


PARAGUAY



Population	6,861,500 inhabitants
Territorial Extension	406,750 km²
GDP (US\$):	45,820,000,000
GDP per capita (US\$)	6,595
Armed Forces Personnel	17,267
Defence Budget (US\$)	316,676,584

The Ministry of National Defence was established in 1943.

Legal Framework

National Legislation

Systems and Concepts

National Defence and Internal Security Act (N° 1337 - 1999/04/14. Last Amendment: N° 5349 - 2014/06/11).

Act that establishes the Border Security Zone (N° 2532 - 2005/02/17. Last Amendment: N° 2647 - 2005/08/18).

Act that creates the National Emergency Secretariat (N° 2615 - 2005/06/10).

Act that creates the National Intelligence System (N° 5241 - 2014/08/20).

Act on the Surveillance and Protection of Airspace (N° 6980 - 2022/10/06).

Military Organization

Obligatory Military Service Act (N° 569 - 1975/12/24. Last Amendment: N° 3360 - 2007/11/02).

Organic Act of Military Courts (N° 840 - 1980/19/12. Last Amendment: N° 6825 - 2021/10/13).

Military Penal Code (N° 843 - 1980/12/19).

Code of Military Penal Procedures in War and Peace Times (N° 844 - 1980/12/19).

General Organization of the National Armed Forces Act (N° 216 - 1993/07/09. Last Amendment: N° 4067 - 2010/11/08).

Act on Measures to protect Natural Resources (N° 816 - 1996/08/20)

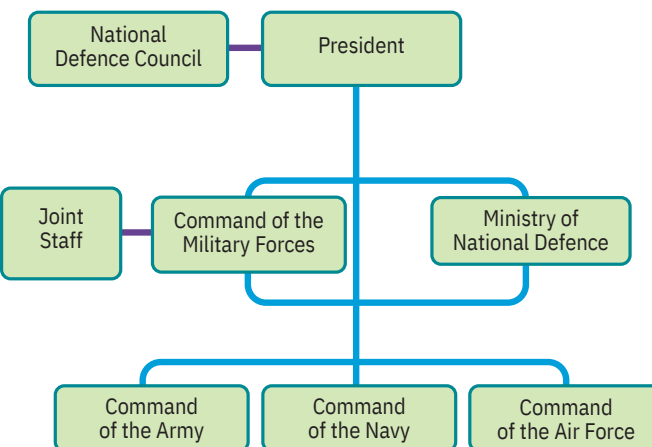
Military Personnel Status Act (N° 1115 - 1997/08/26. Last Amendment: N° 2879 - 2006/04/25).

Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives Act (N° 1910 - 2002/06/19).

Act on the Right to Conscientious Objection (N° 4013 - 2010/06/17).

Act that creates the Rank of Professional Soldiers within the Troop Category of the Armed Forces (N° 4733 - 2012/10/04. Last Amendment: N° 6599 - 2020/09/15).

The Defence System



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    graph TD
      President --> NationalDefenceCouncil[National Defence Council]
      President --> JointStaff[Joint Staff]
      President --> CommandMilitaryForces[Command of the Military Forces]
      President --> MinistryNationalDefence[Ministry of National Defence]
      CommandMilitaryForces --> CommandArmy[Command of the Army]
      CommandMilitaryForces --> CommandNavy[Command of the Navy]
      CommandMilitaryForces --> CommandAirForce[Command of the Air Force]
  
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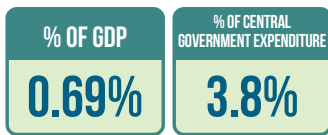
Advisory and Assistance Functional Relationship

Command Reporting Line

The President's advisory and consultative body is the National Defence Council, composed of the Ministers of Defence, Foreign Affairs and Interior, the highest-ranking General Officer, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the official in charge of the State Intelligence Agency and its Permanent Secretary. The Ministry of Defence performs the administrative functions of the Armed Forces. The Commander of the Armed Forces holds the effective command of the Armed Forces as delegated by the President. They have the Joint Staff as the planning, advisory and coordinating body. The Congress holds the powers granted by the Constitution and permanently monitors defence related issues through the specific committees in both Houses.

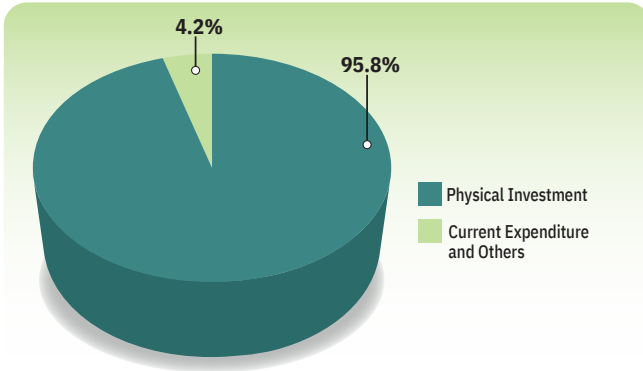
Source: Compilation based on the Constitution; *Ley de defensa nacional y de seguridad interna* (N° 1337 - 1999/04/14. Last Amendment: N° 5349 - 2014/11/06); and *Ley de organización general de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Nación* (N° 216 - 1993/07/09. Last Amendment: N° 4067 - 2010/11/08).

