


# NICARAGUA



**Population** 7,046,300 inhabitants

**Territorial Extension** 130,370 km<sup>2</sup>

**GDP (US\$)** 18,830,000,000

**GDP per capita (US\$)** 2,672

**Armed Forces Personnel** 14,496

**Defence Budget (US\$):** 105,733,270

**The Ministry of Defence was established in 1979.**

### Legal Framework

**National Legislation**

**Systems and Concepts**

Act on the organization, competence and procedures of the Executive Power (N° 290 - 1998/06/03. Last Amendment: N° 1131 - 2022/02/06).

Special Law for the control and regulation of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials (N° 510 - 2004/18/11. Last Amendment: N° 591 - 2006/07/13).

Special environmental offences Act (N° 559 - 2005/10/26).

Law establishing the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (N° 337 - 2000/04/07. Last Amendment: N° 863 - 2014/05/19).

National Defence Act (N° 748 - 2010/22/12).

Democratic Security Act of the Republic of Nicaragua (N° 750 - 2010/12/03).

Law on the legal regime of borders (N° 749 - 2010/12/22).

Law on private security services (N° 903 - 2015/06/11).

Law of sovereign security of the Republic of Nicaragua (N° 919 - 2015/12/18).

Cybercrimes Act (N° 1042 - 2020/10/30).

**Military Organization**

Code of Organization, Jurisdiction and Military Social Benefits (N° 181 - 1994/08/23. Last Amendment: N° 855 - 2014/02/11).

Organic Act of Military Tribunals (N° 523 - 2005/05/04. Last Amendment: N° 567 - 2005/11/25).

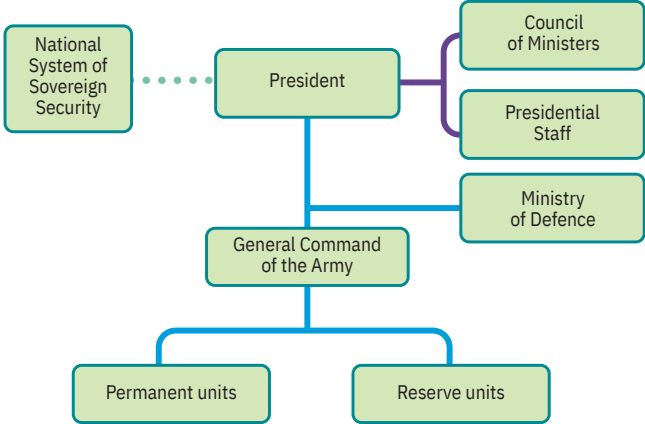
Military Penal Code (N° 566 - 2006/01/05).

Code of Military Penal Procedures (N° 617 - 2007/08/29).

Law on the General Fire Department of Nicaragua (N° 837 - 2013/04/18).

General Civil Aeronautics Law (N° 595 - 08/03/2006. Last Amendment: N° 988 - 2019/03/08).

### The Defence System



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graph TD
    NS[National System of Sovereign Security] -.-> P[President]
    P --- CM[Council of Ministers]
    P --- PS[Presidential Staff]
    P --- MD[Ministry of Defence]
    P --- GCA[General Command of the Army]
    GCA --- PU[Permanent units]
    GCA --- RU[Reserve units]
    
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Advisory and assistance functional relationship

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Command reporting line

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Joint planning and management relationship

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National Defence is conducted through the higher military and political bodies. The President is the Supreme Chief of the Army of Nicaragua. The Council of Ministers is the main advisory body on defence and security matters. The Presidential Cabinet is a consultative body for national defence matters available to the President of the Republic. The Ministry of Defence is the consultative body in matters relating to the creation and implementation of national defence plans and policies, and manages the elaboration of defence policies throughout the national territory on behalf of the President. The High Command structure is under the leadership of the General Command of the Army and is made up of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, the Chief of Staff and the Inspector General.

The Commander-in-Chief is the senior military advisor to the President with regard to their role as Supreme Chief of the Army of Nicaragua, including the elaboration of national security and defence plans and policies.

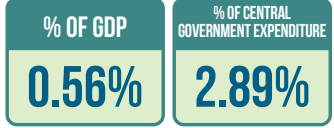
The Assembly exercises the powers granted to it by the Constitution and continuously monitors defence-related matters through the Committee of Peace, Defence, Interior and Human Rights.

