

# Guatemala



## BASIC INFORMATION

Population **16,703,000**

Territorial Extension **108,890 km<sup>2</sup>**

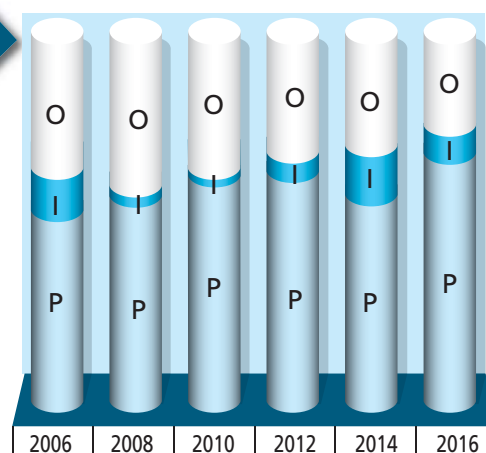
GDP (US\$) **68,142,000,000**

Armed Forces Personnel **18,181**

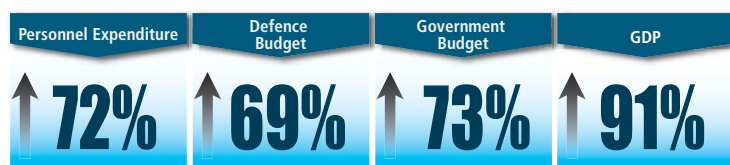
Defence Budget (US\$) **264,313,810**

### Defence Budget Breakdown

P: Salaries and other benefits  
I: Investment  
O: Other expenses



### Comparative Increase (percentage variation 2008-2016)



The Ministry of National Defence was created in 1945 and its incumbent Minister is Major General Williams Agberto Mansilla Fernández.

## The Legal Framework

### National Legislation

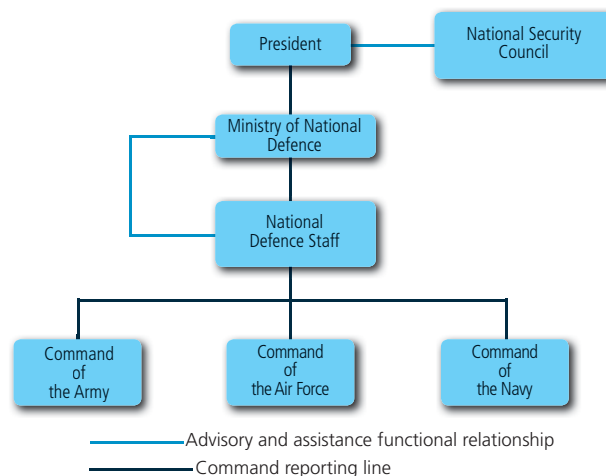
#### Systems and Concepts

- Constitutive Act of the Guatemalan Army (DL N° 72-90 - 1990/12/13).
- Executive Body Act (DL N° 114-97 - 1997/11/13. Last amendment: DL N° 1-2012 - 2012/02/07).
- General Bureau of Civil Intelligence Act (DL N° 71-2005 - 2005/10/12).
- Framework Act on the National Security System (DL N° 18-2008 - 2008/04/15).

#### Military Organization

- Military Code (Decree N° 214 - 1878/09/15. Last amendment: Decree N° 41-96 - 1996/07/10).
- Military Social Security Institute Organization Act (Decree Law N° 75-1984 - 1984/07/20. Last amendment: Decree N° 21-2003 - 2003/06/11).
- Act on Support to Civil Security Forces (Decree N° 40-2000 - 2000/06/16)
- Civil Service Act (Decree N° 20-2003 - 2003/05/12).
- Law on weapons and ammunition (Decree N° 15-2009 - 2009/04/21).

