



URUGUAY



Population 3,423,100 inhabitants

Territorial Extension 176,220 km²

GDP (US\$) 82,605,000,000

GDP per capita (US\$) 24,131

Armed Forces Personnel 22,822

Defence Budget (US\$) 599,470,431

The Ministry of National Defence was established in 1935.

Legal Framework

National Legislation

Systems and Concepts

Law on State Security and Internal Order (N° 14068 - 1972/07/12. Last Amendment: N° 15737 - 1985/03/08).

Armed Forces Organic Law (DL N° 14157 - 1974/03/05. Last Amendment: N° 19775 - 2019/07/26).

National Defence Framework Law (N° 18650 - 2010/03/08. Last Amendment: N° 19889 - 2020/07/09).

Military Organization

Law on the establishment of the military retirement service (N° 3739 - 1911/02/24. Last Amendment: N° 16320-1992/11/01).

Military Codes (DL N° 10326 - 1943/01/28. Last Amendment: N° 20075 - 2022/10/20).

Navy Organic Law (N° 10.808 - 1946/11/08).

Air Force Organic Law (N° 14747 - 1977/12/30).

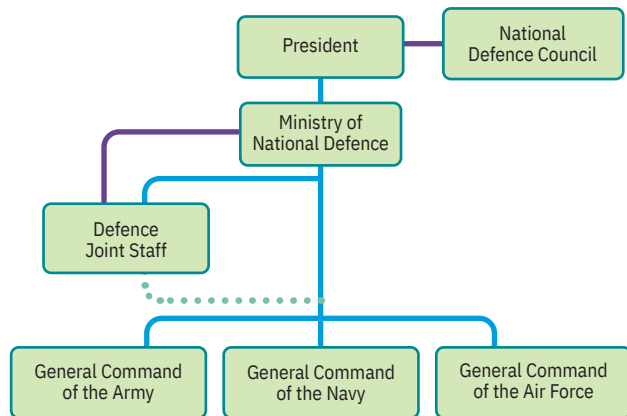
Organic Law of the National Army (N° 15688 - 1985/01/17. Last Amendment: N° 17920 - 2005/11/28).

Law empowering the Executive to entrust military personnel under the Ministry of National Defence with the transitional functions of perimeter guard (N° 18717 - 2011/01/03. Last Amendment: N° 19326 - 2015/07/08).

Law on the re-establishment of offences committed in pursuance of State terrorism until 1 March 1985 (N° 18831 - 2011/10/27).

Law on police and military education (N° 19188 - 2014/01/20).

The Defence System



Advisory and Assistance Functional Relationship

Command Reporting Line

Joint Planning and Management Relationship

The President may receive the advice of the National Defence Council, composed of the Ministers of Defence, Interior, Foreign Affairs and of Economy and Finance. The Minister of Defence leads the defence policy and exercises the higher management and administration of the Armed Forces. The Joint Defence Staff is the military ministerial advisory body, responsible for joint military planning and employment. The General Assembly holds the powers granted by the Constitution and permanently monitors defence related issues through the defence committees in both Houses.

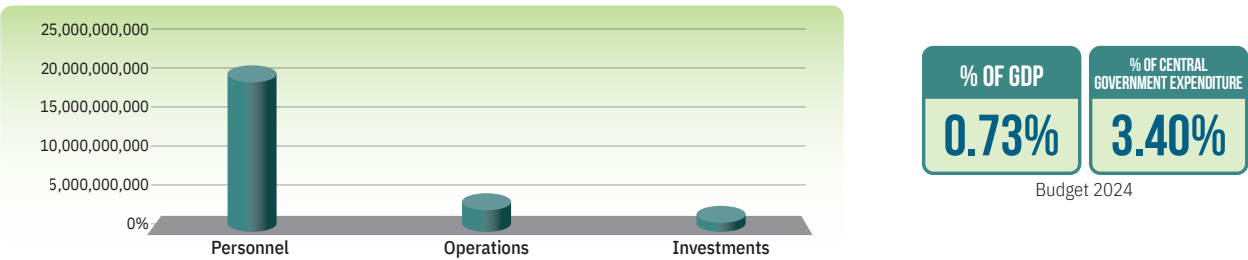
Source: Compilation based on the *Ley marco de defensa nacional* (N° 18650 - 2010/03/08. Last Amendment: N° 19889 - 2020/09/07).