**Source:** Compilation based on *Ley de organización, competencia y procedimientos del Poder Ejecutivo* (N° 290 - 1998/06/03. Last Amendment: N° 1131 - 2022/02/06); *Ley de la Defensa Nacional* (N° 748 - 2010/12/22) and *Ley de seguridad soberana de la República de Nicaragua* (N° 919 - 2015/12/18).

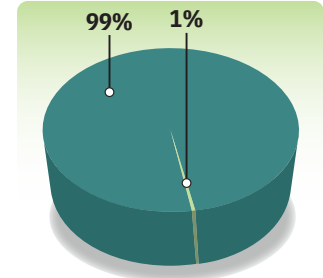
## The Budget

### Defence Budget, 2024 Budget Appropriations (in Cordobas)

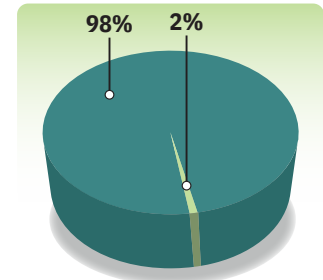
	Ministry of Defence	Nicaraguan Army
Personal Services	28,051,470	2,372,388,795
Non-Personal Services	4,120,930	486,543,372
Materials and Supplies	2,709,600	942,364,985
Current Transfers, Grants and Donations	165,000	6,778,848
Non-Financial Assets	700,000	28,584,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,747,000</b>	<b>3,836,660,000</b>



Nicaraguan Army, Economic Classification, 2024

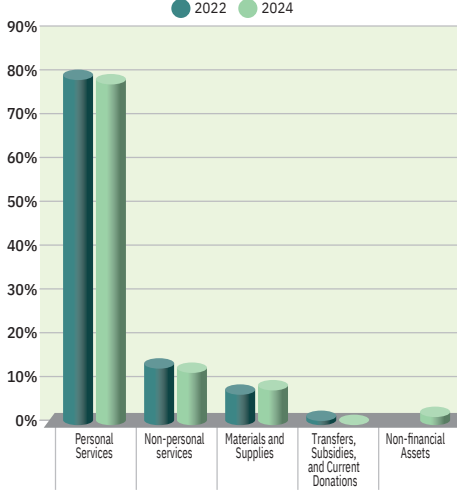


Ministry of Defence, Economic Classification, 2024

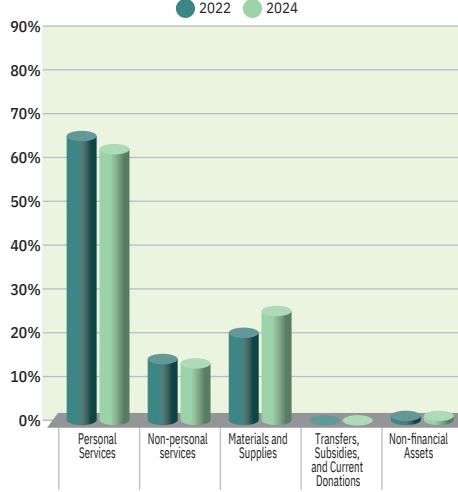


■ Current Expenditure ■ Capital Expenditure

Ministry of Defence, Trend by Expenditure Item



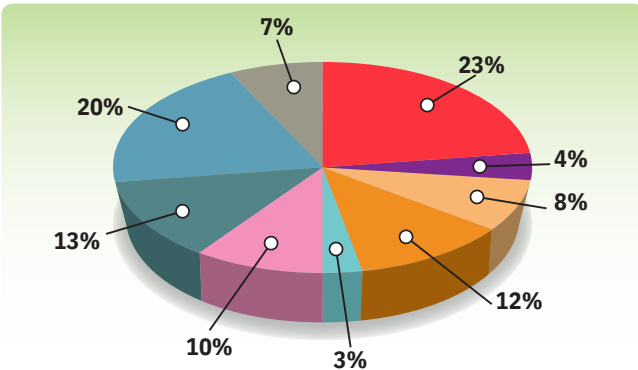
Nicaraguan Army, Trend by Expenditure Item



