



Honduras

The Legal Framework and the Defence System

National Legislation

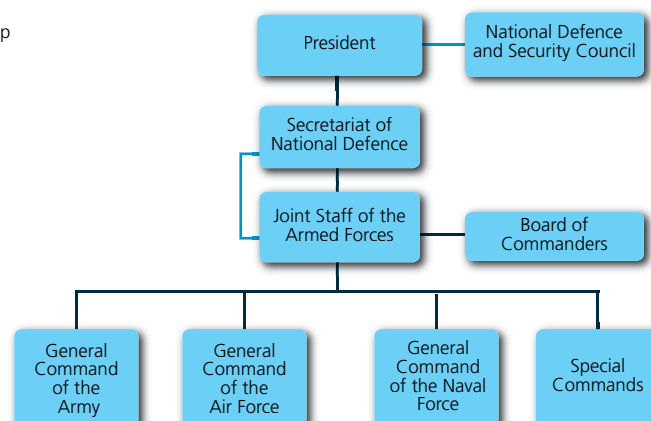
Systems and Concepts

- Constitutive Act of the Armed Forces (Decree N° 39-2001 – 2001/10/29/).

Military Organization

- Military Code (Decree N° 76 – 1906/03/01. Last amendment: Decree N° 47 – 1937/01/22).
- Military Service Act (Decree N° 98-85 – 1985/08/22).
- Personnel Act for the Members of the Armed Forces (Decree N° 231-2005 – 2005/10/11).
- Military Security Service Institute Act (Decree N° 167 – 2006/11/27).

Source: Compilation based on the legislation above mentioned



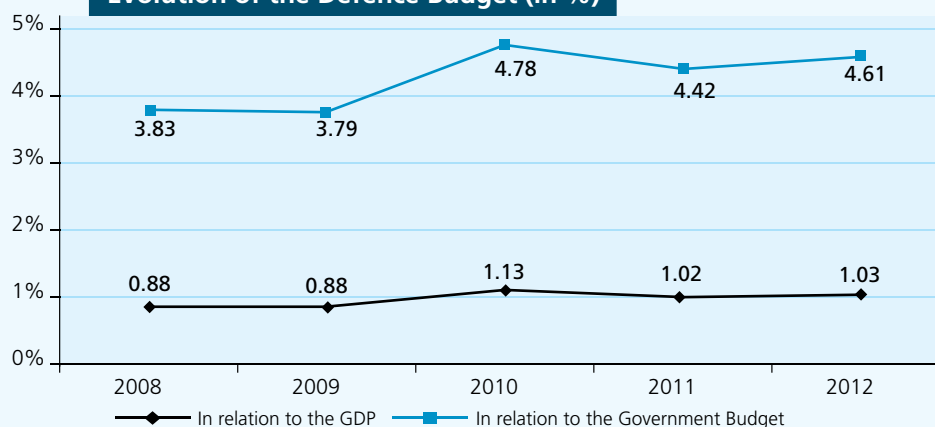
The President may receive the advice of the National Defence and Security Council and holds the command of the Armed Forces, either directly or through the Secretary of Defence, who in turn has the Joint Staff as the highest military technical body for advice, planning, coordination and supervision. 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 holds 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 - 2001/10/29) and *Libro Blanco de la Defensa Nacional, 2005*.

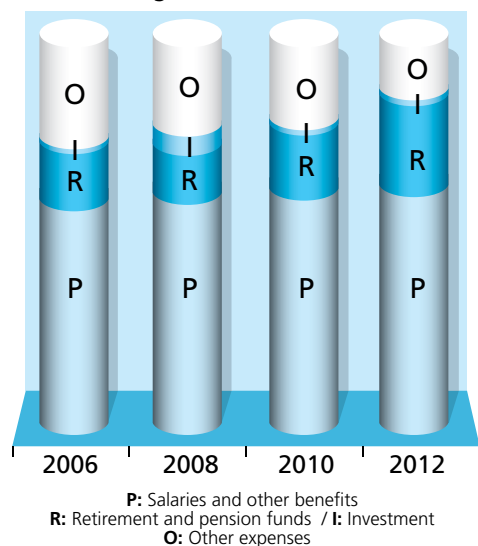
The Budget

Year	Defence Budget (in US\$)	Government Budget (in US\$)	GDP (in 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

