



Dominican Republic

The Legal Framework and the Defence System

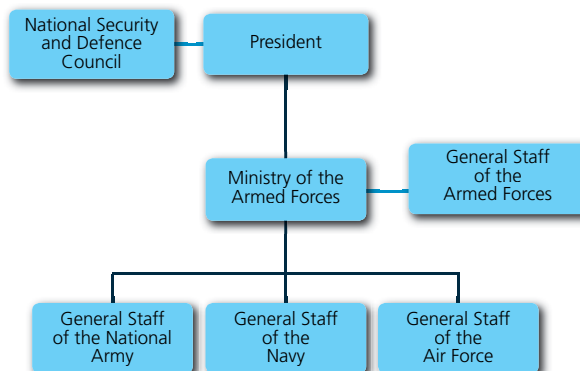
- Advisory and assistance functional relationship
- Command reporting line
- - - Joint planning and management relationship

National Legislation

Systems and Concepts:
- Organic Act of the Armed Forces (N° 873 - 1978/08/08).*
Military Organization
- Code of Justice of the Armed Forces (Act N° 3.483 - 1953/02/13) Last amendment: Act N° 278-04 -2004/08/13).

*At the closing of this edition, a new Organic Law of the Armed Forces was approved by the Senate and sent to the House of Representatives. If such law is passed, the position of Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces shall be created, positioned as the second in command, above vice ministers. Moreover, the Minister of the Armed Forces shall be appointed for a term of two years subject to mandatory retirement.

Source: Compilation based on the legislation above mentioned



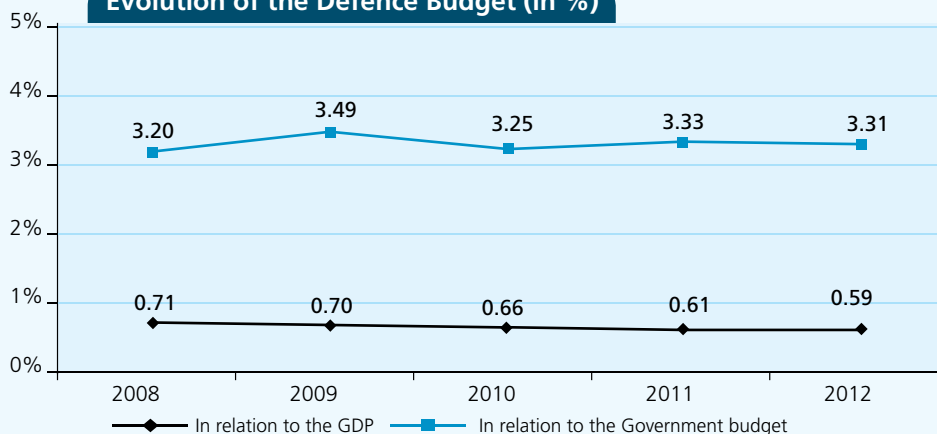
The President may receive the advice of the National Defence and Security Council. A General Officer is the Minister of the Armed Forces, the highest military authority and directly subordinate to the President. The General Staff is the consultative body and is composed of the Chief of the General Staff, the Undersecretaries of State of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, the Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, the Inspector General and the Legal Advisor of the Ministry. 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 Political Constitution and *the Ley orgánica de las Fuerzas Armadas* (N° 873 – 1978/05/08).

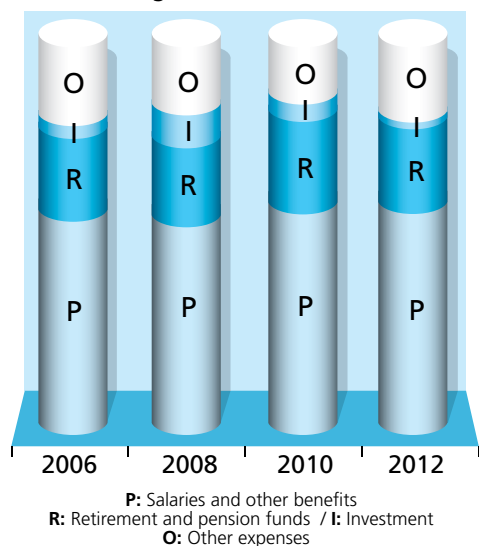
The Budget

Year	Defence Budget (in US\$)	Government Budget (in US\$)	GDP (in US\$)
2008	269,120,373	8,416,481,414	37,698,000,000
2009	311,355,315	8,928,070,214	44,716,000,000
2010	332,298,929	10,215,566,144	50,055,000,000
2011	333,481,771	10,012,199,372	54,355,000,000
2012	353,297,867	10,669,995,399	59,429,000,000

