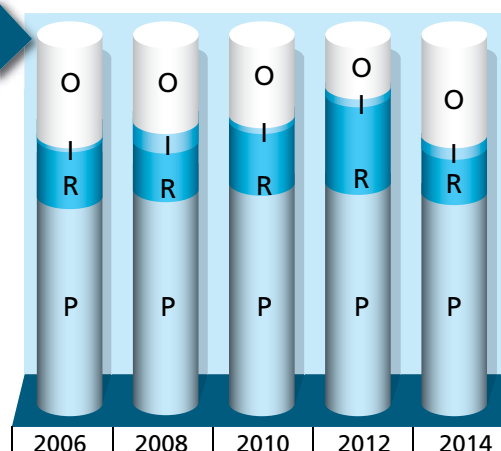


# Honduras

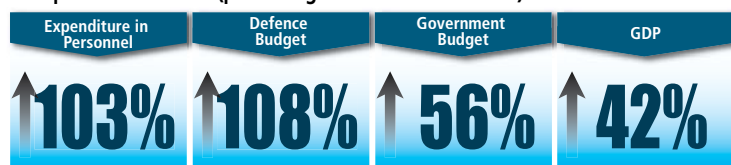
Population **8,228,000**Territorial Extension **112,490 km<sup>2</sup>**GDP 2014 (US\$) **19,567,000,000**Armed Forces Personnel **15,550**Defence Budget (US\$) **252,646,424**

## Defence Budget Breakdown

P: Salaries and other benefits  
R: Retirement and pensions funds  
I: Investment  
O: Other expenses



## Comparative Increase (percentage variation 2008-2014)



## The Legal Framework

### National Legislation

#### Systems and Concepts

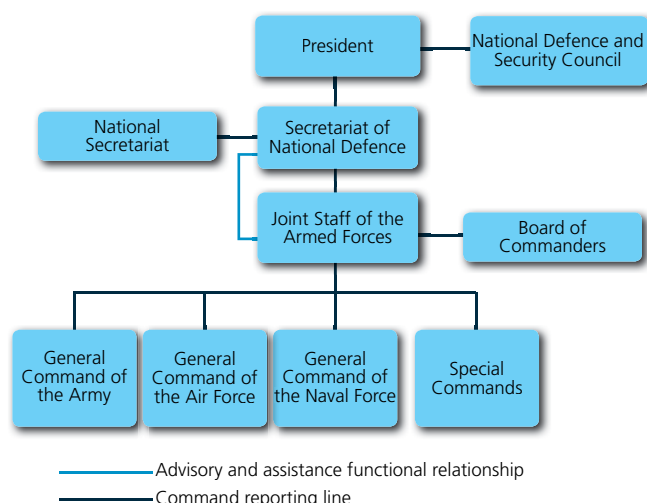
- Constitutive Act of the Armed Forces (Decree N° 39 – 2001/10/29. Last amendment: Decree N° 230 – 2013/02/27).
- Inter-institutional Security Strategy and Special Comprehensive Government Security Response (TI-GRES) (Decree N° 103 – 2013/06/27).

#### Military Organization

- Military Penal Code (Decree N° 76 – 1906/03/01. Last amendment: Decree N° 47 – 1937/01/22).
- Military Service Act (Decree N° 98 – 1985/08/22).
- Personnel Act for Members of the Armed Forces (Decree N° 231 – 2005/10/11).
- Military Provision Institute Act (Decree N° 167 – 2006/11/27).
- Military Police of Public Order Law (Decree N° 168 – 2013/08/24).

**Source:** Compilation based on the aforementioned legislation.

## The Defence System



The President may receive the advice of the National Defence and Security Council. They exercise command of the Armed Forces, either directly or through the Secretary of Defence, who in turn has the Joint Staff as the highest military technical body for advice, planning, coordination and supervision. The Board of Commanders is the consultative body, composed of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Inspector General of the Armed Forces and the General Commanders of the Armed Forces. The Congress exercises the powers granted by the Constitution and permanently monitors defence-related issues through the National Defence Committee.