The Budget

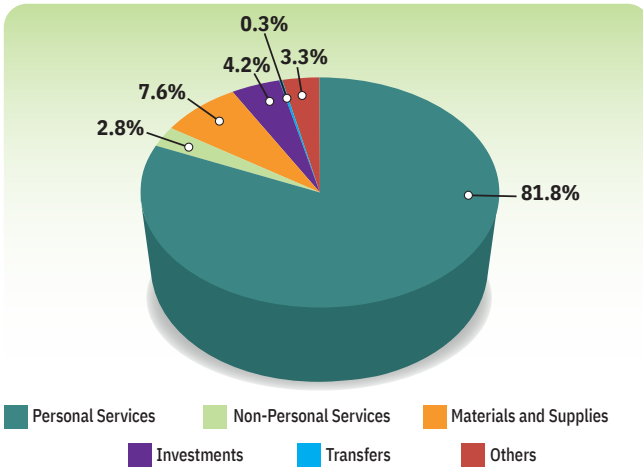


Budget 2024

Investment Budget and Current Expenditure, 2024

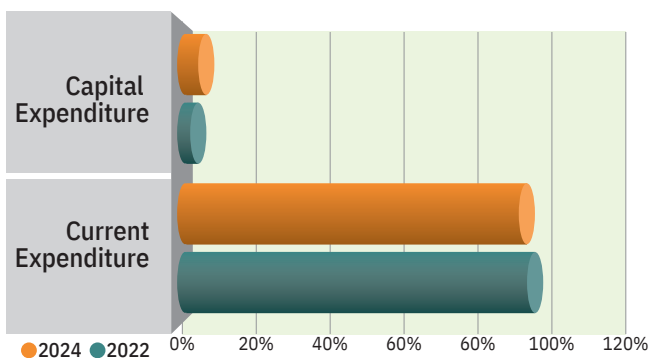


Budget by Expenditure Item, 2024



Note: "Other" includes: Preservation of the Environment; Training and services of Military Bands; Agricultural Science Training and Education; Cartography, Georeferencing and National Geography; Military Training Courses for Students; Physical Education Teacher Training Courses; Military Bishopric; IT services; and Evangelical Military Assistance.

National Security Function, 2022 and 2024



Ministry of National Defence Budget, by Activities, 2024 (in Guaraníes)

Activities	Total
Administration and Finance - High Command	17,213,422,606
Training Course Officers and NCOs - Special Forces	1,156,079,440
Evangelical Military Assistance	381,808,113
Internal Defence Operations	54,547,795,644
Social Communication of the Military Forces	830,607,733
Recruitment Service - Military Service	919,556,079
IT Services	215,006,221
Military Supply and Registration Service	74,576,489,935
Competitiveness and Innovation - Command-in-Chief	21,791,118,313
Superior Operational Management Military Forces	12,527,939,358
Military Bishopric	648,137,521
Presidential Security Service	7,058,776,485
Military Justice	1,994,146,372
Financial Administration - Army	1,027,915,434,283
Operational Leadership - Army	47,387,383,858
Artillery Service - Army	2,358,871,710
Communications Service - Army	598,478,697
Military Intelligence - Army	1,759,600,778
Medical Services - Army	358,449,871
Safeguarding Land Borders	7,459,648,695
Engineering Work	26,116,664,357
Planning and Controlling Educational Institutes	1,014,643,969
Senior Officers Specialization Courses - Army	684,377,597
Refresher Course for NCOs	533,185,668
Officer Career Training Courses	4,216,013,413
Course in Social Sciences	3,208,355,531
Training Courses for Career NCOs in the Army	1,107,350,351
Physical Education Teacher Training Courses	465,576,305
Courses for Infantry Officers and NCOs	725,935,660
Military Training Courses for Students	118,330,000
Courses for Cavalry Officers and NCOs	1,907,259,721
Foreign Language Courses for Officers and NCOs	274,000,300
Military Intelligence Courses for Officers and NCOs	502,578,356
Peace Operations Courses for Officers and NCOs	338,236,745
Special Operations Courses for Officers and NCOs	574,192,820
Financial Administration - Navy	356,991,676,978
Operational Leadership - Navy	6,964,628,895
Safeguarding River Borders	548,043,919
Naval Operations with Trained Navy Personnel	462,270,238
Naval Operations in Areas of Navy Influence	595,431,335
Naval Equipment Support Service	9,364,583,053
Logistical Support of Navy Operations	7,698,813,789
River Police Service	10,949,098,400
Communication and Navigability of Rivers	876,481,246
Training and Education Military / Merchant Navy	3,394,889,126
Administration and Finance - Air Force	256,236,541,337
Operational Command - Air Force	2,225,145,020
Military Air Transport Service	2,699,762,205
Air Operations	13,833,652,074
Monitoring and Controlling Air Bases	604,361,000
Air Bases Operational Support	2,057,601,289
Control and Surveillance of National Airspace	202,749,920
Logistical Support - Air Force	9,616,223,864
Personnel Training and Development - Air Force	1,107,266,939
Financial Administration - Logistics Command	30,394,847,483
Management - Logistics Command	5,342,233,751
Army Vehicles Fleet Service	1,631,904,627
Cartography, Georeferencing, National Geography	1,067,476,188
Agricultural Science Training and Education	1,129,926,521
Training and Services - Military Bands	498,222,330
Comprehensive Health Care for the Armed Forces	14,278,710,866
Logistical Support for Army Personnel	148,728,374,694
Preservation of the environment	242,591,472
Financial Administration - Armed Forces	32,233,220,373
Operational Management - Ministry of Defence	55,185,773,142
Training in High Strategic Studies	5,036,924,172
Audit - MOD and Armed Forces	50,000,000
TOTAL	2,305,734,878,751

