

# **VENEZUELA**

Population 28,838,500 inhabitants

Territorial Extension

912.050 km<sup>2</sup>

GDP (in US\$)

97,116,000,000

GDP per capita (in US\$)

3.367

**Armed Forces Personnel** 

339.514

**Defence Budget (in US\$)** 

671,767,913

The Ministry of Popular Power for Defence was created in 1946.

## **Legal Framework**

### **National Legislation**

#### **Systems and Concepts**

Organic Law on National Security (Official Gazette N° 37594 - 2002/12/18. Last Amendment: Official Gazette N° 6156 - 2014/11/19).

Law on weapons and explosives (Official Gazette N° 19900 – 1939/06/12. Last Amendment: Official Gazette N° 40190 – 2013/06/17).

Organic Law on States of Exception (Official Gazette  $N^{\circ}$  37261 – 2001/08/15).

Law on disarmament and control of weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette  $N^{\circ}$  40190 – 2013/06/17).

Organic Law on Public Defence (Extraordinary Official Gazette N° 6207 – 2015/12/28. Last Amendment: Official Gazette N° 6702 – 2022/05/25).

Organic Law on the Social Security of the Bolivarian National Armed Force (Extraordinary Official Gazette N° 6209 – 2015/12/29).

## **Military Organization**

Law on honorary military ranks (Official Gazette  $N^\circ$  21113 – 1943/05/28). Organic Law on administrative procedures (Extraordinary Official Gazette  $N^\circ$  2818 – 1981/07/01).

Law on the Institute of Retired Armed Forces Officers (Official Gazette N° 34528 – 1990/08/10).

Military Justice Organic Code (Official Gazette N° 5263 – 1998/09/17. Last Amendment: Official Gazette N° 6646 – 2021/09/17).

Organic Law against organized crime (Official Gazette N° 5789 – 2005/10/26. Last Amendment: Official Gazette N° 39912 – 2012/01/31). Law on military service and enrollment (Official Gazette N° 5933 – 2009/10/06. Last Amendment: Official Gazette N° 39553 – 2010/11/16). Law on the control for the comprehensive defence of the air space (Official

Gazette N° 39935 – 2012/06/01).

Special Law on the reincorporation to the military career and the social security system of the Bolivarian National Armed Force (Official Gazette

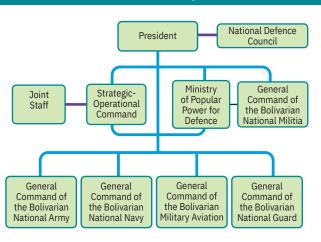
Law on the award of the Medal of Honor for meritorious public military defence (Official Gazette N° 40405 – 2014/05/06).

Law on military discipline (Official Gazette N° 40833 - 2016/01/21).

N° 39858 - 2012/02/06).

Constitutional Law of the Bolivarian National Armed Force (Extraordinary Official Gazette N $^{\circ}$  6508 – 2020/01/30)

## **The Defence System**



Advisory and assistance functional relationship

### Command reporting line

The National Defence Council advises the President and is composed of the Vice President; the Presidents of the Assembly, the Supreme Court of Justice and the Republican Moral Council; and the Ministers of Defence, Internal Security, Foreign Affairs, Planning and the Environment. The Strategic Operational Command reports directly to the President and is the highest planning and leading organization in the Armed Forces and the Bolivarian Militia. The Joint Staff is its planning and advisory body. The Strategic Operational Command, the Military Components (Army, Navy, Military Aviation and National Guard), the Bolivarian Militia and the Military Regions (the latter, in the capacity as operational organization) are administratively under the Ministry of Popular Power for Defence. The role of the Strategic Operational Command is to advise the Commander in Chief or the President on the operational use of the Bolivarian National Armed Force, while the General Command of the Bolivarian National Militia provides advice regarding the organization, equipment and use of the Bolivarian National Armed Force and the Bolivarian National Militia. The Assembly holds the powers granted by the Constitution and continuously monitors defence-related issues through the National Defence and Security Committee.