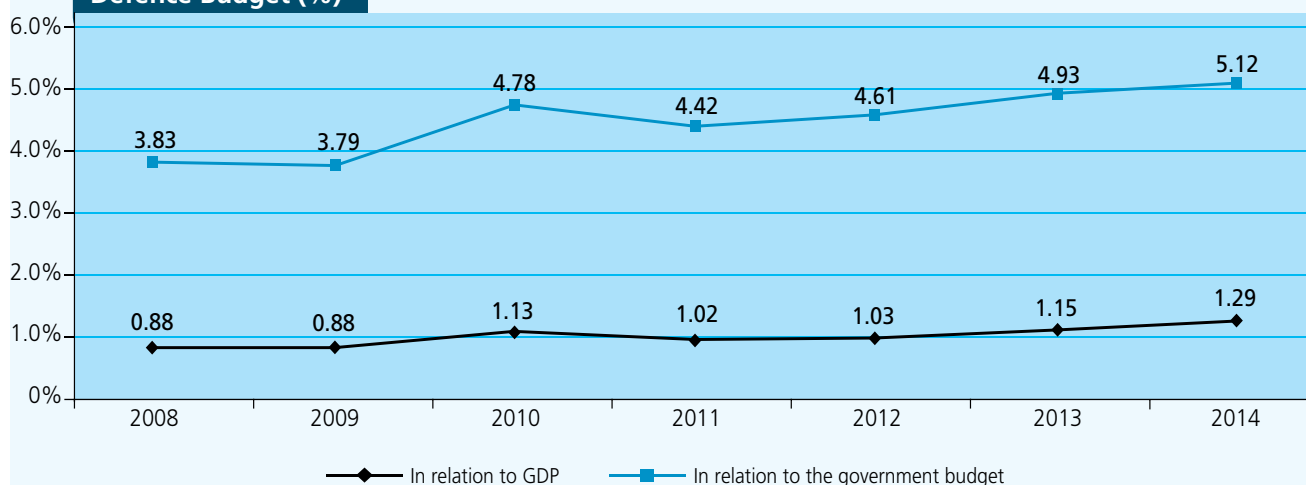
**Source:** Compilation based on the Political Constitution, *Ley constitutiva de las Fuerzas Armadas* (Decree N° 39 - 2001/10/29. Last amendment: Decree N° 230 – 2013/02/27) and *Libro Blanco de la Defensa Nacional*, 2005.

**Source:** *Anuario Estadístico de América Latina y el Caribe*, 2013, CEPAL (population, projection 2014), IMF, World Economic Outlook Database, (GDP projection 2014), CEPAL website (territory), *Decreto-Ley de presupuesto de ingresos y egresos de la República para el ejercicio fiscal 2014* (defence budget) and information provided by the Joint Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces (personnel).

## Budget

Year	Defence Budget (US\$)	Government Budget (US\$)	GDP (US\$)
2008	121,183,088	3,167,154,298	13,779,000,000
2009	127,963,147	3,377,085,767	14,581,000,000
2010	172,194,128	3,598,658,227	15,288,000,000
2011	175,902,076	3,980,813,557	17,250,000,000
2012	188,926,130	4,094,634,429	18,320,000,000
2013	216,011,344	4,385,133,283	18,813,000,000
2014	252,646,424	4,937,455,490	19,567,000,000

## Defence Budget (%)



## Defence Budget 2014 (in Local Currency)

Institutions	Personnel	Non-personnel Services	Materials and Supplies	Others*	TOTAL
<b>Secretariat of National Defence</b>					
Central Activities	60,235,277	11,493,452	12,603,750	497,551,279	581,883,758
Army	1,360,804,026	8,129,450	200,855,024	0	1,569,788,500
Air Force	337,335,027	5,885,156	201,253,555	0	544,473,738
Naval Force	286,197,495	180,003,339	81,294,390	0	547,495,224
Joint Chiefs of Staff	882,071,335	69,459,089	109,640,620	105,935,161	1,167,106,205
Military Hospital	50,615,309	3,320,000	8,959,444	0	62,894,753
Command of support to the management of ecosystems and the environment	5,006,792	3,603,293	59,649,057	0	68,259,142
Defence University	6,850,558	1,125,000	2,024,442	0	10,000,000
<b>Military Prevision Institute**</b>	81,901,319	86,617,490	6,952,450	626,205,137	801,676,396
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,071,017,138</b>	<b>369,636,269</b>	<b>683,232,732</b>	<b>1,229,691,577</b>	<b>5,353,577,716</b>

\* Includes goods subject to capitalization and transfers.

