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EDITORIAL

On this occasion we begin by thanking our subscribers for their loyalty. Every day there are more people who subscribe to receive the magazine in their emails, and there are very rare cases in which someone has requested to unsubscribe, which speaks of the great acceptance of this publication. Thanks!

In this issue of TRIARIUS there are four articles by Guadi Calvo, our senior analyst, and two articles by the undersigned.

Guadi's first article takes us to Mali, to consider political and military aspects of the recent coup in that country, as well as interesting and unexpected geopolitical elements. Then we go to Iraq, where we will review what pertains to the multiform war that is being waged there, under the certainty that everyone is lying, in a kind of "blind war." Next, we will review issues that have to do with human and labor rights in the rich Saudi Arabia, where the monarchy literally does whatever it wants with foreign workers (and many other things), to finally go to Niger, country where strange deaths are occurring at the hands of the regular armies of the coalition known as the *G5 Sahel Group* (G5S) made up of the armies of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Mali, and Niger, which apparently are fighting against terrorism doing terrorism.

The other two articles are dedicated to the Colombian National Navy. The first of them deals with generalities of the Marine Corps of that country, which by the way is one of the most numerous in the world -but not the best equipped-, while the second article deals with the issue of the Marine Corps of Mobility of the Colombian Marine Infantry, a unit designed to integrate an expeditionary force that accompanies "humanitarian missions" in other countries, hand in hand with the UN, NATO, the United States, or the European Union.

Many, many thanks for reading.

Know to win!

Douglas Hernández

Editor



This newsletter has a Spanish version.

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TRIARIUS

By reading this, you start a drill to assess your vulnerabilities. Don't move and read on. Right now society has just collapsed, for some biological, political, tectonic, economic, chemical, or whatever reason. We were all surprised by the event where we were right now. There is no electricity, there is no transportation, there is no drinking water, there are no banks, there are no hospitals, there are no firemen or police. Do you have a plan to move to the pre-established meeting place, where you will meet your family? Do you have a planned place where you are going to take refuge while everything is cleared up? Do you have enough reserves of water and food for a week? , a month, a year? Have you planned how you will defend yourself against potential aggressors? Do you have any resources to exchange with other survivors? Do you have enough reserves of medicines and basic medical implements? How will they light up at night? , do you have an AM/FM radio with spare batteries to inform you of the essentials?, have you bought a walkie talkie with something like this in mind?, if you answered no to any of the questions, fix it, if you answered no to all questions, you're in serious trouble. Act now!

On the cover, **Soldiers of Kazakhstan**.
See more information at the end of the magazine.

TRIARIUS privileges freedom of expression, however, the responsibility for what is said in the articles is exclusive to their authors.

Very special thanks to the international analysts who have sent us their articles for this issue free of charge.

Mali, more than a military coup

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Banners thanking Russia and China for their support, present at demonstrations in Mali.

It is still too early to assess the consequences of the coup on Tuesday, August 18, against President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta (IBK), and who placed in power the self-styled *National Committee for the Salvation of the People* , (CNSP) a group of young colonels, veterans of the war that has been waged in the north of the country since 2012, against two important and intricate terrorist conglomerates known as *the Jamā'at nuṣrat al - islām wal-muslimīn* (Support Front for Islam and Muslims) or JNIM, tributaries of *al-Qaeda* and the *Islamic State (Daesh) in the Greater Sahara* (ISGS) from where they have spread to several neighboring countries: Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad.

Until now, the only proposal from the CNSP was to stay in power

until the elections that would only take place in 2023, while during that period the leadership of the country would be in charge, as everything indicates, of the leader of the August 18 movement, Colonel Assimi Goita , also ignoring the demands of the *United Nations* and the "great" democracies, including the Trump administration, which called for the restoration of the government elected in 2013 and revalidated in 2018. On the other hand, the *African Union* suspended Mali, while the *United States* and the *European Union*, threatened to interrupt the training it provides to the army.

With few declarations, the will of the Malian military, which for the second time in less than a decade is leading a coup d'état, has been reflected more in its actions, as was

the case of the delegation sent by the *Economic Community of States of West Africa* (CEDAO) who took a resounding no, to his proposal to turn the blow back, free President Keïta and install him in government again. The now fourteen nations of the ECOWAS have decided to maintain the closure of commercial borders and the embargo on financial exchanges. Announcing that these sanctions will be lifted based on progress made towards restoring civil order within twelve months. Opinion agreed by France's defense minister, Florence Parly , who told the press that the transition should be a matter of months.

In the internal order, apparently the military junta has begun to receive the first attacks, for now quite weak, but those that will have

to be continued since apparently the old opposition to President Keita, are not entrenched together with the military. Without specifying the reason, the meeting to which several political parties and civil organizations were called on Saturday the 29th has been postponed, which raises doubts whether this decision is a victory for the hardest line of the military, which is not interested in "negotiate" anything with anyone, or that the men of the movement of last August 18, were not prepared to receive the pressures and requests of these representatives of civil society. It also drew attention that the *June 5 Movement*, the strongest opposition conglomerate to the now ex-president Keita, has not been invited to this now suspended meeting. The *M5-RFP*, led by fundamentalist *imam* Mahmoud Dicko accused the military of kidnapping the "revolution" and demanded that his movement be involved in leading the process that will lead the country to upcoming elections. In addition, he warned that the military would not have "carte blanche" to do as they pleased. It had also been known at the end of last week that the *M5* had presented its own plan to the board, without specifying the time in which the military would have to take the call for elections. Dicko, in his usual public speech on Fridays, converged on the holy day of *Islam*, with the anti-government protests since last June, demanded that the military abide by the demands of regional mediators, to avoid the country financial sanctions that They will deepen the serious economic crisis that it is going through, in addition to encouraging the actions of the *Wahhabi groups* that operate in the north, where violence has intensified during the pandemic, since more than ninety percent of the health facilities have been destroyed.

A not so far north

The war that has consumed the north of Mali, generating thousands of deaths and a waste of financial resources that finally precipitated the coup, has exposed the weakness of its armed forces, its poor organization, the quality of its weapons and the preparation of the troops, facing a politically and militarily superior enemy. Had France not mediated, the former colonial power that still maintains important geostrategic and economic interests in the Sahelian country, first with *Operation Serval* in 2012, continued by *Operation Barkhane*, from 2013, with more than 5,000 troops French and another three thousand from five European nations, the *Mujahideen* would have already raised their black flags of terror in Bamako.

It was no coincidence that President Emanuel Macron's first international visit was to nothing less than Mali, a few days after taking office in May 2017, in addition to putting that country at the forefront of the government's agenda, so This setback in Mali is also largely an almost personal failure. While Washington allowed Paris to have the initiative in its former colony for eight years, and in a discreet military manner it has interfered in the African country, as in Niger, providing training to elements of the *FAMA* (Armed Forces of Mali) and supporting the anti-terrorist operations both French and other international units operating there such as *the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Mali* (MINUSMA) with about 15,000 troops, which, moreover, shortly before the coup he had extended the time of his presence.

Last January, the French Armed Forces Minister, Florence Parly, acknowledged that US support was essential for a counter-insurgency mission in the region. Therefore, the

new government in Bamako will have to endorse the agreements with France and the United States, or at least tolerate them, so as not to convert the Western forces from armies of collaboration to occupation, especially when Parly declared last week that: "Operation *Barkhane* was going to continue".

