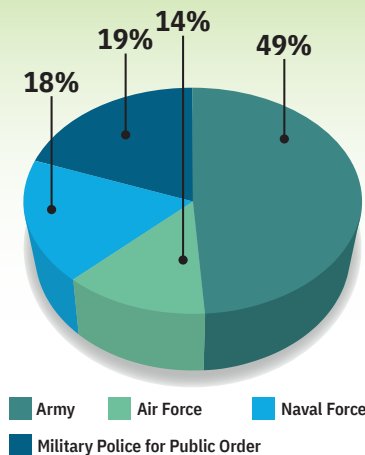
It is a senior military technical advisory, planning, coordinating and oversight body under the Secretary of Defence.

Armed Forces Personnel

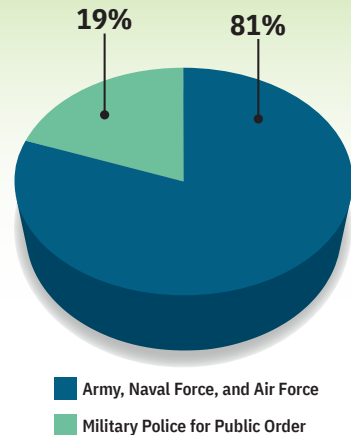
Number of Personnel, by Force and PMOP

ARMY	9,638
AIR FORCE	2,763
NAVAL FORCE	3,573
MILITARY POLICE FOR PUBLIC ORDER (PMOP)	3,812
TOTAL OF FORCES:	19,786