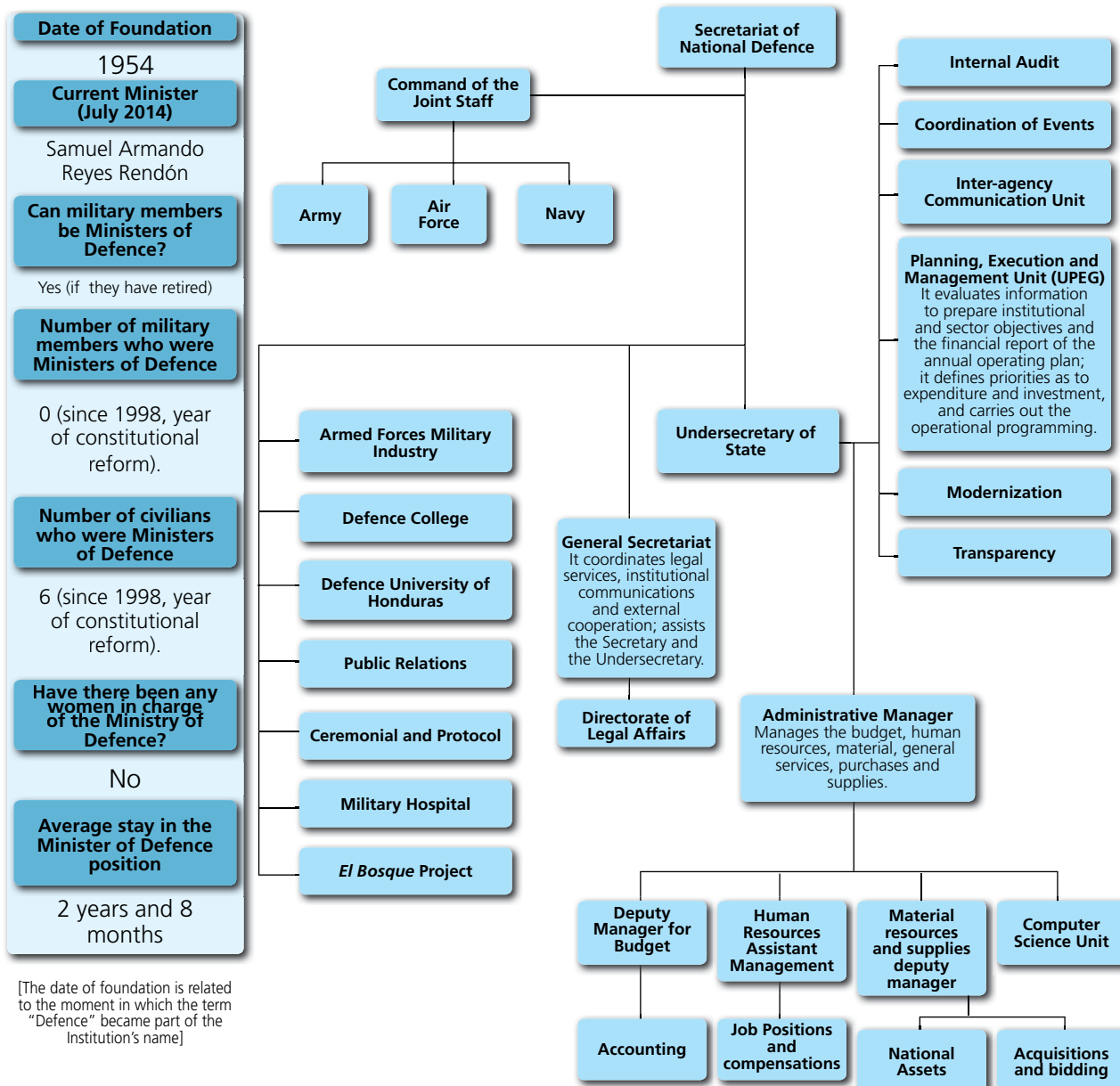
\*\* Since 2007, policemen and firefighters have been incorporated as members of the IPM (Military Prevision Institute). No budget allocation breakdowns are available on this subject. The IPM's financial assets are not included in the breakdown. The Defence Secretariat's contribution to the IPM is deducted from "Others".

**Source:** Compilation based on the *Decreto-Ley de presupuesto de ingresos y egresos de la República* from 2006 to 2014. The Government Budget passed by Congress by means of the above-mentioned Act is considered herein. The concept of investment is that expressed in "Acquisition of capital goods".

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. As of June, the 2014 average was 20.9 lempiras on the basis of data provided by the Central Bank of Honduras. For further calculations, figures are provided in local currency. Expressions in Bold Type (Table) refer to the different items regarding defence that can be found in a sectorial or institutional classification of the Budget Act.

## The Secretariat of National Defence

## Organizational Chart



## Bilateral Agreements signed between 2012-2014

Memorandum for Maritime Information and Intelligence Exchange between the Unit of Naval Intelligence and the Armed Forces of Honduras, with Mexico (2013)

Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of the Binational Commission for the creation of permanent consultative mechanisms with Guatemala (2014).



Treaty on Maritime Delimitation for marine security, with Cuba (2012).

**Source:** Compilation based on the website of the Secretariat of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation of Honduras and the Informe de *Labores de la Secretaría de Marina de México* (2013).

## The Armed Forces

### General Mission

The Armed Forces are formed to defend territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic, maintain peace, public order and the respect for the Constitution, the principles of free vote and rotation of the Presidents of the Republic.

They shall cooperate with the National Police to keep public order. They shall cooperate with the Secretaries of the State and other institutions, at their request, in tasks related to literacy, education, agriculture, protection of the environment, road systems, communications, health and agriculture reform. They shall participate in international peace missions, based on international treaties; provide logistic support on technical advice, communications and transportation in the fight against drug trafficking. They shall cooperate with personnel and means to face natural disasters and emergency situations which impact people and assets; as well as in protection and conservation programs for the ecosystem, and academic and technical training of their members, and other matters of national interest.