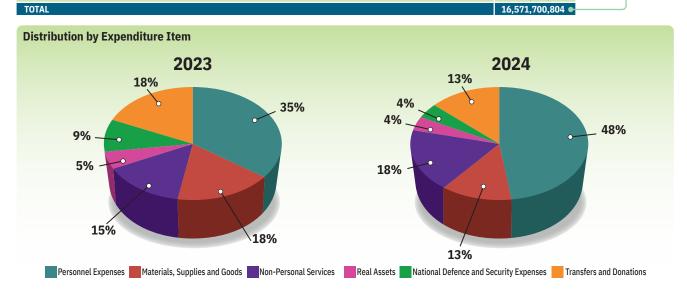
**Source:** Compilation based on the Political Constitution; *Ley orgánica de seguridad de la Nación* (Official Gazette N° 37594 – 2002/12/18); and *Ley Constitucional de la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana* (Extraordinary Official Gazette N° 6508 – 2020/01/30).

Source: Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, ECLAC (territory and population, 2023). IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024).

## **The Budget**

Budget of the Ministry of Popular Power for Defence, 2024 (in Bolivares)

Centralized Actions		
Management and Coordination of Workers' Expenses	1,215,071,725	GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE
Administrative Management	6,273,077,285	0.400/
Social Security and Retirement	244,574,432	3.43%
Comprehensive Protection and Care for Families and Individuals in Shelters during Emergencies or Disasters	19,643	
Defence Sector Fiscal Control	23,049,722	Budget 2024
Ensuring Military Public Defence	2,193,517	
Ensuring Due Process in Military Justice Administration	3,811,836	
Military Economic and Financial Planning Management	24,872,743	
TOTAL	7,786,670,903	
Projects		
Maintaining Equipment for Military Counterintelligence Information Gathering	909,743,046	
Upgrading of Regional Fiscal Control Offices	25,157,616	
Social Assistance Displaced Illegal Population in the Orinoco Mining Arc	200,000,000	
Repair Services at Educational and Health Centres	409,589,768	
Increasing Supply of Goods and Services FANB Units (Phase II)	360,802,422	
Consolidation of the Teaching-learning Infrastructure of the FANB (Phase I)	193,310,854	<b>V</b>
Expansion of Educational and Vocational Training Programs within Military Penitentiary Services (Phase III)	6,311,952	ALLOCATED TOTAL:
Strengthening of Military Capabilities for the Integral Defence of the Nation	11,687,492,834	24,358,371,707
Technological Interconnectivity and Systematization Military Criminal Justice Jurisdiction (Phase I)	28,861,647	L-1,000,07 1,707
Logistic Support for the Integral Defence of the Nation	819,707,922	<b>↑</b>
Logistical Support for the Aircraft System of the FANB	384,000,000	
Strengthening Airborne Defence System	184,000,000	
Security, Family Services and Ministerial Cabinet	120,441,511	
Development of the Military Health Network Assistance Structure	972,466,591	
Contributions and Transfers to Decentralized Entities	269,814,641	



### Projects by Expenditure Item and Execution, 2023

Responsable / Ejecutor	Materials, Supplies and Goods	Non-personnel Services	National defence and Security Expenses	Real Assets	Personnel Expenses	Transfers	TOTAL
Presidential Honor Guard	19%	16%	65%	-	-	-	1
Vice Ministry of Services	49%	44%	-	7%	-	-	1
Vice Ministry of Education for Defence	42%	54%	-	4%	-	-	1
Strategic Operational Command	14%	15%	0.38%	0.02%	71%	-	1
General Directorate of Health of the FANB	55%	27%	-	7%	10%	-	1
Military Criminal Judicial Circuit	63%	37%	-	-	-	-	1
Military Penitentiary Service of the FANB	55%	45%	-	-	-	-	1
General Directorate of Military Counterintelligence (DGCIM)	3%	1%	-	-	96%	-	1
Strategic Reserve of the Operational Logistics Command	0.00%	30%	-	70%	-	-	1
Operational Logistics Command	35%	19%	-	46%	-	-	1
General Comptroller's Office of the FANB	30%	-	-	70%	-	-	1
Administrative Management Office	-	-	-	-	-	100%	1
TOTAL	4	3	1	2	2	1	12

Source: Compilation based on the Budget Bill for the 2023 and 2024 Economic and Financial Year, Budget of Resources and Expenditures of the Republic. IMF, World Economic Outlook Database (GDP, April 2024). Central Bank of Venezuela (Exchange Rate: 1 US\$ = 36.2601 Bolivars, January 2024). Does not include additional credits or defence function items of other ministries. Note: FANB: Bolivarian National Armed Force.