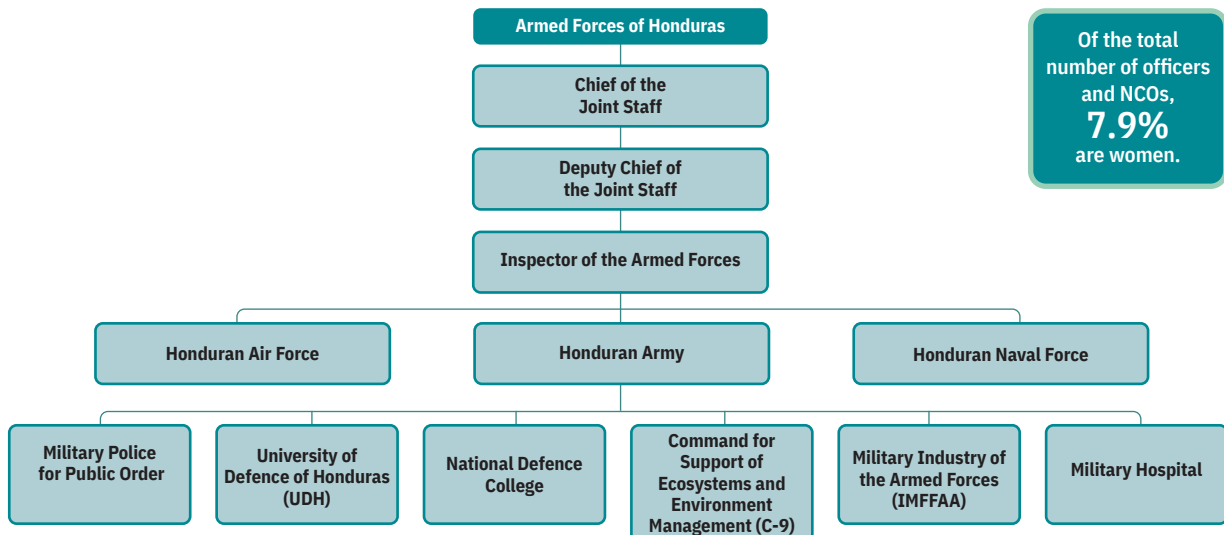
Personnel, by Force and PMOP



Distribution, Forces and PMOP



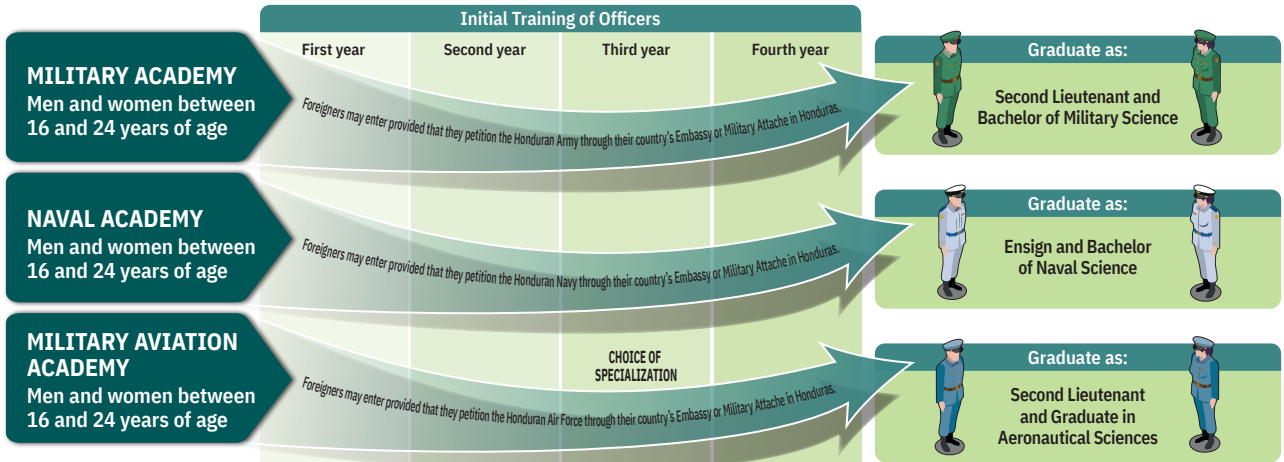
Armed Forces of Honduras - Organizational Chart



Of the total number of officers and NCOs, **7.9%** are women.

Source: Compilation based on the political Constitution; *Ley Constitutiva de las Fuerzas Armadas* (Decree N° 39 – 2001/10/29); and Budget Law.

