

Nicaragua



Population **6,152,000**

Territorial Extension **130,370 km²**

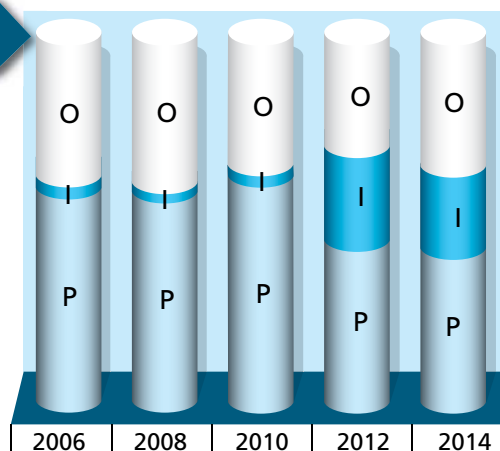
GDP 2014 (US\$) **11,946.000,000**

Armed Forces Personnel **10,358**

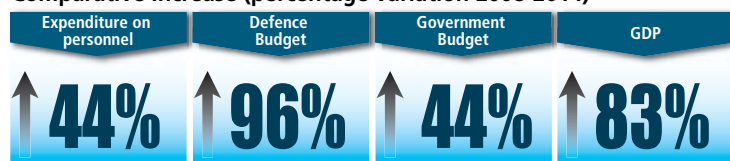
Defence Budget (US\$) **82,888,983**

Defence Budget Breakdown

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



Comparative Increase (percentage variation 2008-2014)



In June 2013, special Act N° 840 was enacted for the development of Nicaraguan transport and infrastructure, for which the Framework Agreement for Concession and Implementation for the construction of the Grand Inter-Oceanic Canal of Nicaragua Inter-oceanic was approved and authorized. It would be developed by the Nicaragua Canal Development Investment Co. (HKND Group), a Chinese company that has the rights to define the design, financing, construction and management of the canal for a period of 50 years, renewable for a further 50 more, at an estimated cost of US \$40,000 million.

The Legal Framework

National Legislation

Systems and concepts

- Act on the Organization, Competence and Procedures of the Executive Power (N° 290 - 1998/06/03. Last amendment: Act N° 864 - 2014/05/20).
- National Defence Act (N° 748 - 2010/12/22).
- Law on the legal framework on borders (N° 749 - 2010/12/22).
- Democratic Security Act (N° 750 - 2010/12/22).

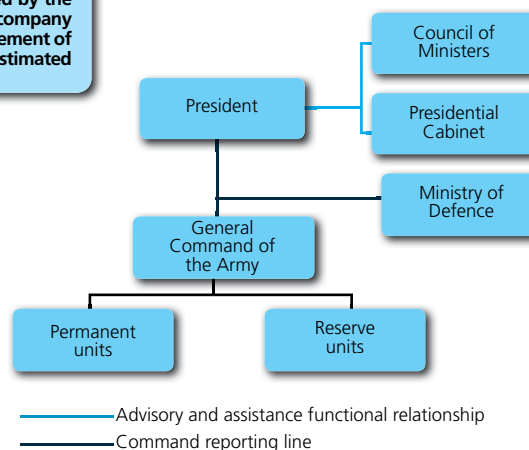
Military Organization

- Code of Organization, Jurisdiction and Military Social Benefits (Act N° 181 - 1994/08/23. Last amendment: Act N° 855 - 2014/02/11).
- Organic Act of Military Tribunals (N° 523 - 2005/04/05. Last amendment: Law N° 567 - 2005/11/25).
- Military Penal Code (Act N° 566 - 2006/01/05).
- Code of Military Penal Procedures (Act N° 617 - 2007/08/29).

Source: Compilation based on the aforementioned legislation.

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) and *Ley anual de presupuesto general de la República* 2014 (personnel).

The Defence System



National Defence is conducted through the higher military and political bodies. The President is the Supreme Chief of the Army of Nicaragua. The Council of Ministers is the main advisory body on defence and security matters. The Presidential Cabinet is a consultative body for national defence matters available to the President of the Republic. The Ministry of Defence is the consultative body in matters relating to the creation and implementation of national defence plans and policies, and manages the elaboration of defence policies throughout the national territory on behalf of the President. The High Command structure is under the leadership of the General Command of the Army and is made up of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, the Chief-of-Staff and the Inspector General.