The presence of Western forces is now more vital than ever, not only because of the critical situation in the north, but also because of a gesture that, although the Elysee did not go unnoticed, much less the Casablanca: the first official audience given by the members of the CNSP, went to Igor Gromyko, for more information Russian ambassador in Mali to which is added a disturbing detail, the leader of the uprising Colonel Assimi Goita, returned from a military training in Russia, while in Moscow the visit of more members of the Council was expected... Other important members of the CNSP such as Colonels Sadio Camara and Malick Diaw have also participated in anti-insurgency courses for a year at the *Moscow Higher Military College*. Colonel Diaw, on his return from Russia, he was sanctioned and was to be discharged next September. To which should be added the suggestive fact that, during the latest demonstrations in support of the military junta, Russian flags and banners appeared highlighting the friendship between the African country, the European giant and China.

The *State Department* knows very well that relations between Moscow and Bamako, until the collapse of the socialist bloc, were very good, particularly from 1960 to 1968, so that the United States now has to solve a new equation in Africa, too It would be to leave it in the hands of the French and that it would begin by separating them from the direction of the war against the fundamentalists and bringing

the fire from the north closer to already know how to carry out with Bamako, an operation that we masterful talent.

Image Source:

<https://atalayar.com/en/content/russia-and-coup-d%C3%A9tat-mali>

Guadi Calvo

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Iraq, a blind war

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Mustafa al -Kadhimi

Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al -Kadhimi continues to try to run his country as if it were Switzerland, believing that everything that is in place will still be in place the next morning. Anyone who knows the history of that country, from the ill-fated hour that intersected with the Bush surname, will know that Iraq is not Switzerland, but on the contrary, it is Iraq.

While al -Kadhimi tries to maintain an impossible balance between pressure from the United States and good neighborliness with Iran, for example, Turkey continues to attack the positions of *the Kurdistan Workers' Party* (PKK), declared a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the *European Union* , and which is supported by some Kurdish-Iraqi groups, but not by the authorities of the autonomous region of Iraqi Kurdistan. With the excuse of persecuting the PKK, with whom Ankara has waged a dirty war since 1978, having caused the Kurdish

people thousands of deaths and disappearances, without any international organization being aware of it.

The Turks have located fifteen kilometers within Iraqi territory, important military contingents, having established more than fifty surveillance posts, and regularly carrying out land and air raids. So much pressure produced countless episodes between the Turkish "guests" and the Iraqi armed forces. The last known incident occurred on August 11, when a Turkish drone mistakenly attacked an Iraqi military contingent, killing -do to the commander of the II Brigade of the border guard and the commander of the III Regiment of that same division in what is known as *Zone 1*.

Despite the fact that Baghdad has repeatedly called for an end to these actions and demanded Ankara's cooperation to guarantee security on the border, it continues its genocidal war against the Kurdish people. The attack on the

eleventh day generated some tepid official response from the al-Kadhimi government, almost forced by the important popular anti-Turkish protests in Baghdad, in the north and in the Kurdish spaces.

Although in truth the Iraqi Prime Minister has little room for maneuver against the arrogance of Turkish President Recep Erdogan, since Iraq's economic situation depends largely on trade with Turkey, which last year contributed 15 billion of dollars.

On August 19, in the midst of that crisis, al -Kadhimi flew to Washington where he met with President Donald Trump, who has described him as a "very respectable gentleman" as well as a "friend." Of course, as long as when the ruddy president manages to neutralize Iranian influence and bring him closer to his Gulf *Wahhabi neighbors*. For his part, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said his country would help stabilization, prosperity and independence, and offered to

assist in the areas of health, education and employment a little more than 200 million dollars. On his trip, al-Kadhimi closed agreements with oil and electric companies, at the same time that he obtained a subsidy to raise the quotas of food rationing.

Washington is very aware that the only way to "liberate" Iraq from *Persian influence* is to strengthen it economically, with more budget support, and assistance in a significant number of areas, such as the economy, energy, health and environment, security, counterterrorism and education.

Kadhimi's visit to Washington, without a doubt, will not have been the best news for Tehran, especially when the pain for the assassination of General Qassem is still very much alive. Suleimani along with several leaders of the Iraqi *Shiite militia*, last January, at the exit of the Baghdad airport, by an American drone (See: Suleimani, who will stop death?), who according to Western sources, were responsible for the missile strikes against US targets in Iraq. Iran has still not recovered from the general's death, much less avenged it, despite the fact that the "mastermind" of the operation that ended Suleimani, CIA agent Mike D'Andrea, was shot down on a flight over Afghanistan a few days ago. days later (See: Suleimani, a dark day of justice). In addition, another debt that al-Kadhimi maintains with his neighbors to the south, is that before his inauguration in May, it was almost a fact that he would expel the Americans from Iraq, something that not only has not

happened, but apparently everything points to the opposite.

These days, al-Kadhimi received the visit of the president of France, Emmanuel Macron, on a brief tour of the Middle East, who in a joint conference between the two leaders, in which they have practically put the noose around the neck of the alliance that Iran weighed to maintain with Iraq. Macron said his presence was to support "Iraqi sovereignty against foreign interference."

Those..., the usual ones

On his trip to Washington, the Iraqi Prime Minister obviously could not avoid referring to the most pressing of his country's many problems, fundamentalist terrorism, and referred to the " sleeper cells " of *Daesh*, signaling his agreement for the continuity of the presence in Iraq of US troops, which the *Pentagon announced*, will be reduced by a third.

It is not known whether the " sleeper cells " that the prime minister spoke of in Washington have been counted against the *mujahideen* of what appears to be a new formation (Guardians of the Blood), who present themselves as part of the so-called *Islamic Resistance of Iraq* or *Saraya Awli al-Dam*, a group that has different names that they use as a front to appear more numerous and has just been awarded the two attacks on August 24 against a US military convoy that was heading from the Taji camp to the base of Ain al-Assad. In a video released on August 30, the attack against said

caravan is seen, although there is no data that can specify the date and place of said filming. The "new group" also claimed responsibility for the attack on a vehicle believed to be from the CIA, between Erbil and Mosul north of Baghdad. Local media confirmed that the attack did exist, but that the target was not a CIA vehicle, but one belonging to the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO).

For its part, the North American command acknowledged that in recent months this type of attack has been reproduced on the country's routes, but they specify that: "The attacked convoys are in fact driven by Iraqis, in Iraqi trucks that do transport North American equipment. for civil use".

Also last Wednesday it was confirmed that the attack with two *Katyusha rockets* that fell inside the *Green Zone* of Baghdad on Sunday night, one of them fell near the United States embassy, without knowing if there were victims.

Since last October, there have been several attacks on the *Green Zone*, where most of the embassies and government buildings are located. At the same time, some US bases scattered in different parts of Iraq also received rockets, in which the Pentagon was responsible for covering up the possibility of US casualties.

In Iraq, today a blind war is being waged, where all the reports are distorted, for the interest of one of the many sides that participate, and that it seems, none has the certain possibility of victory.

Image Source:

<https://www.elmundo.es/internacional/2020/06/13/5ee39425fc6c83a75f8b46d2.html>

The Colombian Marine Corps

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)



The Marine Corps of the Colombian National Navy is one of the largest in the world, with more than 21,000 men and women, however, it does not have the necessary equipment to carry out amphibious landing operations that are of strategic importance. This is mainly due to its anti-subversive orientation, a product of the prolonged Colombian internal conflict. Said conflict required optimizing investment and directing it towards land and river security in the face of a real threat, and not towards strategic projection for conflict hypotheses that may never materialize.

In Colombia, the Marine Infantry constantly develops amphibious, river, land, coastal defense and special operations operations. This in the 40,875 square kilometers of land jurisdiction assigned to the National Navy on the Caribbean and Pacific coasts, and in the 15,497 kilometers of navigable rivers. In addition, the Marines provide security and protection to the islands and keys of the Archipelago Department of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina, helping to preserve national sovereignty.

ORGANIZATION

From its remote origins in the war of independence against Spain to the present day, the Colombian Marine Infantry has grown progressively until it is currently a unit of Division magnitude, with several Brigades and Specialized Units, as follows:

- Marine Infantry Brigade No. 1 (BRIM1), based in Corozal (Sucre).
- Marine Infantry Brigade No. 2 (BRIM2), in Buenaventura (Valle del Cauca).
- Marine Infantry Brigade No. 3 (BRIM3), in Puerto Leguizamo (Putumayo).
- Marine Infantry Brigade No. 4 (BRIM4), in Tumaco (Nariño).
- Marine Infantry Brigade No. 5 (BRIM5), in Puerto Carreño (Vichada).
- Marine Infantry Training Base (BEIM), in Coveñas (Sucre).

- 3 Training Battalions.
- 1 International Amphibious Training Center (CIEAN).
- River Combat School, in Puerto Leguizamo (Putumayo).
- Special Forces Battalion, in Cartagena (Bolívar).
- Special Forces Group - AFEUR, in Cartagena (Bolívar).
- Special Forces Group - AFEUR, in Buenaventura (Valle del Cauca).
- Group against Kidnapping and Extortion (GAULA), in Montes de María (Bolívar).
- Group against Kidnapping and Extortion (GAULA), in Buenaventura (Valle del Cauca).
- Group against Kidnapping and Extortion (GAULA), in Tumaco (Nariño).
- Group against Explosives and Demining.
- Special Risk and Disaster Management Unit.
- Mobility Battalion, in Mahates (Bolívar).
- Logistics Support Command.

In this organization, only one of the Marine Infantry Brigades is for landing (No.1), the others are specialized in river operations. That is, only part of the personnel is nominally designated to carry out amphibious landings. However -as already pointed out-, Colombia does not have a large ship that allows it to project its naval power in another region. Even if transportation was provided by an ally, Colombian marine infantry units are organized as light infantry, without artillery, without armor, without anti-aircraft defense, and, in general, without heavy material that would allow them to capture a beachhead. consolidate it and move forward.

TRAINING

Marine Infantry officers are trained at the “Almirante José Prudencio Padilla” Naval Cadet School (ENAP), along with naval officers and merchant marine officers, each leaving at certain times of their training for specialization phases.

The non-commissioned officers (corporals and sergeants) of the Marine Corps of the Colombian Navy are trained at the Marine Infantry Training Base, based in Coveñas, a Base that is responsible for the comprehensive training of the Marine Infantry Non-commissioned Officer, provide the basic training of the Regular Marines (young people who are doing their compulsory military service) as well as achieve the specialization of the Professional Marines (volunteer soldiers with a contract).

Regular Marines receive training and education in the following areas:

- Radio operator.
- Rifleman.
- Chosen Shooter.
- MGL Grenade Launcher Operator.
- Mortarist.
- Machine Gun Operator/Servant.
- Combat Lifeguard.
- Combat Support Specialties.
- Automotive mechanic.
- Systems.
- Electricity.
- Outboard motor mechanics.
- Repair of fiberglass elements.
- Drivers.
- Protection of dignitaries.

Professional Marines receive training and specialize in the following areas:

- Paratrooper.
- Ground Fighter.
- Chosen Shooter.

- Tracker.
- Mortarist.
- River Fighter.
- River Pilot.
- Machine Gun Operator/Servant.
- Grenade Launcher Operator.
- Combat Nurse.
- Canine guide.
- Explosive detector.

WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT

The organization and armament of the Colombian Marine Infantry is similar to that of the National Army. Part of the weapons in use by the Colombian Marine Corps is as follows:

Single Armament

- AR-15 5.56mm rifle, some with M203 grenade launchers.
- Indumil Galil SAR 5.56mm rifle.
- 5.56mm Indumil ACE rifle.
- Remington M24 SWS Sniper Rifle (Sniper weapon System).
- IM26 Hand Grenade.
- In addition, the Marine Corps has a large batch of the powerful 7.62mm M-14 rifles.

Companion Weapons

- Milkor MGL Multiple Grenade Launcher.
- mm Long Range Mortar. Soltam.
- mm Command Type Mortar.
- 5.56mm machine gun. Negev.
- 5.56mm machine gun. M249.
- 7.62mm machine gun. M-60A4.

Support Weapons

- .50 caliber machine gun M2HB/QCB.
- Mk19 grenade launcher machine gun.
- 81mm mortar. Soltam.

Artillery

The Marine Infantry Corps of the Colombian Navy has (at least) one 120 mm Mortar Battery.

Anti-aircraft weapons

The Colombian Marine Infantry does not have organic anti-aircraft weapons. In the military parade of July 20, 2017, for the Colombian Independence Day, a unit made up of 4 HMMWV-type vehicles forming an Anti-Aircraft Battery was paraded for the first time. The first vehicle was the command and control car, equipped with a light radar and a surveillance camera, two vehicles had adapted a platform for double Mistral Sinbad missile launchers, and the fourth vehicle had the role of ammunition carrier, carrying ten missiles of replacement. This battery is an experiment for the marines to develop doctrine and train, but in reality it is not an operational Anti-Aircraft Battery, since the Mistral Sinbad belong to the FS-1500 Light Frigates, from where they are disassembled to adapt them to vehicle platforms.

It is unlikely that the National Navy will weaken the anti-aircraft defense of its main ships, to benefit an amphibious operation, since the Mistral Sinbad are the only anti-aircraft missiles that the Colombian Military Forces have.

Armored vehicles

In 2006, the Colombian shipyard COTECMAR assembled an armored vehicle of Russian origin BTR-80 which was called BTR80 "Caribbean". This prototype received some modifications, such as the change of the weapon for a .50 caliber M2HB machine gun, among other minor issues. It was due to an agreement with the Russian Federation to produce 80 units in Colombia, 60 of them for the National Army and 20 for the Marine Corps. The project did not come to a successful conclusion, for reasons that are still not entirely clear. It is presumed that there was pressure from the US lobby for the investment to be oriented towards Western products, which finally happened with the Colombian Army, but unfortunately for the Navy, the Marine Corps was left without what would have been its first amphibious armored vehicles.

The prototype of the BTR-80 Caribe was used by the 1st Marine Infantry Brigade, in the north of the country, providing security on the roads, as part of the so-called Meteor Plan for road safety, through which it is prevented that guerrillas or other organizations outside the law block the free transit of people or merchandise, kidnap, or practice land piracy. The National Army and the Marine Corps have Meteor Plan units, since both are responsible for the security of the territory.

The BTR-80 "Caribbean" after some years of operation, was finally retired and put in a museum, symbolizing the subordination of national interests to the dictates of our "allies". Today Colombia could have these excellent fully amphibious 8x8 vehicles, with high mobility, air transportability, and resistance. Qualities that would have been particularly important to the Marine Corps. Instead, the National Navy acquired a batch of armored trucks or "Gun Trucks" from the national private company, made from the chassis of commercial trucks. With them, the units of the Meteor Plan were provided. The National Army followed a similar path, due to the insufficiency of armored vehicles to cover the extensive road network that it had to provide security for.

Training and Training Center for Peacekeeping Operations (CENCOPAZ)

CENCOPAZ, an entity attached to the Navy of the Republic of Colombia, has the mission of educating and training members of the Colombian Military Forces, the National Police and civilian personnel from other State institutions, to perform operational and administrative roles. typical of this type of operations, with the purpose of providing students with knowledge and skills that allow them to safely and efficiently carry out their tasks in accordance with the norms and high standards set by the United Nations Organization or other International Organizations.

To date, CENCOPAZ has already graduated a significant number of soldiers, most of them belonging to the National Navy and in particular the Marine Corps, revealing that the priority of sending Colombian troops to participate in multinational operations (NATO, European Union, OEA, UN), would have it precisely the Marine Corps.

Douglas Hernandez

(Colombia) Founder and director of the website [www. Fuerzasmilitares.org](http://www.Fuerzasmilitares.org), he works as a journalist specializing in security and defense. He is a contributor to Air and Space Power Journal -the institutional magazine of the USAF, now called the US Air Force Professional Magazine, American Continent-, and the Brazilian magazine Segurança & Defesa. He is a Sociologist and Master in Education from the University of Antioquia (Medellín, Colombia), a PhD student. He has a Diploma in International Relations.

Saudi Arabia, neoliberal Islam

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



The development of Saudi Arabia has required foreign labor to carry out different tasks.

It is known that they are all poor, migrants who came from all corners of *islām*, in search of getting a job to support their families who were perhaps as far away as the southern Philippines, northern India, the Pakistani Punjab or somewhere else. remote village in Ethiopia or Somalia, it is not known how many there are, nor how many have died, nor how many will survive the confinement to which they are being subjected, in absolutely deplorable conditions, for lack of a word that can better describe the hell to which thousands of workers, accused of spreading *Covid-19*, were locked up at the discretion of the most prosperous and revered tyranny in the world: Saudi Arabia.

The authorities of the kingdom, the same ones that are carrying out the genocide in Yemen, and sign multi-million dollar agreements with the always eager “democratic” powers of the West, have blocked the camps where they are overcrowded for more than five months. , thousands of those

migrant workers, waiting for a resolution to their case. It is impossible to know the exact number of people held in these camps, since Riyadh has tried to keep secret not only the number, but the very existence of the camps, of which it is estimated there are about ten, including the one in *al - Shumaysi*, near the city of Mecca that can contain up to 32 thousand people, that of *Jizan*, a port city in the southwest of the kingdom and the center of *al - Dayer*, about twenty kilometers from the border with Yemen,

The information about what is happening became known thanks to the fact that some of the prisoners were able to send some heartbreaking photos and audios from their cell phones to the British newspaper *The Telegraph*, who published in its edition of Sunday, August 30, a series of photographs of the interior of one of those barracks where the conditions of confinement can be clearly observed, the scars of several of the prisoners with their backs crossed

by whips, the waters residues cropping up in the places where detainees must compulsorily sleep and eat. Among the photos appears at least one of a suicide, although it is believed there could be many more, desperate for waiting and confinement; it was learned that the detainees have not left the barracks since April; daily punishments, hunger, thirst, heat; that depending on the month can reach peaks of up to 54 degrees; illnesses of all kinds and living conditions that force them to move with sewage effluvia that reach their ankles, they are given all the conditions to hang themselves, in the undaunted sight of the guards, who the next day will remove their corpses from the barracks and they will be thrown out like what they represent, garbage, scum, cheap labor, who have been stranded in the bureaucracy of their respective embassies, who never dare to raise their voices, or criticize, much less denounce, in front of the fear of arousing the wrath of Prince Mohamed bin Salman (MbS) whose investments

all countries are anxiously awaiting. The future monarch, already less than thirty years old in 2015, aspired to become the youngest genocide in history, which, if he has not yet achieved, will be a few deaths away from fulfilling his aspiration.

For decades the *Wahhabi monarchies* of the Persian Gulf have become a focus of attraction for millions of workers, among the five nations that receive the most foreign workers with respect to their population, they are in first place the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with 88 percent followed by Qatar with 65 percent and fourth place on that list is Saudi Arabia with 46 percent, it is estimated that eight million workers have arrived in the Gulf countries of Indian origin alone. In some cases, foreigners have almost reached the same number of local inhabitants, as is the case of Qatar, which with a total population of two million six hundred thousand, migrants are close to one and a half million. Some pre-pandemic calculations estimated the arrival of a million more in the *emirate* in the next five years. In the case of Saudi Arabia they represent about 37 percent of the population. The vast majority of cheap and unskilled labor, which is used in the case of men in construction and women for domestic service, who represent 99.6%, with a labor regime that forces them to work an average of 64 hours per week, the second highest rate in the world.

Most of the workers who arrive in the gulf do so under the norm of the *Sponsorship Work System* or *Kafala* (sponsorship in Arabic) that gives the employer or *kafeel* a set of legal means to control the workers:

since the boss, who may retain his passport, the employee may not even change jobs, resign or leave the country, without written authorization from his *kafeel*. This system was created in 1950 to allow the entry of foreign workers over time and the constant influx of labor has become a slave regime, which has caused a number of suicides, particularly among female workers, subjected to all type of violations, without even having the right to denounce them.

Riyadh in 2013 began a campaign of *Saudiization*, deepened from November 2017, with the arrival of Prince MbS to power, by which it tries to reduce dependence on foreign workers and increase the employment rate of the Saudis themselves.

The poorest among the poor

Although the situation of all the migrant workers of the Gulf in times of Pandemic is still much more critical, perhaps they are the Ethiopians, the last among the soulless (See: Ethiopia: The long caravan of the invisible.)

It has been detected that, in the concentration camps established by the Saudi regime to retain migrant workers, the vast majority are occupied by Ethiopians, expelled from their country by successive wars, economic crises and natural disasters, such as droughts or floods.

According to the *International Organization for Migration* (IOM), some 15,000 people from the Horn of Africa, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, but mainly Ethiopians, have been stranded by the war and restrictions

on the displacement of the population. by *Covid-19*, in the Yemeni governorates of Aden, Marib, Lahij and Saada. Many of them are known to have been killed on the *Saudi border* in crossfire between the kingdom's security forces and *Houthi patrols* leading the wanderers.

Shortly before the world blockade due to the Pandemic began, Riyadh had deported some three thousand Ethiopians and was enlisting another 200 thousand, when the United Nations demanded that Riyadh stop the operation, since, at that time, the kingdom already had close to 5,000 cases, while Ethiopia had only reported 74. According to the Ethiopian government, 30,000 workers have returned from the Persian Gulf, without money, without medical follow-up, without housing, since the start of the pandemic, which could have spread the virus, making the health situation in Ethiopia even more critical, always on the brink of collapse. The *International Organization for Migration* (IOM) estimates that 500,000 Ethiopians were in the Saudi kingdom when the government began the mass deportation, with the complicit silence of Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, 2019 Nobel Peace Prize winner, who has preferred to put the 100 million Ethiopians at risk, and let the thousands of their nationals die in some unknown point of the *Saudi desert*, due to the remote possibility that MbS may finance some enterprise in their country, as any good neoliberal would do .

Image Source:

<https://diarioroatan.com/si-eeuu-apasa-ley-nopec-arabia-saudita-dejaria-de-vender-petroleo-en-dolares/hambrezoa>



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Niger, the secret deaths

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



The G5 Sahel (G5S) coalition is made up of the armies of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Mali, and Niger.

On August 9, armed men on motorcycles attacked the vehicle in which six French volunteers from the NGO ACTED (*Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique Et au Développement*) with his guide and a driver, both Nigeriens, when he was crossing the Koure giraffe reserve, 65 kilometers from Niamey, the capital of Niger.

All the occupants of the jeep died in the act and although from the beginning of the investigations it was taken for granted that the attackers belonged to one of the two great terrorist organizations that operate in the region: the global al-Qaeda franchise, which in 2017 after the union of several groups it was renamed *Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin* or *Support Front for Islam and Muslims* (JNIM, for its acronym in English) or the one belonging to *Daesh*, *Islamic State of the Greater Sahara* (EIGS), although at the time neither of the two organizations, at war with each other, had taken responsibility for the fact (See: Sahel: A war by the grace of God).

At the time, General Dominique Trinquand, former head of the French military mission at the UN, had declared that the objective had

never been kidnapping, but rather the death of the aid workers, for two reasons: in revenge against France for the presence of Operation *Barkhane*, which with more than 5,000 French soldiers, operates in the region against these groups and precisely the presence of these troops, makes it much more difficult for terrorists to keep hostages to negotiate their release, a management that is often it has taken years. Added to a media impact, something that these organizations are always looking for, since this type of action always produces great repercussions in the press and puts the name of these organizations high up in the eyes of many young people aspiring to join one of the these *khatibas*.

More than forty days after the attack on the Koure nature reserve, in a recent statement from *al-Naba*, *Daesh*'s official website, acknowledged responsibility for the attack on the cooperators' jeep, in addition to reporting new clashes with *al-Qaeda* in different parts of the Sahel.

On many occasions, these groups take time to recognize their actions, first waiting for the reaction of both the press and the

governments affected by these actions, for which al-Qaeda, a few hours after the attack was known, had released a statement where he denied any involvement in the event.

The action of last August 9 recalled the ambush of October 4, 2017 in the southwestern region of Tillabery, Niger, near the border with Mali and Burkina Faso, where a dozen soldiers died, four of them North American *green berets*, along with eight troops from the Nigerien army. What left in evidence the presence of Washington in that conflict, information until that moment, absolutely unknown to a large part of the North American people. (See: Niger: Hunting in the Sahel.)

Revenge as a tactic

In December of last year, a terrorist attack against the military garrison of the western city of Inates in the already critical region of Tillabery had left 71 soldiers dead and a dozen wounded. On that occasion, the Nigerien army spokesman had also reported that 54 terrorists had been killed in action.

During the months of April and May of this year, the disappearance of at least 102 civilians who lived near the area of the December action was reported, for which the *National Human Rights Commission* (CNDH) began the investigation that adds to the complaints about the disappearance of another 200, in which, according to the CNDH, not only the Nigerien army, but also those of Mali and Burkina Faso, would be involved.

It has just been known that said commission has already discovered 71 bodies, in six mass graves. According to investigators, all the bodies appeared with their hands tied behind their backs, gunshot and stab wounds, turbans around their necks, and skulls smashed. The commission blamed the "summary and extrajudicial executions of unarmed civilians" on members of the Nigerien *Defense and Security Forces* (FDS), without determining whether the high-ranking army commanders were the ones who gave the orders for the executions.

The head of the investigative commission and president of the *Pan- African Network for Peace, Democracy and Development* Abdoulaye Seydou said that he interviewed more than seventy witnesses between May and July last, and that his report was still incomplete, although it was already presented to Nigerien President Mahamadou Issoufou, although there have been no responses.

This massacre of civilians is nothing new in the region where the

coalition known as the *G5 Sahel Group* (G5S) made up of the armies of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, accompanied by various Western missions, have been waging war since 2012 against insurgent groups linked to *Daesh* and *al-Qaeda*, which last year alone has left 4,000 dead and millions displaced.

Regular armies, as revenge and as a strategy, often attack remote villages, and after looting and raping they execute the villagers, covering up their acts as "anti-terrorist operations",

A report by the *United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali* (MINUSMA) accused the Malian army of executing 101 civilians between January and March this year while documenting 589 human rights violations, including 30 mass extrajudicial executions, carried out by members of the Nigerien army stationed in Mali as part of the G5S.

For their part, the Burkinabe and Malian armies have also been accused of violating human rights after the disappearance of nearly 200 people between February and April.

According to experts, the actions of terror applied by the regular armies against defenseless villagers are fundamentally due to their poor preparation, since they have been trained for classical warfare and not to fight against a spectral enemy, in the most cases better prepared, better armed and better paid. Which results in his low combat morale and his propensity for larceny, preferring not to take

risks in front of a stranger and to make sure by killing first and investigating later.

In the Malian communes of Diabaly and Dogofry in the Segou region, it was found that at least 23 people were extrajudicially killed, while another 27 were disappeared after being detained by the army between February 3 and March 11, this year. It was found that on February 16 in Belidanedji, another five people were illegally executed, whose remains had to be buried by the villagers themselves, while another 18 who were arrested since then have not reappeared. Similar stories are replicated in Burkina Faso, where fundamentalist violence has taken hold particularly in the north of the country, forcing almost a million people to leave their homes in search of safer places, which puts them in the crosshairs of security forces. security that make little difference between a terrorist and a peasant.

During the summit between France and the G5S, which took place in the French city of Pau on January 13, where different security issues in the region were discussed, Macron reached an agreement with his African peers to investigate, control and punish the "excesses" of the armies against the civilian population. More than eight months after that, none of those governments has yet given an effective response, nor has France asked for explanations, so the secret deaths will continue to occur, ignored by all.

Image Source:

<https://www.descifrandolaguerra.es/una-aproximacion-al-sahel-desde-el-g5s/>

Mobility Battalion of the Colombian Marine Corps

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)



The Marine Corps created a Mobility Battalion for which a batch of tactical vehicles of US origin were acquired, which in addition to providing troop transport services, support logistics movements by moving supplies and materials. However, the main purpose of this unit appears to be to support the participation of Colombian units in multinational operations abroad. Hence the type and model of selected vehicles, with which NATO interoperability is guaranteed.

The Marine Infantry Mobility Battalion has 126 vehicles for transporting personnel and cargo, as well as 41 trailers for transporting drinking water or fuel, all of which have been used for military operations and also to support communities in need of emergency. The discriminated list of available material is as follows:

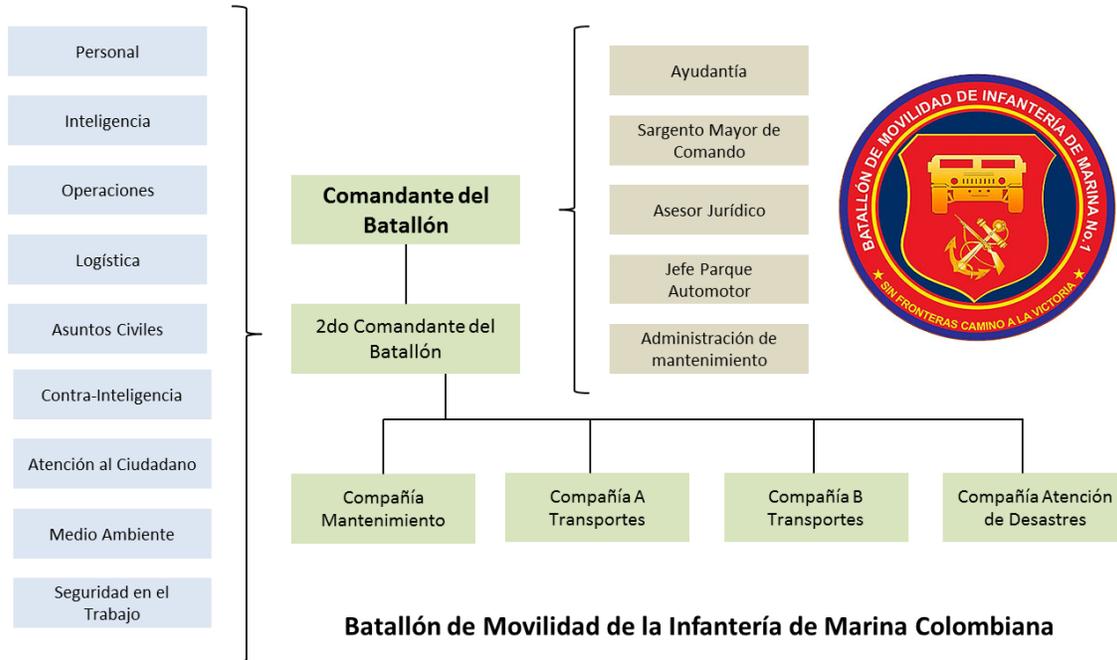
- 25 HMMWV M1151A1 vehicles (armed).
- 47 International MV 7400 trucks.
- 28 M923A1 trucks.
- 18 M998 Multipurpose Vehicles (4 2-door and 14 4-door).
- 06 M1035 Ambulances.
- 04 M936A1 cranes.
- 02 Vehicles type Truck M931 (Tractor Truck).
- 02 M970 Tank Vehicles.
- 02 Vehicle type Ambulance M1152.
- 01 Utility vehicle with accommodation and bathrooms for 22 people.
- 10 M1102 trailer, with capacity for 1,250 kilos of cargo each.
- 19 TEC WT2000 trailer, with capacity for 500 gallons of drinking water, C/U.
- 12 Trailer for HMMWV M101/M116, for general cargo.

The Marine Infantry Mobility Battalion No.1, is attached to the Marine Infantry Brigade No.1 of the Colombian National Navy, its main mission is to support with tactical land mobility, troop deployment and logistical support, to the different units of the Brigade to which it belongs, in its jurisdiction of 14,841 square kilometers of territory, distributed in 19 municipalities of the department of Bolívar, 18 municipalities of the department of Sucre, seven

municipalities of the department of Córdoba and in the Islands of San Andrés and Providencia, using its fleet of 126 tactical ground vehicles for this purpose.

It is worth noting that the different Marine Infantry units have their own tactical and administrative vehicles, but they are insufficient, so the Battalions are not fully motorized, hence the strategic importance of the mobility unit. Also keep in mind that the 1st Brigade of the Colombian Marine Corps is precisely the one defined as an amphibious landing unit.

The following diagram shows the organization of the Mobility Battalion. The Commander of the unit has an important team of advisers on his staff, all specialized in a different area, in order to guarantee the efficient operation of the Battalion. Same that has 4 fundamental units: two Transport Companies, a Maintenance Company to support the entire group, and a Disaster Prevention and Attention Company, which we will delve into due to its importance and novelty within the National Navy.



Disaster Prevention and Attention Company of the Mobility Battalion

This unit, part of the Mobility Battalion of the Marine Infantry, is specialized in operations not related to war, its functions are in accordance with the guidelines of the Environment, Disasters and Emergencies Directorate of the National Navy. It has capacity for emergency care and prevention within and outside the country, developing maritime and river search and rescue operations, search and rescue in collapsed structures (BREC), pre-hospital care (APH), damage assessment and needs analysis (EDAN), with the focus on addressing specific threats of climate change, floods, hurricanes and fires.

Organization of the Disaster Prevention and Attention Company

This special unit has 50 men, organized into two platoons, the first called First Response, which has three groups, as follows: the first called Urban Search and Rescue (USAR); the second group specialized in Forest Fires, and the third group dedicated to emergencies with Hazardous Materials (Hazmat, for the expression in English Hazardous materials). The second platoon of the Disaster Prevention and Attention Company is called Construction. It has two groups, the first called Rehabilitation and the second called Construction.

The following are the functions of each component of the Disaster Prevention and Attention Company.

First Response Platoon: Within the entire emergency care scheme, the "first responder" has great responsibilities, not only in terms of care for victims, but also for the preservation of material resources.

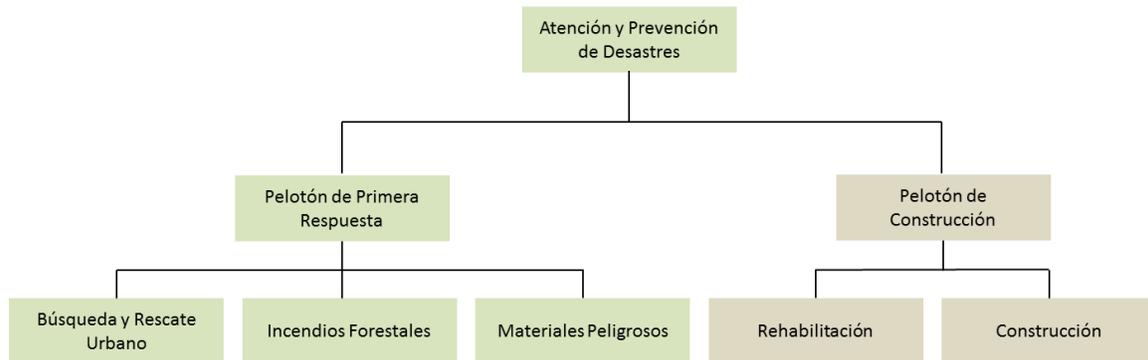
- **Urban Search and Rescue Group (USAR):** this personnel is in charge of locating, extracting and stabilizing victims who are trapped under collapsed structures, as would occur, for example, after an

earthquake, an accident or a terrorist attack. Due to the nature of the emergency you must attend, your objective is to rescue the greatest number of people in the shortest possible time, while keeping the risk to the rescue team low. This group has a dog rescue team (K-SAR).

- **Group against Forest Fires:** These personnel is specially trained to prevent and fight forest fires, applying different firefighting techniques. It has the most modern equipment to fulfill its functions.
- **Hazardous Materials Group:** This unit handles emergencies with chemical, biological and radiological materials, and in general any hazardous material with the capacity to generate fires, explosions or serious contamination.

Construction Platoon: This unit is in charge of carrying out all types of rehabilitation and reconstruction work on infrastructure affected by emergencies or natural or man-made disasters.

- **Rehabilitation Group:** Its mission is to intervene quickly and effectively after an emergency, seeking to restore services such as aqueducts, sewage, gas lines and electricity. Services that in some cases are vital for the affected population.
- **Construction Group:** This unit is in charge of supporting local authorities in the reconstruction of strategic infrastructure for communities affected by a natural or man-made disaster.



Training

The 50 men of the Disaster Prevention and Attention Company receive the specialized training required for the full performance of their duties. In this way, the unit has expert personnel in the following areas:

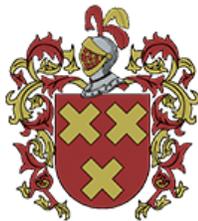
- Administrative Basis for Risk Management (BAGER).
- Basic Incident Command System (SCIB).
- Intermediate Incident Command System (ICS).
- School Safety (SE).
- Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (EDAN).
- Forest Fire Brigade
- Operation and control of Forest Fires
- Effective water management in forest fires
- basic life support
- Emergency Management under the NFPA 1600 Standard
- First Responder in Incidents with Hazardous Materials (MATPEL).
- Rescue in Collapsed Structures (BREC).
- Rescue in Collapsed Light Structures.
- Rescue in Advanced Confined Spaces.
- vertical rescue.
- Fire Engine Operation

The command has provided them with the most modern equipment and systems, necessary to face the challenges of their work, having guaranteed mobility through the vehicles of the Tactical Unit of which they are organic, and the planes and helicopters of the Naval Aviation.



Additionally, some officers and non-commissioned officers of this unit have taken -or are about to take- courses at CENCOPAZ, to acquire the fundamental knowledge that would allow them to integrate into international operations under a UN mandate.

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Andantes Fortuna Iuvat



Kazakhstan Armed forces



The Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan are composed of the Ground Forces, Air and Air Defense Forces, Naval Forces and National Guard. The goals of the national defense policy are based on the Constitution of Kazakhstan, they guarantee the preservation of the independence and sovereignty of the state and the integrity of its territorial extent, territorial waters and air space and its constitutional order. The armed forces of Kazakhstan act under the authority of the Ministry of Defense.

In the 2013 Military Balance, it was noted that the Armed Forces of this country were made up of 20,000 men in the Army, 3,000 in the Navy, 12,000 in the Air Force and Air Defense, 4,000 in the Ministry of Defense, and 31,000 paramilitaries. , which includes the personnel of the Civil Defense of the Emergency Committee, the Border Service of the National Security Committee and the State Security Service.

History

On May 7, 1992, the President of Kazakhstan took a series of defense actions. Signed a decree on the “establishment of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan”, the transformation of the State Defense Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan into the Ministry of Defense, and on the promotion of Sagadat Nurmagambetov to Colonel General and his appointment as Defense Minister.

On June 30, 1992, the Soviet Armed Forces Turkestan Military District was disbanded, following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The most powerful group of forces in the Turkestan Military District then became the core of the new Kazakh army. Kazakhstan acquired all units of the 40th Army (former 32nd Army) and part of the 17th Army Corps, including 6 ground force divisions, storage bases, the 14th and 35th air assault brigades, 2 rockets, 2 artillery regiments and a large amount of equipment that had been withdrawn from the Urals after the signing of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.



On July 6, 2000, a Presidential Decree "On the structure of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan" changed the structure: The Armed Forces returned to a dual structure (general-purpose forces and air defense forces). The Airmobile Forces were created, the transition to the new military-territorial structure, military districts were established, the structure and deployment of troops were harmonized.

In February 2001, a Presidential Decree divided the functions of the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff. According to the decree, the chief of the General Staff subordinates all types of aircraft and types of troops and military districts, while the Minister of Defense has mostly administrative and political functions.

Otar Military Base on May 7, 2013, celebrating Defender of the Fatherland Day as a national holiday for the first time. During the ceremony, the first woman was promoted to the rank of General.

Today there are four regional commands: Astana Regional Command, South Regional Command in Taraz , East Regional Command in Semipalatinsk , West Regional Command in Aktobe , as well as the Air Defense Forces, the Air Mobile Forces with four brigades, and the Artillery Forces and Missiles.

Kazakhstan is a founding member of CSTO and SCO. Kazakhstan also has an Individual Partnership Action Plan with NATO and strategic cooperation with the Turkish Armed Forces.

Ground forces

The 32nd Army had been serving in Kazakhstan for many years. The 32nd Army had initially been redesignated the 1st Army Corps (1988), then the 40th Army (June 1991). It came under Kazakh control in May 1992. On November 1, 1992, based on units of the former Soviet 40th Army from the Turkestan Military District,

the First Army Corps was created, headquartered in Semipalatinsk. Later, the Eastern Military District was established at its base, renamed on November 13, 2003 as the Eastern Regional Command.



Immediately before its disbandment, the 40th Army consisted of the 78th (Ayaguz) Tank Division; the 5202nd Base for the Storage of Weapons and Equipment in Semipalatinsk (before 1989 - the 71st Motorized Rifle Division); the 5203rd BKhVT Ust-Kamenogorsk (before 1989, the 155th Motorized Rifle Division); the 5204th BKhVT in Karaganda (before 1989 - the 203rd Zaporozhye Motorized Rifle Division Khingan), taken over by Kazakhstan on May 7, 1992, the 69th Tank Division (mobilization) (Ust-Kamenogorsk), and the 10th Fortified Area. [11] The 69th Tank Division and the 10th Fortified Area were disbanded in 1992.

In the mid-1990s, Kazakhstan's ground forces included the 1st Army Corps (HQ Semipalatinsk), with the 68th Motorized Rifle Division (Sary-Ozek, in Kyzylorda province) – 2 motorized rifle regiment and one of tanks- and the 78th Tank Division (Ayaguz). While the 68th Division was called the motorized rifle formation, in terms of equipment it had nearly 300 tanks and some 500 armored fighting vehicles. The 78th Tank Division had 350 tanks, 290 armored fighting vehicles, and 150 artillery pieces. The 210th Guards Training Center, the former 80th Guards Motorized Rifle Training Division, had 6,000 soldiers and officers and 220 tanks and 220 artillery pieces, making it a reinforced division. Kazakh sources often called it the Guards Division.

Today the Ground Forces include four regional commands:

- "Astana" Regional Command (Karaganda HQ) - the administrative boundaries of Akmola, Karagandy Oblast, Kostanay Oblast, and North Kazakhstan. The command acts as a reserve for the Supreme Commander. The district includes the 7th Motorized Rifle Brigade in Karaganda.
- Regional Command "East" (Headquarters Semipalatinsk) - n the administrative borders of East Kazakhstan and Pavlodar province The District has the 3rd Mechanized Division (formerly the 78th Tank Division) in Ayaguz , three (?) Bases for the storage of military equipment, the 3rd Motorized Rifle Brigade in Usharal , 4th Motorized Rifle Brigade in Novo- Akhmirovo,Ust - Kamenogorsk (Military Unit No 27943), a cannon artillery brigade and an air defense missile brigade.

- "West" Regional Command, (Atyrau Headquarters) - on the administrative boundaries of Western Kazakhstan, Aktope Oblast, Atyrau Oblast, and Mangystau Oblast. The main task is to ensure the integrity of state borders, territorial integrity, sovereignty and economic interests of Kazakhstan in the Kazakh sector of the Caspian Sea. In 2008, the district commander appointed General Alimzhan Erniyazov. The District has independent motorized rifle and artillery brigades.
- Regional Command "South", (Headquarters Taraz) - on the administrative boundaries of Almaty Oblast, Zhambyl Oblast, South Kazakhstan Oblast and Kyzylorda Oblast. The main task of the district is to ensure security on the borders of the south-east of the country. The District includes the 4th Motorized Rifle Division at Sary-Ozek in Almaty Oblast, the 5th Separate Motorized Rifle Brigade (Taraz , Military Unit No 85395, 1,500 strong), the 6th Separate Motorized Rifle Brigade (Shymkent (Military Unit No. 35748, with five rifle and tank battalions, two artillery battalions), a mountain battalion, and the 210th Training Center. The 206th Reserve Division was previously stationed in this command area.



There are also the Air Defense Forces, the Airmobile Forces with four brigades, and the Artillery and Missile Forces (formed as a separate branch on May 7, 2003).

Airmobile Forces

The Airmobile Forces were formed by grouping the 35th Guards Air Assault Brigade with new brigades formed from earlier Soviet units. The 35th Guards Air Assault Brigade arrived from Germany in April 1991 and was taken over by Kazakhstan in 1992. Near Karaganda was the 5204 Base for Storage of Weapons and Equipment, the remains of a motorized rifle division. In 1998 two motorized rifle brigades were created from the old storage base. One of which was left near Karaganda, and another named 2nd Separate Motorized Rifle Brigade was relocated 200 kilometers north of Nur-Sultan, which was the capital at the time, and for that reason should be decently garrisoned. There were no units stationed in Nur-Sultan (Astana) during the Soviet period. In October 2003, the 36th Separate Air Assault Brigade was formed on the basis of the 2nd Motorized Rifle Brigade. On the basis of the Taldykorgan Motor Rifle Regiment, 173 Sary Motor Rifle Division Ozekskoy , in April 2003 the 37th Separate Air Assault Brigade was formed. The active units are the following:

- 35 Guards Air Assault Brigade at Kapshagai.
- 36 Air Assault Brigade in Nur-Sultan.
- 37 Air Assault Brigade in Taldykorgan.
- 38th Air Assault Brigade - KAZBRIG Peacekeeping Brigade in Almaty.



Air Forces and Air Defense

At the time of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the 24th Fighter-Bomber Aviation Division with three aviation regiments and three separate regiments was stationed in Kazakhstan. By the end of 1993, the Kazakh Air Force comprised a total of six regiments, with an additional air defense fighter regiment. The 11th Division included the 129th Fighter-Bomber Regiment based at Taldy Kurgan, with MiG-27 "Flogger" aircraft and the 134th Fighter-Bomber Regiment at Zhangiz -tobe with MiG-27s. There was also the 149th Bomber Regiment at Zhetigen / Nikolayevka, with Sukhoi Su-24 "Fencers". Separate elements comprised the 715th Fighter Regiment at Lugovaya, with MiG-29 and MiG-23 " Floggers "; the 39th Reconnaissance Regiment in Balkhash, with MiG-25RB and Su-24MR "Fencer" aircraft, and the 486th Helicopter Regiment based in Ucharal with Mi-24 "Hind2. The only air defense combat aviation regiment was the 356th Combat Aviation Regiment in Semipalatinsk with MiG-31 air defense fighters. The Air Force was under the command of Major General Aliy Petrovich Volkov. Pilots fly approximately 100 hours a year.

Today, the Kazakh Air Defense and Air Force has four fast jet bases:
 600 Guards Air Base, Zhetigen , Nikolayevka , Almaty, with MiG-29s.
 602 Air Base, Shymkent, with MiG-29s.
 604 Air Base, Taldykorgan Airport, with MiG-27s and Su-27s.
 610 Air Base, Sary-Arka Airport, Karaganda, with MiG-31s.

On October 28, 2010, two strategic agreements signed with Eurocopter , set the framework for the creation of a 50/50 joint venture with Kazakhstan Engineering , to assemble EC145 helicopters, along with the sale of 45 of these aircraft for locally assembled government missions. in the country. On November 28, 2011, Eurocopter

delivered the first of six EC145s ordered to date by the Kazakhstan Ministries of Defense and Emergencies. Deliveries continued until 2017.

On January 3, 2012, Airbus Military signed a firm contract with Kazspetsexport , a state-owned company belonging to the Ministry of Defense of Kazakhstan, for the supply of two EADS CASA C-295 military transport aircraft plus the related support service package. , for spare parts and ground support equipment. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed for a further six C295 aircraft, for which separate firm contracts were progressively signed over the following years. The first two aircraft were delivered in April 2013. In May 2012, Kazakhstan signed a letter of intent to purchase 20 Eurocopter EC725 helicopters. Assembled in Nur-Sultan by Kazakhstan Engineering. These Eurocopters will be equipped with modern systems from the Turkish company Aselsan.



Naval Forces

The Kazakh Naval Forces were established by presidential decree on May 7, 2003 despite being the largest landlocked country in the world. They operate in the Caspian Sea, based in Aktau. The Kazakh Naval Force has a strength of 3,000 personnel and is equipped with fourteen coastal patrol boats.

The naval aviation base in Aktau was opened eight years later, in 2011. The 612 air base in Aktau provides home to two Su-27 fighter jets, seven Su-27 pilots and twelve helicopter gunship pilots, according to a report in Interfax-Kazakhstan, said report does not specify the model or the number of helicopters, but it is presumed that they are Mi-24.

Security Agencies and Command Units

There are several special forces units that report to various Kazakh security agencies that are not part of the Armed Forces. Examples of this include an Arystan Commando Unit and a Border Guard of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan (KNS), the Police have special units, as well as the Presidency of Kazakhstan.



In addition, there is a small Republican Guard, with 2,500 soldiers (1994), but this force is not considered part of the Army. The Republican Guard was established on March 6, 1992, when the President of Kazakhstan signed a decree on its creation. The Republican Guard was established on the basis of a separate operational designation brigade of the internal troops deployed in the village of Kaskelen, district of Almaty region. Two Republican Guard regiments were created, stationed in Nur-Sultan and Almaty.

Sources:

Kazakhstan Ministry of Defense

Armed Forces of Kazakhstan

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armed_Forces_of_the_Republic_of_Kazakhstan



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