The Budget

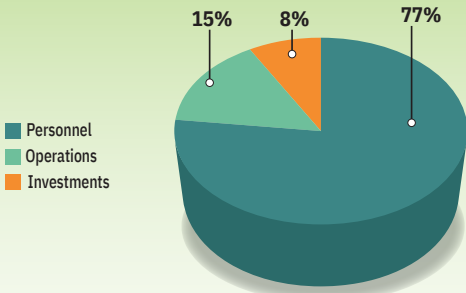
Defence Budget, 2024 (in Uruguayan Pesos)

	Personnel	Operations	Investments	Total
General Directorate of the Secretariat	3,496,562,944	373,468,184	11,490,000	3,881,521,128
General Command of the Navy	2,970,433,064	559,921,021	326,028,294	3,856,382,379
General Command of the Air Force	1,610,964,850	430,912,055	382,734,002	2,424,610,907
General Command of the Army	7,531,700,080	1,084,731,236	60,305,000	8,676,736,316
General Defence Staff	102,090,317	9,552,747	23,143,129	134,786,193
National Directorate of Civil Aviation	944,036,688	132,277,437	129,000,000	1,205,314,125
General Directorate of Services and the Armed Forces	67,907,432	14,642,930	1,509,000	84,059,362
National Directorate of Health and the Armed Forces	2,792,020,317	263,952,048	216,000	3,056,188,365
Retirement and Pensions of the Armed Forces	103,845,522	8,559,992	2,493,796	114,899,310
TOTAL	19,619,561,214	2,878,017,650	936,919,221	23,434,498,085

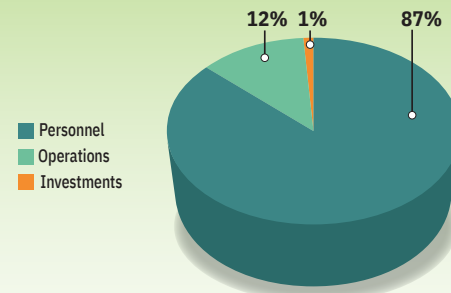
Distribution by Expenditure Item



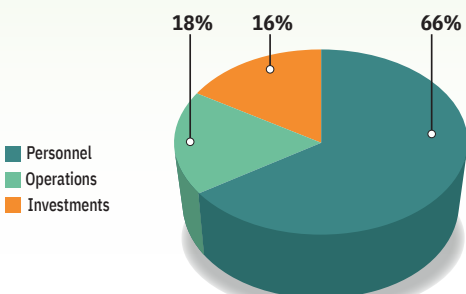
Navy General Command



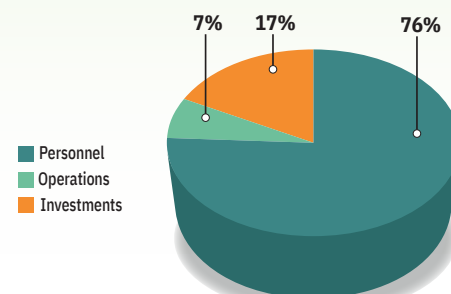
Army General Command



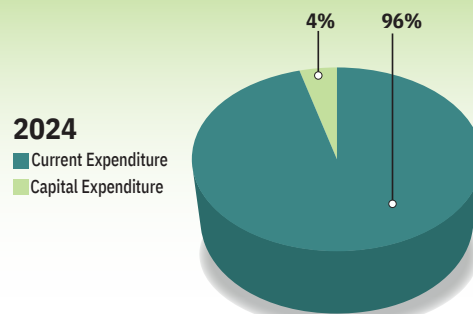
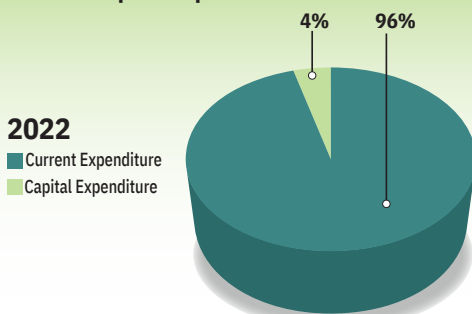
Air Force General Command



General Defence Staff



Current and Capital Expenditure



Source: Compilation based on information from the Planning and Budget Office website and *Ley de Presupuesto 2020-2024*. IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024). Central Bank of Uruguay (Exchange Rate: 1 US\$ = 39.092 Uruguayan Pesos, January 2024).