They shall also cooperate with public law-enforcement agencies, at the request of the Secretary of Security, to fight terrorism, arms trafficking and organized crime, as well as in the protection of the powers of the State and Elections Court, at the request of these, in their installation and operation. (Constitution, Sec. 272 and 274)

### Specific Missions

#### Army



The Army is the Service responsible for defending the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic in the land space.

#### Navy



The Navy contributes to the compliance with the constitutional mission established for the Armed Forces, mainly in the maritime, fluvial and lacustrine space and in the insular territory, maintaining the security and control of the sea coasts and borders and preserving maritime resources in territorial waters, in adjacent areas, exclusive economic zone and in the continental shelf.

#### Air Force



The Air Force contributes to defending the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic especially regarding the air space.

### Joint Staff

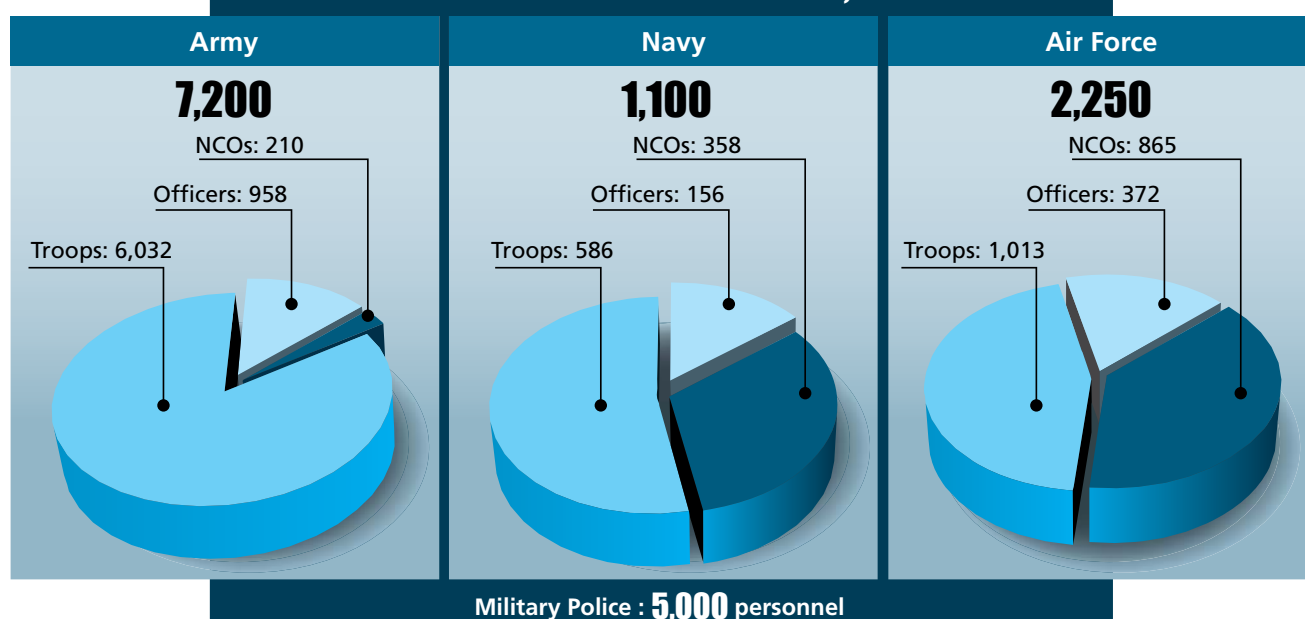
This is a higher technical military body to provide advice and carry out military planning, coordination and supervision, which reports to the Secretary of Defence.

### Military Police of Public Order

Created in 2013 as a Special Command of the Armed Forces. Personnel that form part of the Military Police must undergo the same confidence tests that are given to the National Police. They must be accompanied by judges and prosecutors with jurisdiction and national competence. They may live outside of the country.

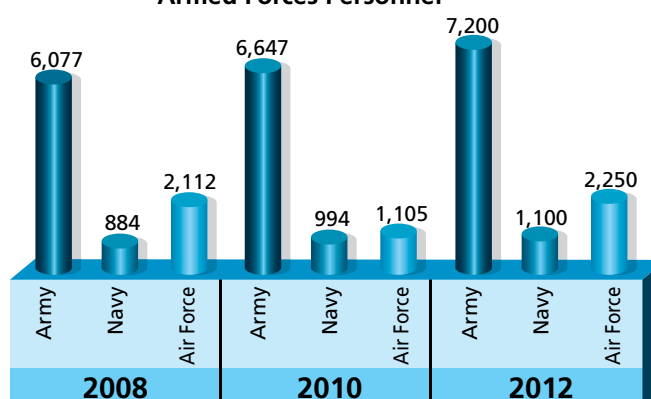
The Military Police of Public Order is obliged to cooperate in the defence of sovereignty and in the maintenance of public order, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic.