## The Ministry of Popular Power for Defence

YEAR OF CREATION\*

1946

Average Tenure in Office for Ministers: 2 YEARS AND 6 MONTHS

#### MISSION

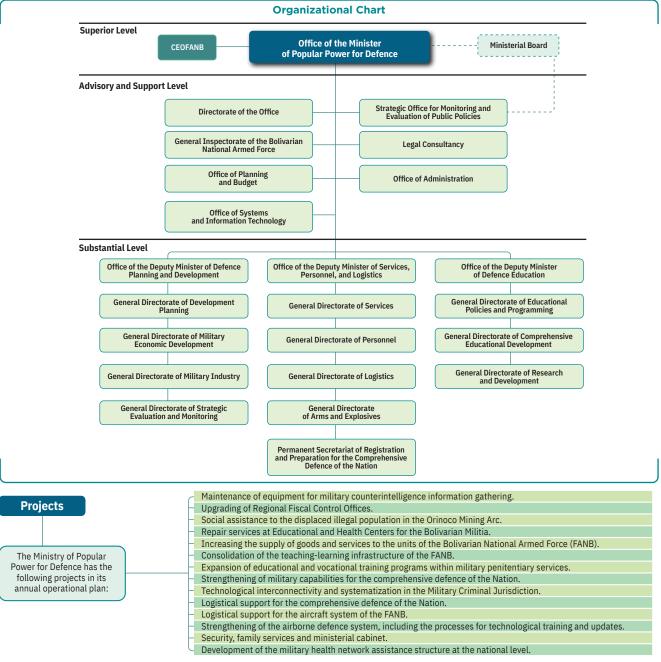
It is the Nation's highest administrative body in the field of military defence, responsible for the elaboration, adoption, monitoring, and evaluation of policies, strategies, plans, programs, and projects in the defence sector. It is made up of vice ministries, agencies, and other supporting bodies, and has a strategic unit for monitoring and evaluating public policies attached to the office of the Minister, over which it exercises oversight.

#### **MANDATES**

- Comply with and monitor presidential orders, and take part in ministerial councils when convened.
- Preside over the meetings of the Senior General Staff of the Bolivarian National Armed Force (FANB).
- Ensure the highest level of efficiency, effectiveness and transparency in the management of the Ministry and the FANB.
- Lead and ensure the operation of the FANB and the implementation of development and employment plans.
- Appoint, through resolutions, military and civilian personnel to positions and roles within its jurisdiction.
- Control and maintain the intelligence and counterintelligence system.
- Promote, coordinate and disseminate Bolivarian military thought.

- Support search and rescue activities in accordance with the law and international treaties.
- Support the performance of administrative law enforcement and criminal investigation activities in accordance with the law.
- Approve the Military Strategic Concept for the Comprehensive Defence of the Nation.
- Control and supervise the possession and exclusive use of war weapons, as well
  as the manufacture, import, export, storage, transit, registration, carrying, holding, inspection, trade and possession of other weapons, parts, accessories, ammunition, explosives, pyrotechnic devices and precursor substances for explosives, in accordance with the relevant law.
- · Contribute to the protection of the Nation's public assets.

\*The year of creation corresponds to the date on which the term "Defence" became part of the Institution's name



Source: Compilation based on the Ley Constitucional de la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana (Extraordinary Official Gazette N° 6508 – 2020/01/30); the Budget Bill for the 2024 Economic and Financial Year; the Income and Expenditure Budget of the Republic; and the official website of the Ministry of Popular Power for Defence.

## The Armed Forces

### **General Mission**

The fundamental mission of the Bolivarian National Armed Force (FANB) is to guarantee the independence and sovereignty of the Nation and to ensure the integrity of the geographic space, through military defence, cooperation in maintaining the internal order and an active participation in national development.

In January 2020, the Constitutional Law of the Bolivarian National Armed Force changed the structure of the Forces, including the Bolivarian Militia as the fifth component.

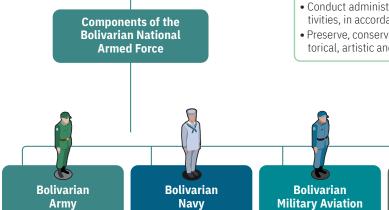
It establishes that the Bolivarian National Armed Force is organized as follows: the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Ministry of Popular Power for Defence, the Strategic Operational Command and several components, namely the Bolivarian Army, the Bolivarian Navy, the Bolivarian Military Aviation, the Bolivarian National Guard and the Bolivarian Militia as a special component, the Strategic Regions for Comprehensive Defence and the various operational levels of the Territorial Defensive System, which operate in an integral manner within their competence framework to fulfill their mission, with their own comprehensive social security regime, as provided for in their respective organic law.