The Ministry of National Defence

YEAR OF CREATION

1935

Average Tenure in Office for Ministers: 2 YEARS AND 7 MONTHS

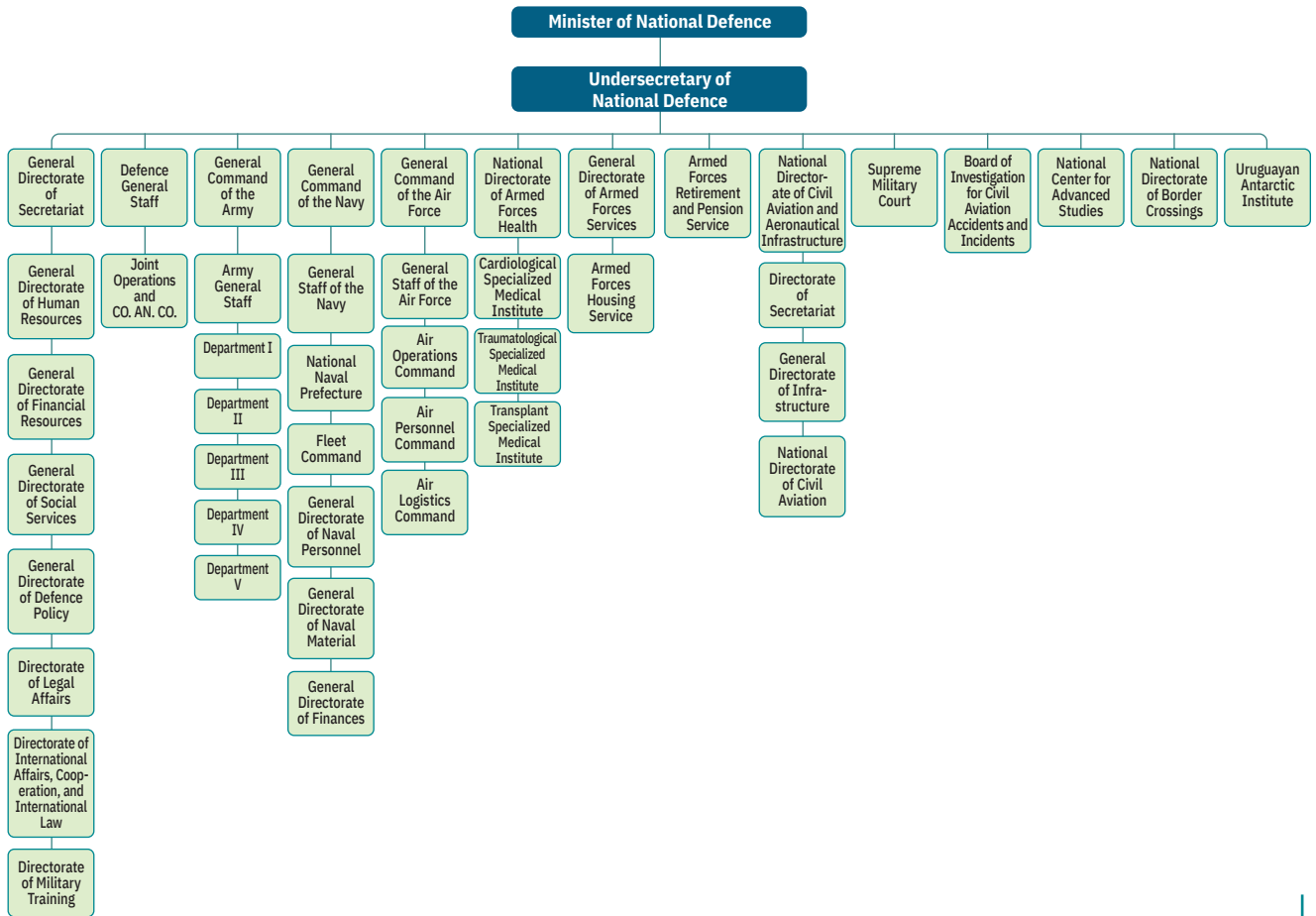
MISSION

Its basic responsibility and competence is to conduct the political affairs in those areas of national defence which are determined by the laws and the Executive Branch within the framework of its powers, particularly everything relating to the Armed Forces.