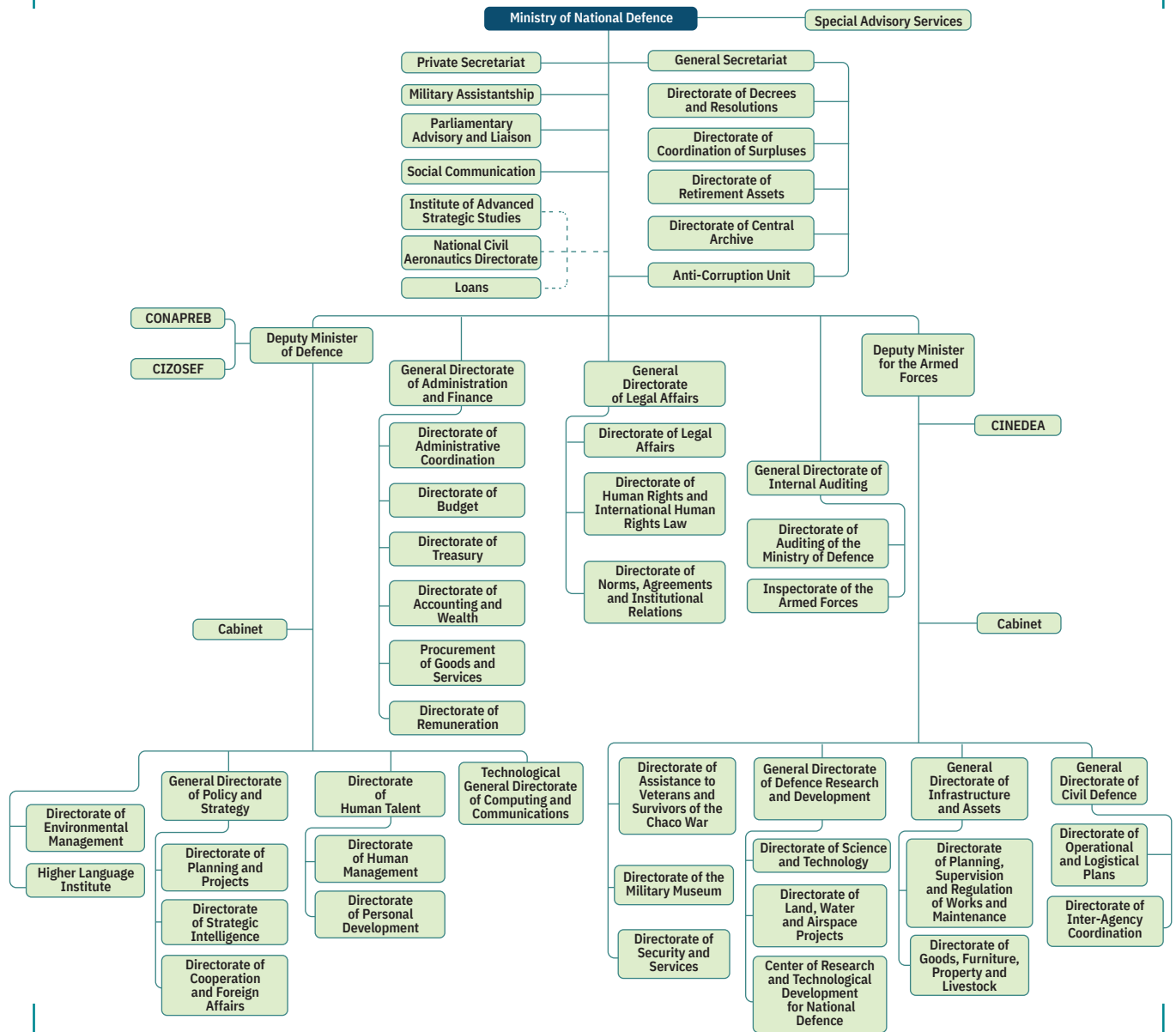
Source: Compilation based on Ley N° 6773 que aprueba el Presupuesto General de la Nación para el ejercicio fiscal 2022; Ley N° 7228 que aprueba el Presupuesto General de la Nación para el ejercicio fiscal 2024; GDP: IMF, World Economic Outlook Database. Central Bank of Paraguay (Exchange Rate: 1 US\$ = 7,281.04 Guaraníes, January 2024).