## Armed Forces Personnel: 15,550

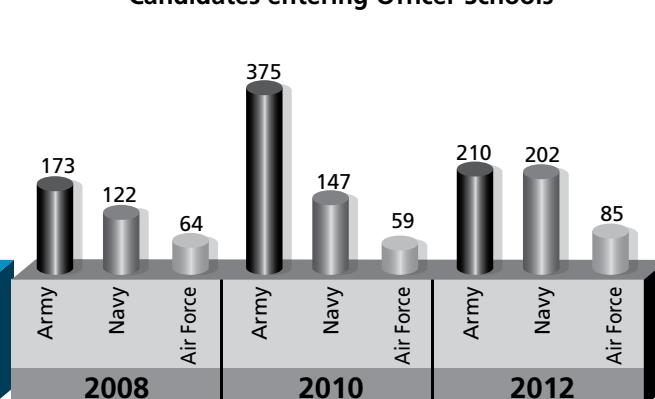


**Source:** Ley constitutiva de las Fuerzas Armadas (Decree N° 39 – 2001/10/29. Last amendment: Decree N°230 – 2013/02/27) and Plan de Gobierno 2010-2014 of the Republic of Honduras. Ley de policía militar del orden público (DL 168 - 2013); Ley estrategia interinstitucional en seguridad y toma integral gubernamental de respuesta especial de seguridad (TIGRES) (Decree N° 103 – 2013/06/27).

## Armed Forces Personnel

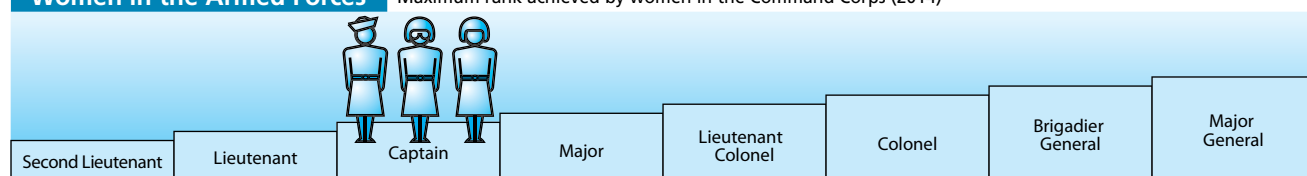


## Candidates entering Officer Schools



## Women in the Armed Forces

Maximum rank achieved by women in the Command Corps (2014)



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

**Source:** Information provided by the General Command of the Air Force, the General Command of the Navy and the Joint Staff.

## Military Service

In constitutional terms, in times of peace, the military service is voluntary for all citizens aged between 18 and 30 years, on an educational, humanistic and democratic system basis.

The State, however, has the power to summon troops in accordance with the Military Service Act. In case of international war, all the Hondurans capable of defending and providing military service to the Motherland shall be called up as soldiers.

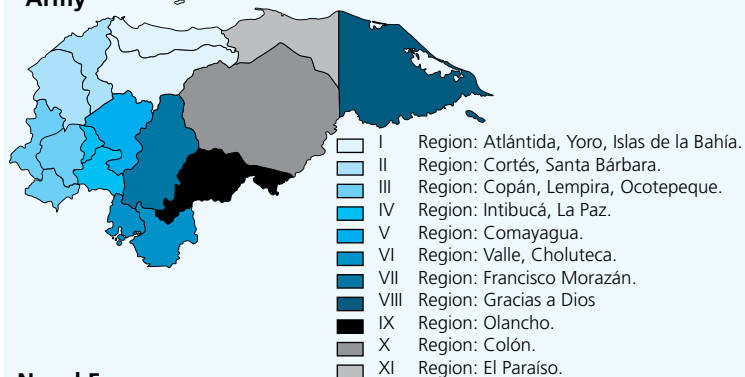
The duration of military service is 2 years. Entrance requirements are as follows:

- Register with the Military Register
- Pass the entrance examination.
- Pass the medical examination.

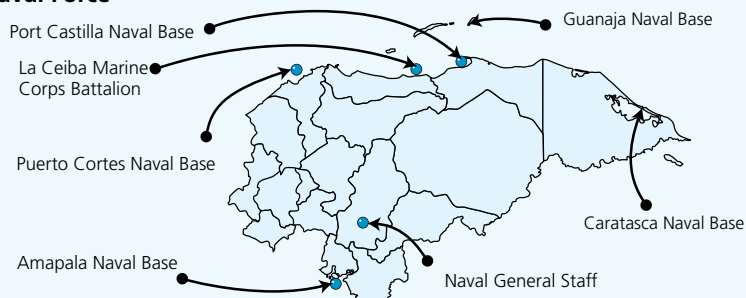
Pursuant to the Military Service Decree N° 98, the provision of military service in times of peace may compensate or be partially equivalent to certain professions, with practices in social services, under the control and command of the Armed Forces.