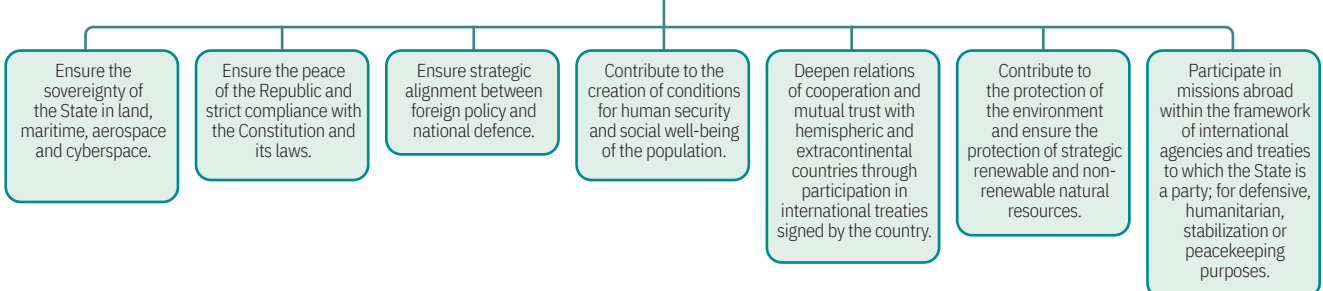
MANDATES

- Act with the President of the Republic in all matters relating to national defence.
- The preparation, direction, organization and implementation of national defence policy; the acquisition and management of human and material resources for this purpose.
- The highest leadership and administration of the Armed Forces, in matters not directly reserved to the executive branch.
- Be a permanent member of the National Defence Council.
- Exercise administrative, financial and legal management and establish the criteria for managing human resources, both civilian and military, in all units and departments that make up the unit. For this purpose, it may employ personnel of civil or military origin without distinction, on the basis of suitability and convenience for the service to be performed.
- Exercise direction and supervision over all activities carried out by the Armed Forces, in accordance with guidelines established by the higher command.
- Determine the orientation and outline of the training of the Armed Forces, aimed at the maximum development of their values, skills and duties necessary for the fulfillment of the fundamental tasks set forth by this law.
- The basic areas of competence are: defence policy, general administration, the Defence Staff, the National Navy, the National Army and the Uruguayan Air Force.

Organizational Chart



National Defence Policy, Directives 2020-2025



Source: Compilation based on the *Ley marco de defensa nacional* (N° 18650 - 2010/03/08) and the official website of the Ministry of National Defence.

The Armed Forces

General Mission

They are composed of the National Navy, the National Army and the Uruguayan Air Force. They are constituted as the organized branch, equipped, instructed and trained to execute military acts imposed by national defence. Its fundamental task is to defend the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the country, safeguard the strategic resources of the country as determined by the executive power and contribute to preserving the peace of the Republic within the framework of the Constitution and laws.

(Ley marco de defensa nacional N° 18650 – 2010/03/08, Art. 18).

The **Defence Joint Staff** is the military ministerial advisory body responsible for planning and coordinating joint activities of the Armed Forces. The Chief of the Defence Joint Staff reports directly to the Ministry of National Defence.

It is responsible for the following

- Plan and coordinate with the General Commands of the Armed Forces the implementation of the military defence strategy.
- Advise on military design planning.
- Advise, upon request of the Ministry, on joint training of military personnel from officer training schools.
- Develop training and other areas as required.
- Receive, analyze and report the reports of the Republic's defence attachés accredited to foreign governments.

Specific Missions

Army

The main mission is to contribute to national security, within the framework of the Armed Forces mission, by developing their capabilities in accordance with the requirements foreseen. Without prejudice to its fundamental mission, the National Army may support and take over development plans assigned to it by carrying out public works.

Navy

Their essential mission is to defend the Constitution and the laws of the State, territorial integrity and maritime police of the Republic, in order to help defend the honour, independence and peace of the Republic.

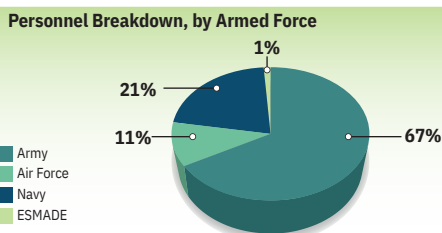
Air Force

The fundamental mission is to provide external and internal national security, in cooperation with the other components of the Armed Forces. Without prejudice to its fundamental mission, it shall: support or take over the development plans assigned to it, carrying out public works; develop its potential in accordance with the requirements or expectations of the fulfilment of its fundamental mission and those assigned to it; constitute the Executive's independent advisory body for aerospace policy; and to be the executive body for measures to guide, integrate and develop national aerospace potential.