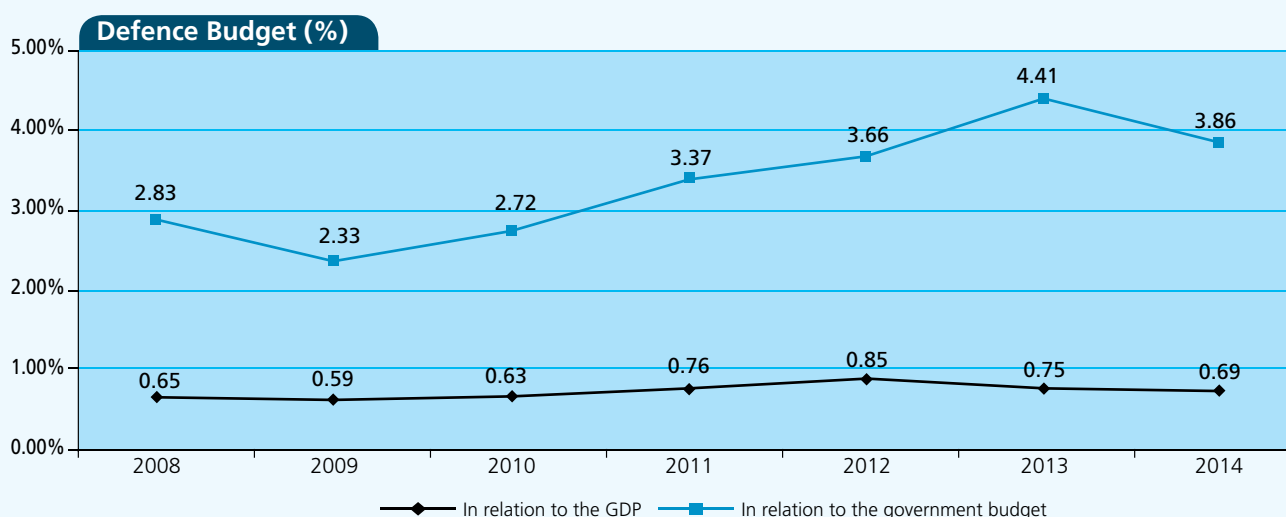
The Commander-in-Chief is the senior military advisor to the President with regard to his/her role as Supreme Chief of the Army of Nicaragua, including the elaboration of national security and defence plans and policies as well as coordinating their implementation.

The Assembly exercises the powers granted to it by the Constitution and continuously monitors defence-related matters through the Committee of Peace, Defence, Interior and Human Rights.

Source: Compilation based on the *Ley de organización, competencia y procedimientos del Poder Ejecutivo* (N° 290 -1998/06/03. Last amendment: Act N° 612 -2014/05/20) and *Ley de la defensa nacional* (N° 748 -2010/12/22).

Budget

Year	Defence Budget (US\$)	Government Budget (US\$)	GDP (US\$)
2008	42,191,833	1,492,080,617	6,523,000,000
2009	37,293,776	1,598,952,131	6,298,000,000
2010	39,644,293	1,455,689,864	6,246,000,000
2011	53,774,224	1,596,112,400	7,078,000,000
2012	65,756,103	1,794,342,438	7,695,000,000
2013	85,080,114	1,931,049,585	11,272,000,000
2014	82,888,983	2,148,730,368	11,946,000,000



Defence Budget 2014 (in Local Currency)

Item	Personnel Services	Non-personnel Services	Materials, Supplies and Assets	Current Transfers	TOTAL
Ministry of Defence					
Central Activities*	16,274,679	3,749,950	2,598,995	94,477	22,718,101
National Defence**	892,331,770	268,869,503	955,132,416	12,746,210	2,129,079,899
TOTAL	908,606,449	272,619,453	957,731,411	12,840,687	2,151,798,000

* At the delegation of the President of the Republic in his/her position as the Supreme Chief of the Nicaraguan Army, the Ministry of Defence is responsible for the elaboration of policies and plans regarding defence of territorial sovereignty, of the independence and integrity of the Nation, and, as part of these powers, the coordination and approval of the plans and actions of the Army of Nicaragua.

** This program is run by the Army of Nicaragua, which is in charge of preparing, organizing and directing the armed defence of the Nation, by defending territorial integrity, independence and national sovereignty. The State Budget passed by Congress by means of the aforementioned Act is considered herein. The concept of investment is that expressed in "Capital expenses/Assets".

Source: Compilation based on the *Ley anual de presupuesto general de la República* from 2006 to 2014. The Government Budget is considered as that passed by Congress in the aforementioned law. Investment is considered as that presented in "Capital Expenditure/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. As of June, the 2014 average was 25.64 cordobas, on the basis of information provided by the Central Bank of Nicaragua. For further calculations, figures are provided in local currency.