## The Defence System



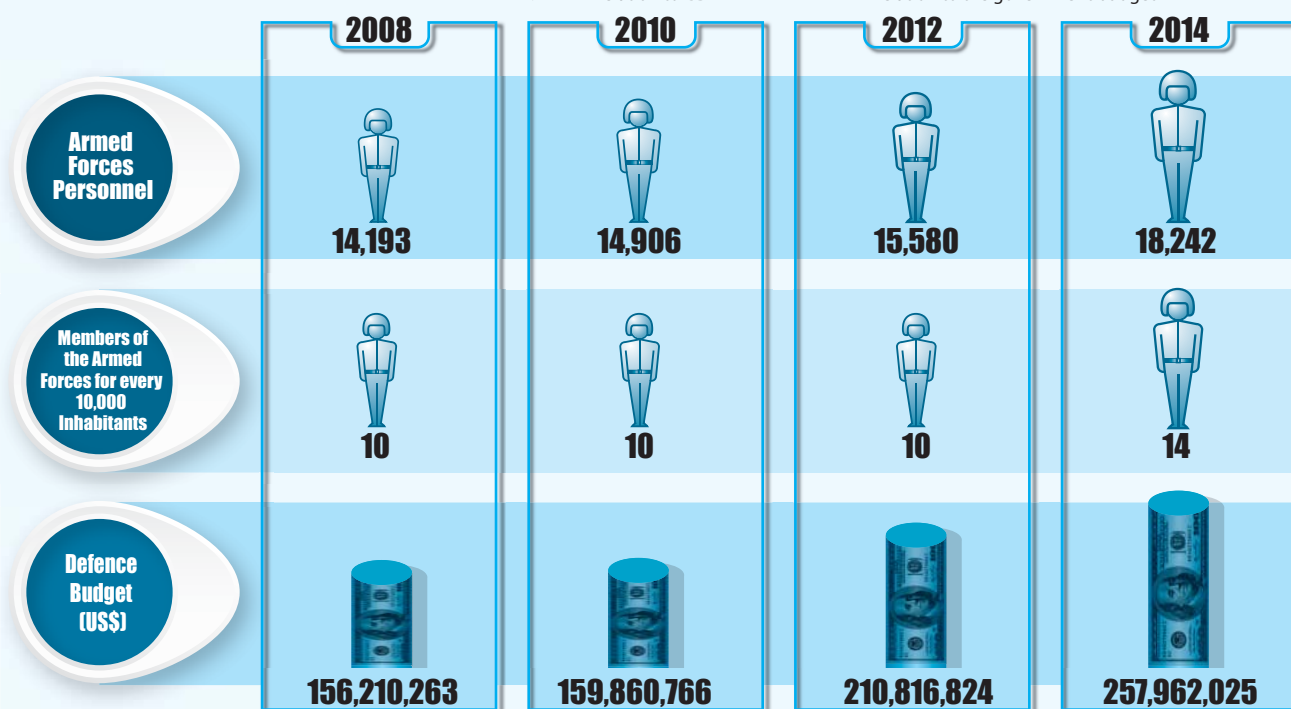
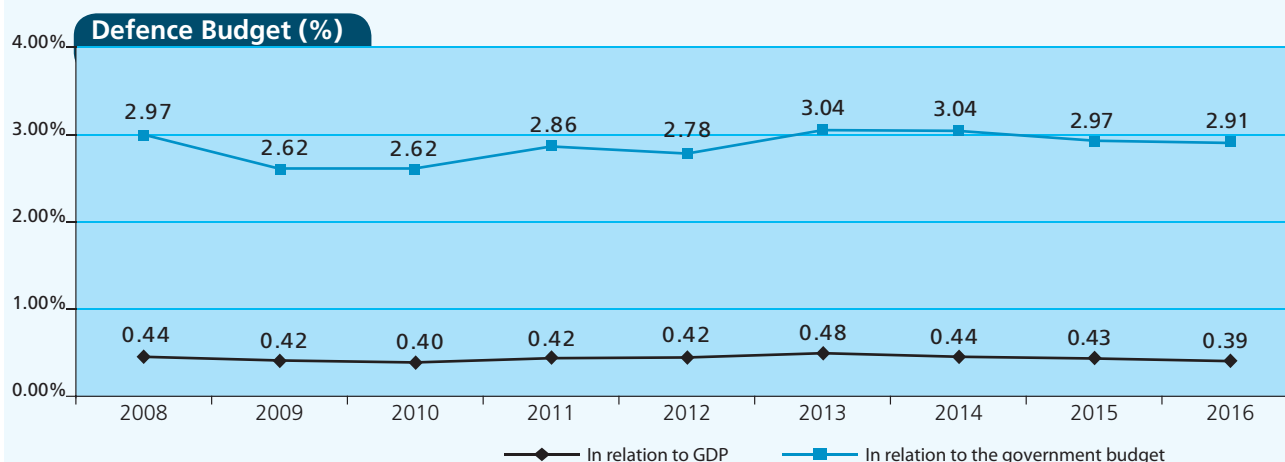
The President is advised by the National Security Council, composed of the Vice President, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Government and Defence, the Secretary of Strategic Intelligence of the State and the Attorney General. The President issues the orders through a General or Senior Officer who holds the position of Minister of Defence, and also has the General Staff of the National Defence as technical and consulting body, responsible for the command of the Army. The Congress holds the powers granted by the Constitution and permanently monitors defence related issues through the National Defence Committee.