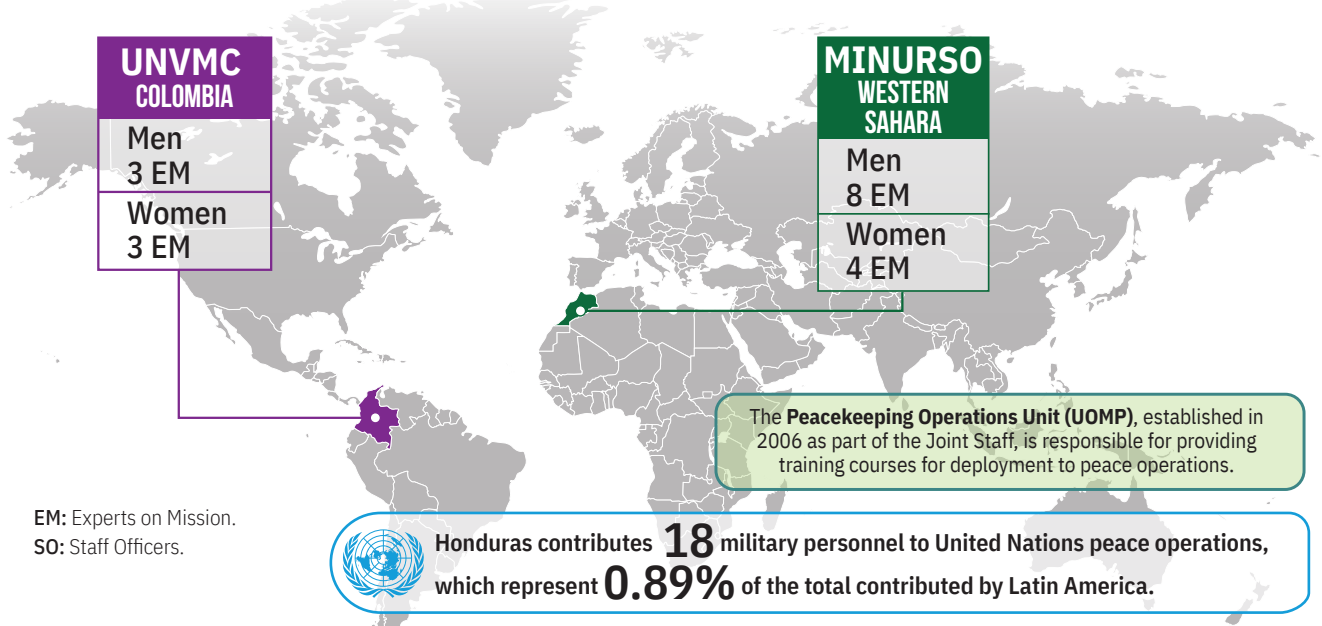
Military Education



Military Service

In constitutional terms it is voluntary in peacetime for all citizens between the ages of 18 and 28. In the event of an international war, all Hondurans capable of defending and serving their country are soldiers.

Participation in Peace Operations



Community Support



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

Internal Order

According to the Constitution, the Armed Forces cooperate with public security institutions at the request of the Secretariat for Security in order to combat terrorism, arms trafficking and organized crime. The current mechanism of this cooperation is developed on the basis of specific requests from the Secretary for Security, after which an order or plan of operations is drawn up between the Armed Forces and the National Police to establish the details of the operation. They are mainly engaged in urban patrolling and anti-drug-trafficking patrols and operations.



Military Police for Public Order

Legal Framework

Law on the Military Police of Public Order (Decree N° 168 - 2013/08/24. Last Amendment: Decree N° 286 - 2014/02/14).

Character

It is constituted as a Special Command of the Armed Forces. The members of the Military Police must undergo the same tests of confidence as those applied to the National Police.

Functions

- Act quickly in circumstances of insecurity affecting public order and constituting emergency situations, and/or affecting persons or property.
- Cooperate in the recovery of areas where organized crime is present.
- Carry out research and intelligence tasks.
- Make arrests and hand over to the authorities those they detain.
- Combat the offences of smuggling and tax fraud, as well as in those other functions or actions that are ordered by the President of the Republic.

National Security Plan “Solution against Crime” (SCC)

It is a strategy developed by the Secretariat, and approved by the National Council for Defence and Security, for the intervention and control of crime in the country, especially in areas with high incidence of serious crimes such as drug trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, and others related to organized crime

PHASES

With the implementation of Phase II of the National Plan, the Armed Forces are collaborating with the National Penitentiary Institute and will enable the battalions to serve as emergency detention centers, in compliance with international standards.

PHASE I

Focused on identifying and capturing leaders of criminal organizations, as well as intervening in the areas most affected by crime. Included actions such as the transfer of dangerous prisoners to specialized detention centres and the intensification of criminal investigations.

PHASE II

Adopted in March 2023, continues the actions of the first phase.

PHASE III

2024. Includes the urgent construction of an Emergency Detention Centre for 20,000 detainees in the eastern zone, the intensification of the capture of criminal leaders and the classification of these criminals as terrorists. In addition, legal reforms are ordered to increase the severity of sentences, block communications in prisons and other measures that strengthen the country's security and justice system.

National Defence and Security Council

Created by article 287 of the Constitution of the Republic, it is the highest permanent body responsible for directing, designing and supervising general policies in the field of security, national defence and intelligence. It is composed of:

- The President of the Republic, acting as President of the Council.
- The President of the National Congress.
- The Chief Justice.
- The Attorney General.
- The Secretary of State in the Security Office.
- The Secretary of State in the Office of National Defence.

Action by the Armed Forces and the Military Police for Public Order



During the phases of the National Security Plan, both the Armed Forces and the Military Police for Public Order carry out actions and activities.

- Armed Forces
- Military Police for Public Order

Source: Compilation based on the National Security Plan Solution to Crime (SCC); Presidential Communiqués; official site of the Secretariat of National Defence; official Facebook account of the Armed Forces, and the official X account of the Secretariat of National Defence.