Armed Forces Personnel

OFFICER RANKS	ARMY		AIR FORCE		NAVY		EDEFENCE JOINT STAFF (ESMADE)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Lieutenant General	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Brigadier General	0	13	0	5	0	6	0	0
Colonel	1	148	2	39	0	75	0	0
Lieutenant Colonel	13	217	5	28	4	58	0	0
Major	18	191	6	43	11	57	0	0
Captain	32	175	17	55	20	67	1	1
First Lieutenant	52	190	17	54	11	45	3	0
Second Lieutenant	47	158	19	40	12	31	5	1
Ensign	30	106	5	17	19	43	7	1
Total	193	1,199	71	282	77	383	16	4
Total by Service	1,392		353		460		20	

NCOs	ARMY		AIR FORCE		NAVY		EDEFENCE JOINT STAFF (ESMADE)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Highest ranking NCO	25	141	4	22	13	47	5	2
First Sergeant	37	238	9	68	28	93	13	3
Sergeant	205	1,278	30	124	55	163	16	13
First Corporal	348	1,351	49	175	91	286	23	13
Second Corporal	321	1,484	185	313	205	443	22	16
First Soldier	1,081	6,914	521	662	1,178	1,547	22	12
Apprentice	117	347	28	102	21	88	0	0
Total	2,134	11,753	826	1,466	1,591	2,667	101	59
Total by Service	15,279		2,645		4,718		180	

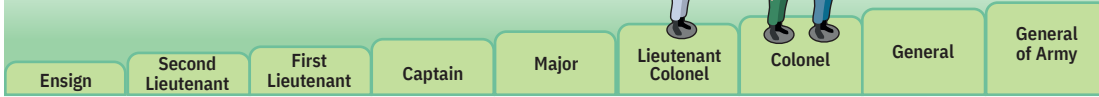


Total Armed Forces
22,822

Source: Compilation based on information provided by the Ministry of National Defence; Ley orgánica de las Fuerzas Armadas (DL N° 14157 - 1974/05/03); Ley marco de defensa nacional (N° 18650 - 2010/03/08); Ley orgánica de la Marina (N° 10.808 - 1946/11/08); Ley orgánica de la Fuerza Aérea (N° 14747 - 1977/12/30); and Ley orgánica del Ejército Nacional (N° 15688 - 1985/01/17).

Women in the Armed Forces

Highest Rank Attained in Officer Ranks



Of the total number of officers and NCOs, **21.6 %** are women.

Highest Rank Attained in Non-Commissioned Officer Ranks



The Ministry of National Defence has a Gender Commission, created in 2012, which seeks to promote equal rights and opportunities between men and women.

Note: Army hierarchy, for illustrative purposes. In the Navy, Lieutenant Colonel is equivalent to Commander. In the Air Force, the name is the same. For troop personnel, the same designation applies to the Air Force and for the Navy is equivalent to Master Chief Petty Officer.

The Defence General Staff has a Gender Commission, established in 2020, to promote the development of gender equity policies and the advancement of women's rights,

The Centre for National Studies (CALEN) has implemented the Women, Peace and Security Observatory.

Military Education



Career Path for Non-Commissioned Officers

Training and Development School for Army Non-commissioned Officers Weapons Personnel
Basic course for NCOs; advanced course for non-commissioned officers; and training and development courses for classes.

Navy Specialization School
Basic Military Course for National Navy admissions.

Aeronautics Technical School
Aeronautical Technology Diploma.

Army

Training and Development School for Senior Army Personnel | 1918

Courses of: professional training and upgrades for combat corps captains and combat service support ranks; and training and development for combat corps officers and combat service support ranks.

Army Intelligence School | 1979

Courses on: intelligence for officers; intelligence for NCOs; intelligence techniques; and handling of classified documentation

Army Musicians School | 1930

Courses of: bandmaster; Sergeant of military bands; Apprentice of military musician; and Soldier military musician.

Military Administration School | 1996

Training and development of support, technical and reserve officers; and training of support, technical and Reserve officers.

Army Equestrian School | 1918

Diploma in Equestrian Rehabilitation.

Physical Education and Shooting Army School | 1943

Courses of: Shooting Instructor; Shooting Monitor; Military Physical Education Instructor (EFM); EFM Monitor; and EFM for cadets.

Military Institute of Higher Studies | 1948

Bachelor of Military Science; Specialization in Military History; and Master of Military Land Strategy.

Navy

Naval War School | 1961

Courses of passage for degrees in: Ensign of Ship, Lieutenant of Ship and Commander of Frigate. Courses of: information for Senior Officers, negotiation, mediation, management and economic viability of projects and Naval General Staff. Master's degree in Maritime Affairs.

Diving School | 1975

Courses of: diving.

Marine Infantry Corps School | 1972

Courses of: Marine Officer; Company Chief Officer; infantry tactical communications; rapid self-defence shot; classical grenadier; Shooting Instructor; personnel management; and cartography.