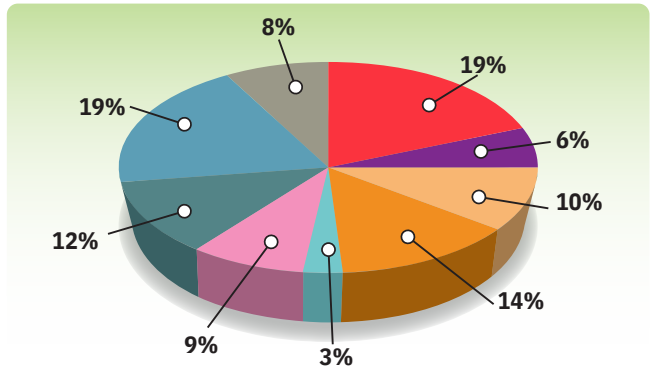
### Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023. Execution

Description	Ministry of Defence		Nicaraguan Army	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
<b>Current Expenditure</b>				
Remunerations	25,194,594.00	27,546,336.00	1,960,508,545.07	2,232,722,243.51
Goods and Services	6,622,086.17	6,369,650.79	1,384,363,707.80	1,302,871,920.92
Interest	-	-	-	-
Current Transfers and Grants	212,871.76	158,973.74	6,148,512.00	6,456,192.00
Other Current Expenditure	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>32,029,551.93</b>	<b>34,074,960.53</b>	<b>3,351,020,764.87</b>	<b>3,542,050,356.43</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>				
Construction	-	-	-	-
Fixed Assets	-	-	45,723,412.00	27,584,000.00
Non-produced Assets	-	-	-	-
Capital Transfers	-	-	-	-
Financial Investment	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,723,412.00</b>	<b>27,584,000.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,029,551.93</b>	<b>34,074,960.53</b>	<b>3,396,744,176.87</b>	<b>3,569,634,356.43</b>

Expenditure by State Functions. Execution 2020



Expenditure by State Functions. Execution 2023



■ Education ■ Social Security ■ Housing and Communal Services ■ General Public Services ■ Defence ■ Public Order and Security ■ Transport and Communication ■ Health ■ Other

Source: Compilation based on the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, General Budget of the Republic 2024 and 2022, and Reports on the Liquidation of the General Budget of the Republic 2022 and 2023. FMI, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024). Central Bank of Nicaragua (Exchange Rate: 1 US\$ = 36.6243 Córdoba, January 2024).

## The Armed Forces

The Army of Nicaragua is the armed institution responsible for defending the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. Only in exceptional cases, when stability of the Republic is threatened by severe internal disorders, calamity or natural disasters, shall the President, acting within a session of the Council of Ministers, be entitled to order the intervention of the Army of Nicaragua in support of the National Police.

(Constitution, Art. 92)

The missions, their composition and structure are defined in accordance with the scenarios, threats and risks identified by the Nicaraguan State, that shall have the means and public resources necessary to provide the Nicaraguan Army with the capability and readiness required for the accomplishment of its missions and tasks from peacetime, with the aim of preventing and deterring any kind of international armed conflict.

The Army of Nicaragua shall plan, organize, prepare, manage and execute the national armed defence of the Homeland and defend the territorial integrity, the independence and sovereignty of the Nation. In turn, it shall intervene -in exceptional cases- to support the National Police, under the order of the President of the Republic within the Council of Ministers, where the stability of the Republic is threatened by large internal disorders, calamities or natural disasters and assist in the execution of work that contribute with the country's development. It shall co-assist in case of extreme need, in maintaining peace and order in the Nation, as well as in the fight against drug trafficking, arms trafficking and human trafficking and transnational organized crime. It shall contribute to strengthening the risk management policy, based on preventing, mitigating and managing natural disasters, safeguarding the life and property of the population. It shall participate in international peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance missions, in accordance to the UN Charter, approved by Resolution No. 84 of Nicaragua's Congress, international treaties or agreements signed and ratified by the State of Nicaragua based on regulations and principles of International Law.

(Ley de la defensa nacional N° 748, Art. 16 and 17).

### Specific Missions



#### Army

The Land Force is the Army's main instrument to perform missions in defence of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, acting in coordination with the Air Force, the Navy and common bodies.