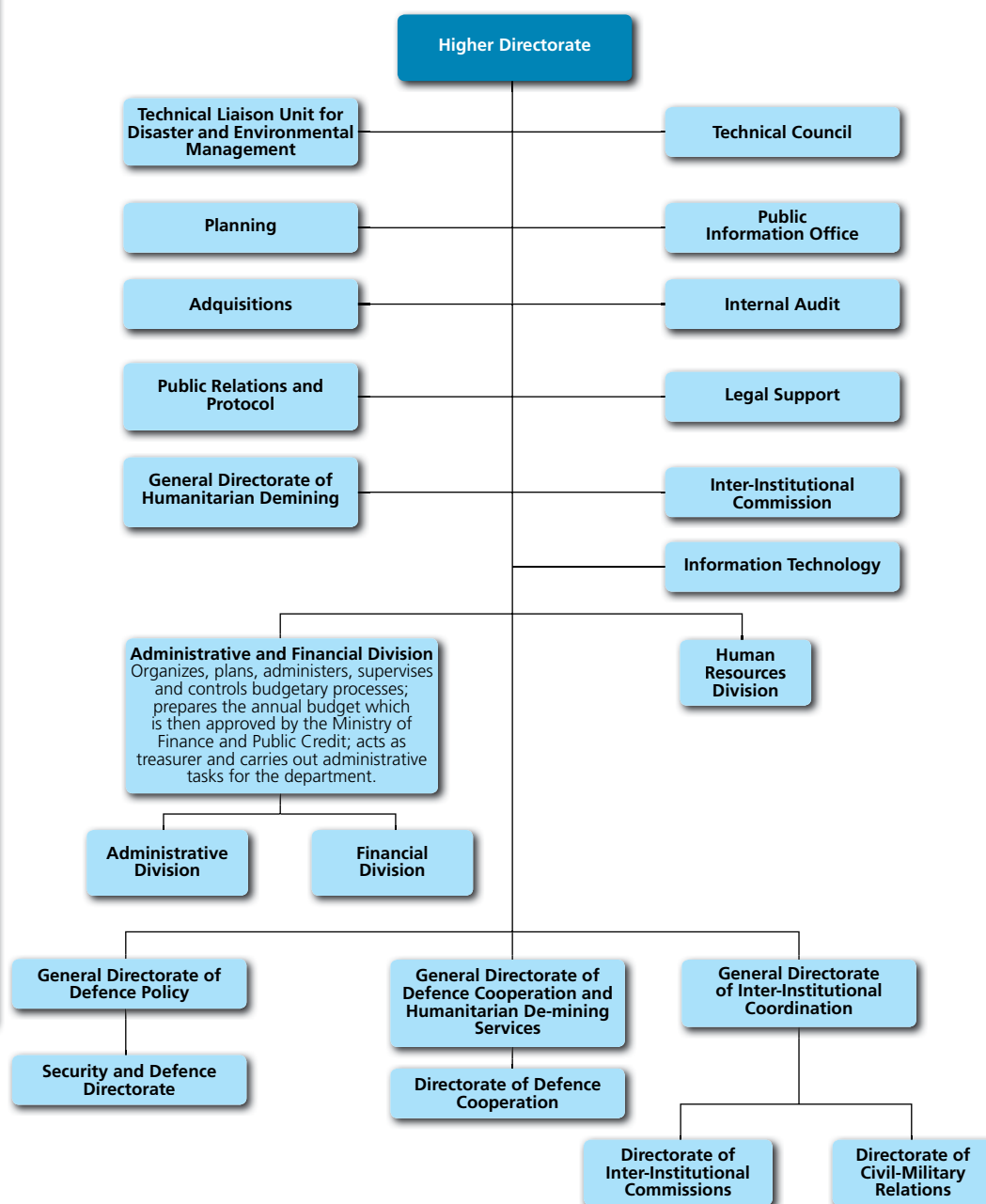
Expressions in Bold Type (Table) refer to the different items regarding defence that can be found in a sectorial or institutional classification of the Budget Act.

The Ministry of Defence

Date of Foundation
1979
Current Minister (July 2014)
Martha Elena Ruiz Sevilla
Can military members be Ministers of Defence?
Yes (if they have retired)
Number of military members who were Ministers of Defence
2
Number of civilians who were Ministers of Defence
10
Have there been any women in charge of the Ministry of Defence?
Yes (the current Minister; Violeta Chamorro, 1990 - 1997 - while she served as President of the Republic - and Ruth Tapia Roa, 2007-2012, as Secretary General)
Average stay in the Minister of Defence position
2 years and 9 months

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

Organizational Chart



Bilateral agreements signed between 2012-2014



Source: Compilation based on the websites of the Ministry of Defence, the Nicaraguan Army, and the Secretariat of National Defence of Honduras.

The Armed Forces

General Mission

The Army of Nicaragua is the armed institution responsible for defending the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. Only in exceptional cases, when stability of the Republic is threatened by severe internal disorders, calamity or natural disasters, shall the President, acting within a session of the Council of Ministers, be entitled to order the intervention of the Army of Nicaragua in support of the National Police. (Constitution, Sec. 92)

Its mission is to prepare, organize and lead the armed defence of the homeland, and to defend the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of the Nation. Its missions, composition and structure are defined according to the scenarios, threats and risks identified by the Nicaraguan State, which will provide the necessary public means and resources to provide the Army of Nicaragua with the ability required to comply with its missions and tasks in times of peace, with the purpose of preventing and deterring any type of international armed conflict.

The Army of Nicaragua shall plan, organize, prepare, manage and execute the national armed defence of the homeland and defend the territorial integrity, the independence and sovereignty of the nation. In turn, it shall intervene -in exceptional cases- to support the National Police, under the order of the President of the Republic within the Council of Ministers, where the stability of the Republic is threatened by large internal disorders, calamities or natural disasters and assist in the execution of work that contribute with the country's development.

It shall co-assist in case of extreme need, in maintaining peace and order in the nation, as well as in the fight against drug trafficking, arms trafficking and human trafficking and transnational organized crime. It shall contribute to strengthening the risk management policy, based on preventing, mitigating and managing natural disasters, safeguarding the life and property of the population. It shall participate in international peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance missions, in accordance to the UN Charter, approved by Resolution No. 84 of Nicaragua's Congress, international treaties or agreements signed and ratified by the State of Nicaragua based on regulations and principles of International Law. (Ley de la defensa nacional, N° 748, Sec. 16 and 17).

Specific Missions

Army

The Land Force is the Army's main instrument to perform missions in defence of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, acting in coordination with the Air Force, the Navy and common bodies.