#### The functions of the Bolivarian National Armed Force are the following:

- Ensure full sovereignty and jurisdiction in continental, air and maritime spaces.
- Defend the strategic areas that guarantee the development of activities in the different fields of national security and take the necessary measures to avoid their use by any potential invader.
- Prepare and organize the people for the comprehensive defence of the country with the purpose of contributing to the independence, sovereignty and integrity of the Nation's geographic space.
- Participate in alliances or coalitions with the Armed Forces of other countries for integration purposes, as provided for in international treaties, pacts and agreements, following the approval of the National Assembly.
- Take part in peace missions according to the provisions of the pertinent treaties, duly signed and ratified, following the approval of the National Assembly.
- Contribute to the preservation or restoration of the internal order vis-àvis serious social disturbances, following the decision of the President in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the FANB.
- Organize, plan, lead and control the military intelligence and counterintelligence system.
- Promote and carry out research, development and innovation activities that contribute to the technological independence and scientific progress of the Nation.
- Formulate and implement the Strategic Development Plan of the FANB in accordance with the general guidelines of the Economic and Social Development Plan of the Nation.
- Support the relevant governing body in emergency situations due to alarms caused by disasters and public calamities.
- Exercise its competences regarding civil or military service, in accordance with the law.
- Conduct administrative law enforcement and criminal investigation activities, in accordance with the law.
- Preserve, conserve and promote the national identity, as well as the historical, artistic and cultural heritage of the Nation.

Bolivarian

**National Guard** 





The mission of the Strategic Operational Command is to plan, organize, lead, execute, supervise and exercise the command and control of operations, either in times of peace or during situations of internal or external unrest in the event of domestic or international conflict, with scope of action within the Nation's geographic space and in the continental, insular, aquatic and aerospace areas, in accordance with any agreements or treaties signed by, or regarding any matter of interest for, the Ministry of Popular Power for Defence, under the authorization of the Commander-in-Chief of the FANB and duly ratified by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

To fulfill its functions, the Strategic Operational Command shall exercise command over the different levels of the Territorial Defensive System and the various Components so that they operate in a comprehensive manner within their competence framework to accomplish their mission.

The Strategic Operational Command reports directly to the President of the Republic with respect to all matters relating to operational aspects.

The law also lays down that the Office of the President and the Office of the Commander-in-Chief may order the establishment of **Special Military Economic Zones**, defined as the geographic spaces where potential, general and special conditions for carrying out endogenous, sustainable, and self-sufficient productive activities led by the FANB in civic-military unity are identified and located, in order to meet their basic needs, contribute to strengthening the military industry and foster national development within the scope of influence of the strategic economic development pillars established by the National Executive Branch.

**Bolivarian** 

Militia

Source: Compilation based on the Political Constitution and Ley Constitucional de la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana (Extraordinary Official Gazette N° 6508 – 2020/01/30).

## **The Armed Forces**

### **Specific Missions**



#### Arm۱

The Bolivarian Army carries out military operations for land-based defence, as ordered by the Strategic Operational Command.

It has, among others, the following functions:

- Formulate and develop the doctrine for planning and leading land-based military operations
- Organize, equip, train and lead units for the planning and execution of land-based and airborne military operations.
- Educate and train the Professional and Enlisted Troop personnel, contributing to the military education system in the fulfillment of its mission.
- Use its own land and air resources for specific routine tasks.
- Participate in the implementation of employment plans for the comprehensive defence of the Nation.
- Lead the training, preparation and organization of the military reserve and contribute to the training of the Bolivarian Militia.
- Contribute to the national intelligence and counterintelligence system.
- Contribute to the comprehensive development of the Nation through the productive process of the military industry.



#### Nav

The Bolivarian Navy carries out military operations for naval defence, as ordered by the Strategic Operational Command. It has, among others, the following functions:

- Formulate and develop the doctrine for planning and leading naval operations.
- Organize, equip, train and lead units for the planning and execution of military operations.
- Participate in the implementation of employment plans for the comprehensive defence of the Nation
- Develop, implement and maintain a maritime traffic control system.
- Cooperate with the pertinent authorities in order to ensure compliance with national and international legal regulations applicable in aquatic spaces.
- Coordinate, authorize, develop, carry out and supervise scientific, oceanographic and hydrographic activities in aquatic and insular spaces.
- Contribute to the protection of strategic production centers located on shores, coasts and jurisdictional aquatic spaces.
- Conduct preventive and direct activities to eradicate crimes in aquatic spaces.