#### Navy

The Navy carries out missions to support the Army, and independent missions directed by the High Command of the Army. Ground force units that carry out security and safeguarding missions of units and facilities form part of the Navy.



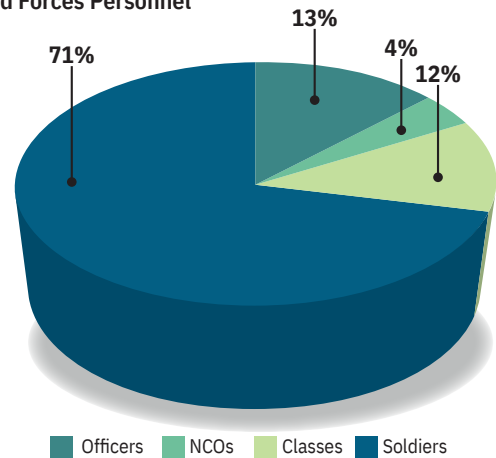
#### Air Force

The Air Force carries out missions to support the Army and Navy as well as independent missions directed by the High Command of the Army. The land force units, which carry out missions of air, defence, security and maintenance of the units and facilities form part of the Air Force.

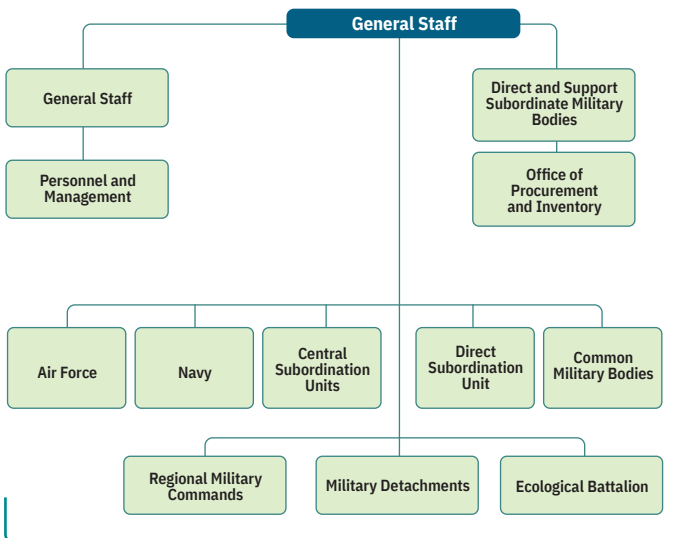
Personnel	
Officers	1,885
NCOs	605
Classes	1,792
Soldiers	10,214
<b>Total Armed Forces Personnel: 14,496</b>	

8% of defence personnel are civilians and civil servants.

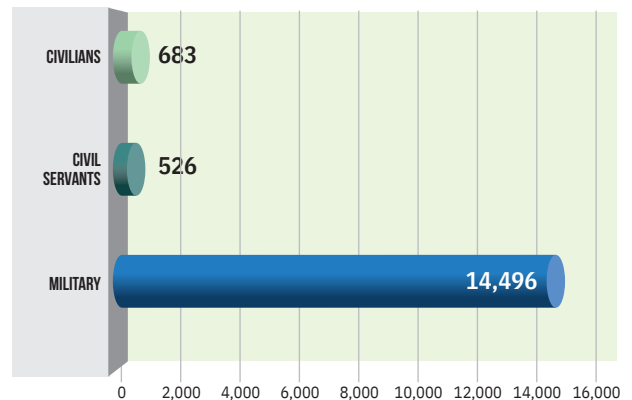
Armed Forces Personnel



Army of Nicaragua. Organizational Chart



Defence Sector Personnel



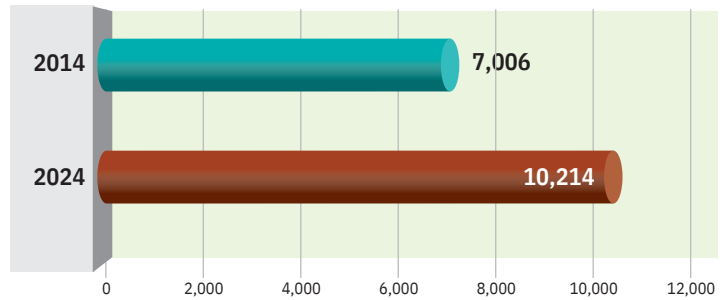
Source: Ley de la defensa nacional (N° 748 – 2010/12/22) y Código de organización, jurisdicción y previsión social militar (N° 181 - 1994/09/02. Last Amendment: N° 855 – 2014/02/11) (missions) and Proyecto de Presupuesto General de la República 2024 (personnel).