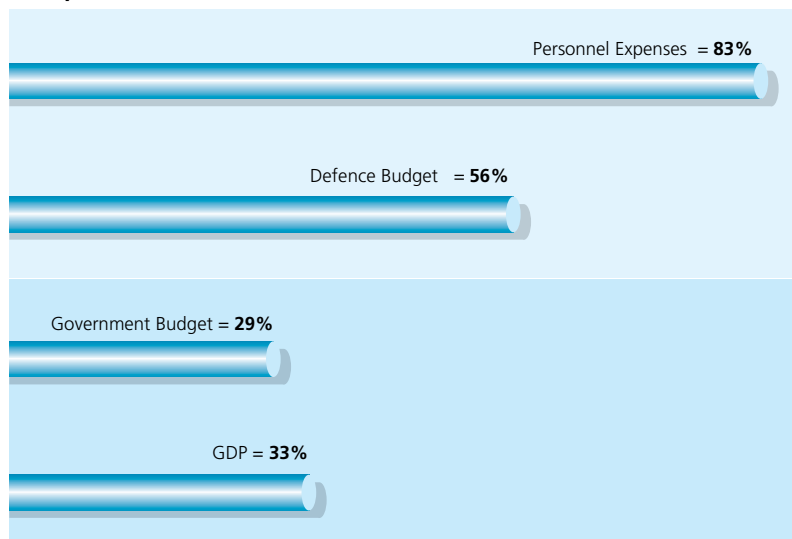
Evolution of the Defence Budget (in %)



Defence Budget Breakdown



Comparative Increase (% variation 2008-2012)



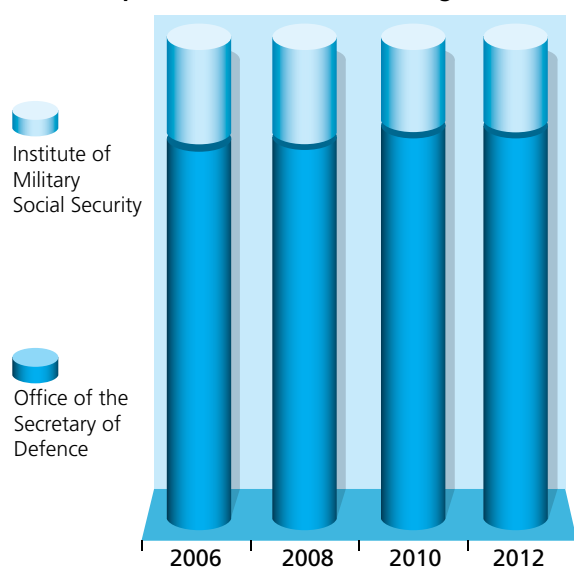
Defence Budget 2012 (in Local Currency)

Institutions	Personnel Services	Non-personnel Services	Materials and Supplies	Others*	TOTAL
Secretariat of National Defence					
Central Activities	57,112,571	48,779,869	14,159,564	0	120,052,004
Army	1,068,020,584	12,390,681	126,927,099	3,000,000	1,210,338,364
Air Force	297,764,888	7,766,038	48,762,430	2,000,000	356,293,356
Naval Force	216,977,535	6,874,500	52,547,298	1,000,000	277,399,333
Joint Chiefs of Staff	511,594,189	20,626,978	91,977,405	354,953,866	979,152,438
Military Prevision Institute**	62,858,667	77,090,973	5,200,000	582,449,576	727,599,216
TOTAL	2,214,328,434	173,529,039	339,573,796	943,403,442	3,670,834,711

* Includes goods subject to capitalization, transferences, financial assets and public debt service.

** Since 2007, policemen and firefighters are being 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".

Composition of the Defence Budget



The Population Protection and Security Fund was created in July 2011 and with validity of 5 years. The fund is financed through taxes to business. The Secretary of Defence is one of the trustee institutions.