**Source:** Compilation based on *Ley marco del sistema nacional de seguridad* (DL N° 18-2008 - 2008/04/15) and *Ley constitutiva del Ejército de Guatemala* (DL N° 72-90 - 1990/12/13).

**Source:** *Anuario Estadístico de América Latina y el Caribe*, 2015, CEPAL (territory and population: projection 2016), IMF, World Economic Outlook Database, (GDP projection 2016), and information provided by the Ministry of National Defence (personnel).

## Budget

Year	Defence Budget (US\$)	Government Budget (US\$)	GDP (US\$)
2008	156,210,263	5,251,290,771	35,729,000,000
2009	153,090,192	5,849,777,368	36,471,000,000
2010	159,860,766	6,108,489,881	39,760,000,000
2011	197,818,891	6,919,961,396	46,730,000,000
2012	210,816,824	7,585,654,065	50,303,000,000
2013	258,945,362	8,511,491,383	54,383,000,000
2014	257,962,025	8,479,169,264	58,464,000,000
2015	274,542,902	9,228,758,170	63,911,000,000
2016	264,313,810	9,076,449,385	68,142,000,000



**Source:** Compilation based on the *Ley de presupuesto de ingresos y egresos del Estado* for fiscal years 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016. In 2007, 2010 and 2014, Congress did not approve the budgetary law, and as such the budget from the previous year was validated in accordance with the Constitution. The difference in values for these years is due to changes in the value of the dollar. The Government Budget passed by Congress by means of the above-mentioned Act is considered herein. The concept of investment is that expressed in "Property, equipment and intangible assets".

GDP: Projection of the World Economic Outlook Database, IMF, for each year considered. This source has been taken for comparative purposes. Each country prepares the budget based on its own GDP estimation.

The value of the dollar considered corresponds to the exchange rate determined by the World Economic Outlook Database, IMF, for each year under consideration.

## The Armed Forces

## General Mission

The Guatemalan Army is an institution devoted to maintaining the independence, sovereignty and honor of Guatemala, the integrity of its territory, peace and internal and external security. It is composed of land, air and maritime forces. It has a hierarchical organization and is based on the principles of discipline and obedience. The Army shall cooperate in emergency or public disaster situations. (Constitution, Sec. 244 and 249)

## Specific Missions

## Army

Its fundamental mission is to preserve territorial integrity, ground deterrence, and to organize the Nation's military defence, as well as structuring the human, territorial, economic and material resources assigned to it by the State.

In times of peace, its principal efforts will be dedicated to education, training, strategic readiness, peacekeeping operations and conducting humanitarian support missions, both domestically and abroad.