## Military Service

It is voluntary for all men and women for one year, with the possibility of renewal. Forced recruitment is constitutionally prohibited.

Since 1998, the new soldiers of the Nicaraguan Army have been trained for three months at the “Soldado Ramón Montoya” (ENABI) National Infantry Basic Training School. Those who graduate from this School are temporary military personnel and may be hired for a period of 3 to 5 years, after which they can continue with their active service for 5 additional years or access military courses that enable them to become career military personnel.

Number of Soldiers in the Nicaraguan Army



## Military Education

**CENTRE FOR HIGHER MILITARY STUDIES (CSEM)**  
Men and Women aged 18-20

Initial Training of Officers			
First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year

**Graduates in:**

- Bachelor of Military Science with a mention in tactical command of: general troops, naval, air, combat engineering, ground artillery, anti-aircraft artillery, small tank units, communications or logistics.
- Business Administration
- Civil Engineering
- Military Engineering
- Medicine and Surgery
- Nursing

The Centre for Higher Military Studies (CSEM) has educational exchanges with Russia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and the United States.

**CAOMPAZ**  
The Peace Operations Training Centre was established in 2007

### Officers

**Higher School of the General Command (ESEM) “General Benjamín Zeledón Rodríguez”**

- Weapons and Services Improvement
- General Staff Diploma
- National Defence and Security Course
- Military Intelligence
- Medical Services
- International Law of Armed Conflicts

### NCOs

**National Infantry Basic Training School (ENABI) “Soldado Ramón Montoya”**

Infantry Soldier Training

**National School of Sergeants (ENSAC) “Sargento Andrés Castro”**

- Course for NCOs.
- Company Sergeant Major Course.
- Platoon Sergeant Course.
- Third Sergeant (Squad Leader) Course.
- Radio Operator Course.
- Specialist Third Sergeant’s Course (Ground and Anti-aircraft Artillery, Transmissions, Health, Logistics, Naval and Air).
- Specialist Second Sergeant’s Course (Ground and Anti-aircraft Artillery, Transmissions, Health, Logistics, Naval and Air).
- Military Vehicles Driver Course.

## The Ministry of Defence

YEAR OF CREATION\*

**1979**

Average Tenure in Office for Ministers:  
**2 YEARS AND 9 MONTHS**

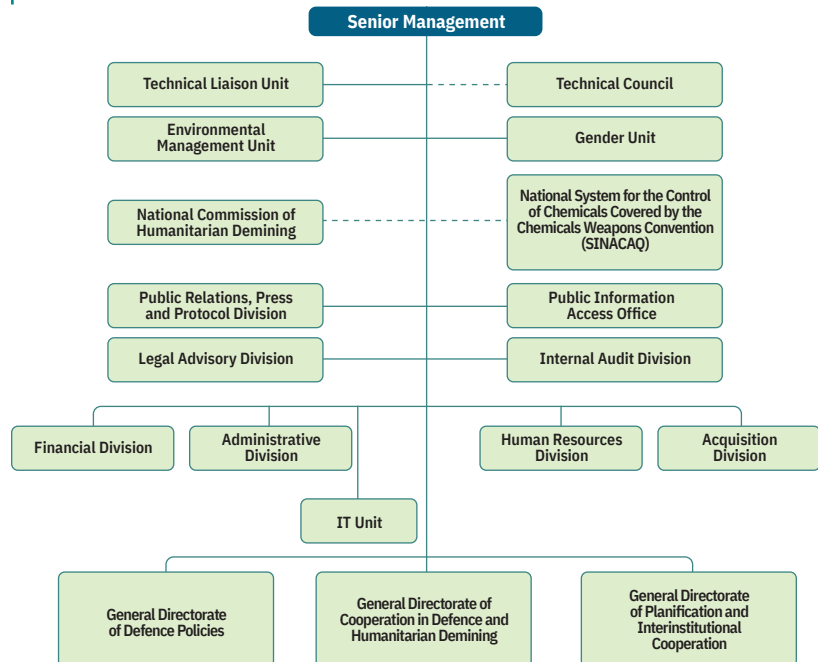
### MISSION

It is the advisory body of the President of the Republic, in respect of the formulation and implementation of plans and policies of the National Defence.