The Ministry of National Defence

YEAR OF CREATION*	MISSION	MANDATES
<p>1943</p> <p>Average Tenure in Office for Ministers: 2 YEARS AND 6 MONTHS</p>	<p>The Ministry of National Defence is the Executive Branch agency responsible for the conduct, management and execution of the National Defence Policy, and for the performance of administrative functions by the Armed Forces of the Nation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design the Military Policy. • Conduct, coordinate and oversee budgetary, financial and property policies of the defence sector, and control their appropriate administrative procedures. • Create and support research centers, associated with other areas of knowledge, whether technological, economic or social, in partnership with national and international organizations and universities for application in Intelligence, Technology and Defence Industry activities. • Update the strategic planning of the Armed Forces Projection, according to current and emerging threats, and plan for the sustainability of capabilities. • Planning and coordination of infrastructure works of national strategic interest.

*The year of creation is the date in which the term "Defence" became part of the institution's name (The denomination "Ministry of Defence" was used as from Decree Law N° 19392 adopted on August 13, 1943; the previously called "Ministry of War and Navy" was created on November 4, 1884).

Organizational Chart



The Ministry of National Defence chairs, and acts as the secretariat of, CONAPREB - National Commission for Prevention and Response to Biological Emergencies.

Its **Strategic Pillars** are:

- Training: to advise senior government leadership on matters related to security policies, programs, plans and criteria to be implemented.
- Institutional strengthening: through strategic partnerships with international organizations, government institutions and non-governmental organizations.
- Public policies for national defence: to design and update policies to respond to emergencies caused by CBRN agents or other weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

Source: Information provided by the Ministry of National Defence and compilation based on CONAPREB Report.

The Armed Forces

General Mission

The mission of the Armed Forces is to protect the country's territorial integrity and defend the legally constituted government authorities (National Constitution, Art. 173).

In order to fulfill their mission, the Armed Forces of the Nation must protect the inviolability of its borders, including land, river and air spaces; organize, equip and train forces to face any type of aggression; organize, assemble and manage reserves; cooperate with civil defence; and cooperate to restore internal order, as mandated by the President of the Republic, according to an appropriate executive order.

(Ley de Organización General de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Nación, N° 216 – 1993/07/09. Last amendment: N° 4067 - 2010/11/08, Art. 7).

Command of the Military Forces: It coordinates the actions of the Higher Commands of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force to ensure full compliance with the constitutional mission of the military. It assists the Commander in Chief in the conduct of the Military Forces.

Specific Missions



Land Force

The Army is the land force that carries out strategic and tactical operations; plans, prepares and conducts operations of large units, organic units and others under its control; and supports them in the performance of their specific missions.



Naval Force

The Navy is the service that carries out strategic and tactical naval operations. It is responsible to plan, prepare and conduct operations of its large units, organic units and others under its control, which it supports in the fulfilment of their specific missions.



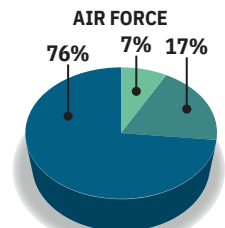
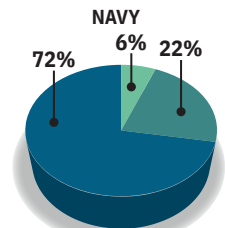
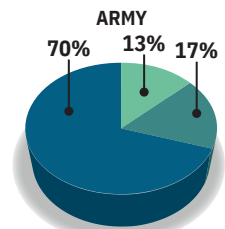
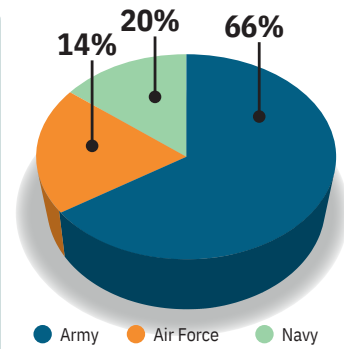
Air Force

The Air Force is the service that conducts strategic and tactical operations; plans, prepares and carries out operations of its large units, organic units and others under its control; and supports them to fulfil their specific missions.