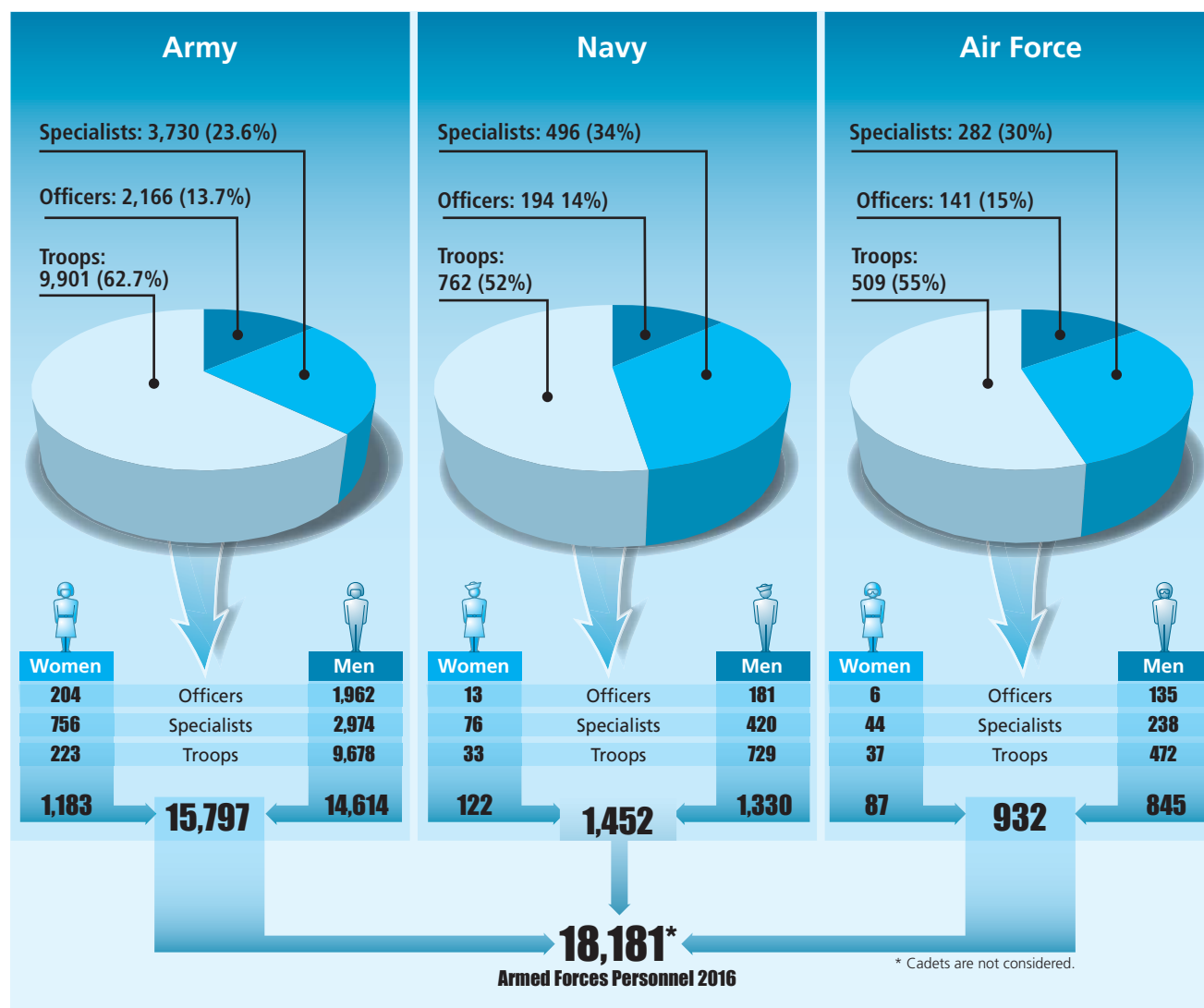
Its mission also comprises organizing, training and equipping the forces required to effectively react and conduct military operations of any nature (territorial integrity, deterrence and ground military defence) that the senior leadership may order.

## Navy

Guarantee national sovereignty in the country's maritime territory, contiguous zone, exclusive economic area, and the Republic's interior waters, lakes and rivers, exerting control over the maritime frontiers in order to contribute, together with the Army and Air Force, to ensuring national defence.

## Air Force

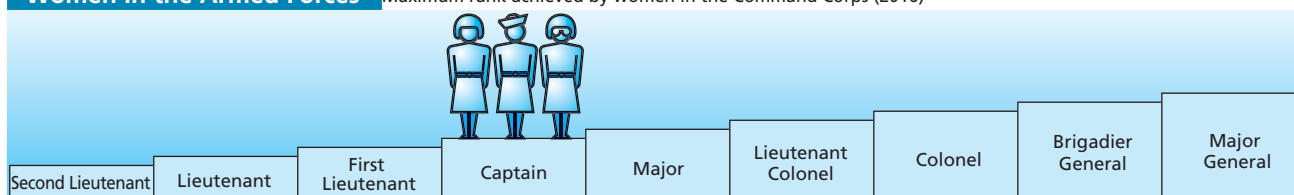
Engage in operations to maintain and guarantee the sovereignty of the national air space, including through aerial warfare and disuasion, providing support to military land and maritime units, with the aim of neutralizing or destroying any threats to national objectives. It shall also cooperate with other State institutions in national efforts.