#### Air Force

The Bolivarian Military Aviation carries out military operations for aerospace defence, in accordance with the Nation's interest and as ordered by the Strategic Operational Command. It has, among others, the following functions:

- · Protect aerospace.
- Organize, equip, train and lead units for the planning and execution of aerospace operations
- Lead the National Aeronautical and Aerospace Council.
- Participate in the implementation of employment plans for the comprehensive defence of the Nation.
- Coordinate and exercise, together with the National Aeronautical Authority, the regulation and control of air navigation.
- Lead, manage and control meteorological activity as a strategic service of the Venezuelan
   State
- Exercise aerospace authority within its competence scope.
- Prevent the violation of national and international aerospace laws of national interest.
- Support the foreign policy of the State through aerospace.



#### National Guard

The Bolivarian National Guard conducts the military operations ordered by the Strategic Operational Command to maintain the country's internal order, contribute to the comprehen-

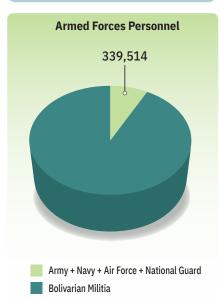
sive security of the Nation through military defence and actively participate in national development. It has, among others, the following functions:

- Formulate and develop the doctrine for leading the military operations necessary for maintaining the country's internal order.
- Conduct activities that require public order and general and special administrative police units.
- Perform activities before the governing body as a criminal investigation agency; as special administrative police in the areas of national security, mining security, environmental protection for ecosocialism, security and public order, road safety, border security, rural security, security of basic and strategic facilities, ports and airports, prison security, immigration control, criminal, financial and computer investigations, anti-extortion, kidnapping and anti-terrorism, anti-drug operations, custody and surveillance of facilities and assets of the national public authorities; and as general administrative police to, among other things, support civil protection and disaster management hodies



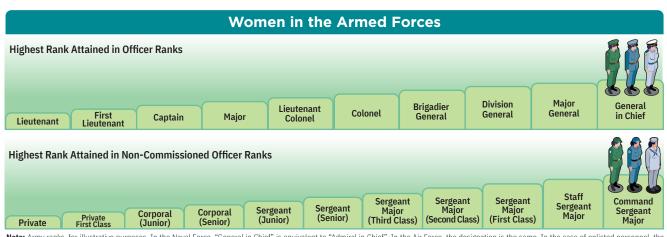
#### Bolivarian Militia

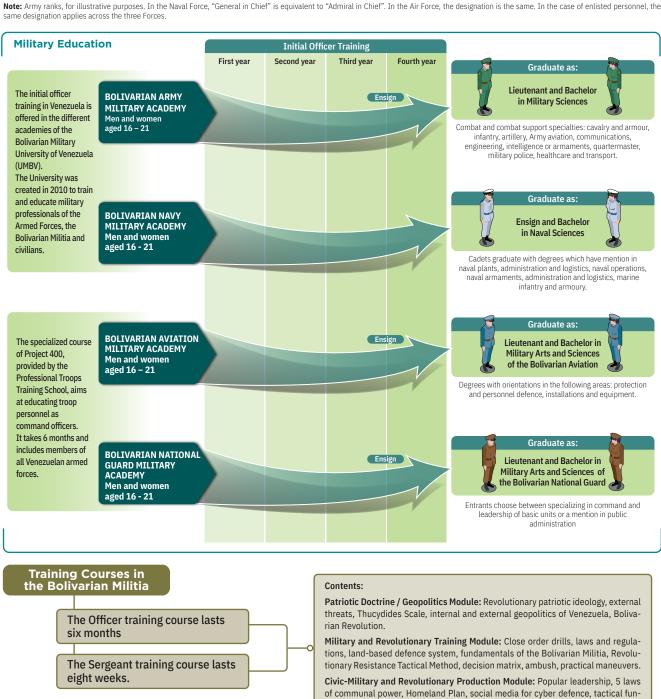
- It is a special component, popular in nature, made up of men and women who express their patriotic desire to actively participate in actions that contribute to the security of the Nation, in all of its areas.
- Its command structure is operationally subject to the different command echelons of the Territorial Defence System.
- It is prepared to fulfill military defence missions when mobilized.
- Its mission is to register, prepare, organize, equip, train and educate the people with a view to contributing to the security of the Nation, in all the levels of the Territorial System.
- The Combat Corps are units made up of citizens working in public or private institutions, who are voluntarily registered, organized and trained by the Militia Commander of the Comprehensive Defence Area, through the Regional Directors of Militia Resources.