Navy

The Navy carries out missions to support the Army, and independent missions directed by the High Command of the Army. Ground force units that carry out security and safeguarding missions of units and facilities form part of the Navy

Air Force

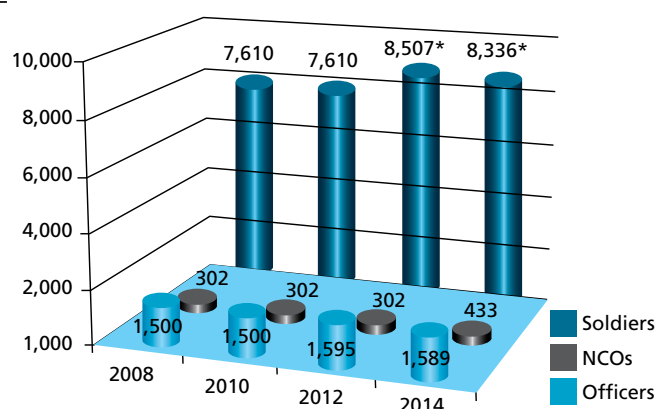
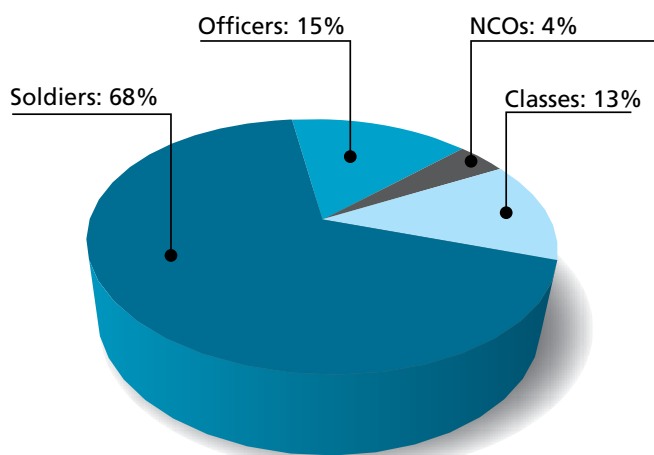
The Air Force carries out missions to support the Army and Navy as well as independent missions directed by the High Command of the Army. The land force units, which carry out missions of air, defence, security and maintenance of the units and facilities form part of the Air Force.

Armed Forces Personnel:

Officers:	1,589
NCOs:	433
Classes:	1,330
Soldiers:	7,006

Total Armed Forces Personnel: 10,358

Armed Forces Personnel



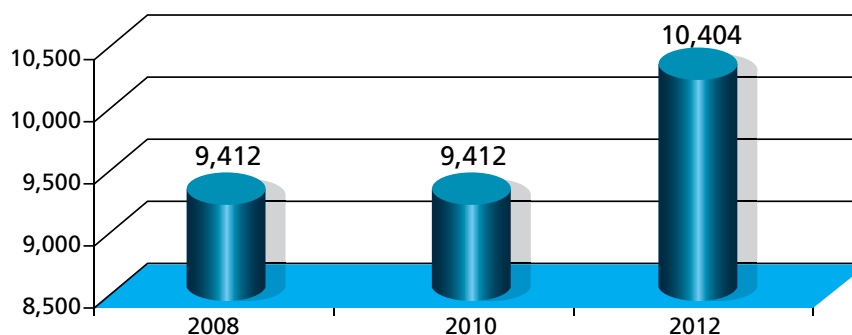
* Classes and soldiers are considered.

Protection of Land Borders – actions 2013

- Based on Law N° 749, the Legal Border Regime Act, the Army of Nicaragua was incorporated into the coordination of the work developed in the Border Checkpoints at Peñas Blancas, Las Manos, and El Guasale. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the General Directorate of Customs and the General Directorate of Migration and Foreign Persons participated.
- Cooperation agreements were signed with the General Directorate of Customs and the General Directorate of Migration and Foreign Persons in order to strengthen work in the Border Zone, Special Border Protection Zone, and the Border Security Zone.
- The Army made available human and material resources for the creation of new military border posts.
- Checks of 132,666 persons making legal border crossings were carried out, and 446 illegal immigrants were captured during a variety of operations.

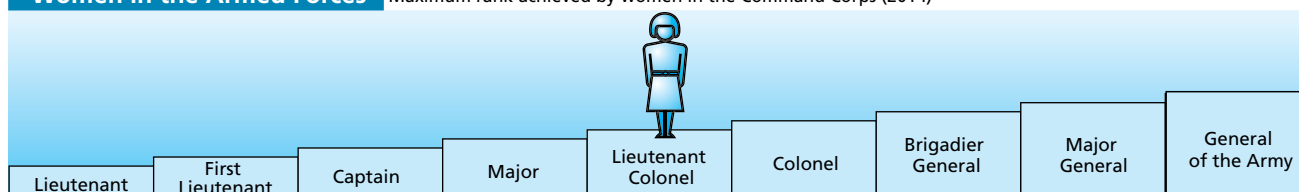
Source: Ley de la defensa nacional (N° 748 – 2010/12/22) and Código de organización, jurisdicción y previsión social militar (N° 181 - 1994/09/02). Last amendment: N° 855 – 2014/02/11) (missions), Ley anual de presupuesto general de la República 2014 (personnel) and Memoria del Ejército de Nicaragua (2013).