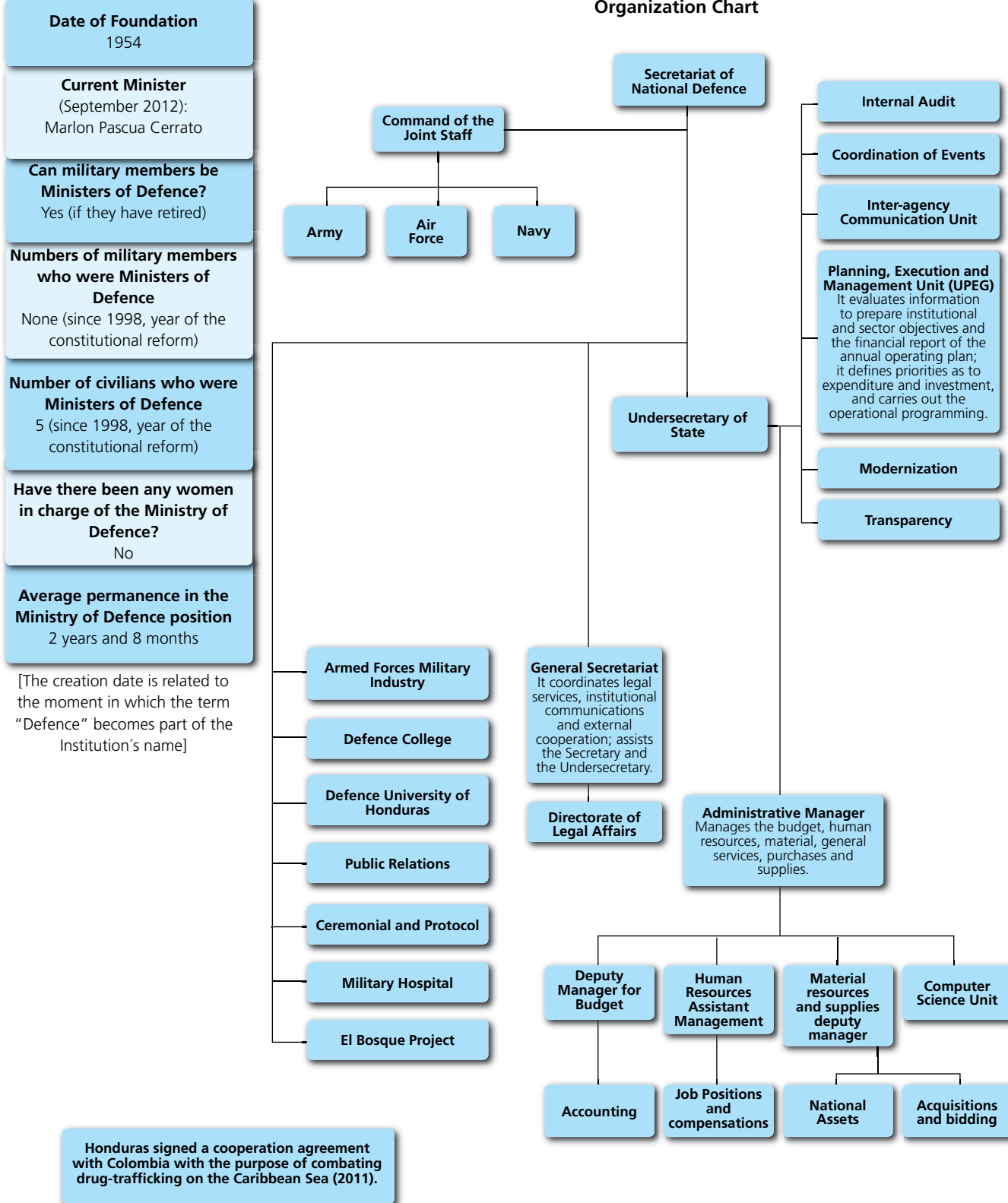
Source: Compilation based on *Decreto-Ley de presupuesto de ingresos y egresos de la República*, for financial year 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. The State Budget passed by the Congress by means of the above mentioned Act is considered herein. The concept of investment is that expressed in "Capital assets acquisition".

GDP: Projection of the World Economic Outlook Database, IMF, of each year under review. This source has been taken for comparative purposes. Each country prepares the budget based on its own GDP estimation. The dollar value considered corresponds to the exchange rate determined by the World Economic Outlook Database, IMF, for each year under consideration. As of July, the 2010 exchange rate average is 19.03 Lempiras, based on the data provided by the Central Bank of Honduras. For further calculations, figures are provided in local currency. Expressions in Bold Type (Table) make reference to the various defence budget items, which can be found in a sector-based or institutional classification of the budgetary Act.