### MANDATES

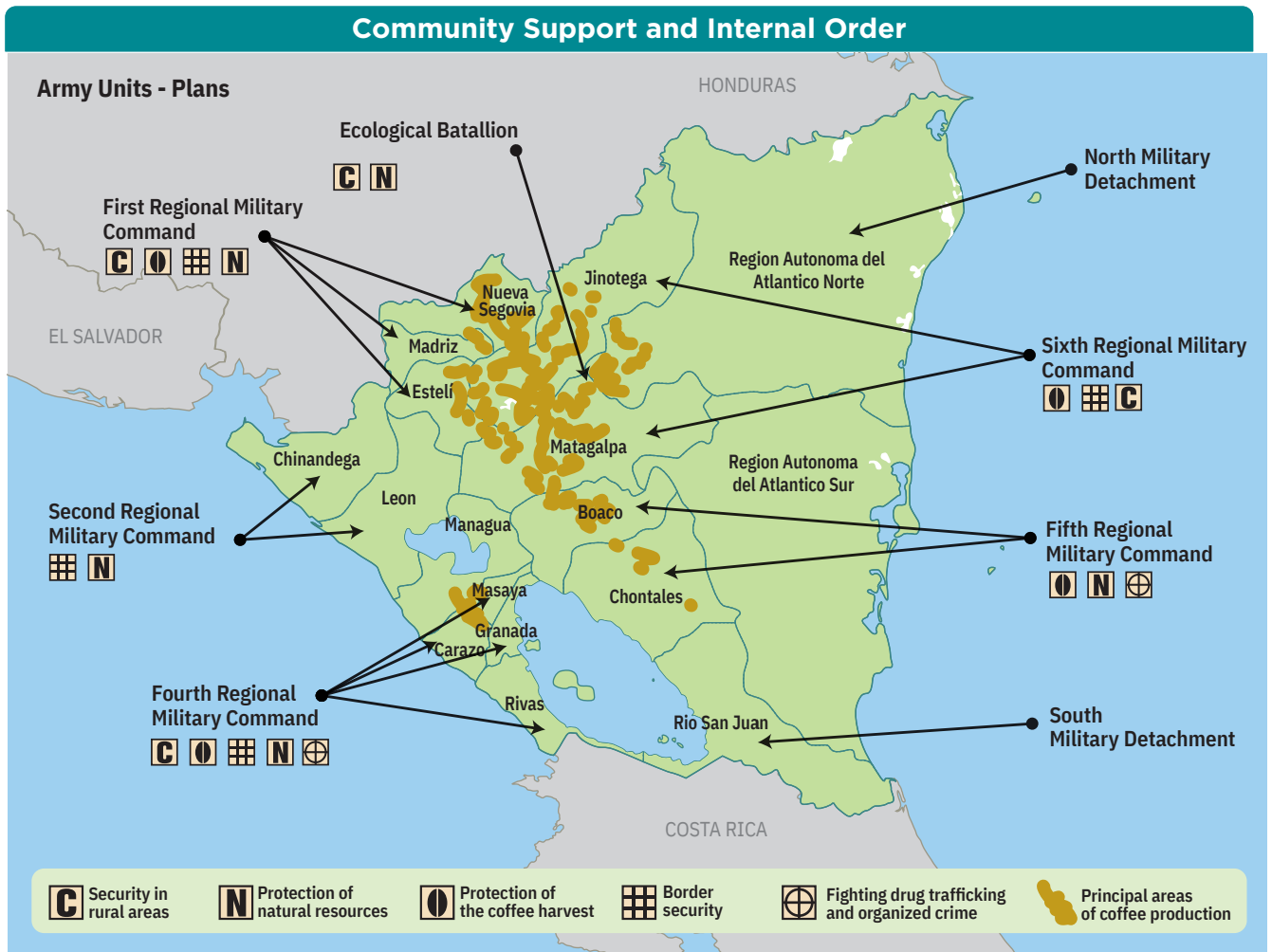
- Support the President of the Republic in providing conditions, resources and mechanisms for carrying out the missions assigned to the Nicaraguan army.
- Assist the President of the Republic in the Council of Ministers in arranging for the intervention of the Nicaraguan Army in support of the National Police, when so arranged by the President of the Republic in the Council of Ministers.
- Ensure interagency coordination, and represent the government in relevant bodies and agencies.
- Participate in the formulation of air and water navigation policies and regulations.
- Participate in the coordination and implementation of plans and programmes related to humanitarian demining and comprehensive mine action on national territory.
- Support actions for arms limitation and control in accordance with relevant provisions and standards.
- Promote, in accordance with the decision of the President of the Republic, plans and policies relating to civil and military relations.