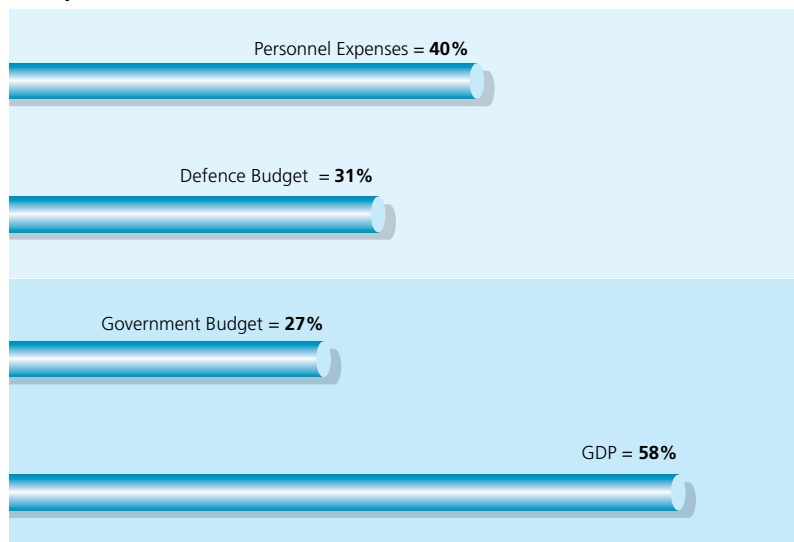
Evolution of the Defence Budget (in %)



Defence Budget Breakdown



Comparative Increase (% variation 2008-2012)

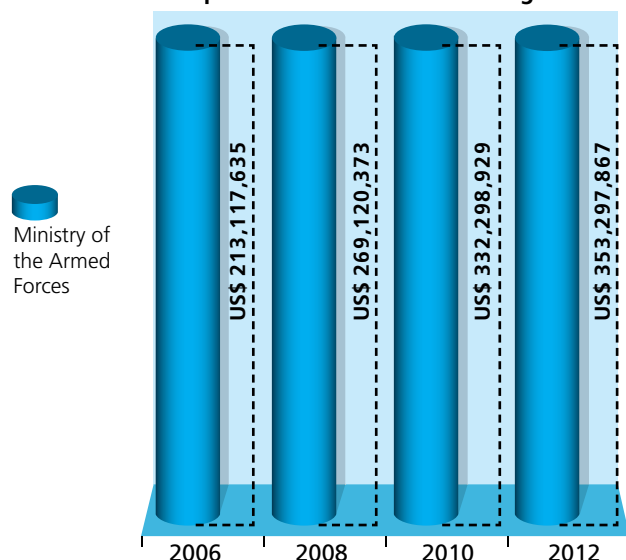


Defence Budget 2012 (in Local Currency)

Chapters	Personnel Services	Non-personnel Services	Materials and Supplies	Others*	TOTAL
Ministry of the Armed Forces					
Ministry of the Armed Forces	852,731,926	265,781,257	498,282,434	3,501,596,945	5,118,392,562
National Army	3,685,416,688	172,401,415	472,009,836	11,470,302	4,341,298,241
Navy	1,464,098,866	107,163,819	333,799,782	29,430,444	1,934,492,911
Dominican Air Force	2,067,540,954	209,655,792	464,330,692	102,192,877	2,843,720,315
TOTAL	8,069,788,434	755,002,283	1,768,422,744	3,644,690,568	14,237,904,029

* Includes current transfers, capital transfers and non-financial assets.

Composition of the Defence Budget



76% of the resources assigned for investment during 2012 are dedicated to infrastructure works.

Source: Compilation based on *Presupuesto de ingresos y Ley de gastos públicos 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 y 2012*. The Government budget approved by Congress by means of the above mentioned act is considered herein. Investments are included in "Non-financial assets" item. GDP: Projection of the World Economic Outlook Database, IMF, of each year under review. This source has been taken for comparative purposes. Each country prepares the budget based on its own GDP estimation. The dollar value considered corresponds to the exchange rate determined by the World Economic Outlook Database, IMF, for each year under consideration. As of June, the 2012 exchange rate average is 39.06 Pesos, based on the data provided by the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic. For further calculations, figures are provided in local currency. Expressions in Bold Type (Table) make reference to the various defence budget items, which can be found in a sector-based or institutional classification of the Budget Act.