Armed Forces Personnel



Women in the Armed Forces

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



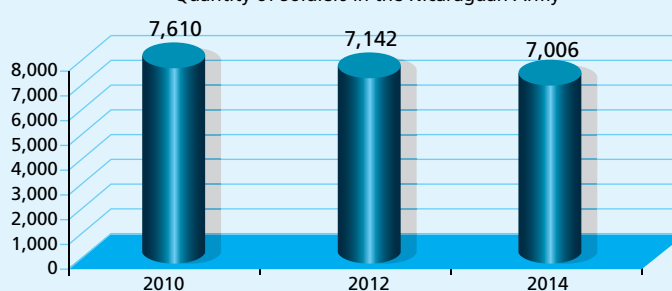
Note: These ranks correspond to the Army as an example. The highest rank achieved since the creation of the National Army as the only armed force of the Republic, in 1979, is considered. The command corps includes officers who have been educated at military academies from the beginning of their careers, different to those who develop a career in the civilian sphere and are then incorporated to the military.

Military Service

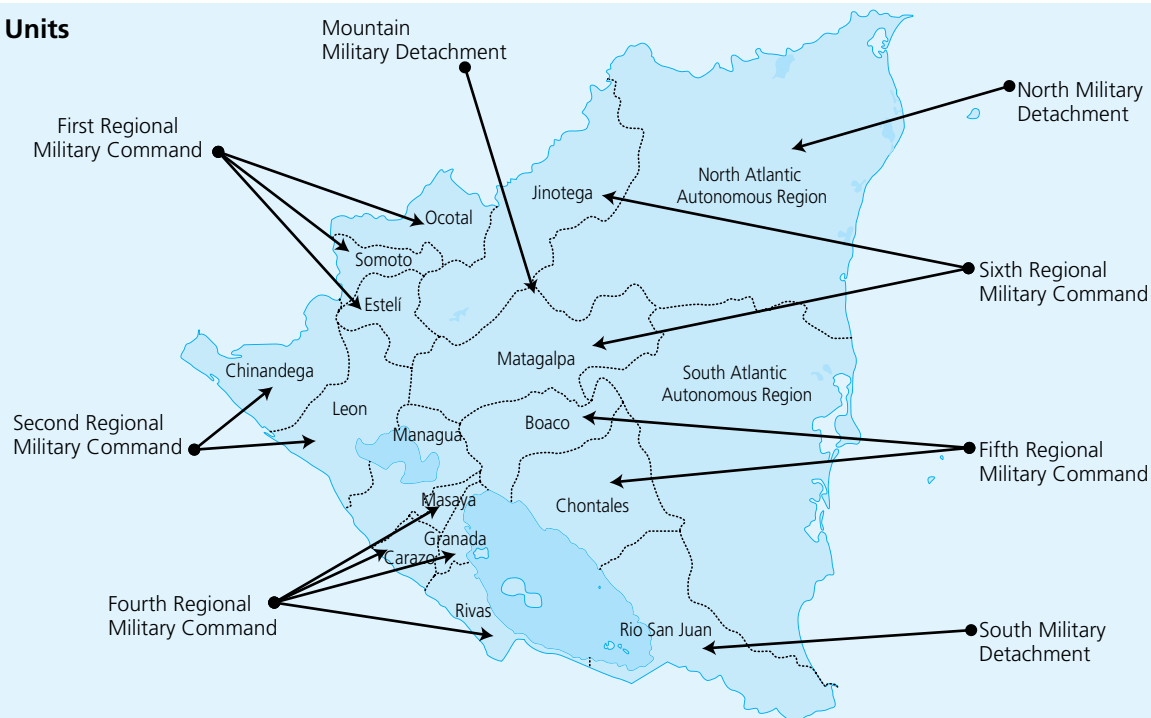
Men and women are equally allowed to enter the military service, which has a one-year duration and the possibility of further extension. The Political Constitution forbids any type of compulsory recruitment and thus military service is optional.

Since 1998, the new soldiers of the Nicaraguan Army have received a 3-month training course at the National School of Basic Infantry Training "Soldado Ramón Montoya" (ENABI). Graduates from this School become temporary military members and can be hired for a 3 to 5-year period, after which they can continue with their active service for 5 additional years or access military courses that allow them to become career military personnel.

