

## Responsibilities of the Ministries of Defence

Country	Responsibility
<b>Argentina</b> Ministry of Defence	The Ministry of Defence exercises the direction, organization and coordination of the activities that are proper to national defence and are not exclusively or directly conducted by the President or assigned to other officials, bodies or organizations. ( <i>Ley de Defensa Nacional</i> , N° 23.554 – 1988/05/05, Sec. 11).
<b>Bolivia</b> Ministry of Defence	The Ministry of Defence is the political and administrative body of the Armed Forces. The Minister of Defence is the legal representative of the armed institution before the public powers. ( <i>Ley orgánica de las Fuerzas Armadas</i> , N° 1.405 – 1992/12/30, Sec. 22).
<b>Brazil</b> Ministry of Defence	The Minister of Defence exercises the senior leadership of the Armed Forces, on the advice of the Military Council of Defence as the permanent consultation body, the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces, the secretariats and other bodies, in accordance with the law. ( <i>Lei Complementar da Defesa - Complementary Act</i> N° 136 – 2010/08/25, modifies Complementary Act N° 97 - 1999/06/09, Sec. 9).
<b>Chile</b> Ministry of National Defence	The Ministry of National Defence is the highest body in assisting the President in its government and administration functions of national defence. ( <i>Ley del Estatuto Orgánico del Ministerio de Defensa Nacional</i> , N° 20.424 – 2010/02/04, Sec. 3).
<b>Colombia</b> Ministry of National Defence	The Ministry of Defence conducts the Military Forces and the National Police as ordered by the President, formulating and adopting the sector policies, general plans, programmes and projects for the defence of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the nation as well as to maintain the constitutional order and guarantee a democratic co-existence. The National Ministry of Defence counts on the immediate assistance of the General Commander of the Military Forces, the Commanders of the Armed Forces, the General Director of the National Police and the Vice Minister. ( <i>Decreto por el cual se modifica la estructura del Ministerio de Defensa Nacional y se dictan otras disposiciones</i> , N° 1.512 – 2000/08/11, Sec. 2, 3, 4 and 5).
<b>Cuba</b> Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces	It is the body responsible for directing, executing and controlling the implementation of the State and Government policy with respect to the country's preparation for defence, the defence of the State sovereignty on the entire national territory, the preparation and execution of armed combat, and the contracting, acquisition, production and use of war material to meet the Ministry of Defence needs. ( <i>Ley de la defensa nacional</i> , N° 75 – 1994/12/21, Sec. 37).
<b>Dominican Republic</b> Ministry of the Armed Forces	The Ministry of the Armed Forces, closely assisting the President of the Republic, is the highest military authority in all matters related to the command, organization, training and administration of the armed corps. ( <i>Ley Orgánica de las Fuerzas Armadas</i> , N° 873 – 1978/08/08, Sec. 50).
<b>Ecuador</b> Ministry of National Defence	It is the political, strategic and administrative body of national defence. ( <i>Ley Orgánica de la Defensa Nacional</i> , N° 74 – 2007/01/19, Sec. 8).
<b>El Salvador</b> Ministry of National Defence	It is the main advisory body of the President of the Republic and General Commander of the Armed Forces in relation to national defence. It directs the military field of action. ( <i>Ley de la defensa nacional</i> , DL N° 948 – 2002/10/03, Sec. 19).
<b>Guatemala</b> Ministry of National Defence	The Minister of National Defence, under the orders of the General Commander in Chief of the Army (the President), shall conduct and manage the Army of Guatemala. It is the communication agency between the Army of Guatemala and the other government bodies. ( <i>Ley constitutiva del Ejército de Guatemala</i> , DL N° 72-90 – 1990/12/13, Sec. 15 and 17).
<b>Honduras</b> Secretary of National Defence	It ensures that the national defence policy is duly executed by the Armed Forces; it represents Honduras at international defence bodies; and it authorizes, regulates and controls all matters related to weapons, ammunitions and explosives. In relation to military matters, it is the administrative organization of the Armed Forces; it countersigns decrees, agreements, orders and decisions; it secures the preparation and implementation of plans and programs, and orders their elaboration or update; it recommends officer promotions to the President; and supervises, inspects and exerts control over the organization and performance of the Armed Forces. ( <i>Ley constitutiva de las Fuerzas Armadas</i> , Decree N° 39-2001 – 2001/10/29, Sec. 5).
<b>Mexico</b> Secretariat of National Defence	The Secretary of National Defence exercises the High Command of the Army and the Air Force; is responsible for organizing, equipping, educating, training, instructing and managing the Ground and Air Forces, in conformity with the instructions issued by the President of the Republic. ( <i>Ley orgánica del Ejército y la Fuerza Aérea</i> , DOF 1986/12/26. Last amendment: DOF 2009/06/12, Sec. 16 and 17).
Secretariat of the Navy	The Secretary of the Navy exercises the High Command of the Mexican Navy. ( <i>Ley orgánica de la Armada de México</i> , DOF 2002/12/30. Last amendment: DOF 2009/06/12, Sec. 7).
<b>Nicaragua</b> Ministry of Defence	By delegation of the President of the Republic, the Ministry of Defence conducts the elaboration of policies and strategies for the defence of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the country. ( <i>Ley de organización, competencia y procedimientos del Poder Ejecutivo</i> , N° 612 – 2007/01/29, Sec. 3).
<b>Paraguay</b> Ministry of National Defence	The administrative responsibilities of the Nation's Armed Forces fall under the National Ministry of Defence. ( <i>Ley de organización general de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Nación</i> , N° 74 – 1991/11/20. Last amendment: Act N° 216 – 1993/06/16, Sec. 48).
<b>Peru</b> Ministry of Defence	It is the main executor body of the national security and defence system, responsible for formulating, coordinating, implementing, executing and supervising the national defence policy in the military sphere, as well as for designing, planning and coordinating this policy in the non-military arena, in accordance with current laws in effect. ( <i>Ley del sistema de seguridad y defensa nacional</i> , N° 28.478 – 2005/03/23, Sec. 18).
<b>Uruguay</b> Ministry of National Defence	It has the power and competence over the political conduct of national defence areas determined by the laws and the Executive Branch within the framework of their powers, in particular, of all matters related to the Armed Forces. It exercises the command and supervision of all activities carried out by the Armed Forces. ( <i>Ley marco de defensa nacional</i> , N° 18.650 – 2010/03/08, Sec. 14 and 15).
<b>Venezuela</b> Ministry of the People's Power for Defence	It is the highest administrative body as regards the military defence of the Nation, responsible for the formulation, adoption, monitoring and assessment of the policies, strategies, plans, programs and projects of the defence sector. The President and Commander-in-Chief is entitled to issue operational orders through the Ministry of the People's Power for Defence. ( <i>Ley orgánica de la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana</i> , GO N° 6.239 – 2009/08/13. Last amendment: Act N° 6.239 – 2009/10/12, Sec. 11 and 20).

Source: Compilation based on the above mentioned legislation.