Naval Aviation School | 1944

Courses of: Naval Air Pilot; Operations Officer; Naval Aviator Officer; Aerospace Specialist Officer; Casualty Response Team Officers; Naval Security Officer; Helicopter Control Officer; SAR operations; naval military basic; naval basic; and, basic, intermediate and advanced training in aeronaval maintenance.

Navy Training Centre | 1940

Courses of: Commander; STCW basic and advanced; naval armament and fire; war fundamentals and anti-submarine warfare; and mine warfare fundamentals.

Center for Advanced National Studies

Master's degree in National Strategy; Specialization in Strategic Intelligence; and postgraduate Degree in National Strategy.

Courses of: foresight oriented strategic planning; cyber defence and cyber security; terrorism geopolitics; basic intelligence analysis; foreign policy and international security; security and defence; defence workshop for youth; and green hydrogen.

Air Force

Air Command and Joint Defence Staff School (ECEMA) | 1957

Regular courses in: national defence; command superior; command basic; command elementary; and, Air Staff. Special courses for: Flight Safety Officer; Air Intercept Controller; Mission Commander; large force deployment; Safety Officer; Human Factors Instructor; MRM Instructor; and Maintenance Officer.

Source: Compilation based on information provided by the Ministry of National Defence and the official websites of the Ministry of National Defence and the educational institutes mentioned.

Military Service

It is voluntary for all men and women who have passed the primary level of education.

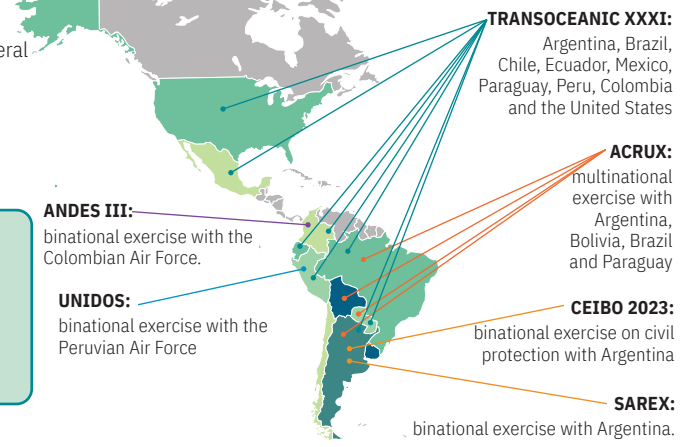
Service starts with two years as trainee. Upon completion of that period, there is the option of extending the contract for a minimum one-year period, until the person reaches the maximum age for a soldier (30 years old), or enter training schools to continue with their military career.

Military Exercises

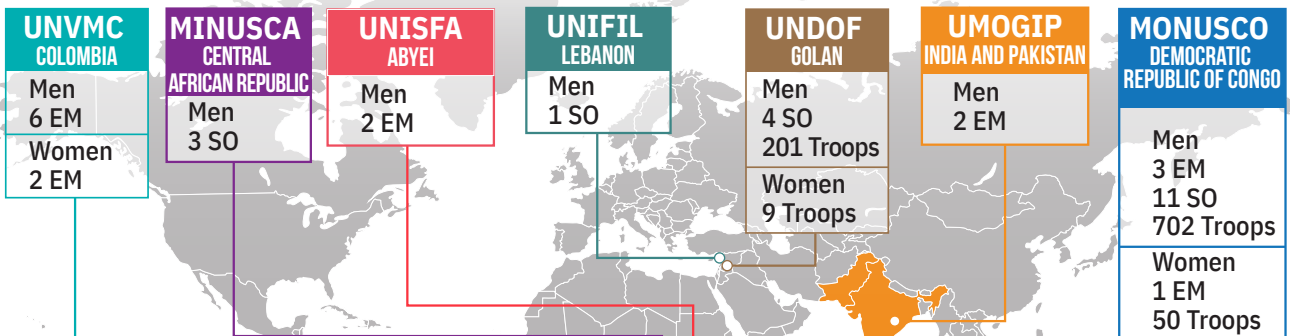
The Armed Forces conducted several exercises in the national territory during 2022 and 2023. They regularly participate in bilateral and multilateral military exercises, especially with neighboring countries of the region. These include:



Multinational:
Multinational Combined Exercise Cooperation IX: multinational with members of SICOFAA.
UNITAS: multinational, conducted annually.
Multinational PANAMAX: among others, final conference of planning and execution of the exercise.