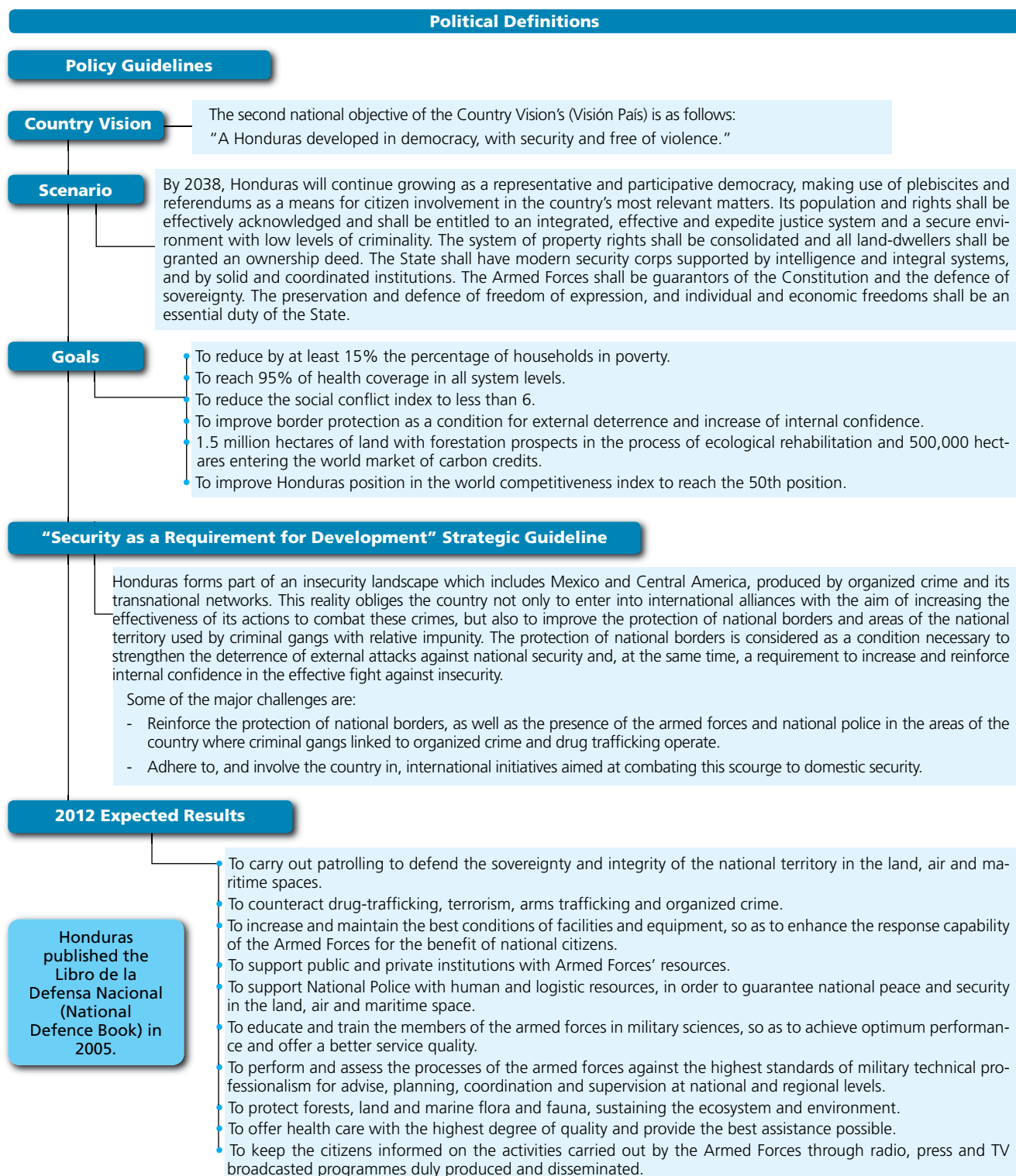


The Secretary of National Defence

Organization Chart



Source: Compilation based on the web site of the Secretariat of National Defence.



Source: Decreto-Ley para el establecimiento de una Visión de País y la adopción de un Plan de Nación para Honduras (Decree Law for the establishment of a country vision and the adoption of a National Plan for Honduras) and Documento de evaluación presupuestaria, first quarter, 2012.

Related actions 2011-2012:

- In 2012, 840 bonuses were delivered to members of the Armed Forces as part of the Programme called "Bono Diez Mil".
- Honduras hosted the 26th Regular Meeting of the CFAC (Conference of the Central American Armed Forces) and has held the Pro-Tempore Presidency since 2012.