Source: Website and information provided by the Ministry of National Defence

### Women in the Armed Forces

Maximum rank achieved by women in the Command Corps (2016)



**Note:** These ranks correspond to the Army, as an example. The equivalent Rank for Captain is Lieutenant (Navy) and Captain (Air Force). 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.

#### Civil Service

In November 2010, the Government Decree No. 345-2010 approved the Regulation of the Civil Service Law which defines the modality for the civil service, its organization, principles, participation ways, exceptions and ways to render the service. It aims at training Guatemalans for the armed defence of the motherland, within a military doctrine respecting human rights and civil, political and moral values. Civil service is aimed at youngsters aged between 18 and 24, who may serve by complying 728 service hours. However, young people older than 16 and younger than 18, may accomplish civil service within the social environment.

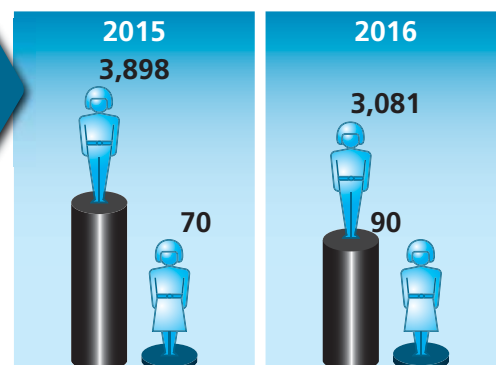
Forms of providing civil service:

**Military service:** Shall be provided in the different military commands, services and units.

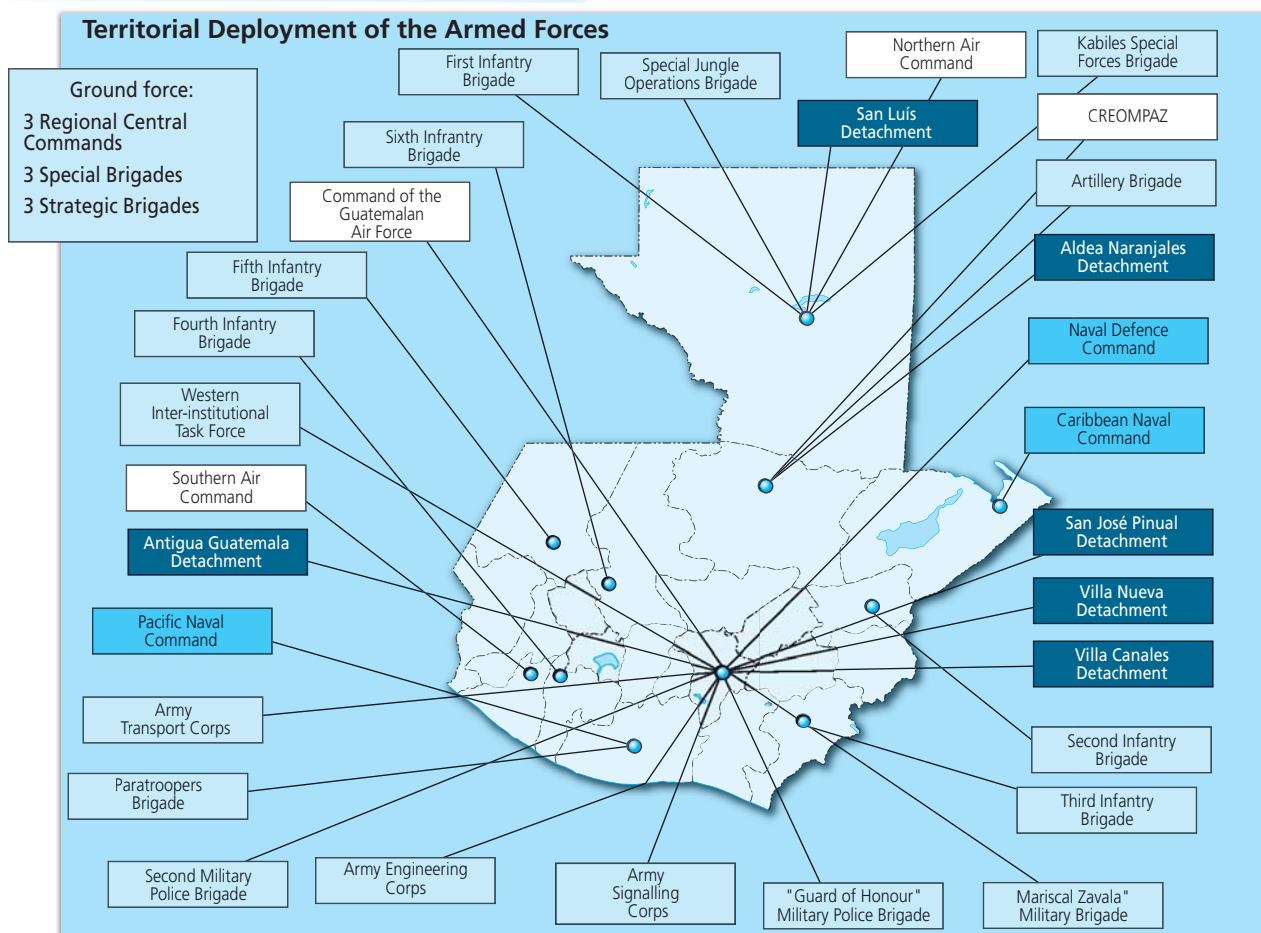
**Social Service:** Of civilian nature, it focuses on the implementation of programmes, projects and services for collective benefit and community assistance.