Armed Forces Personnel

GRADE	ARMY		AIR FORCE		NAVY	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
SENIOR STAFF						
Army General/Air Force General/Admiral	0	2	0	1	0	1
Major General/Air Force Major General/Vice Admiral	0	12	0	3	0	1
Brigadier General/Air Brigadier General/Rear Admiral	0	23	0	4	0	6
Colonel/Captain	24	284	3	40	7	42
Lieutenant Colonel/Commander	5	177	3	46	14	38
Major/Lt. Commander	43	239	18	54	16	52
Captain/Lieutenant	112	268	34	49	40	68
1st Lieutenant/ Lieutenant Senior G	89	205	24	68	27	73
Lieutenant/ Lieutenant Junior G	57	185	22	80	40	74
Second Lieutenant/Ensign	22	192	23	60	23	60
Total	352	1,587	127	405	167	415
NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS						
Sergeant Major	30	724	0	116	0	90
First Sergeant	12	304	0	91	3	92
Master Sergeant	49	788	8	224	9	304
Sergeant First Class	150	1,665	120	393	80	654
Staff Sergeant	43	2,400	106	355	46	727
Sergeant	91	1,705	60	264	29	593
Total	375	7,586	294	1,443	167	2,460
TROOPS						
Specialist	0	0	0	79	0	51
1st Corporal	0	0	0	0	0	0
2nd Corporal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private/Airman /Seaman 1st Class	0	1,508	0	68	0	152
Private / Airman /Seaman	0	0	0	0	0	31
Total	0	1508	0	147	0	234
Total by Service	11,408		2,416		3,443	
Total Armed Forces	17,267					

Armed Forces Personnel - Breakdown

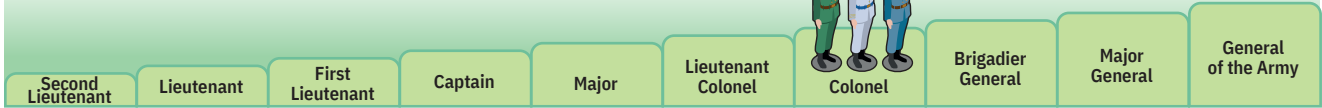


● Troops
● Officers
● NCOs

Source: Compilation based on Constitution of the Republic, Ley de Organización General de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Nación, N° 216 – 1993/07/09; and information provided by the Ministry of Defence.

Women in the Armed Forces

Highest Rank Attained in Officer Ranks



Highest Rank Attained in Non-Commissioned Officer Ranks



Out of the Total Number of Officers and NCOs, **9.64%** are women

Note: The hierarchical scale of the Army is used for illustrative purposes. In the Naval Force, Colonel is equivalent to Captain; in the Air Force, Colonel has the same designation. In the case of Sergeant Major, it has the same designation in the three services.

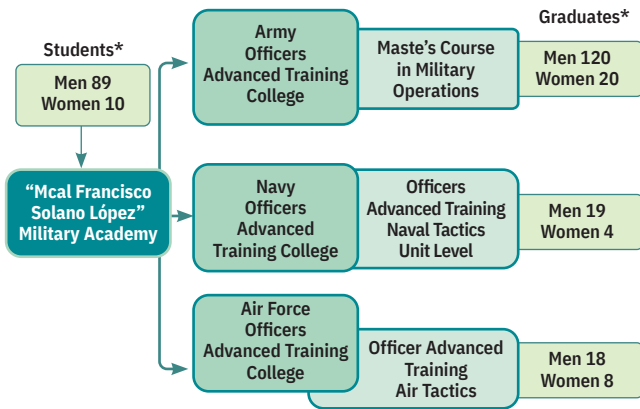
The Human Rights Directorate of the Army Command is responsible for gender matters. Its responsibility includes managing personnel complaints.

The Air Force has a Gender Department under the Directorate for Civilian Affairs. The Legal Affairs Directorate and the legal counseling offices in large units are responsible, in first instance, to issue an opinion on complaints filed.

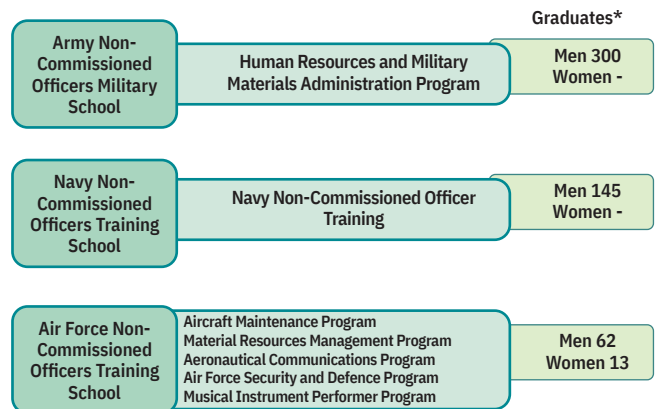
The Navy has complaint filing offices in each unit, through the Legal Counseling Offices.

