

Venezuela



Population **30,831,00**

Territorial Extension **912,050 km²**

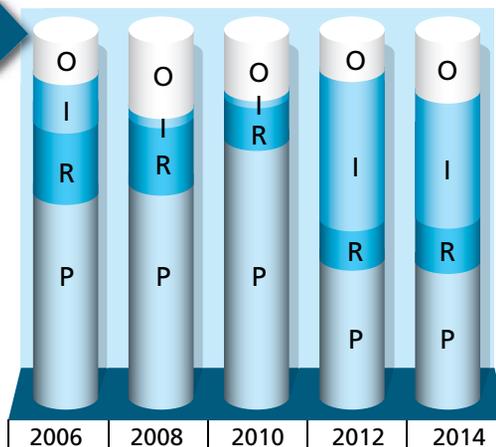
GDP 2014 (US\$) **342,067,000,000**

Armed Forces Personnel **194,744**

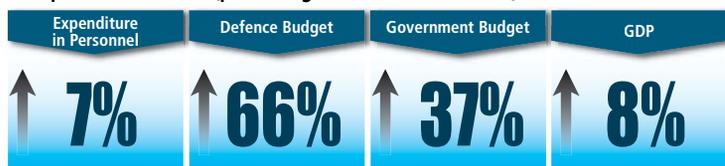
Defence Budget (US\$) **5,567,765,086**

Defence Budget Breakdown

- P:** Salaries and other benefits
- R:** Retirement and pension funds
- I:** Investment
- O:** Other expenses



Comparative Increase (percentage variation 2008-2014)



The Legal Framework

National Legislation

Systems and Concepts

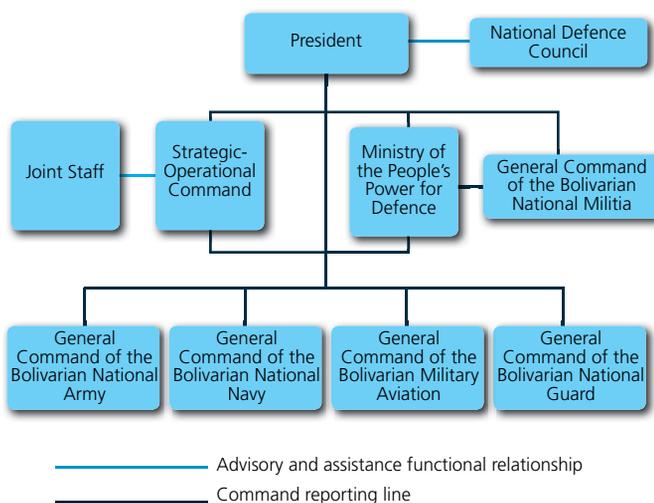
- National Security Organic Act (GO N° 37594 - 2002/12/18)

Military Organization

- Organic Code of Military Justice (GO N° 5263 - 1998/09/17).
- Organic law against organized crime (GO N° 5789 - 10/26/05. Last amendment: GO N° 39.912 - 2012/01/31).
- Military Service and Enrolment Act (GO N° 5933 - 2009/10/06. Last Amendment: GO N° 39.553 - 2010/11/16).
- Organic Act of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (Extraordinary GO N° 6020 - 2011/03/21).
- Law of control for comprehensive air space defence (GO N° 39935 - 2012/06/01).
- *Decreto con fuerza de Ley especial de reincorporación a la carrera militar y al sistema de seguridad social de la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana* (Special statutory decree of reincorporation to the military career and the social security system of the Bolivarian National Armed Force) (N° 8796 - GO N° 39.858 - 2012/06/02).

Source: Compilation based on the aforementioned legislation.

The Defence System



The President is advised by the National Defence Council, composed of the Vice President, the Presidents of the Assembly, the Supreme Court of Justice and the Republican Moral Council, and the Ministers of Defence, Internal Security, Foreign Affairs, Planning and the Environment. The Strategic Operational Command is directly subordinate to the President and is the highest planning and management organ of the Armed Forces and the Bolivarian Militia. The Joint Staff is its planning and advisory body. The Strategic Operational Command, the Military Components (Army, Navy, Military Aviation and National Guard), the Bolivarian Militia and the Military Regions (as operational organization), are administratively under the Ministry of Popular Power for Defence. The Assembly holds the powers granted by the Constitution and permanently monitors defence related issues through the National Defence and Security Committee.

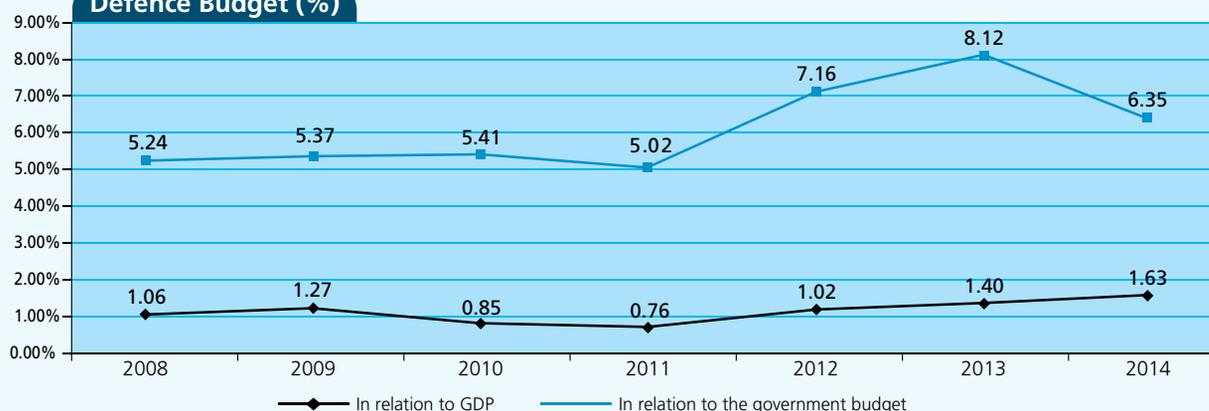
Source: Compilation based on the Political Constitution, *Ley orgánica de seguridad de la Nación* (GO N° 37.594 - 2002/12/18) and *Ley orgánica de la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana* (Extraordinary GO N° 6.020 - 2011/03/21).

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 the *Ley de presupuesto para el ejercicio 2014* (personnel and defence budget).

Budget

Year	Defence Budget (US\$)	Government Budget (US\$)	GDP (US\$)
2008	3,351,756,259	63,984,953,854	334,726,000,000
2009	4,185,502,812	77,894,964,467	353,469,000,000
2010	2,501,244,477	46,204,655,586	301,012,000,000
2011	2,390,330,558	47,600,976,235	309,837,000,000
2012	3,900,098,861	54,449,125,774	337,433,000,000
2013	5,247,976,766	64,666,679,965	373,978,000,000
2014	5,567,765,086	87,719,452,930	342,067,000,000

Defence Budget (%)



Defence Budget 2014 (in Local Currency)*

Credits	Personnel	Goods and Services Expenditure**	Real Assets	Other***	TOTAL
Ministry of the People's Power for Defence					
Operational Logistical Command	9,530,882,647	1,988,525,374	9,206,174,318	65,198,817	20,790,781,156
Office of the Vice-minister of Education for Defence	226,145,610	61,115,851	0	0	287,261,461
Vice-ministry of Services	0	714,827,888	18,055,000	0	732,882,888
Office of Planning and Budget	0	2,730,530	870,000	0	3,600,530
General Directorate of Military Counter-Intelligence	0	10,790,224	0	118,894,991	129,685,215
General Directorate of Health	1,144,869,279	1,059,667,970	0	0	2,204,537,249
Directorate of Militia Services	0	21,416,064	435,657	0	21,851,721
Directorate of Communications	0	0	106,186,080	0	106,186,080
Directorate of Geography and Cartography	0	178,632	15,258,037	0	15,436,669
Administration Office	0	0	0	4,640,613,795	4,640,613,795
Military Public Defender's Office	0	6,700,449	0	0	6,700,449
Military Law Judicial Circuit	0	3,994,900	2,180,586	0	6,175,486
Office of the Military Attorney General	0	2,291,904	1,658,096	0	3,950,000
General Comptroller	0	5,468,689	431,760	0	5,900,449
Bolivarian National Guard	0	87,258,648	2,651,357,145	0	2,738,615,793
Presidential Guard of Honor	0	47,205,407	773,372	0	47,978,779
Centralized Actions					0
Management and Coordination of Workers' Expenditures	2,139,053,346	16,397,001	0	0	2,155,450,347
Administrative Management	0	560,482,634	35,539,568	150,601,301	746,623,503
Social Security and Protection	0	0	0	349,818,990	349,818,990
Military Attaché's Offices	0	0	0	46,553,667	46,553,667
Comprehensive assistance and protection of families and persons in shelters during emergencies or disasters	0	1,800,149	0	0	1,800,149
Ministry of the People's Power of the President's Office					
National Defence Council	26,154,572	6,846,790	167,792	1,346,509	34,515,663
TOTAL	13,067,105,454	4,597,699,104	12,039,087,411	5,373,028,070	35,076,920,039

*As of July 31, 2014, the Ministry of the People's Power for Defence was allocated additional Credits for 2,006,433,272 Bolivars (US\$ 179,949,172). This amount has not been included above.

** Includes materials, supplies and goods as well as non-personnel services.

*** Includes State defence and security expenses, transfers and donations, and decrease of liabilities

Source: Compilation based on the *Ley de presupuesto para el ejercicio fiscal* between 2006 and 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 "Real 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 30th, the 2014 average was 6.30 bolivars (reference), 10.6 bolivars (type 1) and 49.98 bolivars (type 2). 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 sectoral or institutional classification of the Budget Act.

The Ministry of the People's Power for Defence

Date of Foundation:
1946

Current Minister (July 2014):
Admiral-in-Chief
Carmen Teresa
Meléndez Rivas

Can military members be Ministers of Defence?
Yes

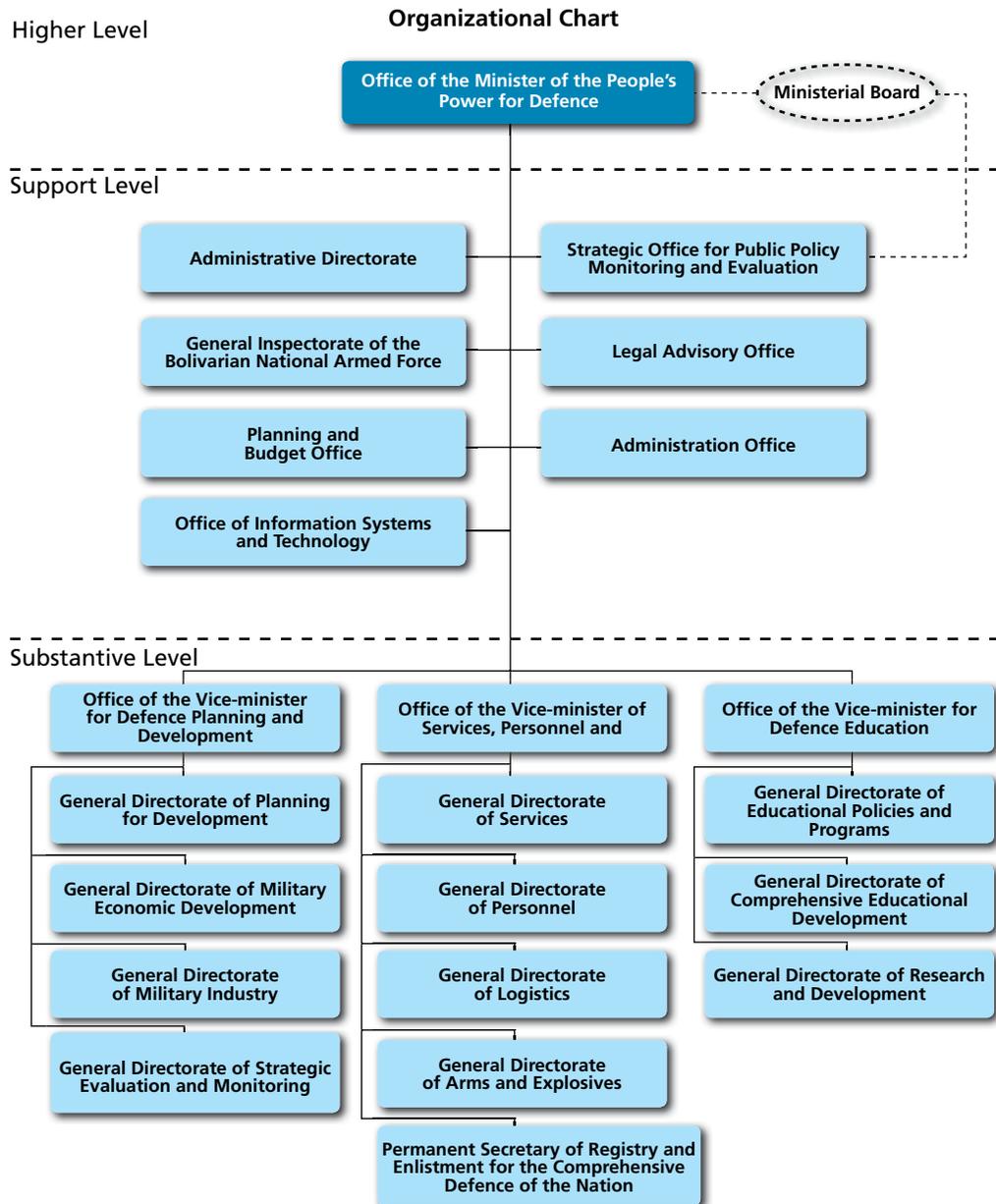
Number of military members who were Ministers of Defence:
43

Number of civilians who were Ministers of Defence:
1

Have there been any women in charge of the Ministry of Defence?
Yes, the current Minister.

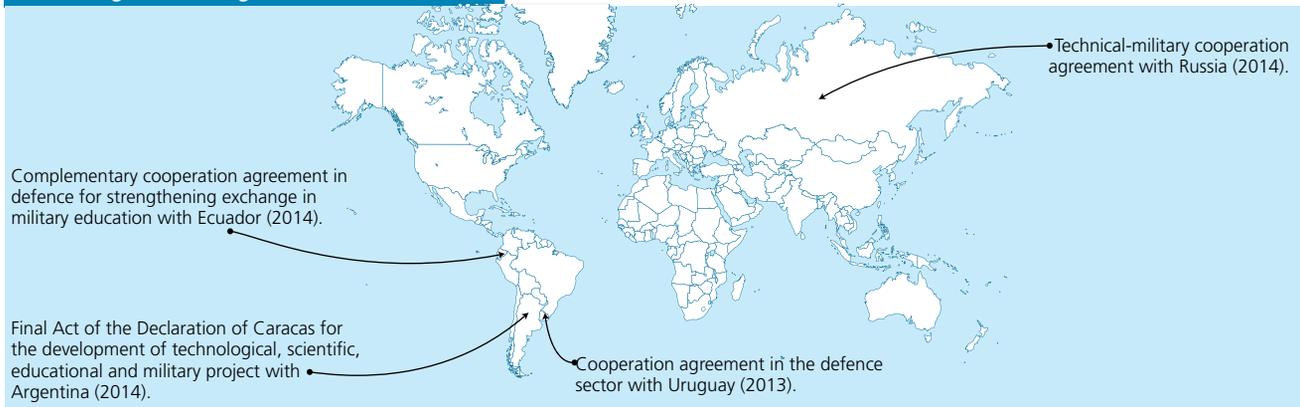
Average stay in the Minister of Defence position:
1 year and 7 months

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



Source: Memoria del Poder Popular para la Defensa (2013) and website of the Ministry of the People's Power for Defence.

Bilateral agreements signed between 2012-2014:



Source: Websites of the Ministry of the People's Power for Defence of Venezuela, Ministry of National Defence of Ecuador and Ministry of National Defence of Uruguay.

The Armed Forces

General Mission

The National Armed Force, organized by the State and regulated by the principles of territorial integrity, cooperation, solidarity, concurrence and co-responsibility, has the mission to guarantee the independence and sovereignty of the Nation, ensure territorial integration, security of the Nation, active participation in national development, cooperation in maintaining internal order, and the defence of the democratic exercise of the people's will embodied in the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the laws of the Republic.

The following are its specific functions:

- To ensure the full sovereignty and jurisdiction of the Republic in the continental space, maritime and marine areas, insular, lake, fluvial territories and air space, including their respective resources.
- To defend strategic locations that guarantee the development of activities in different areas: social, political, cultural, geographical, environmental military and economic, and take the measures necessary to prevent any external aggression or improper use.
- To prepare and organize the people for the integral defence of the country, with the purpose of cooperating with the independence, sovereignty and integrity of the geographic space of the Nation.
- To participate in alliances or coalitions in conjunction with the Armed Forces of other countries for integration purposes, as provided for in international treaties, pacts and agreements, following the approval of the National Assembly.
- To take part in peacekeeping missions, according to the provisions of pertinent treaties and agreements duly signed and ratified, following the approval of the National Assembly.
- To support the different levels and branches of the Government in the performance of social, political, cultural, geographic, environmental, economic tasks, and in civil protection operations in the event of disasters within the framework of relevant plans.
- To contribute to the preservation or restoration of the internal order vis-à-vis serious social disturbances, upon the decision of the President of the Republic.
- To organize, plan, conduct and control the military intelligence and counterintelligence system.

Specific Missions

Army

Ensure the defence of the land; contribute to the stability of democratic institutions and respect for the laws of the Republic; support national development and integration; and prepare to take part in international peacekeeping programs.

Navy

Ensure naval defence and compliance with the Constitution and laws in effect; cooperate in maintaining internal order and actively participate in national development, in order to guarantee the independence, sovereignty and integrity of national water spaces

Air Force

Ensure national defence by controlling the national air space, contributing to the sustainment of public order and actively participating in the development of the country, employing the national air power to guarantee the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of the Nation.

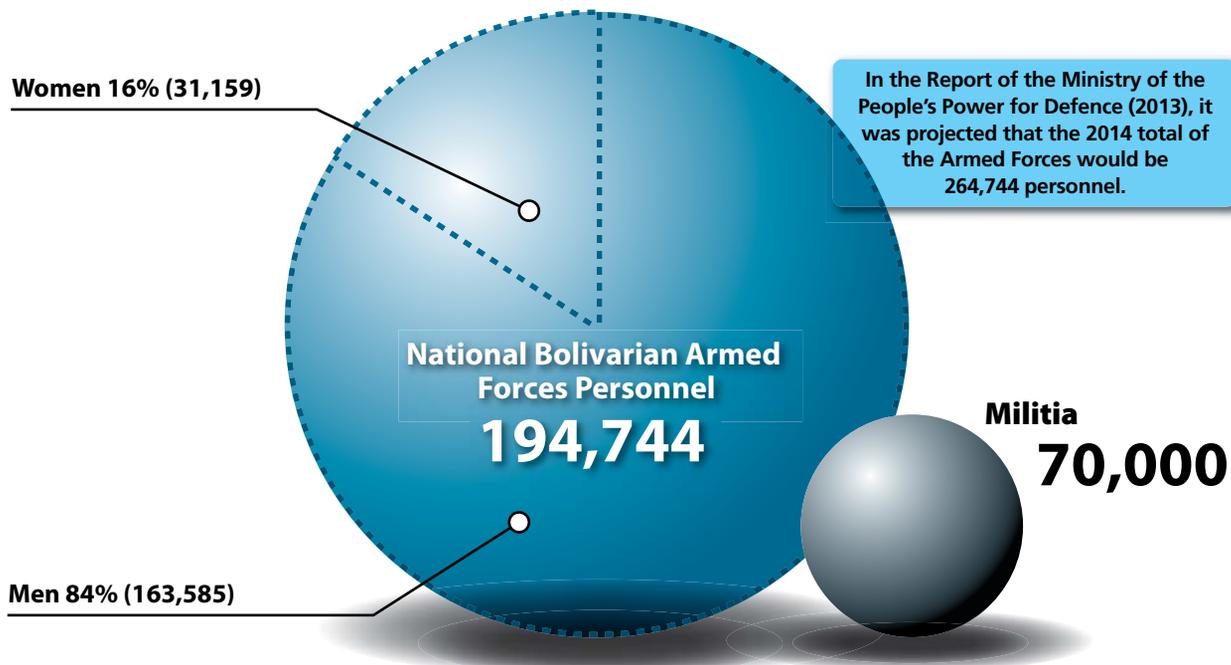
National Guard

Conduct the operations necessary for maintaining the country's internal order, cooperate in the development of military operations to ensure the defence of the Nation, exert administrative law enforcement and criminal investigation activities assigned by law, and actively participate in national development within the territory and other geographic spaces of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

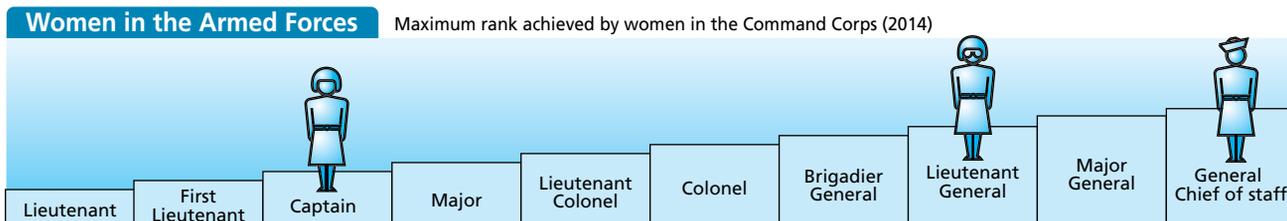
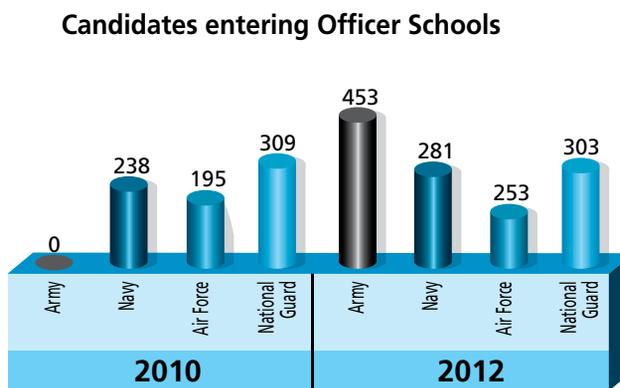
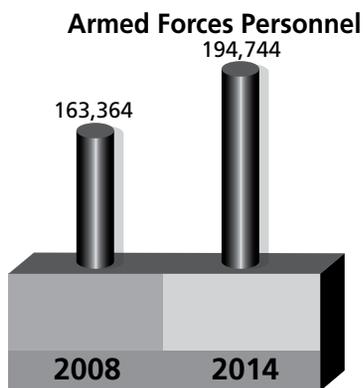
One of the pillars for 2014 of the Armed Forces is:

Increase military operational activity along the country's borders with the objective of controlling and neutralizing transnational crime, as well as the actions of groups that generate violence, and to increase defence of the territory.

Armed Forces Personnel 2014



Source: Website of the Armed Forces (missions), Ley de presupuesto para el ejercicio fiscal 2014 (personnel) and the Memoria del Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Defensa (2013).

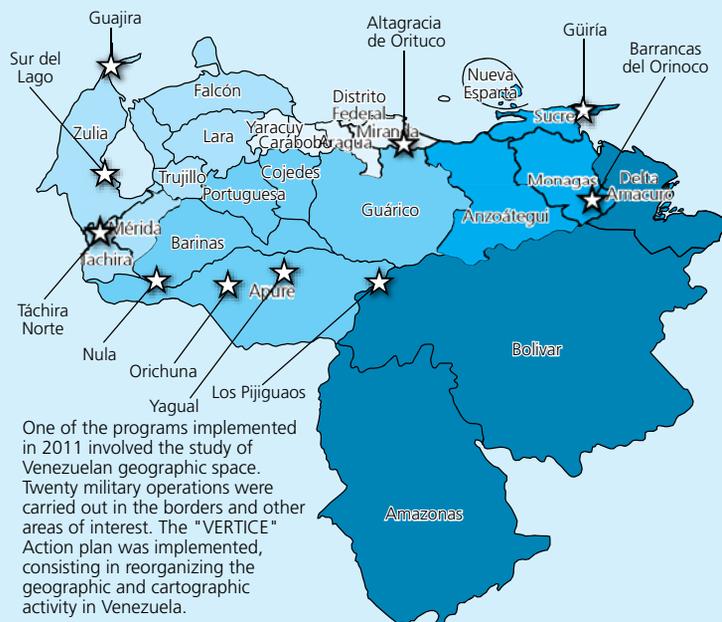


Note: These ranks correspond to the Army as an example. The rank of Major General is equivalent to Admiral (Navy), while in the Air Force Lieutenant General has the same denomination. The Command corps includes officers who have been educated at military academies from the beginning of their careers, different to those who develop a career in the civilian sphere and are then incorporated to the military.

Of total Armed Forces personnel, 16 % (31,159) are women.

Territorial Order

The Development Plan of the National Bolivarian Armed Force for the Integral Defence of the Nation (2007-2013) (Sucre Plan) establishes the need to restructure the Bolivarian National Armed Force and to maintain a permanent operational preparation in the border municipalities, fostering the presence of other State institutions.



Integral Defence Regions: these are defined as a space of the national territory with geostrategic characteristics, based on the defensive strategic concept, to plan, conduct and carry out integral defence operations.

- Central Region:** it encompasses the States of Vargas, Gran Caracas, Miranda, Aragua, Carabobo and Yaracuy, including the Capital District.
- Western Region:** it encompasses the States of Falcón, Lara, Trujillo, Mérida, Táchira and Zulia.
- Los Llanos Region:** It encompasses the States of Apure, Portuguesa, Barinas, Cojedes and Guárico.
- Eastern Region:** it encompasses the States of Anzoátegui, Monagas, Sucre and Nueva Esparta.
- Guyana Region:** it encompasses the States of Bolívar, Delta Amacuro and Amazonas.

Integral Defence Operation Zones: Space within a region that may comprise one or several States.

Integral Defence Areas: Geographic spaces contained within a defence operation zone that may comprise one or several municipalities.

The Military Districts: these were developed mainly from 2010 onwards. Their duty is to safeguard the territorial integrity, sovereignty, security, defence and national identity; to carry out operational plans; to safeguard communication systems; to take part in emergency situations, catastrophes and public calamities; to detect and neutralize espionage and the presence of foreign irregular groups; to contribute to the eradication of narcotics, fuel and other natural resources trafficking; to fight organized crime.

Military Service

Military service is a duty for all citizens, though mandatory recruitment is forbidden. Every man and woman of military age (18 to 60), born and naturalized in the country, are bound to register in the Permanent Military Registry as they are eligible and subject to registration for the service. Minimum term is 12 months, but may be extended.

Registered members may be included in the following categories:

- Active duty: they are already providing services in any of the branches of the Bolivarian Armed Force, the Bolivarian National Militia or other units attached to the Ministry of the People's Power for Defence. They should be aged between 18 and 30. They are subject to the military jurisdiction.
- Redundancy: they are not enlisted as they have been deferred from military service.

It offers two modalities:

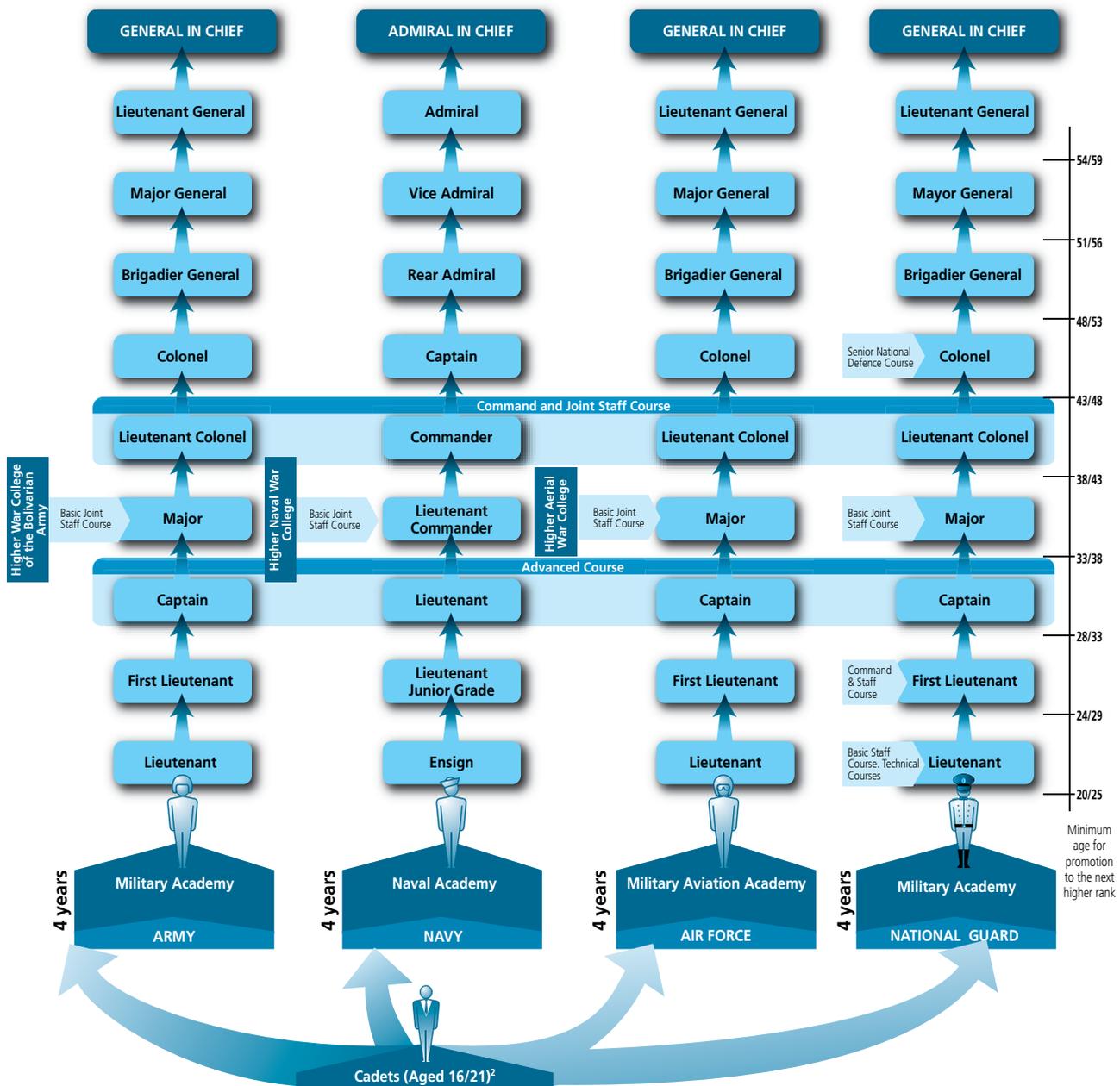
- Full-time: regular service performed in a continuous and uninterrupted way at operational and administrative military units established by the Bolivarian National Armed Force.
- Part-time: they stay in the barracks for a specific time, enabling them to study or have a job, thus ensuring their professional growth and economic and social stability for themselves and their families.

In 2013 79,954 persons were enlisted.

Source: Compilation based on the *Ley de conscripción y alistamiento militar* (GO N° 5933 – 2009/10/06. Last amendment: GO 39553 – 2010/11/16), *Ley orgánica de la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana* (Extraordinary GO 6020 – 2011/03/21), *Ley de presupuesto para el ejercicio fiscal 2014*, *Memoria del Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Defensa Nacional* (2013); *Decreto mediante el cual se crean diez (10) Distritos Militares según la distribución que en él se menciona* (N° 7938 - 2010); and the website of the Ministry of the People's Power for Defence.

Education and the Military Career

Career Path for Officers in Command Bodies¹



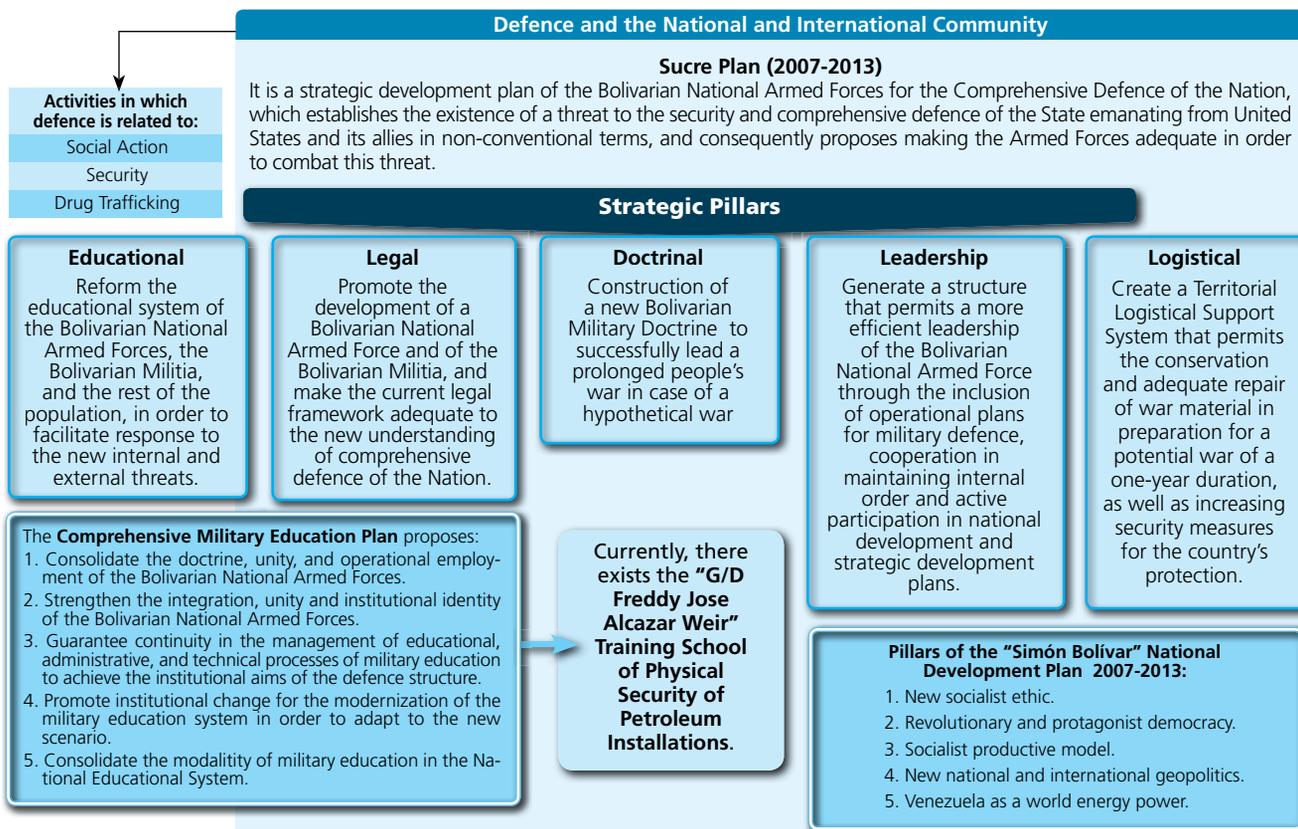
	Graduates 2013
Bolivarian Military Aviation Academy	218
Military Academy of the Army	271
Military Academy of the Bolivarian Navy	188
Academy of the Bolivarian National Guard	145

Initial officer training in Venezuela is conducted in the different academies that collectively form the **Bolivarian Military University of Venezuela (UMBV)**. It was created in 2010 in order to train and educate professional military personnel for the National Armed Forces, Bolivarian Militia, and civilians.

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

2 The age of 16-21 has been considered for comparative purposes. Entry age varies depending on the services: Army: 16-21, Navy: 18-23, Air Force: 16-21. The minimum age for promotion will depend on the age of graduation from the appropriate military education institution.

Source: Compilation based on the *Ley orgánica de la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana* (GO N° 6239 – 2009/08/13. Last amendment: Act N° 6239 - 2009/10/21) and the website of the Bolivarian Military University of Venezuela.



Support Activities 2013-2014

Health

- 9,331 children and adolescents with congenital heart conditions were assisted through the Comprehensive Cardiological Foundation.
- The Ministry of the People's Power for Defence's Social Assistance Foundation (FUNDASMIN), provided assistance to 5,841 persons and 195 military units.
- 7.425 patients received assistance in different social support days.
- The Bolivarian National Armed Forces, through the Military Health Network, brought medical assistance to 4,943,240 persons.
- Social support days were carried out with the Navy, the Delta Amacuro Public Health Institute, and 2 universities, providing medical attention to 480 persons from indigenous communities in the Amacuro Delta State.

Support was provided to the National Electoral Council (CNE), in virtue of the mission assigned through the **Republic Plan 2013**, through custody and security of voting center and electoral material during the presidential elections held on April 14th, 2013, and in the municipal elections of December 8th, 2013.

In 2013, 2,417 military operations were carried out to guarantee the security, defence and comprehensive development of the Nation.

A total of **319,413 hours of classes** were given to **89,272 persons.**

Bolivarian National Militia

Special corps integrated by the territorial militia and the combat corps.

The militia member category may be granted to men and women of age who, though not exercising the military profession, may enter the Bolivarian Militia and, as mobilized, fulfill the Nation's security and integral defence functions.

It reports directly to the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Commander in Chief of the Bolivarian National Armed Force in all matters relating to operational aspects; as for administrative affairs, it shall report to the Minister of People's Power for Defence.

Mission: to train, prepare and organize the people for the integral defence of the country, in order to supplement the operational readiness of the Bolivarian National Armed Force, contribute to maintaining internal order, security, defence and overall development of the Nation, with the purpose of contributing to the independence, sovereignty and integrity of the Nation's geographic spaces.

Some of their roles include:

- Prepare, organize, equip, instruct, train and retrain the Bolivarian National Militia established.
- Create ongoing links between the National Armed Force and the Venezuelan people, so as to contribute to ensuring the overall defence of the Nation.
- Organize and train the Territorial Militia, to carry out the overall defence operations aimed at guaranteeing national sovereignty and independence.
- Participate and contribute to the development of military technology and industry.
- Guide, coordinate and provide support in its areas of competence to the Community Councils (Consejos Comunales) in order to contribute to the attainment of public policies.
- Contribute to, and advice on, the creation and consolidation of Integral Defence Committees of Community Councils, in order to strengthen civil-military relations.
- Collect, process and disseminate information from the Community Councils, public and private sector institutions, necessary for the elaboration of integral development plans, programs and projects for the Nation as well as national mobilization efforts.
- Coordinate with public and private sector bodies, entities and offices, the establishment and organization of the Reserve Combat Corps (Cuerpos Combatientes de Reserva).
- Oversee and train such combat corps, which shall operationally fall under the National General Command of the Bolivarian National Militia.

Some information from 2013:

- More than **8,600** militia personnel were trained.
- Works were carried out with graduates from the Military Academies and the National Guard Academy.
- 1,500 persons graduated from the regular existing course for Militia Sergeants.
- A course was developed for Militia Lieutenants, of which 692 persons
- 8,800 militia personnel formed part of the custody of the train network, hospitals and public institutions.

Bolivarian National Militia Personnel (2014): 70,000

Source: Ley de conscripción y alistamiento militar (GO N° 5933 – 2009/10/06. Last amendment: GO N° 39553 – 2010/11/16), websites of the Strategic Operational Command of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces, of the Directorate of Education of the Bolivarian National Guard, of the Bolivarian Navy of Venezuela, and of the Bolivarian National Guard, of the Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, *Memoria del Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Defensa* (2013) and *Ley de presupuesto para el ejercicio* 2014.

Support Activities

Russia-Venezuela Cooperation

Through an agreement signed in February 2011, the Russian government provided 16 grants to military and civilian personnel of the Bolivarian National Armed Force in order to engage in postgraduate studies at universities in Russia in basic sciences, health sciences, engineering, science and technology, and agricultural and maritime sciences. These monthly grants covered the costs of maintaining the student during their stay in Russia, their air tickets, medical insurance, and the language training of candidates for a one year duration.

Military Companies

In 2013 the creation of a **military economic zone** was proposed, for which the following companies were created:

Company	Objectives	Some activities
Military Transport Company (EMILTRA)	Provide land military transport services to public and private companies.	Its projects include the development of aerial and maritime transport.
Communications Systems Company of the Bolivarian National Armed Force (EMCFANB)	- Constitute a mode of audio-visual communication that divulges a true vision of the Bolivarian National Armed Force. - Engage in the commercialization, exportation and importation of commercial goods	Creation of the public digital television channel of the Bolivarian National Armed Force, with its first airing in December 2013.
Agricultural Company of the Bolivarian National Armed Force (AGROFANB)	- Production, processing, and distribution of agricultural products to satisfy the demands of the military institution. - Preparation, management of joint efforts and modes that contribute to national development and the physical security of strategic areas and border zones.	Initial production of 27,000 liters of milk per week, 10,000 cattle, and a constant increase in dairy, swine, agricultural and animal feed production, all in the hands of military professionals and to ensure the country's food security.
Construction Company of the Bolivarian National Armed Force (CONSTRUFANB)	Elaboration of construction, architectural and engineering projects, public and private housing developments, infrastructural works, piping, and repairs for the Bolivarian National Armed Force.	Extension of Bolivarian Military University of Venezuela.

CAVIM – Compañía Anónima Venezolana de Industrias Militares was created in 1975 and its objective is the development of military industry. It produces and sells arms, munitions, and explosives.

The **Fondo de Inversión Negro Primero S.A (Black First Investment Fund)** and the **Banco de la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana (Bolivarian National Armed Force Bank)** were also created.

Support in Public Security

The **“Plan and Execute Military Operations for the Security, Defence and Comprehensive Development of the Nation”** project includes specific, joint and combined military operations. Some of the activities developed include:

- 1,200 land military operations, especially to detect and control illegal mining and contraband.
- The **Joint Civic Border Task Force** – Military No 3 was activated to combat border crimes, with a deployment of 450 personnel in border states.
- 15 special joint and combined naval operations, with exploration, surveillance and patrol operations carried out on the sea, rivers, lakes and land in order to control maritime traffic, combat illegal fishing, contraband, drug trafficking, illegal extraction, the illegal entrance of foreign persons and environmental damage.
- 132 operations in national airspace, including 27 interceptions of planes that violate Venezuelan airspace.
- 730 military operations as part of Comprehensive Airspace Defence, through the Operation **“Western Shield”** (Centaurus Negro) for the Defence of the Nation”. As part of this, 185 professionals received training in Russia.
- 48 joint military operations of the Strategic Operational Command, with emphasis on border areas for search, detection, and destruction of illegal airstrips and airplanes used for drug trafficking; maritime surveillance and patrols in the Caribbean and Atlantic areas of boats engaged in illegal fishing and non-authorized study and exploration activities of marine and submarine areas.
- 24 military operations as part of **Plan Vertex**, which aims at the technical and scientific development of military geographic support for security and defence.



The Armed Force and the Militia participate in the **“Great Mission for All of Venezuela”** program, especially as part of the **Secure Homeland Plan** (Plan Patria Segura). As part of this program, personnel are deployed to priority zones: 79 municipalities where the majority of the country's homicides are concentrated. In addition to the military support operations, almost 21,000 militia personnel participated in program activities in 2013.

Source: *Memoria del Poder Popular para la Defensa* (2013) and website of the Ministry of the People's Power for Defence, the Gaceta Oficial of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and the Bolivarian Communication and Information System, of the National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and of the *Misión a toda vida Venezuela*.

BLANCA