## Territorial Deployment of the Armed Forces

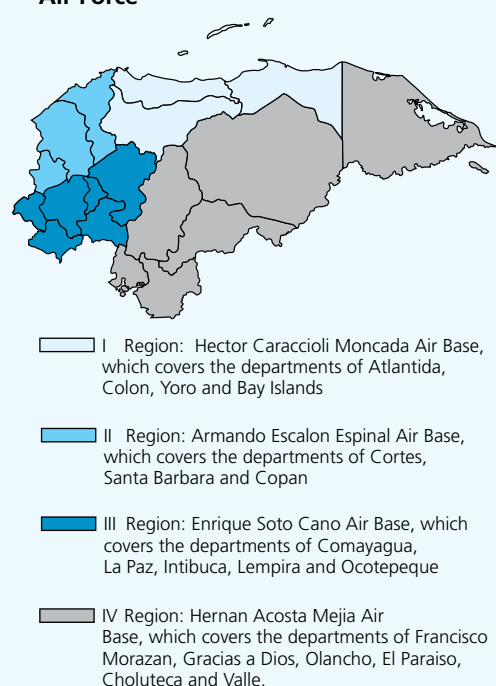
## Army



## Naval Force

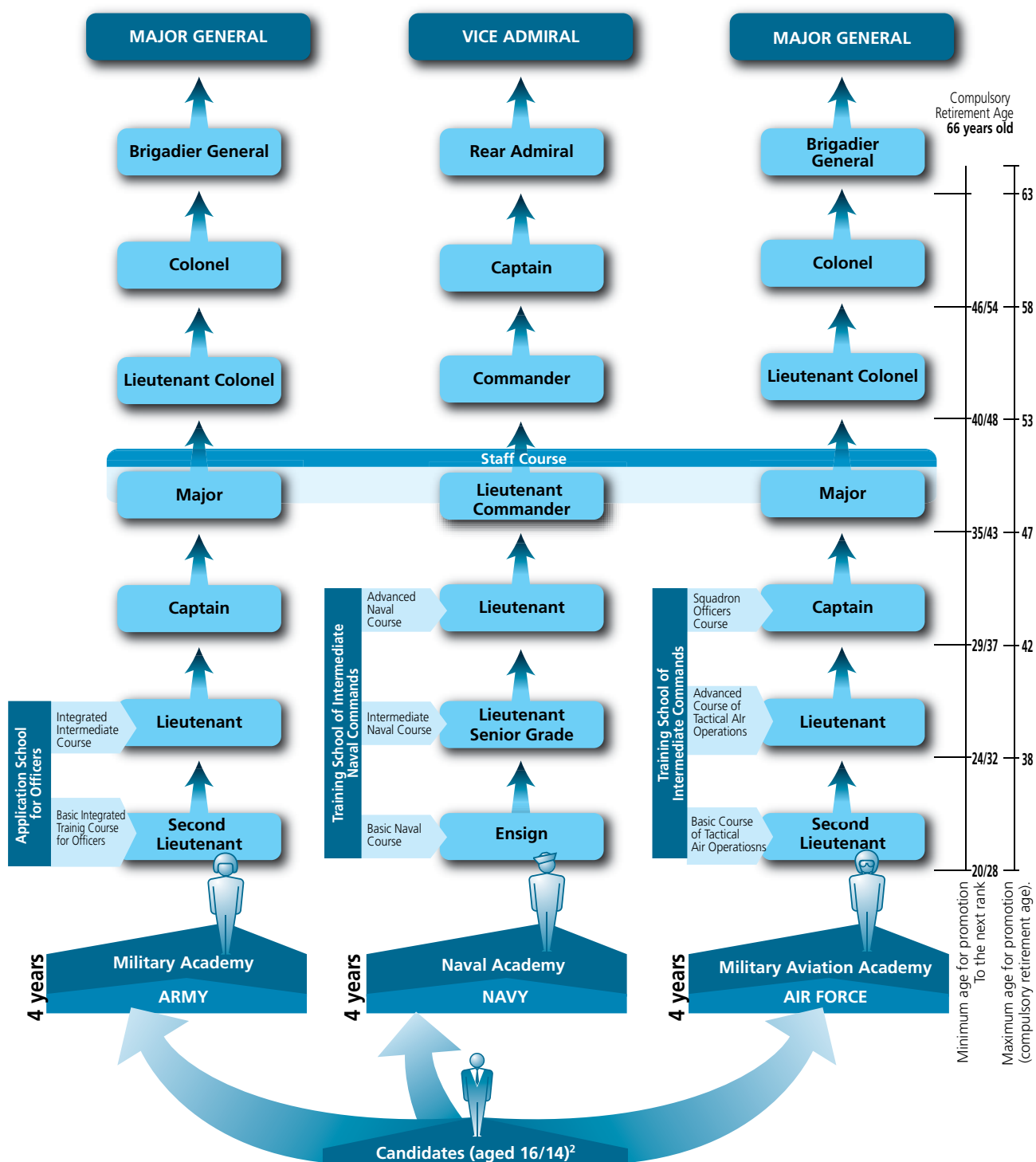


## Air Force



**Source:** Political Constitution, *Libro de la Defensa Nacional* (2005), *Plan operativo anual* (2012), *Informe N° 03/2013/DFEP/SEDENA*, website of the Navy of Honduras and *Ley del servicio militar* (Decree N° 98 – 1985/08/22).

## 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> Ages 16-24 years have been considered for comparative purposes. Entry age varies depending on the service: Army up to 22 years old, Air Force, from 16 to 24 years of age. The minimum age for promotion will depend on the age of graduation from the military institution.

n/a: not available

Source: Websites of the Armed Forces of Honduras

	Graduates 2013	Entrants 2014
Military Academy	114	130
Naval Academy	41	120
Military Aviation Academy	n/a	n/a



## Defence and National and International Community

## Activities in which Defence is related to:

Health  
Drug trafficking  
Environment  
Education  
Natural disasters  
Infrastructure  
Security

During 2013, two new units were created to collaborate in security: the Military Police – under the jurisdiction of the Armed Forces – and a special police unit named TIGRES.

## Military Police of Public Order

It is a Special Command of the Armed Forces. Troops that form the Military Police must undergo the same 'confidence tests' that are currently practiced within the National Police. Must be accompanied by judges and prosecutors with national competence and jurisdiction.

## Functions:

- Act rapidly in circumstances that affect public order, constitute emergencies, and/or affect people or their properties.
- Cooperate in the recuperation of areas where there is a presence of organized criminal groups or their activities
- Carry out investigation and intelligence tasks.
- Make arrests and place those arrested into the custody of the relevant authorities.

## TIGRES Police Unit

Operates within the Inter-institutional Security and Special Comprehensive Government Security Response Strategy. It aims to provide a comprehensive response to the principal threats to public security through coordination between State institutions, such as the National Police, Public Prosecutor's Office, etc.

It is a special unit of the National Police under the leadership of the Director General, which can require the support of the Armed Forces.

## Functions:

- Combat all manifestations of insecurity through police and interdisciplinary activities.
- Protection of lives and property.
- Maintenance of public order, crime prevention and control and arrests.