Military Education

Career Path for Officers



Career Path for Non-Commissioned Officers



*Data on students and graduates of the Military Academy in 2023, according to official information provided by the Ministry of Defence of Paraguay.

Army Officers

Army Military Intelligence School

- Military Intelligence Course for Officers
- Military Geointelligence Course for Officers
- Military Intelligence Analysis Program

Army Command and General Staff College

- Master’s Degree in Military Sciences

Non-Commissioned Officers

Technical Higher Institute of Health

- Nursing Program

School for Mechanics and Automobile Drivers

- Training in Automotive Mechanics

Higher Technical Institute of Geographic Sciences

- Program in Geographic Sciences

Higher Technical Institute of Agricultural Studies

- Program in Agricultural Sciences

School of Military Musicians

- Program in Military Bands

Training of Military Nurses at the Directorate of the Health Service of the Armed Forces (DISERSANFA).

Navy Officers

Navy Command and Staff College

- Command and Staff Course Operational Strategy

Non-Commissioned Officers

Non-Commissioned Officers Advanced Training School

- Non-Commissioned Officers Advanced Training Course

Air Force Officers

FAP Command and General Staff College

- Career in Aerospace Policy and Strategy
- Command and Staff Course
- National History of Paraguay

Non-Commissioned Officers

Center for Specialized Training

- Command NCO Course
- Advanced Training Course for G Non-Commissioned Officers

Training as Senior Geodesy Technician at the Directorate of the Military Geographic Service (DISERGEMIL).

Training of Transport Drivers at the General Directorate of Railway Services (DIGETREN).




Training as a Higher Technician in Agricultural Service at the General Directorate of the Agricultural Service (DISERAGRO).

Military Service

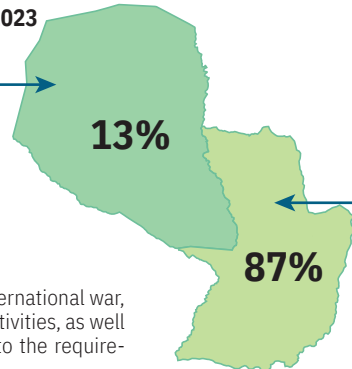
All male citizens are required to perform military service for one year. However, the National Constitution recognizes the objection based on conscience due to ethical or religious beliefs. People who assert their objection based on conscience shall provide services to the civil population by working in assistance centres.

New Recruits to Military Service, 2023

Western Region:

-  Army 199
-  Navy 14
-  Air Force 23

Women may be called in the event of international war, to perform logistic and administrative activities, as well as to provide other services according to the requirements arising from the war.



Eastern Region:

-  Army 1,336
-  Navy 145
-  Air Force 120

Military Exercises

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

- Joint Training for Jumping in Large Masses of Water: conducted in 2023, this joint training with personnel of the Marine Command meant a new step in the adaptation of parachute technique and specific training.
- Joint Exercise “TAGUATO OCCIDENTAL I” at the Mariscal Estigarribia Airport (SGME): with the objective of training military personnel in air and ground combat operations in the Western Region.

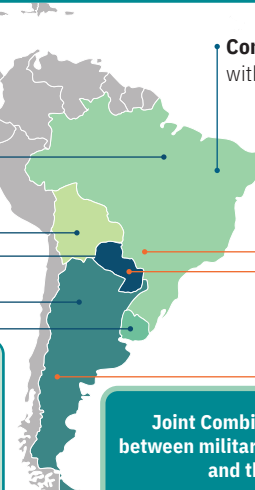
They regularly participate in bilateral and multilateral military exercises, especially with neighboring countries of the region. These includes:



ACRUX Combined: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.



Multinational:
UNITAS: multinational conducted annually.
Multinational PANAMAX. Among others, final conference of planning and execution of the exercise.



Combined NINFA: with the Brazilian Navy.

International SAR Simulator Exercise - SAREX 2023, organized between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.

Joint Combined Exchange Training, between military personnel from Paraguay and the United States.

Participation in Peace Operations

UNVMC
COLOMBIA

Men	15 EM
Women	3 EM

MINUSCA
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Men	1 EM	2 SO
Women	1 EM	

UNMISS
SOUTH SUDAN

Men	3 EM
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MONUSCO
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Men	3 EM	1 SO
Women	2 SO	

EM: Expert on Mission.
SO: Staff Officers.