#### Military Service

Of total Armed Forces personnel  
**7,66% (1,392)**  
are women



### Territorial Deployment of the Armed Forces



#### Tecún Umán Task Force

Combat drug trafficking, contraband and human trafficking.

#### Kaminal Task Force

Recovery of public spaces and city patrols.

#### Maya Task Force

Recovery of public spaces and city patrols.

#### Task Force "San Juan"

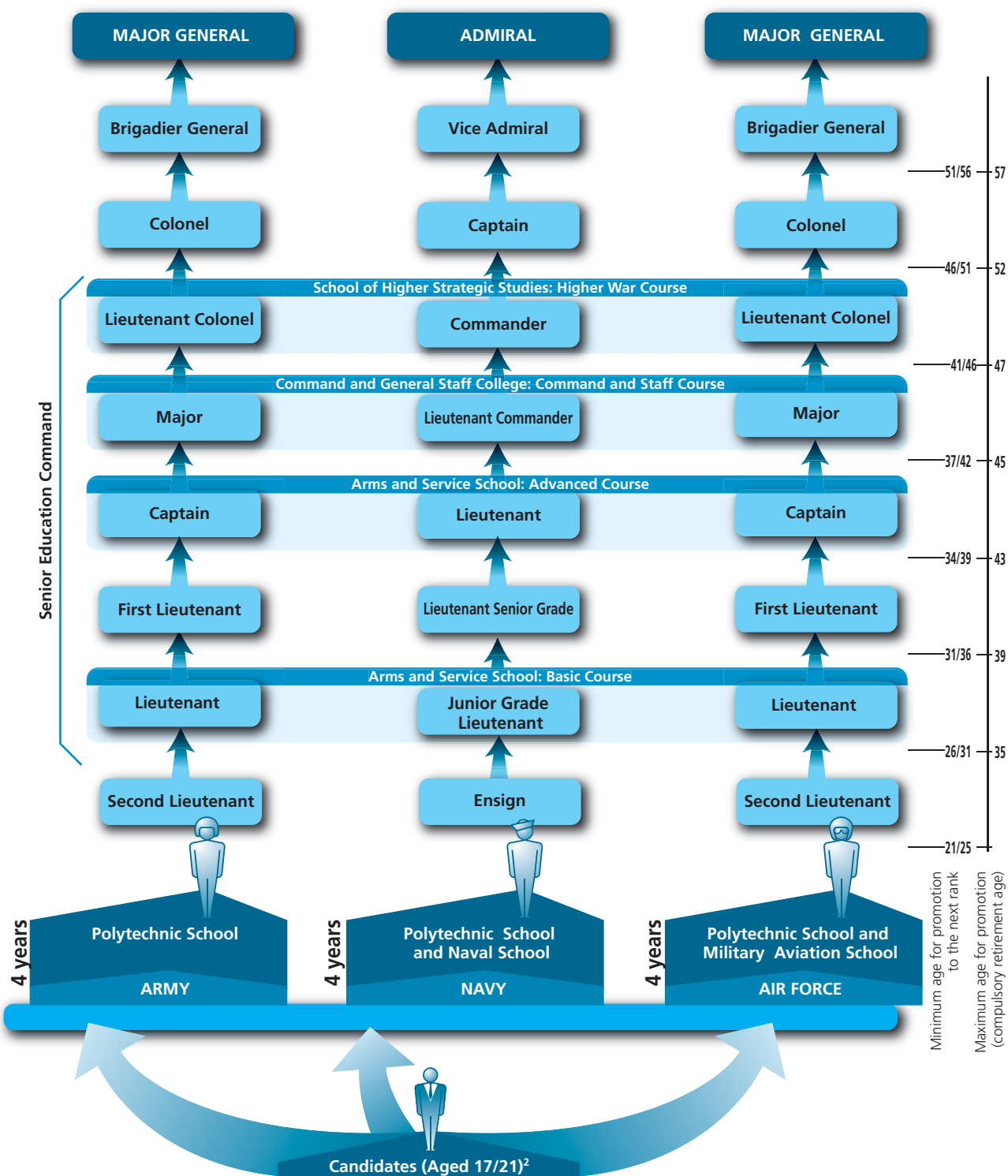
Tasks in support of the National Police

#### Chortí Inter-agency Task Force

It is aimed at preventing, combating, dismantling and eradicating criminal actions.

**Source:** Compilation based on the information provided by the Ministry of National Defence, websites of the Ministry of National Defence, of the Secretariat of Social Communications of the Presidency, *Ley del Servicio Cívico* (Decree N° 20-2003), *Reglamento del Servicio Cívico* (AG 345-2010).

## Education and the Military Career

Career Path for Officers in Command Bodies<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Command corps includes officers who have been educated at military academies from the beginning of their professional careers. The graph makes a theoretical reconstruction of officers' promotion through the completion of mandatory courses. Further requirements for promotion have not been considered.

<sup>2</sup> The age of 17-21 has been considered for comparative purposes. The minimum age for promotion shall depend on the age of graduation from the military institution.

**Source:** Compilation based on *Ley constitutiva del Ejército de Guatemala* (DL N° 72-90 – 1990/12/13), *Reglamento de ascensos en el ejército de Guatemala* (Governmental Agreement N° 318-2009 – 2009/11/26).

## Cadets candidates

	2015	2016
Men	535	608
Women	44	70

## Activities in which defense is related to:

Security and Organized crime  
Civil and environmental protection  
Education  
Health

## Defence and National and International Community

## Collaboration with Penitentiary Centers

The collaboration of the Armed Forces with the General Directorate of the Penitentiary System is also regulated by Decree 40 (2000), which sets out that the Ministry of Interior may request the support and cooperation of the Army in providing surveillance at the perimeter of detention and prevention centers and other such centers, without affecting the purely civil character of the prisons.

**Ministerial Agreement 126** (2010/06/18) enabled the use, by the Directorate General of the Penitentiary System, of facilities within military bases or units in Guatemala City in order to transfer those detainees whose lives or personal integrity would be endangered due to the vulnerability of their security situation.