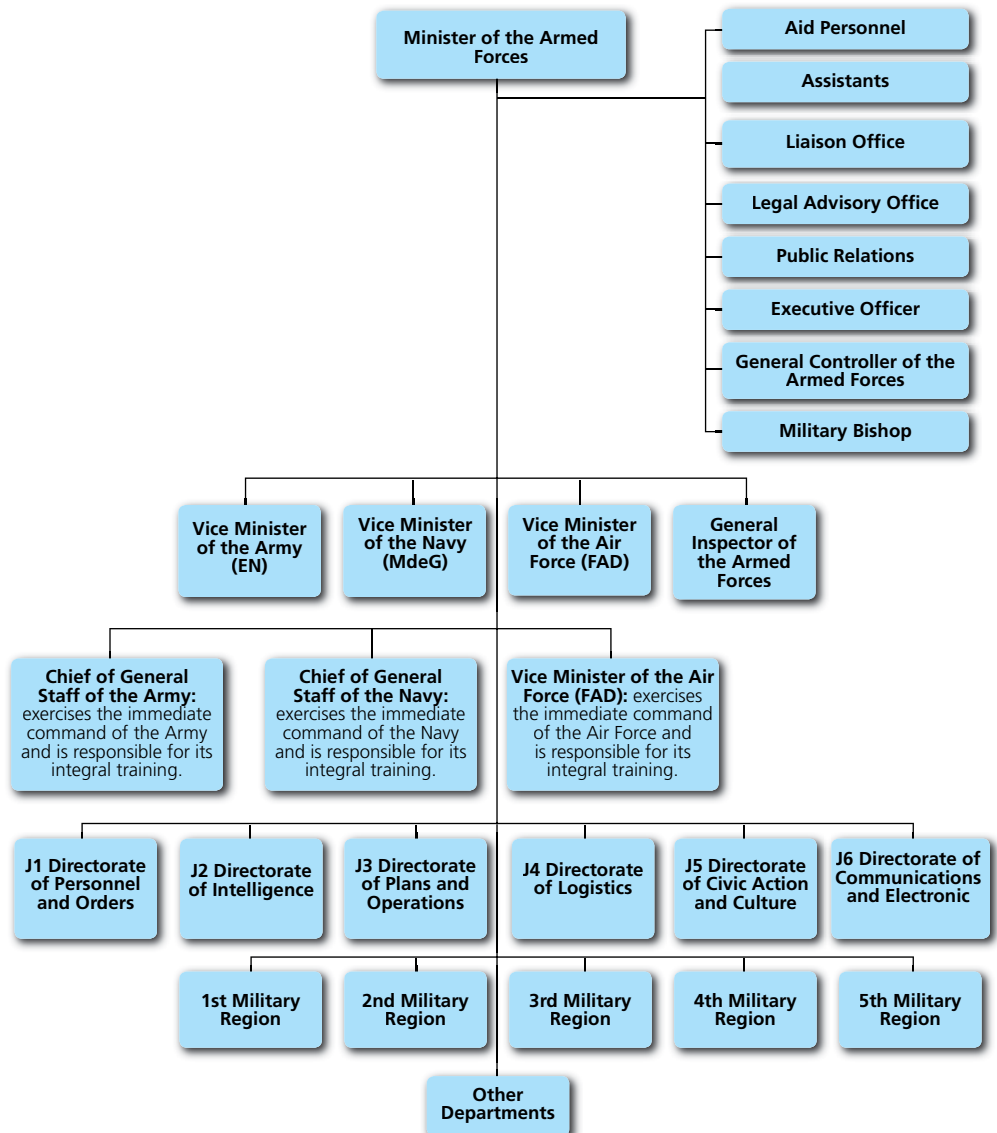


The Ministry of the Armed forces

- Date of Foundation:**
1930
- Current Minister**
(September 2012): Sigfrido Pared Pérez
- Can military members be Ministers of Defence?:**
Yes
- Number of military members who are Ministers of Defence:**
38
- Number of civilians who were Ministers of Defence:**
3
- Have there been any women in charge of the Ministry of Defence?**
No
- Average stay in the Minister of Defence position:**
2 years

[The creation date is related to the moment in which the term "Defence" becomes part of the Institution's name]

Organization Chart



Source: Compilation based on the *Ley Orgánica de las Fuerzas Armadas* (Nº 873 - 1978/08/08) and information provided on the website of the Ministry of the Armed Forces.