Paraguay has the **Joint Peace Operations Centre of Paraguay (CECOPAZ)**, created in 2001. All trained personnel can perform security or humanitarian assistance tasks in the area of peace operations

68% of the personnel trained at CECOPAZ in 2022 and 2023 were women:
Officers: 2 out of 4 trained.
Non-Commissioned Officers: 3 out of 4.

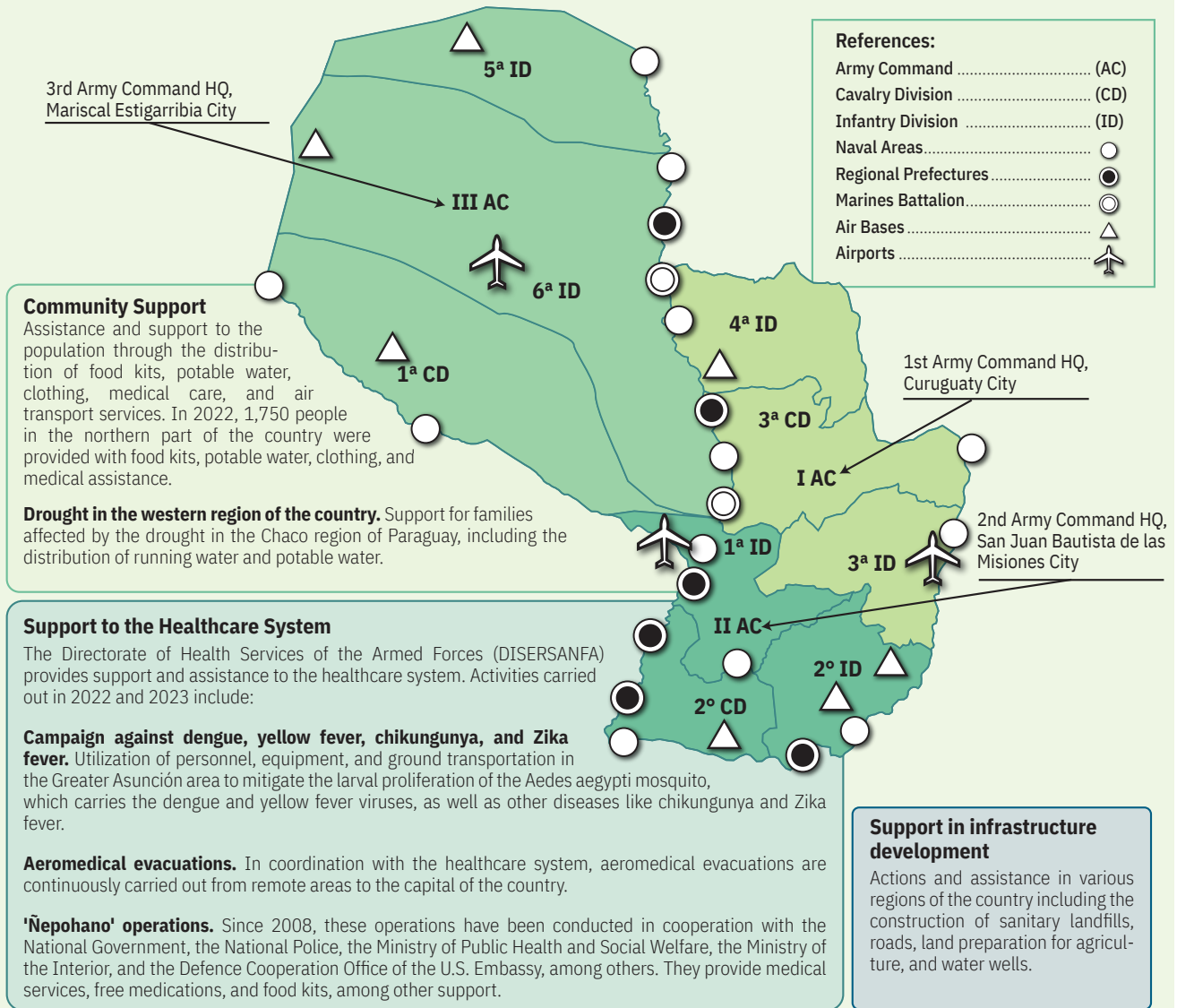
In 2022 and 2023, **4 officers and 24 non-commissioned officers** were trained.



Paraguay contributes **18** military personnel to United Nations peace operations, which represent **2%** of the total contributed by Latin America.

Source: Compilation based on *Ley del Servicio Militar obligatorio* (N° 569 - 1975/12/24. Last Amendment: N° 3360 - 2007/11/02); information provided by the Ministry of National Defence; *Informe de Gestión del Ministerio de Defensa Nacional 2022*; and statistics from the United Nations Department of Peace Operations website, 'Contribution of Uniformed Personnel to the UN by Mission and Personnel Type' in its various presentations. Data as of April 2024.

Community Support



Risk and Emergency Management



The contingency plan is activated through the Directorate of Civil Affairs of the Army Command, according to the type of emergency declared. The Air Force provides support with personnel, equipment, air and ground resources, according to the needs and decisions adopted.

In the Paraguayan Navy, the Directorate of Civil Affairs is responsible for activating the protocols for action by the Service in emergency situations.

The relevant protocols are updated annually and are forwarded to the units.



Paraguayan Army providing support to families after severe storms and floods. Photo: Official Facebook page of the Paraguayan Army.

Source: Compilation based on information provided by the Ministry of National Defence; websites of the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of Justice; *Informe de Gestión 2022*, Ministry of National Defence; Facebook account of the CODI-FTC and the Military Forces Command; and the above-mentioned regulations.



Risk and Emergency Management

Green Helmet

Defence Directorate of Environmental Defence Service

In 2003, the Environmental Defence Battalion (Green Helmet) was created by Decree No. 20601, under the jurisdiction of the Military Forces Command. In 2018, by Decree No. 8784 and General Order No. 117, it changed to become the Directorate of the Environmental Defence Service, and since then, it has reported both organizationally and administratively to the Logistics Command.

During 2024, among other activities, its Forest Fire Brigade has provided support to the Rapid Deployment Forestry Unit of the Volunteer Fire Brigade to mitigate the fire in Lambare, and for spraying mosquitoes that transmit dengue and chikungunya.

Specialized Units include:

- Army Environmental Directorate.
- Civil Affairs Directorates of the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- Contingency Department, under the General Aeronautical Prefecture.
- Air Force Environmental Firefighter Corps, activated in case of forest fires.

Ñangareko Plan

The Ministry of Defence participates in the plan, managed by the National Emergency Secretariat, by providing food assistance to vulnerable people.

Mechanisms for managing Military Deployments

Decided by the National Defence Council (CODENA), in coordination with other government agencies.

The Military Environmental Council (COMIAM) of the Ministry of National Defence (MDN) has the mission to serve as liaison and coordinator between the institutions involved in the implementation of the environmental policy.

The Army's Civil Affairs Directorate is in charge of conducting permanent coordination with government entities.

Inter-agency cooperation agreements establish specific coordination channels to implement support with personnel, equipment, air and ground resources, as needed.

Risk and Emergency Management Activities during 2022 and 2023 included:

- Forest fire mitigation in Alto Paraguay area.
- Support to the National Emergency Secretariat, by providing personnel, air and land resources, in flooding events across various sectors of the country.
- Creation of new protected areas (by the Environmental Management Directorate) and training of 417 people on protected area management.
- CONAPREB: training for military members and public servants on prevention, disinfection and biosafety procedures at facilities.
- Distribution of humanitarian assistance to populations in need.

Internal Order

Decree N° 103/13, by which it provides for the use of combat elements of the Nation's Armed Forces in internal defence operations in the Departments of Concepción, San Pedro and Amambay; states in its Art. 1 the use of combat elements of the Armed Forces of the Nation in Internal Defence Operations, in the Departments of Concepción, San Pedro and Amambay, in order to guarantee internal security, within the legal framework established in Act 5036/13, which amended Law No. 1337/99 on National Defence and Internal Security. Article 3 establishes that the members of the National Police and SEÑAD deployed in said departments shall be under the operational control of the Commander, while Art. 4 establishes that agencies under the Executive Branch shall provide unrestricted support to the commander of internal defence operations.

Operation Basalto

Combined operation carried out with Brazil in border areas, involving the Armed Forces joint participation and several government agencies. As an example, some of the results from the operation carried out in 2024 were:

- Seizure of 412,374 kilos of marijuana
- Destruction of 137 camps
- Loss of revenues equivalent to USD 26,502,000

The Agate exercise, also a combined exercise carried out with said country, usually involves a larger deployment in the Tri-Border area.

Operation Norte Soberano

Under the jurisdiction of the Internal Defence Command, this operation deploys resources and troops in Pedro Juan Caballero for vehicle checks with the support of anti-drug dogs; motorized and foot patrols; aerial surveillance using drones; and day and night controls.

Exceptional Penitentiary Security Plan

Approved by **Decree N° 842** dated December 2023, the plan was designed within the scope of the CODENA and comprises the Ministries of Justice, Interior and National Defence. Since its adoption, National Defence has provided support to the Justice sector for perimeter security at the Tacumbu and Emboscada penitentiaries. It contributes with personnel, equipment, air and land resources, and employs 162 military personnel and 15 tactical vehicles.

Other activities 2022-2023

- Support to the Internal Defence Operations Command and the Joint Task Force, by providing personnel, equipment, and air and ground resources.
- VIP Security on occasion of official visits of foreign Heads of State and senior authorities (support to the Security Command of the Presidential Escort Regiment).
- Support to the *Banco Nacional de Fomento*, with security coverage, employing 316 military personnel.