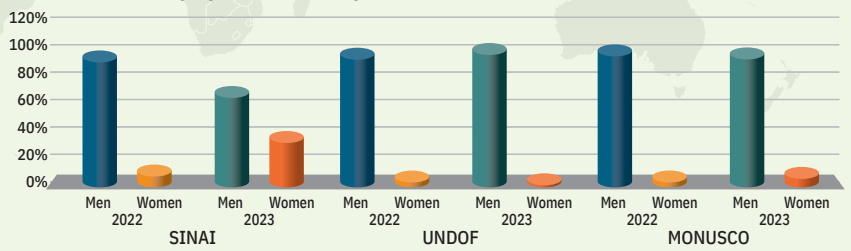


Participation in Peace Operations



EM: Experts on Mission.
 SO: Staff Officers.

Students in Pre-deployment Courses, per Mission



Uruguay has the **National Peace Operations School (ENOPU)**, created in 2008



In 2022 and 2023, ENOPU trained **2,149** officers and NCOs.

Uruguay contributes **997** military personnel to United Nations peace operations, which represent **49.47%** of the total contributed by Latin America.

In 2019, Uruguay participated in the pilot project of the methodology to analyze barriers to women's participation in UN peace operations under the Elsie Initiative, led by Cornell University, DCAF and RESDAL. The same was implemented for personnel of the Armed Forces and the National Police. In 2023, the Elsie Fund awarded the Ministry of National Defence a specific project to continue working on the results of the pilot project; it was the first Latin American country to obtain this type of funding.

The **National Peace Operations Support System – SINOMAPA** is the body responsible for monitoring peace operations.

Source: Compilation based on information provided by the Ministry of National Defence; *Memoria Anual 2023 del Ministerio de Defensa Nacional*; 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



Supporting the Ministry of Social Development, the Armed Forces distributed 350,000 kilograms of food to community kitchens and organized communal meals.

Support to the Population

Due to the water deficit that Uruguay faced in 2023, the Armed Forces transported more than 2,700,000 liters of drinking water to different areas of the country. Additionally, they carried out the cleaning of watercourses and conducted reconnaissance flights to assess the situation of the basins.

Operation Polar Cold

As part of the National Winter Plan, the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces support strengthening coverage, medical assistance, and care for homeless individuals. Units from the Armed Forces were made available to provide shelter and food to vulnerable populations. In collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior, they conducted rounds to bring people to shelters. In 2023, 12,175 night shelters were provided, and 171,100 hot meals were distributed.

Fumigations

The Armed Forces carry out fumigation tasks against the dengue mosquito to prevent infection hotspots and the spread of the disease.

Support to the Education System

The Armed Forces provide support to the education system through the provision of supplies, food kits, and the repair and improvement of educational facilities.

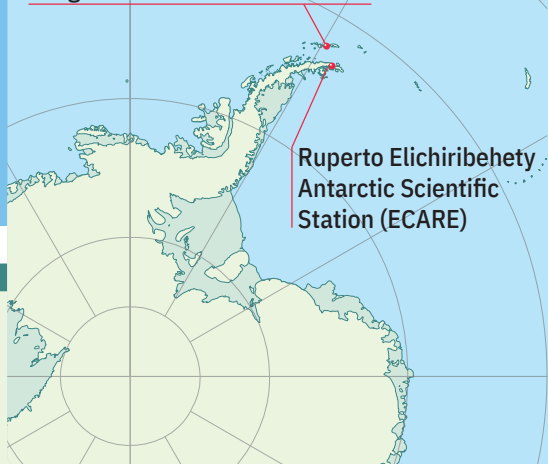
Support for the Health System

The Armed Forces support the health system by providing medical and dental consultations, distributing medications, performing interventions, and administering vaccinations in isolated areas. They also carry out aeromedical evacuations of medical equipment and necessary supplies.

Rescue Operations

The Air Force conducted search and rescue operations for individuals in emergency situations. The Navy, through the Search and Rescue System, responded to 182 search and rescue incidents at sea. In 2023, assistance was provided to 720 people.

Artigas Antarctic Scientific Base



Ruperto Elichiribehety Antarctic Scientific Station (ECARE)

Uruguayan Antarctic Institute

Established in 1968, it is a decentralized body of the Ministry of National Defence and the administrator of the Uruguayan National Antarctic Program (PNA). It is responsible for Antarctic activities in the scientific, technological, and logistical areas.

The Ministry of Defence is part of the Interministerial Cabinet on Antarctic Affairs, which oversees the strategic direction of the PNA.