Bilateral agreements signed between 2010 and 2012:



Source: Websites of the Office of the President of the Mexican Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Haiti and Ecuador.

Political Definitions

Policy Guidelines

The Armed Forces of the Republic, when developing their mission, shall have an essentially defensive character. The Dominican Republic is placed within the international community as a sovereign and democratic country which acts in the defence of its national interests and consistently with international law principles, efficiently managing cooperation for development and promoting a peaceful coexistence, sustainable global development and a more equitable international order. The "National Security and Peace" strategy for 2010-2013 has the specific purpose of ensuring the defence of national interests in the area of national security, by strengthening the national security system through the modernization of the Armed Forces' organization and operation to ensure their suitability, professionalism, transparency, loyalty and respect for the civil power and citizens.

High Priority Constitutional Objectives

1. Fight transnational criminal activities which endanger the interests of the Republic and its inhabitants.
2. Organize and maintain efficient systems that prevent or mitigate damages caused by natural and technological disasters.

Guidance for Defence Policy Development

a) National sphere:

- Definition and identification of national objectives.
- Enactment of a Security and National Defence law.
- Amendment of the Organic Law of the Armed Forces, to redefine the mission, responsibilities and organization of their institutions and restructure the powers of the General Staff within the framework of joint operations.
- Publication of the White Book of Defence and the Manual of the Joint Doctrine of the Armed Forces.
- Creation of the National Intelligence System
- Strengthening of the Standing Committee for Armed Forces Reform and Modernization.
- Definition of the Armed Forces model and promotion of its transformation.
- Development of a new institutionalization and professionalization model
- Equipment upgrading based on budget possibilities
- Promotion of research, development and innovation to keep an adequate technological level.

b) International sphere:

- To promote and support security and defence policies issued by regional and world organizations adhered to.
- To strengthen close friendship relations and cooperation with neighbouring nations, particularly with the Republic of Haiti and Caribbean and Central American nations.
- To contribute to the improvement of security and control in the Caribbean.
- To reinforce the traditional cooperation links with the United States.
- To strengthen security and defence relations as well as military cooperation with South American countries and the rest of North America.
- To increase defence diplomacy.

General Guidelines for Action

- Consolidation of the role of the Armed Forces and public security bodies as the essential elements to preserve and maintain peace and stability in the Dominican State.
- Ongoing reform and modernization of the Armed Forces and public security bodies.
- Firm and determined support of an efficient multilateral system as a means to solve conflicts.
- Active involvement of the civil society in major security and defence policy issues, as well as Armed Forces participation in national development plans.

Sector-Based Objectives

- To implement joint, inter-agency, development support and civil-military operations which are part of permanent surveillance, security and control mechanisms along the frontier and in formal points of entrance, whether at the land, coastal, sea border and national airspace
- To increase the number of actions supporting the fight against drug trafficking, organized crime and other emerging threats which are declared to be a high priority.
- To promote the design and development of civil protection operations.

The Dominican Republic published the *Directiva de Seguridad y Defensa Nacional* in 2007

Source: Political Constitution, *Plan Nacional Plurianual del Sector Público* 2010-2013 and *Directiva de Seguridad y Defensa Nacional* (Decree N° 189-07 – 2007/04/03).

Related activities for 2011-2012:

- August 2012: The bill for the amendment of the Armed Forces' organic law was preliminary approved by the Senate.
- Training on intelligence was provided to 44 members of the military and police forces through seminars on "Support and Interdiction Operations" and "Intelligence Analysis".
- Reopening of Air Force facilities, including refurbishment of aircraft and helicopter hangars; remodeling of air bases (San Isidro Air Base).

Source: Compilation based on information provided in the websites of the National Army, the Air Force and the Intelligence Directorate of the Joint Staff.



The Armed Forces

General Mission

The mission of the Armed Forces is to defend the independence and sovereignty of the Republic, the integrity of its geographic spaces, the Constitution and institutions of the Republic. The Armed Forces shall intervene, whenever the Executive orders, in programs devoted to promoting social and economic development of the country, mitigating disaster and public calamity situations, aiding the National Police in maintaining or restoring public order in exceptional cases.
(Constitution, Sec. 252)

General Staff of the Armed Forces
Advisory body, under the command of the Ministry of the Armed Forces, responsible for the study of matters related to the armed forces including their performance, employment and organization; it can be consulted on all measures related to military training.