### Organizational Chart



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

Source: Compilation based on *Ley de organización, competencia y procedimientos del Poder Ejecutivo* (N° 290 - 1998/06/03. Last Amendment: N° 1131 - 2022/02/06); *Ley de la Defensa Nacional* (N° 748 - 2010/12/22); the official website of the Nicaraguan Army; and *Proyecto de Presupuesto General de la República 2024*.



### Cooperation of the Armed Forces in Public Security

The participation of the Army in public security has its basis in the Constitution itself, which establishes that the President, in exceptional cases, may order the military to intervene in support of the National Police when the country's stability is threatened by great internal disorders, calamities or natural disasters. Other legal bases include the 1994 law regulating military organization and the National Defence Law of 2010. The cooperation of the Army, in addition to activities against drug trafficking and organized crime, primarily implements plans to ensure the security in rural areas, fighting rural crime and the protection of the country's coffee production.

All Army units engage in activities related to public security (listed below are the main activities within the framework of the Army's plans):

#### Plan for the Protection and Security of the Coffee Harvest

It is one of the most important programs in military cooperation to security. In support of the country's coffee industry, the Nicaraguan Army provides protection with its personnel and means to the collection of coffee quintals and the transfer of valuables. This campaign is conducted every year.

Coordination meetings are held with the National Coffee Council, the National Police, producers and departmental and municipal authorities, and patrols, roadblocks, independent and combined with the National Police.

#### 2022-2023 Campaign

**More than 3,000 military personnel deployed.**

**5,135 farms were protected, and 7 million Córdobas and more than USD\$2 million were secured.**

#### Plan for Protection of Border Areas

In coordination with the Immigration Service, Customs and the National Police, the Army carries out activities to ensure the protection of natural resources, fight against smuggling, and illegal migratory crossing

**2022**

**303,300 operational services provided.**

#### Permanent Plan for Security in Rural Areas

The Nicaraguan Army coordinates and develops this plan at the national level, which includes the coffee harvest. It seeks to provide security for the country's productive areas; motley, common crime and the transfer of illegal weapons are some of the issues on which activities operate.

**September 2022 to August 2023:**

**More than 1,000 operations were carried out.**

Source: Compilation based on *Memorias anuales 2018, 2019, 2020 y 2021*, and *Nota de Prensa 032/2023 del Ejército de Nicaragua*; press conference of the Fifth Military Command on August 19, 2023.



## Community Support and Risk and Emergency Management

### Key Areas of Action:

#### ARMY OF NICARAGUA

##### Population Support Tasks

- Health Day
- Abatement
- Vaccination
- Road Construction and Repair
- Transport of Products and Materials

##### Natural Disaster Plan

- Population Prevention and Preparedness Plan
- Earthquake Preparedness
- Tsunami Response Plan
- Winter Plan
- Summer Plan
- Forest Fire Plan
- Search and Rescue
- Humanitarian Rescue Unit (UHR)

##### Care and Protection of Natural Resources

- Protection of Stocks
- Compliance with Closures
- Ecological Days
- Reforestation
- Bosawas Ecological Battalion

### Bosawas Ecological Battalion

This battalion was created in 2011. It particularly looks after the protected areas and particularly Bosawas and the Indio Maiz Reserve.