A component is the military organization that is part of the Bolivarian National Armed Force, made up of personnel, units, facilities, establishments, material and equipment. It has its own characteristics, its specific nature and doctrine, for the use and development of its capabilities in land, aquatic and aerospace areas, in order to contribute to the Nation's security.

Source: Compilation based on Ley Constitucional de la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana (Extraordinary Official Gazette N° 6508 – 2020/01/30); Budget Bill for the 2024 Economic and Financial Year and Income and Expenditure Budget of the Republic; Budget Bill for the 2017 Economic and Financial Year and Income and Expenditure Budget of the Republic. Personnel: base of the total: 2024; base of the four components: 2017, latest reliable data.



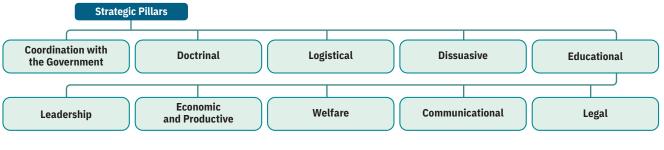


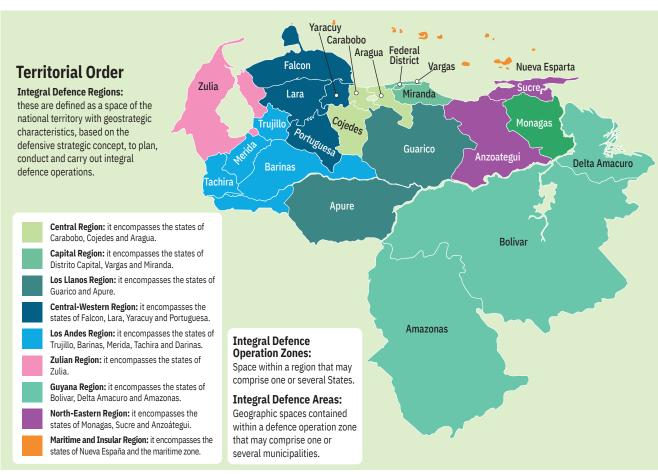
Source: Compilation based on information from the websites of the mentioned institutions and the Instruction Manual for Officer and Sergeant Training Courses in the militia category.

damentals of communal defence, strategic lines.

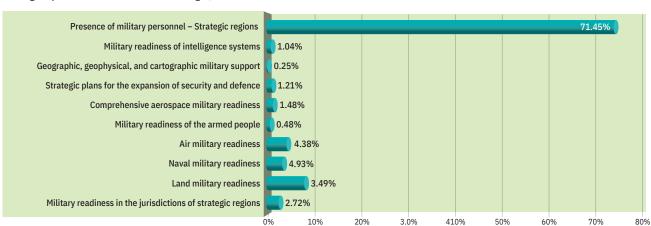
## **Sucre Plan**

The Strategic Development Plan of the Bolivarian National Armed Force was updated in 2018 and covers up to 2025.





## **Strategic Operational Command Action Budget, 2023**



Source: Compilation based on the 2018-2025 Strategic Development Plan of the Bolivarian National Armed Force; the Budget Bill for the 2023 Economic and Financial Year, the Income and Expenditure Budget of the Republic; and Resolution 51918.

## **Community Support**

## **Decentralized Entities of the Ministry of Popular Power for Defence**

#### **Armed Forces Circle Autonomous Institute (IACFA)**

Its mission is to contribute to strengthening the bonds among the Armed Institution's professionals and to encourage them and their families to participate in social activities. It serves as a convention center and as a space for the promotion of intellectual culture, physical activity and recreation. It also offers accommodation facilities.

#### Armed Forces Retired Officers Institute (IORFAN)

Its main purpose is to ensure the care and good quality of life of its members, enhancing the welfare of the FANB.

#### National Armed Forces Social Security Institute (IPSFA)

It was created to address the social security needs of the members of the FANB. It develops plans and projects with a focus on the social needs of active reserve military personnel as well as civilian staff of the FANB.