- The TIGRES have a specialist investigation unit.
- All members must pass confidence tests.

## Public Security Operations - 2013

During 2012, the Armed Forces have executed operations to provide security to public transport, employing 500 personnel.

## To reduce crime levels at the national level:

Operation Condor, Operation Caiman, Operation Libertad and Operation Relámpago.

## Combatting drug trafficking:

Operation Martillo and Operation Boquerón.

## Operation Jaguar:

For the control of highways and roads. Joint actions with public security forces, employing 500 personnel. Approximately 6,000 vehicles were registered with arms and drugs confiscated.



## Successes in 2013

- 14,528 missions (operations and patrols) were implemented at the national level in support of the National Police.
- 1,000 new military personnel were incorporated for the development of operations to counter drug trafficking and organized crime.

## Operation Armadillo:

Initiated in mid 2012, the operational objective is to destroy or impede the use of clandestine airstrips in order to combat drug trafficking. The 4 editions of the operation carried out in 2012 led to the neutralization of 65 airstrips. In its fifth phase, (August 2013), 100 personnel were employed and 28 airstrips were destroyed.

## Operation Relámpago:

2,600 personnel were employed in:  
15,252 foot patrols.  
2,421 motorized patrols.  
365 arrests.  
769 checkpoints.  
1,580 security in bus stations.  
125 evacuations.

## Support to the population

Work with the State's public health system  
Civil-Military Action Program

500,585 persons received medical attention from the medical brigades.

## Army

Technical training of 549 young people in support of the Family Allowance Program.

Source: Compilation based on the *Memoria de la Secretaría de Defensa Nacional* (2012), website of the Presidency of the Republic of Honduras, of the Honduran National Congress, *La Gaceta Diario Oficial de la República de Honduras* and *Informe de logros de la Secretaría de Defensa Nacional* (2013).

## The Armed Forces and the Environment

### Command of Support to the Management of Ecosystems and the Environment

Since 2006 the Armed Forces have collaborated through the Directorate of Ecological and Nature Support, which then became the **Environmental and Ecological Management Support Command**. Their role is to protect hydrographic basins, support the conservation of flora and fauna, and control national parks and forest reserves in order to prevent illegal forestry, control forest fires, engage in forest regeneration, prevent the illegal exploitation of marine resources and develop programs aimed at educating the population on these issues..