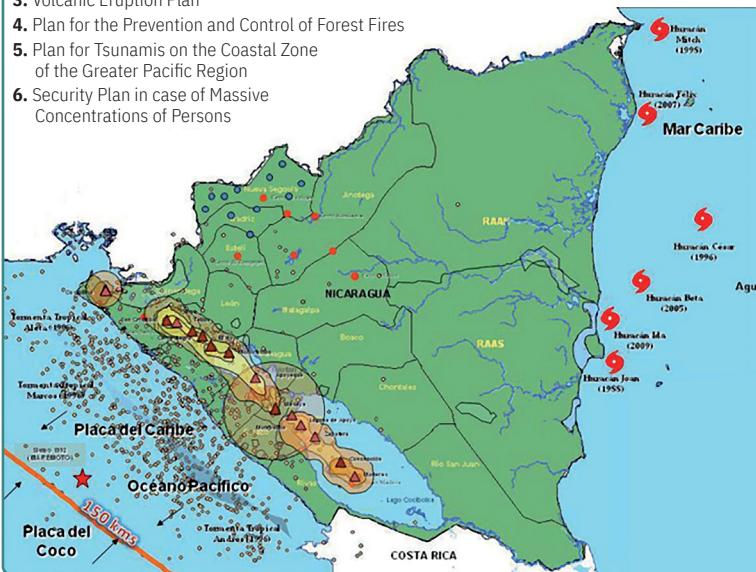
Its main missions are:

- Support interagency efforts to prevent and punish environmental crimes, restrict the access and settlement of settlers, land traffickers and predators in protected areas, particularly in the core areas of BOSAWAS.
- Support the articulation and development of environmental protection and conservation programs, management plans and environmental management in protected areas.
- Carry out actions in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and other institutions for the restoration of protected areas.



The **Army's General Command of Civil Defence** has 6 contingency plans for providing humanitarian assistance to civilian populations affected by natural or man-made disasters.

1. Earthquake Plan - Pacific Region
2. Winter Plan (heavy rains and hurricanes)
3. Volcanic Eruption Plan
4. Plan for the Prevention and Control of Forest Fires
5. Plan for Tsunamis on the Coastal Zone of the Greater Pacific Region
6. Security Plan in case of Massive Concentrations of Persons



### Earthquake Contingency Plan

Seismic hazards in Nicaragua are common. The high seismic zone corresponds to the strip that runs parallel to the coast of the Pacific Ocean, where they occur at depths greater than 40 km, in the friction zone between the Cocos and Caribbean lithospheric plates. The Plan has the fundamental strategic objective of establishing guidelines and courses of action to be implemented from the moment of impact, clarification of the situation by relevant authorities, the disposition of forces and means by state institutions, municipal governments, relief agencies and local volunteers for the management and development of humanitarian assistance operations to assist the affected population in an effective and timely manner, facilitating the following actions:

- Search, locate and rescue.
- First aid medical assistance.
- Firefighting.
- Evacuation and protection of evacuees.

### Plan for the Prevention and Control of Forest Fires

For the implementation of this plan, coordination is established between troops of the Nicaraguan Army, the National Police, the Fire Department, Fire Brigades and the structures of the Committees for Prevention, Mitigation, and Response to Disasters, and departmental, municipal and local authorities.

### Winter Plan

The causes of these weather-related events, such as heavy rainfall, are associated with the flooding of rivers, creeks, streams, increases in the level of lakes and landslides lead to heavy damages to persons and property, transport and production infrastructure, and the environment.

The plan's main objective is to articulate courses of action to be developed in order to provide the forces, vehicles and equipment and State institutions in humanitarian assistance to the civilian population.

The 2024 edition of the Winter Plan was launched in May 2024.

### National Life Protection Preparedness Exercise in Situations of Multiple Threats

More than ten thousand military personnel participated in this exercise, which took place in June 2024, with land, naval and air assets, field hospitals and security units throughout the country. The exercise activated search and rescue components, in coordination with local authorities and brigades, for actions to protect the population, opening obstructed roads, fighting structural fires; rescue in collapsed structures and rubble; search, localization and evacuation of injured patients for hospital care.

Source: Compilation based on *Memorias anuales 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 del Ejército de Nicaragua*; *Revista Defensa Nacional* N° 88; *Informe a la Patria. Metas y Logros Institucionales 2015-2020*; and *Notas informativas* N° 154/2011, 042/2024 and 135/2024.