Quantity of Soldiers in the Nicaraguan Army

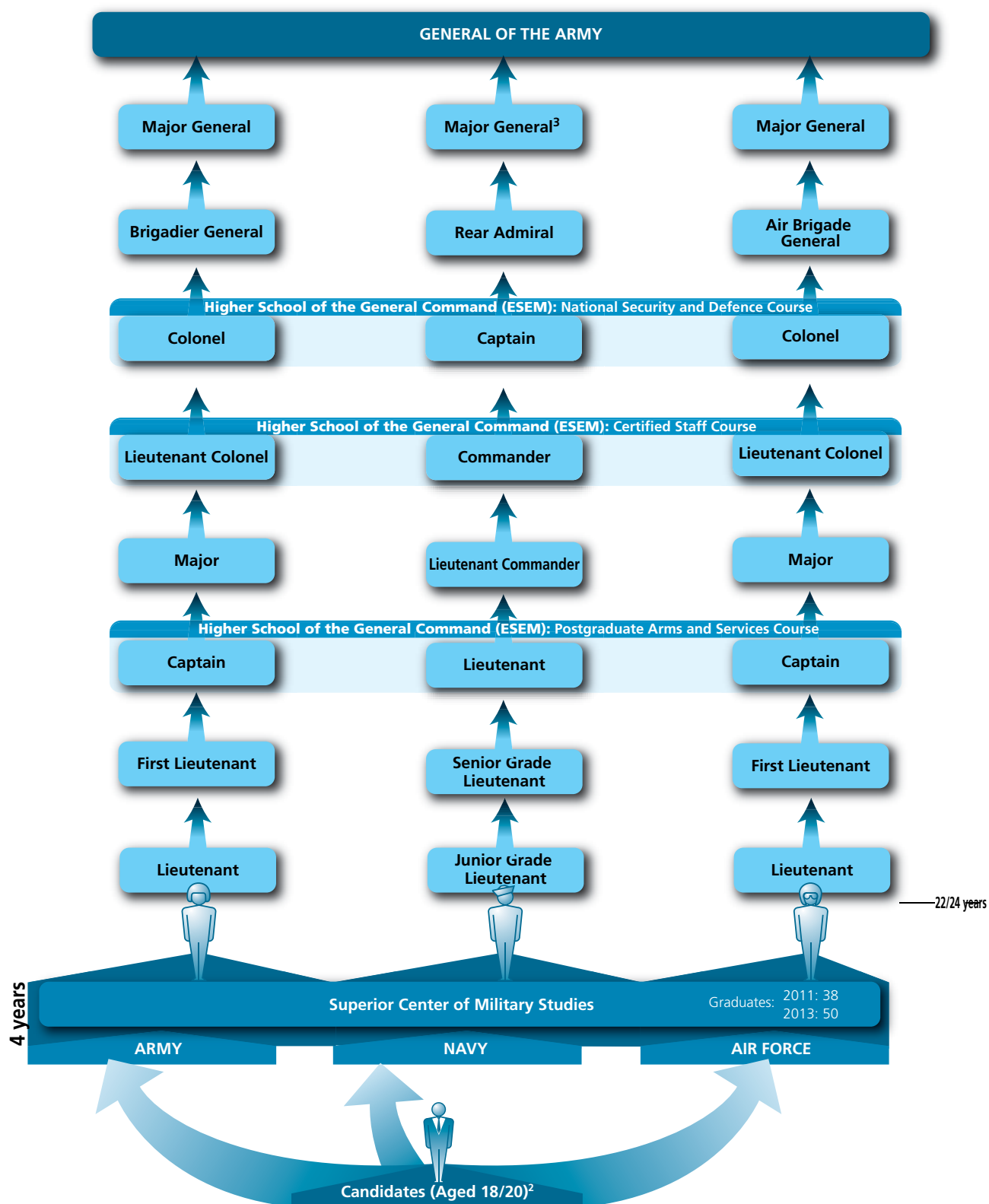


Army Units



Source: *Ley anual de presupuesto general de la República 2014*, Libro de la Defensa Nacional de Nicaragua and website of the Nicaraguan Army.

Education and the Military Career

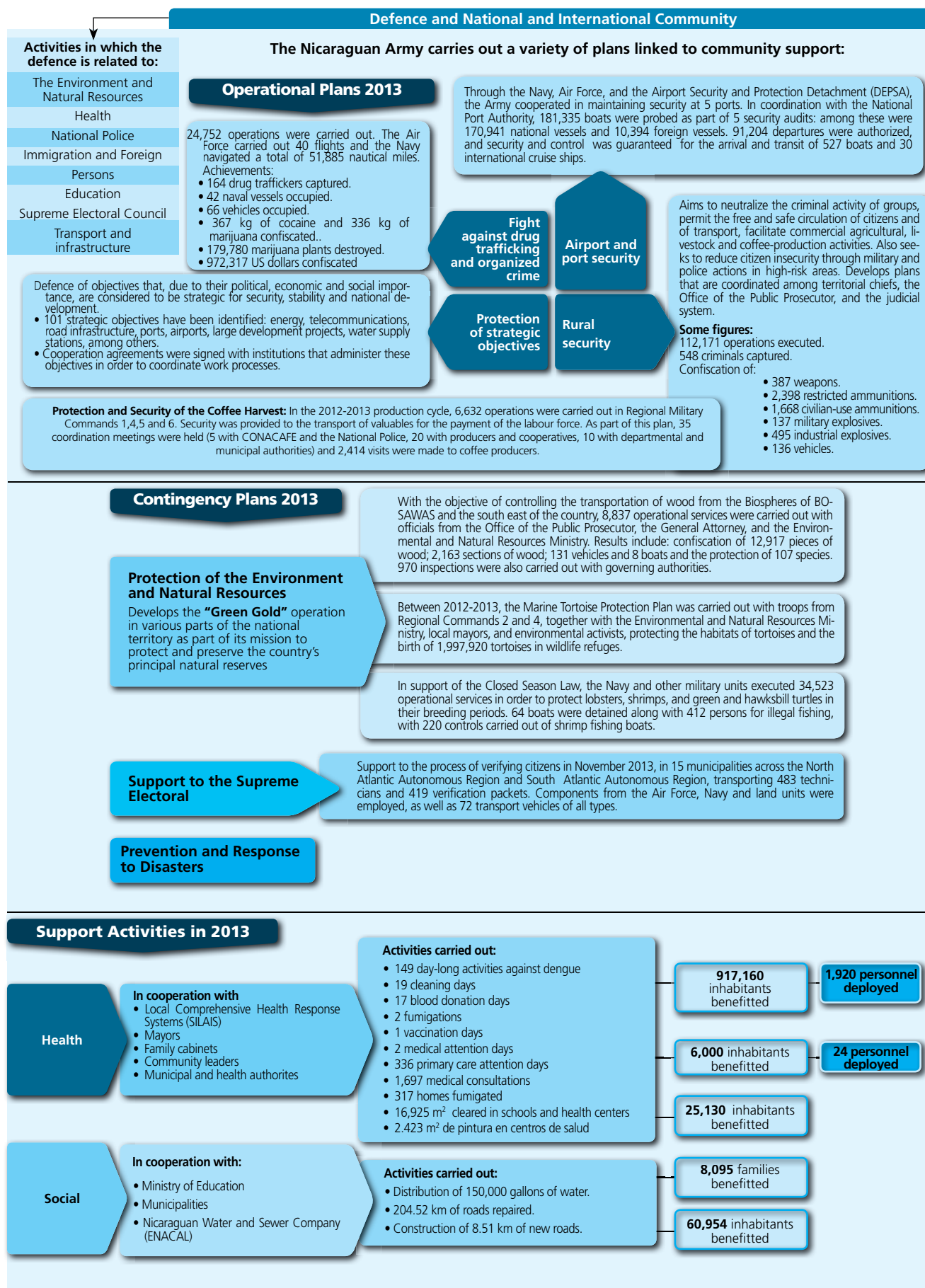
Career Path for Officers in Command Bodies¹