## Coordinating Office for the Provision of Education Services of the Ministry of Defence (OCPSE)

The Ministry of Popular Power for Defence must have educational centers and early education centers with lactation rooms. It is responsible for educational centers that do not have their own resources or do not receive institutional contributions to cover the expenses incurred. The OCPSE provides support in this regard.

## **Autonomous Health Service of the National Armed Force (SASFAN)**

It is financed exclusively by funds from military hospitals and health care facilities under the General Directorate of Health of the FANB and resources from the National Armed Forces Social Security Institute for comprehensive health care (6.5%), destined for the acquisition of pharmaceutical products as well as medical and surgical materials and supplies.

#### Naval Coordinating Unit for the Services of Hull Repairs and Vessel Equipment and System Repairs and Maintenance (UCOCAR)

It is a state-owned shipyard that is responsible for the repair, maintenance and construction of ships and equipment, systems, hulls and structures related to ships of up to 8,000 tons.

## Autonomous Investment and Socioeconomic Welfare Fund for Employees and Workers of the National Armed Forces (FONDOEFA)

It provides social welfare services to the employees and workers of the FANB.

## Hydrography and Navigation Coordinating Office (OCHINA)

Its mission is to collect, manage and invest the resources obtained as a result of the application of the Law on Lighthouses and Buoys, focusing on the sustainability, maintenance, operation, availability, reliability and optimization of the National System of Signage and Aids to Aquatic Navigation (SINSEMA).

## Navy Maritime Support Coordinating Office (OCAMAR)

It uses its resources to cover the costs of operations, administrative functions and maintenance of operational units (ships) and infrastructure, as well as those related to shipping and customs brokerage services.

## Autonomous Service without Legal Personality of the Venezuelan Air Force (SAFAV)

It supports the aviation budget, covering investment, operating and any other expenses that contribute to the development of the organization. Its mission is to market the capabilities of the aviation component, on a self-management basis.

## Autonomous Service for the Maintenance of National Guard Boats (SAMALGUARN)

Its mission is to carry out naval maintenance and repair activities that generate extra-budgetary resources to support the maintenance programs of the Bolivarian National Guard patrol boats, cover operating expenses and perform any other activities that contribute to the development of the unit and its members.

## Decentralized Service of Goods and Services of the Bolivarian National Armed Force (SEDEFANB)

It is a unit of production, distribution, purchase and sale of goods and services, brokering and procurement, both to the bodies and entities of the public administration as well as to the community in general. It manages sports, cultural, recreational, religious and other infrastructure, machinery and non-warlike equipment of the FANB.

## Social Care Foundation of the Ministry of Defence (FUNDASMIN)

It aims to promote, encourage and support cultural, welfare and social activities with a view to enhancing the wellbeing and social security of military and civilian personnel.

#### **Comprehensive Cardiology Foundation (FUNDACARDIN)**

It treats patients with congenital cardiopathies and is one of the eight level III centers within the national cardiology network.

#### Müröntö Foundation: Center of Innovation for Development

It promotes and conducts research, development, innovation and production activities that contribute to the scientific progress of the Nation, with a view to contributing to the technological independence of the FANB.

## Autonomous Service for the Management and Administration of the Industrial and Productive Special Economic Zones of the FANB

Its purpose is the institutional coordination of the Superintendence of Special Economic Zones.

## Autonomous Service for Managing the Protection of Forest Products and Natural Resources of the Bolivarian National Armed Force

It provides services to public and private investors operating in the Special Military Economic Zone for Forestry Development "Zeemdef" in order to consolidate foreign trade activities of products whose competitive advantages allow their effective placement in foreign markets.

### **General Carlos Soublette Foundation**

It helps to generate income from services offered within the facilities of the Bolivarian Military University of Venezuela.

## **Vicente Salías Foundation**

It provides administrative intermediation services to improve health standards through the provision of comprehensive medical services in the military hospital bearing this name.

### **Army Equestrian Foundation**

It offers horse riding lessons and services in equine therapy clinics for people with physical disabilities and special needs.

### Bolivarian Military University of Venezuela (UMBV)

Its main mission is to comprehensively educate, with ethical, moral, spiritual and socialist values, military professionals of the different components of the FANB.

Source: Compilation based on the Budget Bill for the 2023 Economic and Financial Year.

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