Risk and Emergency Management

National Emergency System (SINAE)

It is the specific entity responsible for coordinating the tasks and responsibilities of various actors in disaster management, effectively integrating public and private efforts according to the needs of each phase of the system, and ensuring the efficient management of resources necessary for implementing required actions. Its goal is to protect people, property, and the environment.

It is a national and decentralized system, with each department having a Departmental Emergency Committee (CDE) responsible for formulating risk management policies and strategies at the local level, and is composed of:

The respective Intendant, as President.

The Chief of the Departmental Police.

The Chief of the Fire Department Detachment of the National Fire Department of the Ministry of the Interior.

A representative from the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Institute for Children and Adolescents of Uruguay.

A Prosecutor from the Office of the Attorney General.

Each Departmental Committee also has a departmental emergency coordination center, which functions as the operational coordination body for comprehensive risk management at the national level.

Source: Compilation based on *Memoria Anual 2023 del Ministerio de Defensa Nacional*; Army Magazine *La Fuerza de Todos* No. 47; and official websites of the Ministry of National Defence and the Armed Forces.

Risk and Emergency Management

Specialized Units

The Uruguayan Armed Forces have units specialized in emergency management that are coordinated and coordinated with the National Emergency System and departmental emergency coordination centers and committees:

- The Army battalions have specialized emergency support sections.
- The Air Force has the Air Rescue Coordination Centre, a section from which search and rescue operations are managed.
- The Navy has the National Maritime SAR System, responsible for search and rescue operations in the territorial sea.

Support to the Fire Department

In 2023 the Air Force supported firefighters in fire suppression in various areas of the country, using drones and helicopters to move water and prevent the spread of fire. The Army also supported the Fire Department in various fires by deploying specialized teams. Before the fire season, the Armed Forces, together with SINAIE, the Ministry of the Interior and Fire Brigade, carry out forest fire prevention days, performing tasks with machinery, fumigator planes and personnel. Courses in forest fire fighting techniques are also offered.

Flood Relief

In 2024, the Armed Forces carried out operations to support the population affected by heavy rains and floods in different departments of the country. Evacuation operations were carried out on the population and the construction of retaining walls to prevent water from entering. Food distribution, tents for victims and transfer of belongings were implemented.



Army and Navy personnel evacuating from floods in Melo and Río Branco. Photo: Uruguayan Army, official website of the Ministry of National Defence of Uruguay.

Internal Order

The conduct of the Armed Forces in domestic affairs is regulated by:

- Law N° 19677/018, Surveillance of the Border Area.
- Decree N° 378 of 10 October 1997, External Security of Prison Complexes.
- Decree N° 531 of 23 November 2009, External Security of Prison Complexes.
- Decree N° 531 of 23 November 2009, External Security of Prison Complexes.
- Decree N° 92/020 of 12 March 2020, Procedures in Border Surveillance Tasks.

Border Patrol

The Armed Forces carry out border patrolling and security tasks (the law defines as a border zone the strip of national territory 20 km wide from the border, excluding populated areas) related to the search for narcotics and explosives, as well as the search and rescue of people. In 2023, the Armed Forces, in coordination with the General Staff of Defence, carried out:

- The establishment of **18,350** fixed and mobile posts.
- **21,614** patrols by Army personnel, with **412** officers deployed daily in border areas.
- The detection of **134** smuggling cases.
- The detection of **3,645** people entering the country irregularly.
- The seizure of **3,678** kg of narcotics.
- The seizure of **44** firearms and **88** boats.

K9 Operations Group

It is a specialized operations group of the Army, consisting of four teams: mine detection and search; patrolling and security; explosive detection and search; and search and rescue of people. They use military working dogs to carry out their tasks. In 2023, they conducted 172 operations.

Support in Perimeter Security of Correctional Facilities

The Armed Forces provided support for the security of five prison perimeters due to security issues and escape attempts. In 2023, more than 70 custody posts were established, active throughout the day, 365 days a year, with over 380 personnel deployed daily.

Defence Cyber Security Incident Response Team (C-CSIRT)

Established in 2015 under the Ministry of National Defence, its objectives are to participate effectively in responding to cyber incidents and to develop capabilities for the prevention and early detection of cyber-security incidents. The National Army also has a Cyber Defence Unit.

Protection of Critical Infrastructure

The Ministry of National Defence, together with the Armed Forces, participates in the Critical Infrastructure Security Plan (Confidential Decree No. 44/018), which is designed to address terrorist attacks or environmental disasters in coordination with SINAIE. It also participates in the National Center for Counter-Terrorism Coordination (CENACOT), alongside the Strategic Intelligence Directorate (DIE), SINAIE, and the Strategic Intelligence Secretariat.