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.

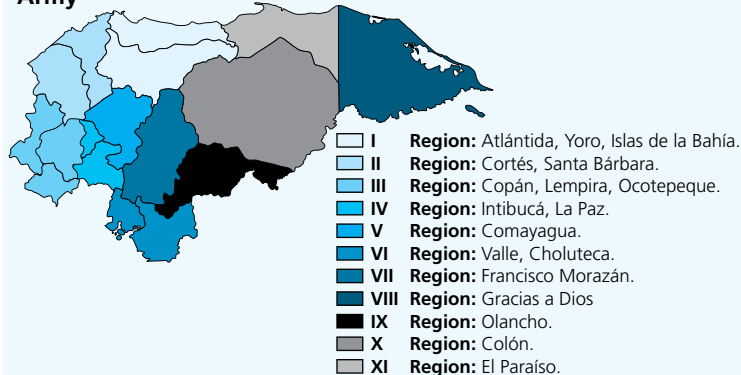
Military Personnel

Army						Navy						Air Force					
7,200						1,100						2,250					
958		210		6,032		156		358		586		372		865		1,013	
Officers		Non-commissioned Officers		Troops		Officers		Non-commissioned Officers		Troops		Officers		Non-commissioned Officers		Troops	
911	47	201	9	5747	285	144	12	349	9	550	36	358	14	834	31	938	75
M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W
Total Strength: 10,550																	

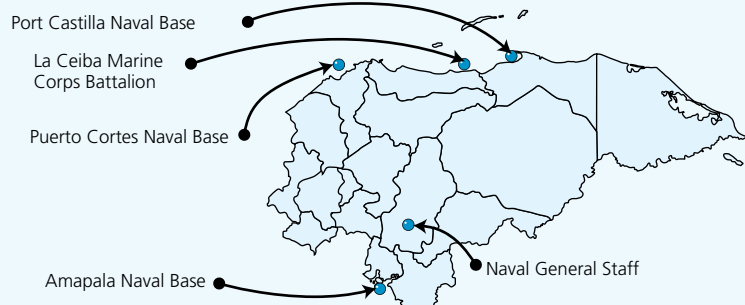
Source: Ley constitutiva de las Fuerzas Armadas (Decree N° 39-2001 – 2001/10/29) (missions) and information provided by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces.

Territorial Deployment

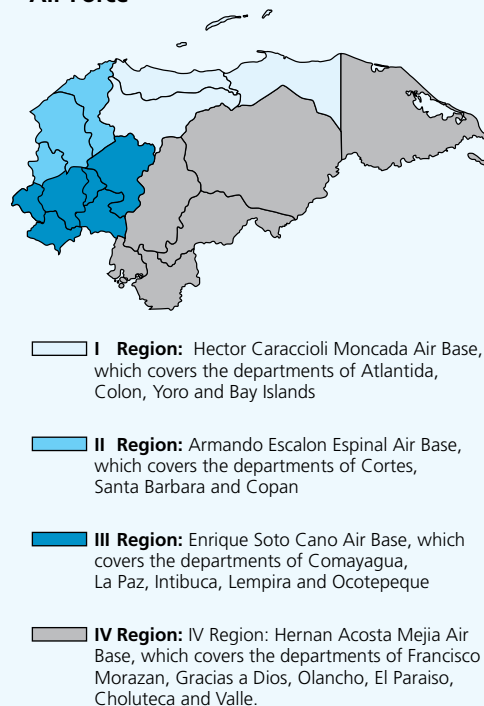
Army



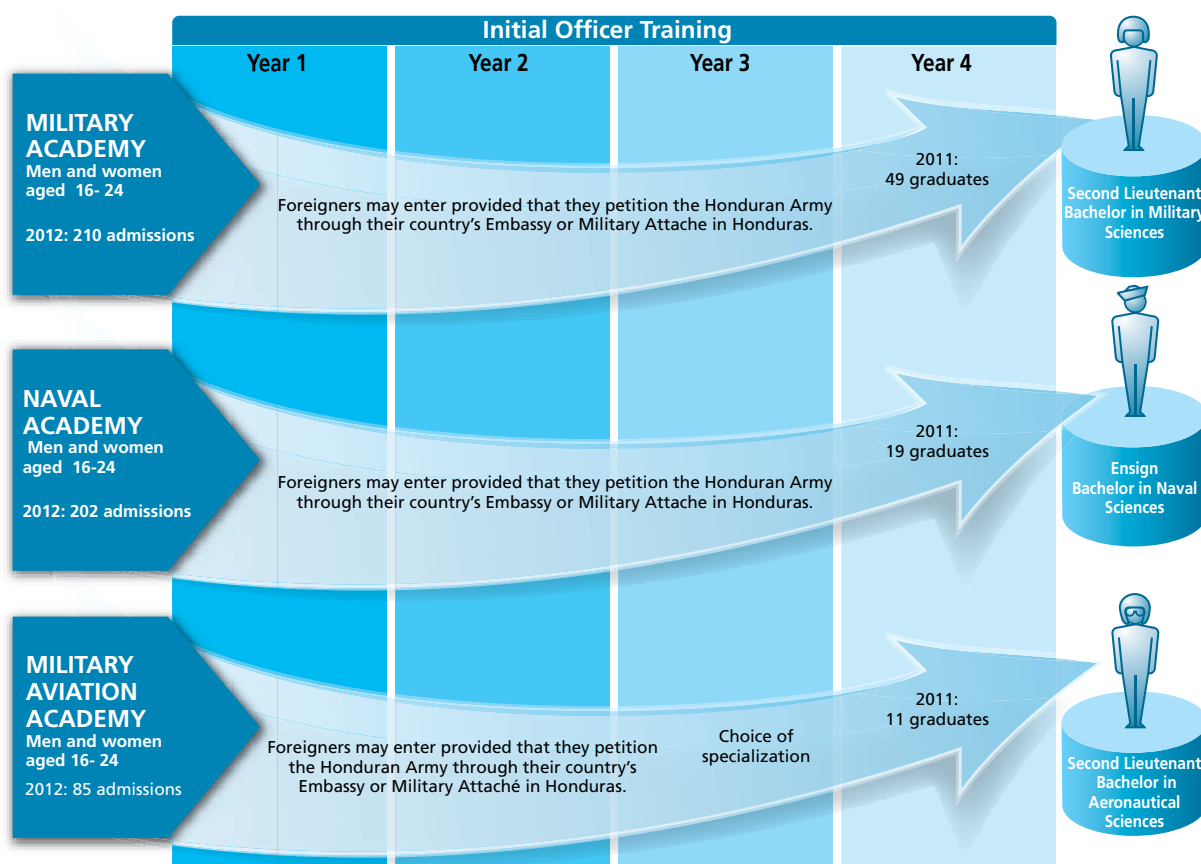
Naval Force



Air Force



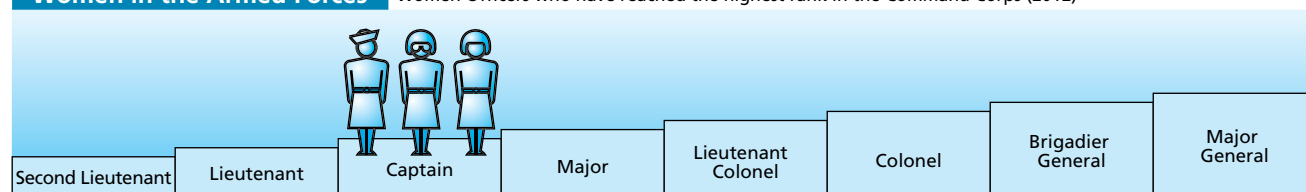
Source: Libro de la Defensa Nacional (National Defence Book) 2005



Source: Compilation based on the information supplied by the web page of the Military Academy and the Military Aviation Academy.

Women in the Armed Forces

Women Officers who have reached the highest rank in the Command Corps (2012)



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.

Military service duration is 2 years. Entrance requirements are as follows:

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

Pursuant to Military Service Decree N°. 98, the provision of military service in times of peace may be fulfilled or partially through the practice of some professions involving social service, under the Armed Forces' control and command.

Source: Constitution and *Ley del servicio militar* (Decree N° 98-85 – 1985/08/22).



Activities in which Defence is related to:

Health
Drug trafficking
Environment
Education
Natural disasters
Infrastructure
Security

Defence and National and International Community

Support Actions 2011 - 2012

Health

Health care brigades: they are mobilized every year. They offer general medicine, paediatrics, dentistry, gynaecology, ophthalmology, including their respective medical, diabetes, HIV exams and tests. They also provide barber's and hairdresser's services, deliver donated clothes and carry out recreational activities. In 2011, for instance, the abovementioned Brigades assisted approximately 400,000 inhabitants.

Natural disasters

The Armed Forces provide humanitarian aid to the population in the event of natural disasters.

- October 2011: they assisted people affected by the heavy rains. The Army, Air Force and Navy put at the disposal of the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO) both personnel and equipment to transport food, sleep mats, water, medicines, clothes and special equipment to cook food.
- In 2012, the campaign for the "Prevention and fighting forest fires" was launched.

Public Security

As part of the actions developed by the Secretariat of Defence in support of other institutions, we should highlight the following:

- The security campaign in city transport buses, organized together with the Secretariat of Public Works, Transportation and Housing, intended for fighting assaults, homicides, threats, intimidation and extortion by common delinquency and, in some cases, by the organized crime, thus providing security to users and drivers of transit buses. Launched in February 2012, the initial term of this activity was 30 days, with the support of 100 military troops.

"Operation Lightning": developed since November 2011 in different sectors of the country, it aims at fostering security and limiting crime. As part of this project, the operation "Nueva Modalidad" encompasses the city of Tegucigalpa with mobile operations deployed in different sectors of the capital city. Such operations consist in checkpoints and patrolling inside different neighbourhoods, thus increasing the coverage provided to citizens as far as security is concerned. The Nueva Suyapa and Colonia John F. Kennedy zones were already been protected by military troops.

Objectives achieved:

- 1,022 security operations at bus stations.
- 210 joint patrolling with the National Police.
- 202 people arrested.
- 24 firearms seized.

With: 4,464 foot patrols and 643 motorized patrols.

In the same operation, in Tela and La Ceiba, Atlántida, San Pedro Sula, Gracias a Dios, Comayagua, Tegucigalpa and Olancho, as of June 2012 they have carried out:

- 8,779 foot patrols
- 2,988 motorized patrols.
- 1,684 checkpoints and 715 control points.
- 1,784 security operations at bus stations.

139 people were arrested for law violations, 43 for drug-trafficking, and 576 for other crimes.

The Armed Forces cooperate with the Secretariat of Security in combating drug-trafficking, criminal gangs, common delinquency, terrorism, organized crime and trafficking of arms and trafficking in persons.

In 2012, 550 kg of cocaine were seized and 3 fast-boats, 2 four-engine planes and 23 fuel tanks were also confiscated. In September this year, 50 illegal runways were identified, of which 17 were reportedly destroyed.

In August 2012, as a result of an incident in which an aircraft was shot down, the United States requested the reformulation of the standing protocols it has with Honduras regarding air traffic control, suspending the information of the radar installed in Puerto Lempira.

Source: Web site of the Office of the Secretary of National Defence.

'Guardianes de la Patria' Programme

This programme was launched by the Armed Forces in 2000 and has received the support and collaboration of different institutions.

It is aimed at contributing to the preparation and integral development of youth. In 2011, the project gained momentum and raised the interest of the Secretariat of Defence and the Secretariat of Development. The latter requested two consulting firms to assess the operation of the programme for 30 days. As a result, it was decided to foster the programme at national level.

Firstly, a seminar between February 22 and 24, 2011 was held in order to communicate the future project's responsible people in each region. The Secretariat of Development collaborated in the training of trainers programme, and from late March they have gone all over the different bases where the program is in place.

It is funded with the current budget of the Armed Forces. It is focused on children and youngsters aged between 9 and 23. Three different levels work on each relevant age group.

It is linked to community boards and councils to comment the project and request collaboration, particularly from parents, for each area.

Parents sign a consent form.

In the case of children, they attend the military unit on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The project entails 3 stages:

- Liberal arts education (three months).
- Specializations, trade (5 months).
- Leadership (2 months, for those that complete the programme).

Programme declared objectives:

Strengthening the physical and mental development of children.

Strengthening ethical, moral and spiritual principles and values.

Avoiding education dropouts.

Improving school performance.

Developing skills and abilities.

Promoting sports practice.

Strengthening the culture of community service and sense of love and belonging.

Preventing sexually-transmitted infections.

Promoting sexual abstinence to reduce girl pregnancies.

Reducing juvenile crime and gangs.

Strengthening family ties and unity in the community.

Increasing self-esteem.

Avoiding drug consumption among youngsters.

The programme is supported by the PRAF (Family Assistance Program) particularly to cover food and snacks. It also receives support from different towns.

It is projected to reach 75,000 beneficiaries by 2013.

Source: Índice de Seguridad Pública y Ciudadana en América Latina (Latin America's Public and Citizen Security Index) (RESDAL, 2011).

Defence and National and International Community

Participation in Peace Operations

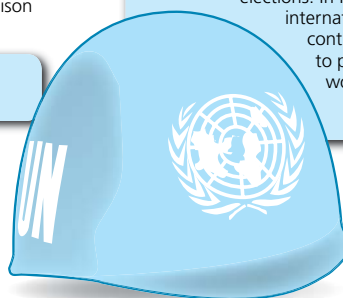
Current Missions	Military Component			
	MEM		MC	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
MINURSO (Western Sahara)	12	-	-	-

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

Honduras contributes 12 military troops to the UN peacekeeping operations, which represents 0.16% of the total Latin American contribution.

Honduras has sent Mission Experts to the United Nations' Mission to Western Sahara (MINURSO) since 1992. It also took part in the peacekeeping mission to Haiti with a contingent of 120 soldiers from February 1995 to January 1996, conducting stability operations to create an environment favourable to the conduct of free and fair elections. In Iraq, it took part in an international coalition with a contingent of 370 soldiers to perform reconstruction work from August 2003 to February 2004.

Source: Statistics of the contribution of military and police personnel to UN operations, United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UN DPKO), July 2012.



Analysis:

Honduran Armed Forces: between External Defence and Internal Security

Leticia Salomón

Researcher of the Centro de documentación de Honduras (CEDOH)

The Honduran armed forces are still undergoing a crisis of identity and cannot decide whether their role is to defend territorial sovereignty and integrity, protect the State from real or fictitious threats or else continue performing law-enforcement duties. However, not all of it is their fault. Traditional political parties negotiated the armed forces' way out of the political scenario during the transition to democracy in 1982, and charged them with so many responsibilities that their main duty actually lost its true nature. They were given reasons to keep a size consistent with all these new responsibilities, serving as a pretext for their constant claim of higher budgets.

The rapid growth of minor and major crimes, in addition to the high levels of violence expressed in the high rate of homicides per 100,000 inhabitants (86.5 in 2011), has led more than just one government leader send the military to the streets to take on police duties, in a desperate attempt to show citizens that actions were being taken to reduce the increasing wave of crimes across the country.

Sending the military to the streets, without any prior training, has resulted in dangerous, though predictable, situations due to their combat training. An example of this was a youngster who was shot to kill for trying to avoid a police/military check point and ignoring a "stop" order. This has led to a debate about the chain of responsibilities for the soldier who shot the youngster all the way to the chief who failed to give clear instructions, including those who sent him to perform police duties without any prior training, and the Secretary of Defence who ordered the military's involvement, the President of the Republic who requested it or the President of the National Congress who approved it.

Apart from those tasks, military personnel have been involved in the social conflicts derived from the coup and the claims to the land in the north-west area of the

country, as well as in holding back the maras or gangs and fighting drug-trafficking, all of these being law-enforcement duties, performed by military personnel who are still trying to apply today the old national security scheme, totally unfoundedly and mechanically substituting that ideological enemy of the past with citizens angry with the coup, farmers demanding recognition of their right over the land, members of the maras marking their territory, drug-traffickers infiltrating in everyday life, petty thieves snatching bags, or drug-traffickers unloading drug shipments somewhere in the national territory.

In spite of all the above and the politicians' stubborn insistence on assigning a central role to military personnel in the fight against insecurity, crime and violence rates continue to increase, without showing any significant return on investment on resources and the expected results. Honduras is starting to turn from a drug transit country to a consumer country; the situation of the agricultural sector in the Caribbean is becoming more and more complex, and citizens are still defenceless against crime, while members of the military take on police duties and the police forces undergo a rapid process of institutional deterioration. All this takes place in the midst of an electoral process in which primary and internal elections, followed by general elections, feature candidates competing over who will offer the least convenient security measures, all of them focusing on continuing to send military personnel to the streets to perform law-enforcement tasks, without any prior training, despite the fact that these measures are not rendering the expected results. Once again, the armed forces are torn between external defence and internal security, induced by desperate politicians under the pressure of citizens, though highly enthusiastic with the idea of finding an empirical justification for their existence.