¹ 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 officer' promotion through the completion of mandatory courses. Further requirements for promotion have not been considered.

² Ages 18-20 years have been considered for comparative purposes. The minimum age for promotion shall depend on the age of graduation from the military institution.

³ Senior Officers of the Naval Force who hold a position in the General Command of the Nicaraguan Army shall receive the rank corresponding to the military hierarchy of the Army..

Source: Compilation based on the *Libro de la Defensa Nacional de Nicaragua*, 2005, and the website of the aforementioned institutions and the Nicaraguan Army.



Source: Memoria del Ejército de Nicaragua (2012 and 2013) and the website of the Nicaraguan Army.

Disaster Support

The **Army's General Command of Civil Defence** has 6 contingency plans for providing humanitarian assistance to civilian populations affected by natural or man-made disasters.

Earthquake Contingency Plan

Seismic hazards in Nicaragua are common. The high seismic zone corresponds to the strip that runs parallel to the coast of the Pacific Ocean, where they occur at depths greater than 40 km, in the friction zone between the Cocos and Caribbean lithospheric plates.

The Earthquake Plan has a fundamental strategic objective of establishing guidelines and courses of action to be implemented from the moment of impact, clarification of the situation by relevant authorities, the disposition of forces and means by state institutions, municipal governments, relief agencies and local volunteers for the management and development of humanitarian assistance operations to assist the affected population in an effective and timely manner, facilitating the following actions:

Search, locate and rescue.
First aid medical assistance.
Firefighting.
Evacuation and protection of evacuees.

Plan for the prevention and control of forest fires

Oriented towards the prevention and control of forest fires and the need for correct operation planning that involves the variety of authorities from central government to community leaders in the municipalities located in the departments of Esteli, Madriz, Nueva Segovia, Chinandega, León, Masaya, Granada, Carazo, Rivas and RAAN.

For the implementation of this plan, coordination is established between troops of the Nicaraguan Army, the National Police, the Fire Department, Fire Brigades and the structures of the Committees for Prevention, Mitigation, and Response to Disasters, and departmental, municipal and local authorities.

During 2013, they confronted 256 fires; of which 126 were forest fires and 130 agricultural. A total of 36,775 hectares of forest were affected. During the execution of the plan, 2,095 military personnel and 6,018 voluntary brigades, 11,819 officials and 1,075 vehicles were involved.

Plan for tsunamis on the pacific coastal zone

This Plan has identified 13 municipalities, equivalent to 74 at-risk communities, representing 99,000 people at risk. Consequently, 4 Early Warning Systems were installed and 5 Command Posts have been formed in Corinto, Poneloya, Masachapa, La Boquita and San Juan del Sur. They cover 427 kilometers along the Nicaraguan Pacific coast.