Source: Ley orgánica de las Fuerzas Armadas (N° 873 – 1978/08/08) (missions)

Specific Missions

Army



- Defend the integrity, independence and sovereignty of the Nation.
- Ensure compliance with the national constitution and laws in force.
- Maintain public order.
- Protect traffic, industries and legal trade.
- Support legally constituted authorities and officials, in accordance with the laws and military regulations in effect.
- Protect the people and their assets.
- Perform military service roles assigned by the President of the Republic.

Navy



- Defend the integrity, independence and sovereignty of the Nation.
- Ensure compliance with the national constitution and laws in force.
- Support legally constituted authorities and officials, in accordance with the laws and military regulations in effect.
- Maintain public order in the coasts and territorial waters of the Republic.
- Protect shipping and legal maritime industries, enforcing their interests and institutions.
- Combat acts of piracy, violation of laws, regulations on shipping, trade, fishing and international treaties.
- Protect the people and their assets.
- Perform military service roles assigned by the President of the Republic.

Air Force



- Defend the integrity, independence and sovereignty of the Nation.
- Ensure compliance with the national constitution and laws in force.
- Maintain public order in the air space of the Republic.
- Protect legal air traffic and trade, enforcing its interests and institutions.
- Combat acts of piracy, violation of laws, regulations on shipping, trade, fishing and international treaties.
- Support legally constituted authorities and officials, in accordance with the laws and military regulations in effect.
- Protect the people and their assets.
- Perform military service roles assigned by the President of the Republic.

Military personnel 2012



Army

Total: 25,716



Navy

Total: 10,042



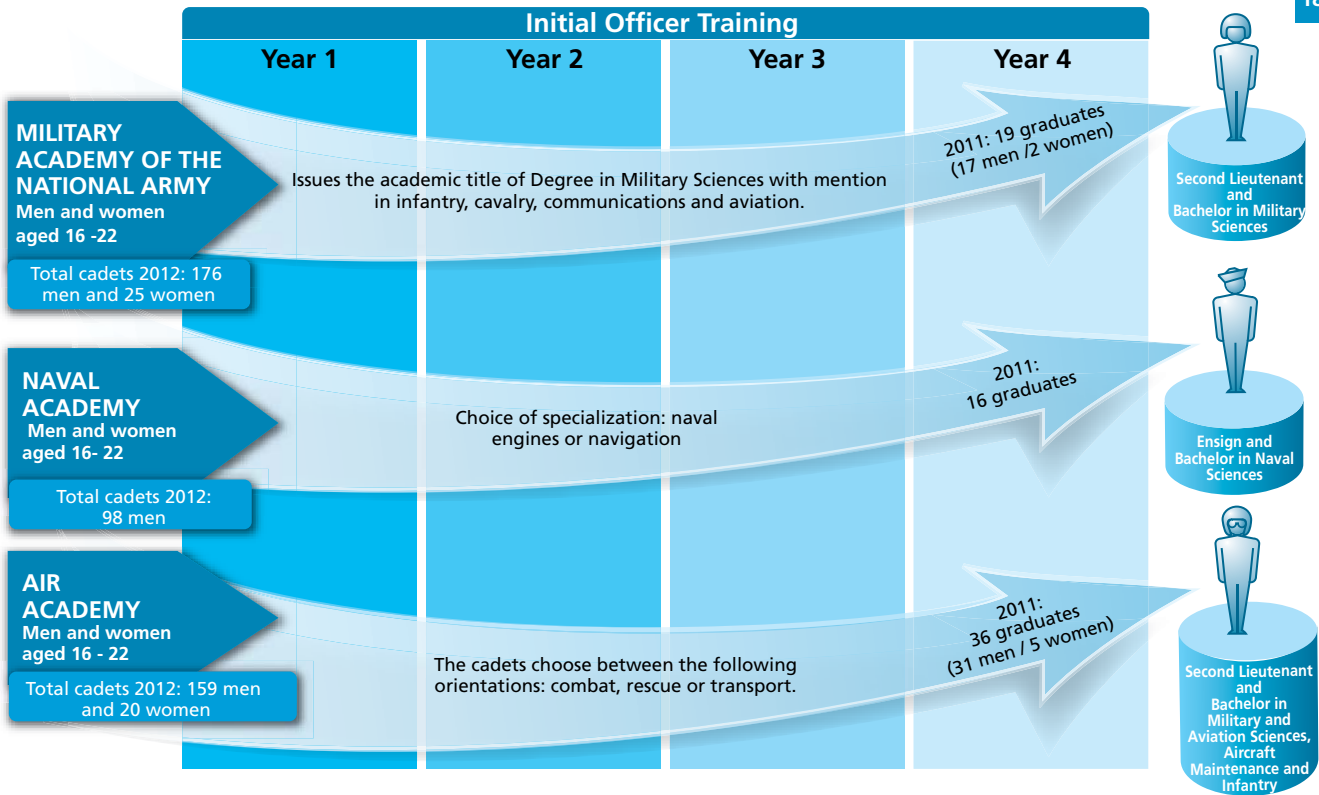
Air Force

Total: 10,789

Total Strength
46,547

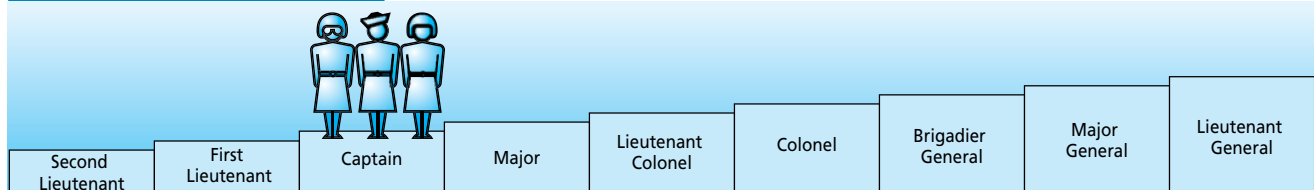
Rank	National Army		Navy		Air Force	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
General Officers	90	3	24	0	39	1
Senior Officers	1,754	121	480	62	1,090	106
Junior Officers	6,229	540	1,947	425	2,948	496
Enlisted	14,228	2,751	5,755	1,349	4,903	1,206
Totals	22,301	3,415	8,206	1,836	8,980	1,809

Source: Information provided by the Ministry of the Armed Forces (regular forces).



Source: Compilation based on the websites of the National Army, the Air Force and the Navy, General Staff of the Ministry of the Armed Forces (cadets).

Women in the Armed Forces Women Officers who have reached the highest rank in the Command Corps (2012)



Note: These ranks correspond to the Army and Air Force. The equivalent rank for Lieutenant Colonel (Navy). The Command corps includes officers who have been educated at military academies from the beginning of their careers, different to those who develop a career in the civilian sphere and are then incorporated to the military.

Military Service

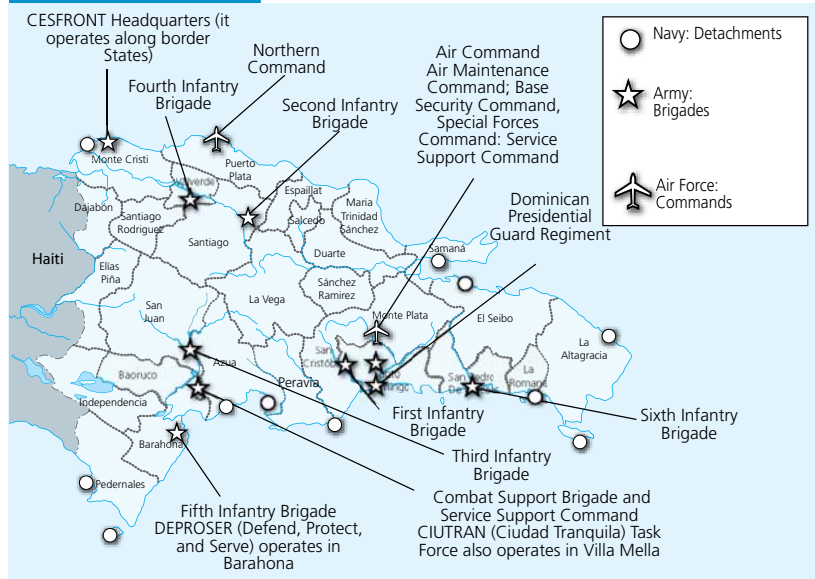
Special Training Programme			
Graduates	Men	Women	Total
IX	967	1,017	1,984
X	533	463	996
XI	333	235	568

Military service is voluntary for all Dominican people and provides for a four-year duration.

A special training programme is available for high-school young citizens on Saturdays with a three-month duration.

The programme has received over 19,000 young men and women since its creation in 2001 until the graduation of its tenth class in November 2011.

Territorial Deployment



Source: Compilation based on Ley orgánica de las Fuerza Armadas (Nº873 – 1978/08/08) and information provided by the Ministry of the Armed Forces.



Activities in which Defence is related to:

- Public Health
- Foreign Affairs
- Environment
- Immigration
- Natural Disasters

Defence and National and International Community

The Armed Forces regularly conduct community-support activities, contributing to environmental preservation and public health; they also provide assistance in cases of natural disasters and carry out search and rescue operations.

Health

October 2011: A medical assistance operation was conducted in the Municipality of Miches, El Seibo Province, led by the Navy Staff and the Officers' Wives Association. Physicians and paramedics of the Naval Medical and Safety Corps of the Navy took part in this effort, including general medicine, pediatrics, gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, urology, ENT, dermatology, gastroenterology, cardiology, dentistry, diabetology, neurology, family medicine, vaccination, donation of medicines and food rations.

Environment

2012: cooperation agreement signed by the Navy and the Ministry of the Environment

Both institutions committed to coordinate actions to manage public maritime and land assets as well as resources of the country's coasts, in order to strengthen controls and prevent damages to water, geological and biological resources, and to the flora and fauna of such ecosystems. They also agreed on a procedure to be followed in cases of stranded, sunk or abandoned vessels containing environmentally hazardous products and the creation of institutional bonds to follow up these actions, such as a Coordination and Follow-up Commission presided over by the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources.

Support Actions (2011-2012)

Relámpago Operation (Operation Lightning)

The plan is executed when the Emergency Operations Centre (COE) issues an alert. In 2011, it was implemented to face the tropical storm Emil and hurricane Irene, and in 2012, to face tropical storm Isaac.

Among its preventive actions are the evacuation of people in vulnerable areas to shelters and refuge centres.

During the storms, support is provided through water and food supply and patrolling around evacuated areas.

Finally, operations are focused on reestablishing communications means, supplying food rations and providing support to the most affected people in rebuilding their homes.

Hurón Plan (Ferret Plan)

This plan is related to internal control and contemplates the enlistment of military units and their deployment in strategic areas. In 2011, the plan was executed as a result of national strikes to prevent public unrest and protect public and private property. As of September 2012, the plan has not been implemented.

"Frontera Verde 2012" Joint Plan of Environmental Protection is carried out through the National Environmental Protection Service or Environmental Police (SENPA), a body made up of members of the Armed Forces.

Provinces	Operations	Arrested persons	Seized vehicles	Dismantled illegal labs	Seized charcoal bags	Incinerated charcoal bags
Montecristi	10	24	3	3	0	0
Dajabón	22	25	2	16	26	90
Elias Piña	15	20	1	26	126	8
Independencia	6	1	1	31	69	119
Pedernales	6	6	9	10	41	40
Bahoruco	9	3	0	11	484	495
Totals	68	79	16	97	746	752

Cooperation with Haiti:

Within the framework of the Dominican-Haitian Bilateral Joint Commission, several cooperation agreements were signed, among them the strengthening of border security and the creation of a specialized border corps in the National Haitian Police.

Other agreements provide for the creation of a "Bolivarian Solidarity Fund for Haiti", supported by the Venezuelan government which, among other projects, will develop a border health network by building hospitals to provide medical assistance to the population of both countries. The reconstruction of Jimi/Malpasse, Dajabón/Quanaminthe and Comendador/Belladere border crossing points was also agreed upon.

Sea Border

Between July 2011 and August 2012, more than 10 operations were conducted and people from different nationalities trying to leave the island by sea towards Puerto Rico were arrested. The main operations included:

- The Eastern Zone Operation, conducted by the Navy to detain people trying to enter and leave the country illegally.
- The Muralla Naval Operation, conducted between May and June 2012, included joint actions by air, land and sea means and prevented 11 illegal journeys to Puerto Rico.
- The joint operation with the US Coast Guard Service.

Search and Rescue

The Dominican Navy and Air Force usually search for missing vessels and people, and rescue wreck victims in coastal areas. These forces have a Search and Rescue Unit and a Search and Rescue Squad, respectively.

They conduct the following activities: vehicle rescue, diving, rescue in confined areas, identification and classification of patients, wreck rescue, air reconnaissance and search, provision of food and supplies, rescue in helicopters, medical emergency techniques, height rescue, victim evacuation, mountain rescue. The Air Force also conducts firefighting actions including debris removal, fire control, forest fire-fighting, structural and aircraft fires, water supply, cleaning and hazardous material handling.

The Navy has acquired 18 ships to be used in the country's vulnerable areas exposed to frequent floods as a result of persistent rain, river overflows or storms and hurricanes.

Peacekeeping Operations:

Today, the Dominican Republic does not contribute troops to UN missions. Nevertheless, after the earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010 destroyed part of the infrastructure used by the MINUSTAH, part of the mission Headquarters (HQ) was transferred to Santo Domingo. Since then, administrative operations have been performed in that location to facilitate a prompt response to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, tropical storms and earthquakes.

Source: Compilation based on *Revista de las Fuerzas Armadas* (February 2011), the *Boletín del Ministerio de las Fuerzas Armadas* (November 2011) and information provided by the Ministry of the Armed Forces.

Humanitarian Aid in Case of Disasters

The Armed Forces conduct support actions in conjunction with the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), responsible for planning and performing all coordination activities and facilitating the joint operation of the National System institutions to prevent, mitigate and respond in case of disasters (SN-PMR). This system is made up of representatives of the different State entities, including the Ministry of the Armed Forces.

August 2011: Troops and police personnel were sent to provide assistance to the population affected by Hurricane Irene. Cleaning operations were conducted in San Cristobal province to remove the debris left by the floods. The Armed Forces acted in cooperation with the Civil Defence services.

August 2012:

When Tropical Storm "Isaac" struck, the **Province of Barahona** received food rations and drinking water sent by the Navy and the Air Force on board a CASA 212-400 aircraft. The Air Force also conducted aid actions for people living in cut-off locations in the South of the country. In **Santo Domingo**, a cleaning Operation was conducted to remove debris, trees and electric posts which had fallen down due to the high waves and strong winds caused by the storm.

	Displaced persons	Homes affected	Deaths
Hurricane Irene (2011)	32,416	6,594	2
Tropical Storm Isaac (2012)	8,986	2,625	2

Analysis:

Reform of the Defence Sector

Josefina Reynoso

Coordinator of the Center for National Security and Defence Studies, Funglode

The defence sector in the Dominican Republic has undergone significant changes in the last decade with the enactment of various laws, decrees and regulations which have provided a legal framework for its operation.

As a result of the 2010 Constitution, the Executive Branch submitted a bill to Congress which will introduce additional changes in the Dominican Armed Forces. Its purpose is to restructure its makeup and operation, while promoting the professionalizing of its members based on the military career.

Although this bill presents major steps forward, it keeps the name of "Ministry of the Armed Forces" instead of using the term "Ministry of Defence". Nor does it not consider a civilian contribution to strategy and policy planning, or the use of modern administrative practices in line with technological advancements of the 21st century.

The bill creates the position of the *Comandante General del Estado Mayor Conjunto* (Chief of the Joint Staff), the second person in command below the minister, who will represent the three armed services.

It also proposes a reduction of forces, especially in the number of active-duty generals; this downsizing shall be executed gradually in the three services: the Dominican Army, the Dominican Navy (i.e. the new names to be granted according to this bill to the National Army and to the War Navy or Marina de Guerra) and the Dominican Air Force. If the bill is approved as drafted, it would reduce the number of military generals from 300 to 40.

Many of the reforms referred to in Decree 189-07 are still pending, including the National Security and Defence Act; the National Intelligence System Act; the regulation and creation of the National Defence and Security Council, among others. Many of them are now under discussion at the various house committees in Congress to be studied and debated with the military sector and civil society, an actor that has gradually joined the debate. Today,

security and defence issues are not exclusive subjects for the Armed Forces; non-governmental organizations also discuss the topic with the different agencies outside the military environment in a professional setting.

This civil-military combined approach is also the result of the work started by the Higher Defence Institute (Instituto Superior para la Defensa). This college, together with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, worked to change the academic vision in order to shape the institution and the military career to the standards of higher education, both for undergraduate as well as graduate degrees, where there is a joint attendance with civilians in the different master programmes and specializations.

There are certainly more things still to be done and pending issues in the agenda, but looking back, we can see that we are far away from where we started.

Decree No. 605-05 created the Permanent Commission for the Reform and Modernization of the Armed Forces, whose main objective was the design of policies and strategies that allow establishing the appropriate legal framework for the new roles of the institution.

Decree No. 189-07 created the National Defence and Security Directive. In its article 3, it mentions the following guidelines for the development of a security and defence policy:

- Defining and identifying national objectives.
- Approval of a National Security and Defence Act.
- Modifying the Armed Forces Organic Law.
- Publishing the Defence White Book and the Handbook of the Armed Forces Joint Doctrine.
- Creating the National Intelligence System.
- Strengthening of the Permanent Commission for the Reform and Modernization of the Armed Forces.
- Fostering the transformation of the Armed Forces.
- Reform of the military career.
- Equipment upgrading.
- Promoting research and development.