Coordination with other institutions	Functions	Results
Institute of Forest Conservation, Protected Areas and Wildlife (ICF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor the application and enforcement of laws related to environmental protection.</li> <li>Implement preventive, combative and repair measures to avoid damage to natural resources.</li> <li>Support the development of social and environmental programs and projects.</li> <li>Inform the citizenship regarding legal aspects linked to these issues.</li> <li>Carry out sensitization and training tasks regarding the protection and conservation of natural resources.</li> <li>Combat the trafficking and illegal sale of species of fauna and flora.</li> <li>Collaborate with public or private institutions with authority over natural resource management.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2012:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38,694 foot patrols</li> <li>19,880 motorized patrols</li> <li>1,515 maritime patrols</li> <li>138 military detachments engaged in the control and protection of ecosystems.</li> <li>Training of personnel to combat forest fires.</li> <li>82% reduction in illegal logging and sales of timber in relation to 2011.</li> <li>Production of 1,700,000 saplings, with 50% used for reforestation and the other 50% donated.</li> </ul> <p><b>2013</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38,934 foot patrols</li> <li>20,085 motorized patrols</li> <li>1,545 maritime patrols</li> <li>7,107 fixed retainers</li> <li>1,827 mobile retainers</li> </ul>
Secretariat of Natural Resources and the Environment (SERNA).		
Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG).		
Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO).		
Office of the Public Prosecutor		
Fire Service.		
Municipalities.		

#### Specialized Unit in Ecosystems and the Environment

Dependent of the Chief of the Joint General Staff.

Created in 2011 through Decree N°41-2011, the Unit has 2,000 **environmental soldiers**, which are specialized in tasks related to the protection of the ecosystem, such as the protection of forests.

To be an environmental soldier, the Diploma in Environment certified by the Technical School of the Armed Forces is required.

In August 2013, a decree authorized the Secretariat of Defence and the Armed Forces to engage in the planting of land on their property for reforestation tasks and to utilise the profits from these nurseries to generate income that will be used to strengthen the Military Pension Institute (IPM). The decree establishes that the National Institute of Conservation, Forest Development and Wildlife (ICF) must provide free technical support and training to encourage the development of forestry and agro-forestry projects.

#### National Campaign against Forest Fires - 2014

##### Participating institutions:

- Armed Forces
- Forest Conservation Institute (ICF).
- Fire Service
- Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO).

Objective: Reinforce actions against forest fires through educational actions and the coordination of an effective response between the institutions.

Forest fires reduced considerable in relation to 2013.

At least 6,000 persons, including soldiers, firemen, forest professionals and search and rescue officials are deployed at the national level in order to support the work of municipal governments and private entities.

### Support of the Armed Forces in 'Plan de Auxilio XXI' (Support Plan XXI)

119 actions to assist the population following natural disasters through support to COPECO in 2013.

#### Crisis Management Exercise

In August 2013, 37 alumni officers from the Command and Chief of Staff Course of the Armed Forces, 15 instructors of the Armed Forces and personnel from COPECO carried out an exercise simulating the impact of a hurricane on national territory. Protocols were applied to react to this type of phenomenon with the aim of training personnel in order to provide support to the civilian population in case of emergency.

In September, following intense rains that affected the country, the Armed Forces placed personnel and equipment at the disposal of COPECO for the transfer of humanitarian assistance to affected areas. Furthermore, the Air Force sent two planes to Choluteca department where an operational center was developed for the distribution of aid to places that are unreachable by land. Additionally, the Navy carried out surveillance activities in the temporary refuges.

**Source:** Compilation based on the *Memoria de la Secretaría de Defensa Nacional* (2012), website of the Presidency of the Republic of Honduras, the Honduras National Congress, *La Gaceta Diario Oficial de la República de Honduras*, of the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO) and the *Informe de logros de la Secretaría de Defensa Nacional* (2013).

### Participation in Peace Operations

Current Missions	Military Component			
	MEM		MC	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
MINURSO (Western Sahara)	12	-	-	-
MINUSTAH (Haiti)	-	-	38	-

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

Honduras contributes 50 military personnel to United Nations peacekeeping missions, representing **0.82%** of the total Latin American contribution.

**Source:** Statistics on the contribution of military and police personnel to United Nations operations, United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, May 2014.

Honduras has lent its Missions Experts to the United Nations Mission to the Western Sahara (MINURSO) since 1992. It also participated in the peace mission in Haiti, with a contingent of 120 soldiers between February 1995 and January 1996, carrying out stabilization operations in order to create an environment favorable to free and fair elections. It also participated in Iraq as part of an international coalition, providing a contingent of 370 soldiers who engaged in reconstruction tasks between August 2003 and February 2004.