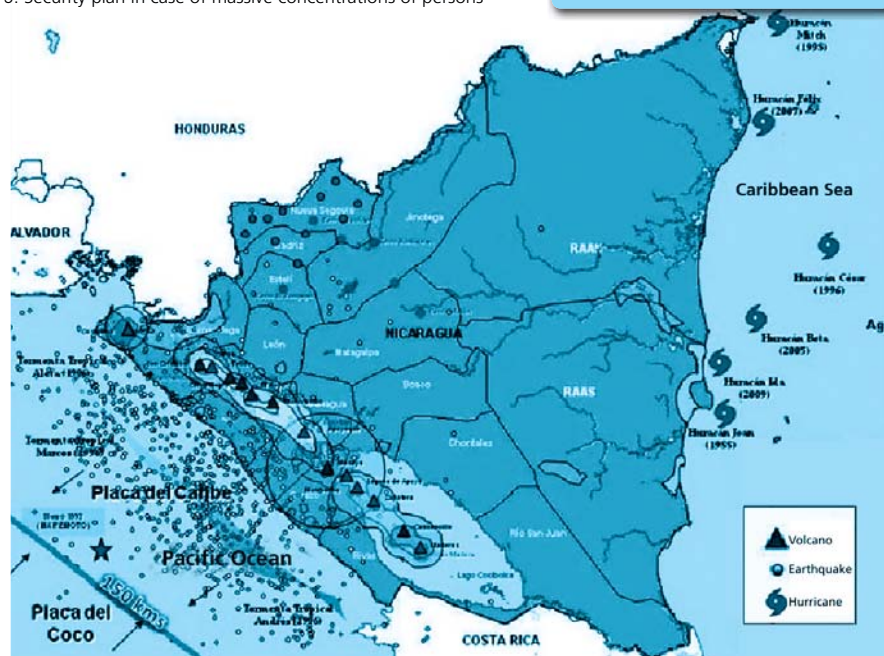
The Plan is implemented by the General Command of Civil Defence in close coordination with the Executive Secretariat of SINAPRED, and with the participation of structures that form part of the Commission of Special Operations: Air Force, Navy, and Regional Military Commands 2 and 4, contingents of troops from the Military Unit of the Capital, and of the Humanitarian and Rescue Unit (UHR) of the Nicaraguan Army. They would act on the basis of the plan for the deployment of forces, equipment and vehicles in response to natural or man-made disasters.

Security plan in case of massive concentrations of persons

Its main objective is to articulate courses of action and operational measures to implement together with the members of the Committee for Special Operations to ensure the evacuation, rescue and provision of first aid assistance to participants in different activities involving the mass concentration of persons, in case of sudden large-scale events that may cause damages to the concentrated population.

1. Earthquake Plan - Pacific Region
2. Winter Plan (heavy rains and hurricanes)
3. Volcanic Eruption Plan
4. Plan for the prevention and control of forest fires
5. Plan for tsunamis on the coastal zone of the greater pacific region
6. Security plan in case of massive concentrations of persons

These plans are implemented in coordination with the different structures of the National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Response to Disasters (SINAPRED) and local volunteers organized in committees and brigades.



Winter Plan

The causes of these weather-related events, such as heavy rainfall, are associated with the flooding of rivers, creeks, streams, increases in the level of lakes and landslides lead to heavy damages to persons and property, transport and production infrastructure, and the environment.

The plan's main objective is to articulate courses of action to be developed in order to provide the forces, vehicles and equipment and State institutions in humanitarian assistance to the civilian population.

During 2013, 1,823 operations were carried out in which components from the following military units participated: 241 land, 14 naval and 2 aerial transport vehicles. As a result of the heavy rains, 4,045 houses were affected across the country, of which 3,720 received minor damages, 40 were destroyed and 285 were partially destroyed. 4,239 families were affected (19,446 persons). 1,435 persons were evacuated.

Volcanic Eruption Plan

The frequency of volcanic eruptions is also variable, from those that are almost constantly erupting (Masaya), to those that are active only every 100 or even 1,000 years (Apoyeque). In 2005, the Volcano Concepción was active, generating eruptions and the expulsion of ash that reached the municipalities of Rivas, San Jorge, Buenos Aires, Potosí and Belén; without causing any material damage or loss of life. The basis of the plan is the analysis of risks and threats, including the implementation of a variety of operational actions and measures that seek to guarantee a rapid, efficient and opportune reaction in support of the civilian population. Thanks to the support of donor organizations, Nicaragua has access to various Early Warning Systems.

During 2013, 316 Committees for Prevention, Mitigation and Response to Disasters were organized and trained: 2 in the autonomous regions of the Caribbean, 10 departmental, 12 municipal, 146 local and 146 in schools, along with their respective response plans. Additionally, 12 municipal response brigades, 146 local, 146 school and 41 institutional brigades were organized and trained, and 8 radio operator courses were carried out.

Humanitarian and Rescue Unit (UHR) "Commander William Joaquín Ramírez Solórzano"

Launched in September 2010, it has 300 permanent members of the Army of Nicaragua, trained to support the population in response to natural or man-made disasters. During 2013, it undertook the following activities:

- Conducted the evacuation and relocation of 1,751 people located at critical points in the capital, with the use of 138 transport vehicles.

- In coordination with the General Command of Civil Defence and the sectoral working committees of the National System for Prevention, Mitigation and Response to Disasters (SINAPRED) and other institutions, it participated in drills in neighborhoods of the capital.

- Participated in fighting forest fires in support of the Ministry of Health (MINSa), Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAGFOR), and municipalities and other agencies.

- In coordination with MINSa, MARENA and territorial authorities, it carried out blood donation drives, fumigations, and the conservation and protection of flora and fauna.

The Training Center for Peacekeeping Operations -CAOMPAP- was created in December 2007 to train personnel according to UN standards. In July 2012, it carried out the first course on conducting humanitarian operations.

Source: *Memoria del Ejército de Nicaragua* (2012 and 2013) and the website of the Nicaraguan Army.