## Support during the landslide in Santa Catarina Pinula

**36** injured and  
**280** casualties

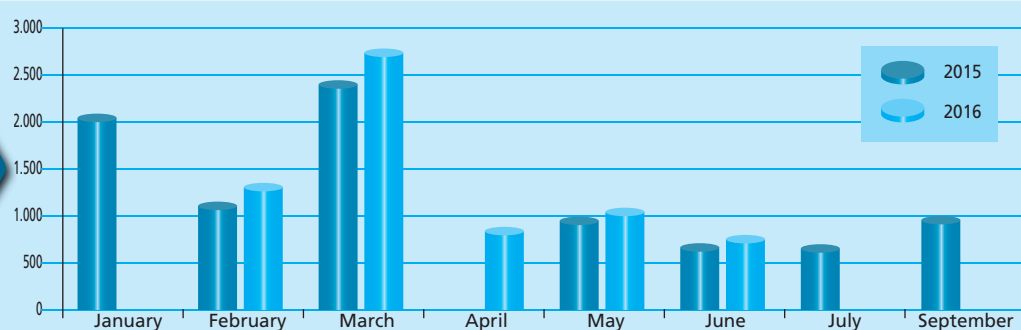
**110** adults  
and **80** children  
unaccounted for

**241** troops  
committed

**552,290**  
cubic meters of  
land removed.

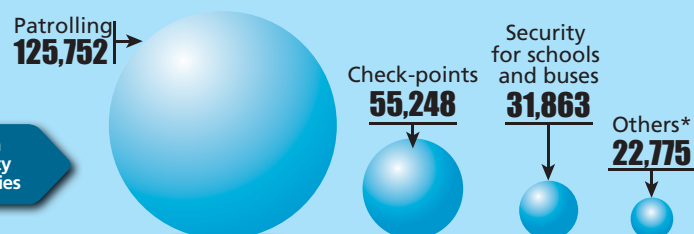
**4** shelters  
for **296** people

People  
assisted  
in medical  
brigades



## Citizen Security Squadrons

Formed by the military reserve, the Citizen Security Squadrons are deployed in 9 of the country's departments, where they are focused in municipalities prioritized by the Ministry of Interior. Their role is to support and reinforce the work of the National Civil Police (PNC).

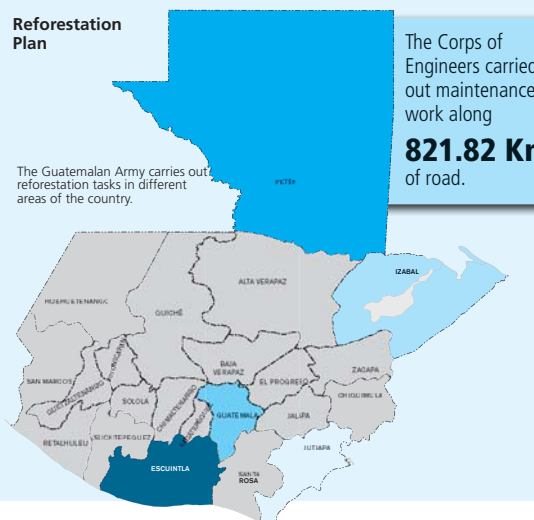


\*The category of "others" includes mainly security at prisons, itinerant and river patrolling, border-area operations.

Two military brigades were created with the stated objective of protecting life and property and neutralizing organized crime, maras (gangs) and common crime: the Special Jungle Operations Brigade in Lan Libertad municipality (Peten) and the Second Military Police Brigade in San Juan Sacatepequez (Guatemala department).

## Reforestation Plan

The Guatemalan Army carries out reforestation tasks in different areas of the country.



## Participation in Peace Operations

Current Missions	Military Component			
	MEM		MC	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
MINUSCA ( Central African Republic)	1	-	2	-
MINUSTAH (Haiti)	-	-	48	5
MONUSCO ( Democratic Republic of Congo)	1	-	143	8
UNIFIL (Lebanon)	-	-	2	-
UNISFA (Abyei )	2	-	1	-
UNMISS (South Sudan)	3	-	3	-
UNOCI (Ivory Coast)	5	-	-	-

MEM: Military experts on mission, including military observers, judge advocates and military liaison officers, among others - MC: Military Contingent.

**Source:** Compilation based on the information provided by the Ministry of National Defence. Statistics on the contribution of military and police personnel to United Nations operations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations (UNDPKO), June 2016.



Guatemala is home to CREOMPAZ, a regional training center, and contributes with 224 military personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations.