

Cuba



Population	11,425,000
Territorial Extension	109,890 km ²
GDP 2014 (US\$)	3,549,345,000
Defence, Internal Order and Administration Budget (US\$)	293,154,167

Comparative Increase (percentage variation 2008-2016)



Consistent data for the number of military personnel is not registered, but they are estimated to number between 40,000 and 50,000.

The Legal Framework

National Legislation

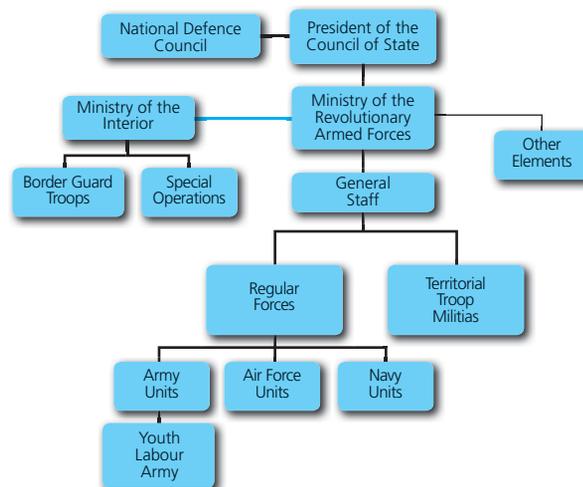
Systems and Concepts

- Decree Law on the Organization of the State's Central Administration (DL N° 67 • 1983/04/19. Last amendment: DL N° 282 – 2011/05/21).
- National Defence Act (N° 75 – 1994/12/21).
- Civil Measure System Act (N° 170 – 1997/05/08).

Military Organization

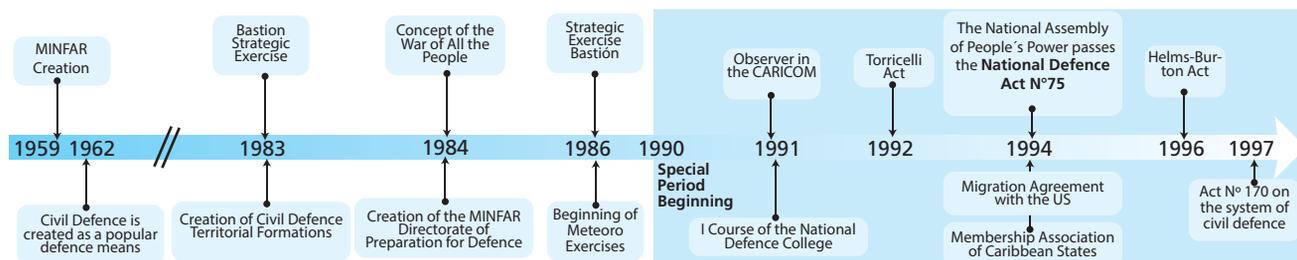
- Military Penal Procedure Act (N° 6 – 1977/08/08).
- Military Crime Act (N° 22 – 1979/02/15).
- Decree Law on Social Security for Expatriates performing Civil or Military Missions (N° 90 – 1985/12/02).
- Decree Law of Social Security for the Revolutionary Armed Forces (N° 101 – 1988/02/24. Last amendment: DL N° 222 – 2001/08/14).
- Act of Military Courts (N° 97 – 2002/12/21).
- Act of Military Prosecution (N° 101 – 2006/06/10).

The Defence System



— Advisory and assistance functional relationship
 — Command reporting line

Source: Compilation based on the legislation above mentioned.



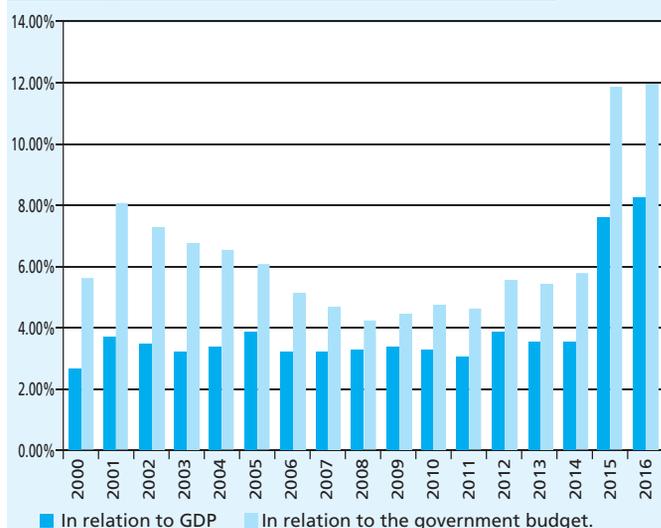
Source: Anuario Estadístico de América Latina y el Caribe, 2015, CEPAL (territory and population: projection 2016), IMF, World Economic Outlook Database, (GDP projection 2016), and Ley del presupuesto del Estado (defence budget).

Budget

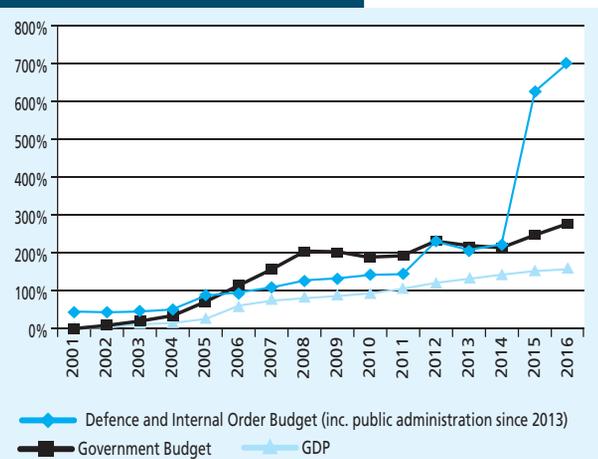
Year	Defence and Internal Order Budget (and public administration since 2013)	Government Budget	GDP
	US\$	US\$	US\$
2002	52,575,000	716,383,333	1,503,712,500
2003	52,804,167	775,933,333	1,609,370,833
2004	54,854,167	843,391,667	1,591,791,667
2005	68,737,500	1,131,516,667	1,776,825,000
2006	71,162,500	1,388,604,167	2,197,616,667
2007	78,850,000	1,666,358,333	2,441,829,167
2008	84,233,333	1,978,879,167	2,533,595,833
2009	87,454,167	1,954,483,333	2,586,608,750
2010	89,170,833	1,875,558,333	2,680,341,667
2011	88,658,333	1,917,270,833	2,874,589,167
2012	120,008,333	2,137,725,000	3,051,743,750
2013	112,933,333	2,077,379,167	3,214,500,000
2014	118,850,000	2,043,058,333	3,360,666,667
2015	266,379,167	2,247,212,500	3,479,750,000
2016	293,154,167	2,441,208,333	3,549,345,000

From 2013, the Defence and Internal Order budget is presented together with the Public Administration budget, with no possibility of disaggregating the data.

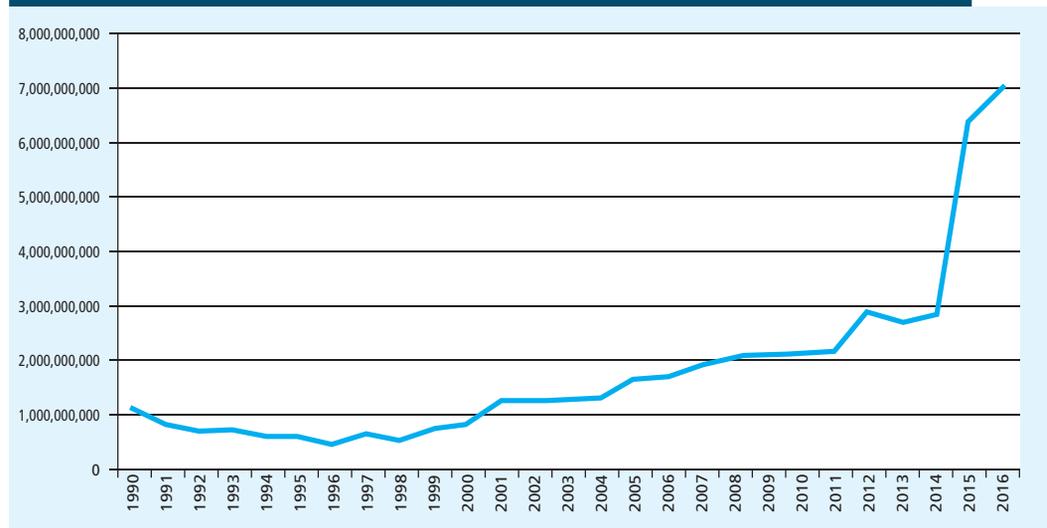
Defence and Internal Order Budget – including Public Administration since 2013 (%)



Comparative Increase (%)



Evolution of the Defence and Internal Order Budget – inc. Public Administration since 2013 (Local Currency)



The average defence and internal order budget during the 90s was \$716,530,000 Cuban pesos. In the 2000s, the average was \$1,536,950,000 Cuban pesos. And in the first 5 years of the past decade, the budget rose to \$2,542,180,000 Cuban pesos.

Source: Compilation based on the *Anuario Estadístico de Cuba* (annual reports 1995-2014) and *Panorama Económico y Social. Cuba 2015*, National Statistics Office, Republic of Cuba. The amounts correspond to government budget execution (the statistics for 2015 are an estimate). 2016: *Ley del presupuesto del Estado*. GDP 2016: Estimation of the Presidency of the State and Ministerial Councils. Exchange rate used: 24 Cuban pesos (non-convertible) = 1 US dollars.

Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces

On October 16th, 1959, the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces was created in accordance with Law N° 600 of the Council of Ministers. This Ministry brings together the Rebel Army, the Revolutionary Navy and the National Revolutionary Police.

Current Minister:

Army Corps General Leopoldo Cintra Frías.

Previous Ministers:

Army Corps General Julio Casas Regueiro (2008 – 2011).

General Raúl Castro (1959 – 2008).

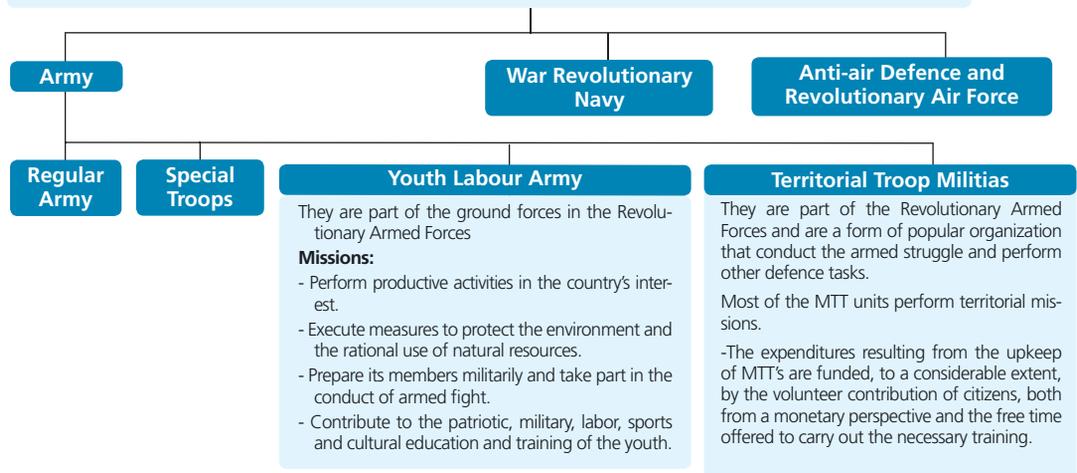
Augusto Martínez Sánchez (1959).

The Revolutionary Armed Forces

General Mission

The Revolutionary Armed Forces are the main military institution of the State, whose main mission is to combat the aggressor from the very first moment and then, with the entire people, conduct the war during the time necessary, under any circumstance, until the victory is attained.

(Ley de Defensa Nacional, N° 75 – 1994/12/21, Sec. 34).



Active Military Service

It is performed at the units or detachments of the Revolutionary Armed Forces or at the Ministry of the Interior for a two-year period. The MINFAR may decide to replace the period of service for an alternative service, provided that military training is guaranteed. Both men and women who wish and expressly indicate their desire, may voluntarily join if they meet the proper requirements. The main mission is to provide men and women with the proper training and perfect physical fitness. Training centres exist at the various military units which provide a basic 5-week course to members called up.

Military Service

Under the National Defence Act, military service is mandatory for all male citizens and voluntary for women.



Reservist Military Service

It involves the performance by male citizens (up to 45 years of age) of tasks relating to defence preparedness; to that end, they may be mobilized as many times as necessary, provided that the total time does not exceed one year. It is used to complete regular troops. Some of the combat means are kept in times of peace; only a minimum number of personnel is kept, particularly in those positions that require greater specialization and training.

Deployment

The military region, subordinated to the Army, is the tactical-operational grouping of forces designed to defend a designated operational region, generally the province. Military regions are structured according to military sectors, which generally correspond to political-administrative divisions at the municipal level. Their basic mission is to conduct activities related to preparation for the defence of the population and of subordinate units, which is always carried out in coordination with agencies, institutions and social and mass organizations.



Single surveillance and security system

In 1991, at the beginning of the special test periods, a single surveillance and security system was designed. It coordinates the efforts against subversion led by the MININT, the National Policy.

Cuba considers it is a normal arrangement given the conflict with the United States, and therefore sees it as an integral part of its revolutionary defence system, state security and defence committees of the revolution (neighbourhood volunteers), and other State organizations.

Foreign and Defence Policy

Cuba's foreign and defence policies are focused on the need to concentrate resources to ensure the survival of the nation's independence and of its political, social and economic system in the light of the US opposition against its continuation in the island. Thus, territorial defence and deterrence, in particular, are key strategic aspects of the War of all the People and the central pillar of Cuba's defence policy, aimed at mobilizing the defensive capacity of the State and the population to conduct attrition warfare against any enemy who sets out to invade the country.

This mobilization of natural resources for defence represents a unique case in the Hemisphere where no other country has faced a similar kind of threat from a source of such magnitude and for such an extended period. The size of the mandatory military service, the nature and number of stand-by forces, the make-up of police and military forces, and other security forces and its agencies, reflect this state of affairs.

Source: Compilation based on the Ley de defensa nacional (N° 75 – 1994/12/21), and the website of the Defence of Cuba, Cubadefensa and the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Civil Defence

Cuba is conceived "as a system of defensive measures of state nature". Those measures are executed in peace times and in exceptional situations to protect the population and the national economy in the event of natural disasters or other type of contingencies, including those caused by environmental deterioration.

The Cuban territory is organized into 15 provinces. Within each province, the conception and practice of the Defence Councils in the defence areas are key in case of disasters. In exceptional situations, in the municipalities, more than 1,400 defence zones are activated; these zones have been the basis of the territorial defence structure since 1984

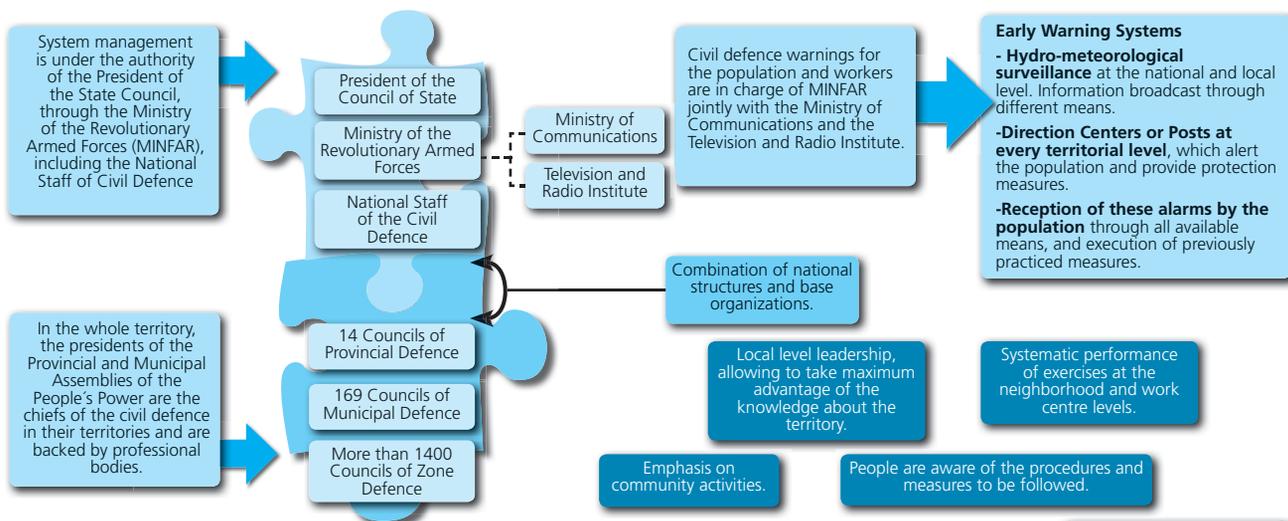


"Meteoro" Exercise: 30 years of execution

The most prominent civil defence exercise of the hemisphere celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2016.

On this occasion it was preceded by a week of work on disaster reduction, where the entities involved undertook to identify risks and vulnerabilities. International cooperation representatives also took part in the country. The theme of **Meteoro 2016** exercise was the strengthening of the country's capacity to respond to hurricanes, high-intensity earthquakes, droughts and health-related hazards.

The defence areas, in exceptional situations, become the ultimate State representative bodies, thus assuming authority in these territories



Bastion Strategic Exercises

They were performed as part of the preparation system for defending Cuba under the strategic concept of "War of All the People". It includes tactical and command exercises, troop and equipment movements, artillery practice, and flights. It involves some 100,000 Cubans from the country's 14 provinces, including students from the University of Havana. It aims to provide accurate knowledge of challenges that need to be overcome, while allowing for an evaluation of the effectiveness of mass popular participation in defence tasks.

Themes	Year	
Military blockade	1980	
Military blockade and attrition of the enemy	1983	Zones of defence created
Systematic attrition	1986	Territorial defence system created
Special period (not held)		
Preparation for a state of war.	2004	Begins to be held every 4 years.
Not held due to passage of Hurricane Ike.	2008	
Crisis actions	2009	
Actions during a state of war, and actions to combat an enemy-imposed systematic attrition.	2013	

National Staff of the Civil Defence

It is the system's main body in charge of ensuring compliance with civil defence measures, rules and international agreements related to civil protection to which the Cuban Republic is a party; it is also in charge of coordinating international cooperation and aid in catastrophes. It maintains work relations and close and fluent cooperation with institutions committed to human life and environment protection and with the mass media as well. Likewise, it coordinates its actions and closely cooperates with non-governmental organizations, such as the Cuban Red Cross, the International Red Cross, Red Crescent organizations and others, which provide humanitarian aid in case of disaster.

Civil Defence Principles

- Direction at the highest level
- Multi-faceted protection
- National and institutional scope.
- Differentiated form for protection planning and organization.
- Effective cooperation with the Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Interior
- Organization consistent with the country's socioeconomic development.

Source: Compilation based on the *Ley de defensa nacional* (Nº 75 – 1994/12/21), and the website of the Defence of Cuba, Cubadefensa and the Cuban News Agency.

Towards the normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States

In 2015, US president Barack Obama made a historic visit to Cuba that marked a new phase in bilateral relations. The roadmap to normalize relations was already set in 2015 during a first meeting between Cuban president Raul Castro and his US counterpart at the Summit of the Americas.

The first steps included raising travel restrictions and limitations on investments in small enterprises. The first commercial flight from US soil in decades landed in Cuba in August 2016. Though no flights are made to Havana so far, it is estimated that it is only a matter of time. The US embargo on Cuba is still in effect and this issue is to be discussed by the US Congress.

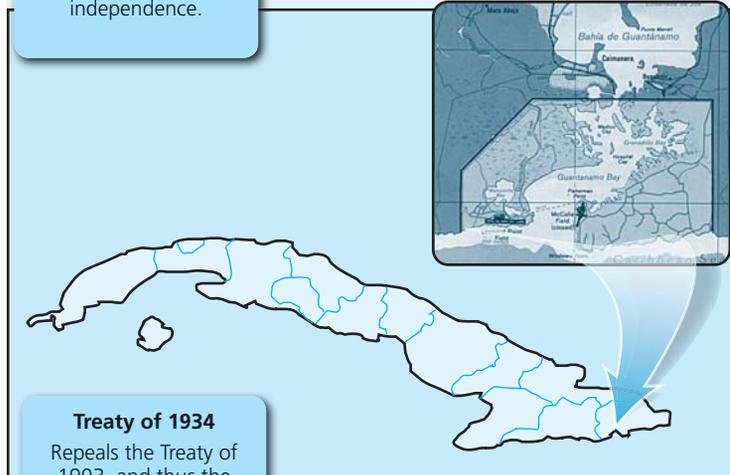
Guantanamo Naval Base

Platt Amendment (1901)

Gave the United States the right to intervene in Cuba, as a condition for the withdrawal of American troops from Cuban territory and the island's independence.

The US Guantanamo Bay naval base is a facility located in an area of 117.6 km² of Cuban national territory, occupied since 1903 as a result of the Agreement on Coaling and Naval Stations signed between the United States Government and the Government of Cuba. This was based on the imposition of an amendment approved by Congress and signed by President McKinley in March 1901, which became known as the Platt Amendment.

Article II of that agreement literally stated the right to do "all things necessary to fit the premises for use as coaling or naval stations only, and for no other purpose". In addition to the agreement of February 1903, on May 22nd of the same year a Permanent Treaty of Relations between Cuba and the United States was signed, in which the 8 provisions of the Platt Amendment are taken literally and turned into the articles that formed the Treaty.



Blockade

Cuba considers the embargo imposed by the United States as an act of genocide by virtue of paragraph c, Article II of the 1948 Geneva Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and as an act of economic war, according to the provisions of the declaration regarding Maritime War adopted by the 1909 London Naval Conference.

Cuba will continue to denounce the US policy's extraterritoriality, while demanding strict observance of international law, particularly claiming the people's right to their self-determination and State Sovereignty.

Treaty of 1934

Repeals the Treaty of 1903, and thus the Platt Amendment. Maintains the permanence of the Guantanamo Naval Base.

Twenty one years later, on May 29th 1934, in the spirit of the "Good Neighbour" policy of the United States under the presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a new Treaty of Relations between the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America was signed, repealing that of 1903, and thus the Platt Amendment. The permanence of the Guantanamo naval base remained in this new Treaty, and the full validity of the rules that it establishment it. The supplementary agreement stipulated that the United States would pay the Republic of Cuba for the lease of the area of 117.6 km², the sum of two thousand dollars a year in annual cheques, which Cuba has refused to collect.

The Cuban government's position with regard to the legal status of the American Naval Base at Guantanamo is that, due to it being constituted in the legal form of a lease, a temporary as opposed to a permanent right over that part of the territory was granted. As such, in due time and in accordance with the just right of the people, the illegally occupied territory of Guantanamo should be returned back to Cuba by peaceful means. Despite the considerable increase in military personnel that such an operation requires, the Cuban Government does not consider that it involves any threat to national security. For that reason it does not increase the number of personnel or Cuban military resources deployed on the perimeter of the facility.

Source: Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Informe Cuba vs. Bloqueo 2009*. Granma Newspaper, *Informe sobre Bloqueo al 57 periodo de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas*. Declaration of the Government of the Cuban Republic, January 11, 2002.

For years, there has been a significant level of cooperation between Cuba and the United States in sectors that represent a security concern for both countries

Disaster Response

Together with Bahamas, Jamaica and Mexico, in March 2014 both countries signed the "Multilateral Technical-Operational Procedure" to coordinate responses to oil contaminations in international waters in which they commit to prepare themselves and cooperate in response to possible oil spills.

Illegal Immigration and Drug Trafficking

Since July 2013, bi-annual meetings on migration have been held, which include cooperation on aviation security and the development of protocols for maritime search and rescue. In addition, the Coast Guards of Cuba and the United States have exchanged information on ships transiting the Cuban maritime territory, leading to numerous interdictions.

Joint and often non-official work

Provision of assistance in the case of humanitarian disasters in other countries. Trust-building through control of American flights that pass over the island. Exchange of weather information, especially regarding hurricanes that may affect them.

Source: Websites of the Cuban News Agency and the US Department of State; Report by the Congressional Research Service: "Cuba: U.S. Policy and Issues for the 113th Congress" (January 29th 2014) and Cuba Transition Project. Declaration of the Government of the Republic of Cuba (January 11th 2002). Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, *Libro Blanco. Informe Cuba vs. Bloqueo 2009*.

Military Education and Training

General Antonio Maceo Military Academy
Army. 1963. Havana.

General Jose Maceo Military Academy
Army. 1980. Santiago de Cuba.

Granma Naval Academy
Navy. 1916, 1959, 1987. Havana.

Jose Marti Technical Military Institute
Aviation. 1967.

Its purpose is the education and training of senior, middle and basic level officers in the command and technical profiles, and the extended education and post-graduate training, according to the requirements of the Party, the State and the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Missions:

- Educate officers loyal to the Motherland, the Communist Party of Cuba and the State, with a high communist and internationalist conscience, a profound hatred towards imperialism, a high sense of responsibility, discipline and military ethics as well as command and direction qualities and the knowledge and professional abilities that may enable them to fulfill their missions in times of war and peace in the different specialties and levels.
- Organize and conduct the training and education of subordinate personnel.
- Provide an update to officers regarding scientific and technological and military breakthroughs. Support their training for their appointment to higher positions or other specialties.
- Train officers and PhD in military science.
- Become advocates of military traditions, ethics, regulatory order, discipline, reputation and military posture and hygiene, as part of the officers' education and advancement process.
- Conduct scientific research.

Founded in 1963 and 1980 respectively.



- Officer of the Revolutionary Army and Bachelor in military sciences or Bachelor in social sciences or Military Engineer or Engineer in Means.

Founded in 1916



- War Navy Officer and Bachelor in naval sciences, Radio-electric engineer, Mechanical engineer and Hydrography and geodesy engineer.

Founded in 1967



- Radio-electronic engineer, IT engineer, Mechanical engineer, Pilot and navigator and air traffic controller.

Furthermore, there exist schools that are subordinated to the authority of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR):

- The **Camilo Cienfuegos Military Schools** have functioned since 1966. In 1977, pre-university training was initiated. It allows young persons whose basic secondary education is not longer valid, and which would like to train as officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, to enter these pre-university military vocational centers. Their study programs are similar to those of the Ministry of Education and are adjusted to the specific interests of military life.
- The **National Defence College** was founded in 1990 as a higher education center, and is responsible for post-graduate education of the country's principal military and civil cadres in relation to understanding and development of national security and defence.
- The **FAR Academy** was founded in 1963 in order to update officers in scientific, technological and military advances, and to train them for occupying more senior positions.
- The **FAR Medical Sciences University** was founded in 1981. Its students graduate as Doctors in Medicine, with a specialty in Comprehensive Basic Military General Doctor.

The Armed Forces and the Economy (1)

During the last years, the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) have increased their role in Cuban economy. The needs arising during the "special period" and the needs to streamline the economy have accelerated this trend towards participation.

Significant elements of the economy are under the control of the Forces or coordinated by military officers who are on duty or retired.

Many of the most dynamic economic sectors - tourism, agricultural products, tobacco, among others- are managed by the FAR.

The main example within this economic scheme is the **Military Industrial Union (UIM)**, whose mission is to ensure the repair of armament and the technology applied in FAR ground, air and sea units. The General Repair Base system and other industrial companies have facilities all across the country (12 industries operating in 16 facilities throughout the island, located in 8 of the 14 provinces - Santiago, Camagüey, Sancti Spiritus, Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Matanzas, Habana, and La Habana city). It includes large workshops specialized in tanks, artillery, aviation, naval aspects, radio communications, transportation, radars and metallurgic production.

The FARs are present in other main sectors:

- Habanos S.A.:** exporter and distributor of Cuban tobacco abroad.
- Comercio Interior y Mercado Exterior:** initially, this company focused on imports and exports. It has expanded to businesses operating in dollars (supermarkets, gas stations, car rentals, travel agencies, real estate and cable and satellite television services).
- Industria Cítrica:** mixed company held by the Cuban Government, mainly consisting of the Youth Labour Army, and an Israeli company.
- Instituto Nacional de la Reserva Estatal (INRE):** supervises national strategic reserves in case of emergency pursuant to Section 128 of the national defence Law.
- Unión Agropecuaria Militar:** founded in 1990, composed of farms and food production centers.

Main other firms with military management

Aero Gaviota (Airline/Tourism).
Agrotex (Agriculture).
Almest (Tourism/Real Estate).
Antex (Technical Consultancy).
Almacén Universal (Free Trade Zone).
Complejo Histórico – Militar Morro Cabaña (Military museum/Monuments).
Cubanacán (Tourism).
División Financiera (Stores for the Collection of Currencies – TRD)
Gaviota S.A. (Tourism).
Geo Cuba (Cartography/Real Estate/ Mining Interests).
Sasa S.A. (Automobile service and Spare Parts).
Sermar (Exploration in Cuban waters/ naval repairs).
Tecnotex (Imports/Exports).

(1) Given the enduring crisis since 1990, the role of the Armed Revolutionary Forces within the Cuban economy is in constant change. The section merely touches upon the depth of their role.

Source: Compilation based on the websites of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the *Ley de la defensa nacional* (N° 75 – 1994/12/21).