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This newsletter has a Spanish version.

## Editorial

We begin this installment with a review of the not-so-encouraging situation in Somalia. A country where at the same time there are problems such as a serious drought, an invasion of locusts, terrorist attacks that add up to thousands of deaths, a tremendous political crisis, which promotes the continuation of the civil war, and the never-overcome extreme poverty, which has not it is served by an incompetent government, which threatens to remain in power forever. It must not be nice being a Somali these days.

But if it doesn't rain in Somalia, in Nigeria "it doesn't clear." In Nigeria, terrorist actions by the fundamentalist groups Boko Haram and the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) are on the rise, and criminal actions by gangs dedicated to kidnapping and cattle theft are also on the rise, all of which contributes to a general feeling of insecurity, which has caused the forced displacement of at least 1.5 million people. This situation overflows borders and affects the neighboring Ivory Coast, Cameroon, and especially Niger, where terrorist groups of Nigerian origin frequently make incursions.

We turn to Afghanistan, where the situation is no better. There the war against the Taliban already seems lost. Seventeen thousand Afghans who collaborated with the occupation troops are waiting for a visa to escape their certain execution, knowing that they are sentenced to death for treason. This troubled country is suffering from the devastation of its territory and the internal displacement of at least 5 million people. Things do not look good for the Afghans in the hands of the Taliban, they have already lived through it and it seems that they will repeat that bitter experience soon.

We end this edition with a brief analysis of nationally manufactured armored vehicles in Colombia.

Thank you very much for reading us. We are always willing to accept new collaborations, if you are good at writing about the issues we deal with here, be encouraged to share your texts, and thus contribute to strengthening international security.

Know to win!

*Douglas Hernandez*

Editor



# TRIARY 092

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## TRIARIUS

If your house has a green area, you should consider planting some fruit trees. They are insurance for times of crisis. The first thing you should do is make a list of the most common species in your country or region, then find out the most favorable altitude and climate for each of the species, ruling out those that do not adapt to your place of residence. Step by step, he elaborates a table with the characteristics of each species, in terms of nutritional properties, harvest times, and possible medicinal properties. So, determine the number of plants you can plant in the available space, considering a separation of between 6 and 8 meters between the trees. Then proceed to select the species that offer you the highest nutritional values, possible medicinal uses, and that complement each other, to offer you harvests several times a year. Finally, learn to make preserves and jams. Cheer up!

On the cover,  
***Panamanian Soldier***  
on an anti-narcotics mission.  
In this edition, the guest is the Panamanian SENAFRONT. 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 freely and disinterestedly have sent us their articles for this issue.

# Somalia: Towards the deepest abyss

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



*Somali "Gorgor" (Eagle) commandos trained by Turkey.*

The leadership of Somalia, the epitome of *the Failed State*, seems to have as its only condition the power to deepen crises beyond explanation, and whoever takes a tour of the country's history of the last forty years will have no doubts.

In February 2017, with drums, trumpets and fanfare, the West, and especially the United States, announced that the country had a president, after an unintelligible electoral process. The anointed was Abdullahi Farmaajo Mohamed, a man with North American training and nationality, who should have completed his term on February 7, for which it was expected that a transitional government will assume power to reach an agreement for a

new election date, since those scheduled for the past 21 had been suspended, due to not reaching an agreement with the opposition, which presented 15 candidates.

Farmaajo, in this context of political crisis, after the failure of the meeting with the leaders of the Federal States, gathered at the Mogadishu airport, with an impressive security operation, which clearly outlines the critical situation of the war against extremism Wahhabi, on Monday the 12th, decided, practically alone, to extend his mandate for two years.

The president's latest decision forced the "donor countries", which are practically the only contributors to the economic support of the

country, to cease their collaboration, while the finance minister had recognized that, between December and January, the funds contributed by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, with which the salaries of public employees are paid, had been exhausted.

Neither the Biden administration nor the European Union have welcomed the February resolution adopted by the Somali president; while the Somali opposition demanded that he hand over power to an interim government, which would be headed by the prime minister. Faced with the presidential refusal, the opposition announced that as of that day, the legitimacy of the president would be ignored,

calling on his followers to demonstrate in the streets, which left a dozen dead, while asking the security forces not to comply with the orders of the executive, which has plunged the country into a crisis of power, which in a context of the war waged against the fundamentalist group al-Shabbab, a tributary of al-Qaeda, which since 2006 has caused thousands of dead. Al-Shabbab has carried out attacks on universities, public offices, hotels and markets, even operating many times in Nairobi and other Kenyan cities, with lethal car bombs in the busiest streets of Mogadishu and other cities in the country to which the actions of the Somali National Army or SNA; For its acronym in English, the forces of the African Union and even the North American bombings, have not even managed to reduce its lethality somewhat, just to mention one of the last attacks in the past fourteen, in Hirshabelle, 50 kilometers north of Mogadishu, a minibus exploded by stepping on a mine, leaving fifteen dead and four seriously injured. While on Wednesday the 21st, five mortar shells fell near Villa Somalia, the presidential residence, hitting the buildings of the former German embassy and the Ministry of Health, in the residential district of Wardhigley, which caused three deaths. and four wounded.

Shocking panorama to which are added the droughts, for which this past Sunday 25, the Somali Government and the United Nations, have had to declare a "drought state", since eight out of ten districts are experiencing a moderate to moderate lack of water. severe, coupled with last year's locust plague, increase the country's chronic famine, which also cannot forget the increasing border tensions with Kenya, which creates

a picture that could not be more bleak.

### **First fights**

Despite the heat of the situation, the latest reports that arrived on Sunday, April 25, point to the outbreak of clashes between Somali National Army troops and forces made up of hundreds of military personnel, who have deserted in recent days, who having looted weapons and other supplies from a base in the Middle Shabelle region, and after having withdrawn to the fortifications of their clans, remained expectant until this Sunday, which have come to occupy some neighborhoods in the north of the capital, like Yaqshia, Karan and Hiliwa. During the morning it was reported that trenches were already being dug in the Shirkoole neighborhood and that streets and access routes to the capital had been closed and a large fence around Villa Somalia had been erected. At noon on Sunday, while many demonstrators took to the streets to protest against the government, armed clashes intensified elsewhere in the city. Situation that makes it evident that the country of the Horn of Africa is entering a new stage of Civil War, which broke out in 1991 and that with other profiles and contenders has not stopped until today.

At midnight in Somalia, strong clashes were reported at the roundabout at kilometer four 4 or 4KM, as the strategic point of the capital is known, epicenter of commercial life and site frequently chosen by the mujahideen of al-Shabbab, to plant its car bombs, which have caused hundreds of deaths. While the private homes of two important opposition figures: former President Hassan Sheikh

Mohamud (2012-2017) and former Minister of National Planning and International Cooperation (2009-2010) Abdirahman Abdishakur, were attacked by armed groups linked to President Farmaajo , as reported by the victims.

Already in the early hours of Monday, the brief and violent clashes with light weapons and mortars between both sides continued to take place, without knowing data about deaths and injuries, while it is unknown what is happening in the interior of the country.

During the night it was learned of the entry into the capital of a caravan of more than forty armored vehicles loyal to the government, belonging to the elite army units known as Gorgor (Eagles) returned a few weeks ago from Turkey where they had received anti-insurgent training. The Gorgor commandos, summoned by the president, who seems to have the support of other sectors of the army, had entered Mogadishu from the Elasha Biyaha area, west of the capital.

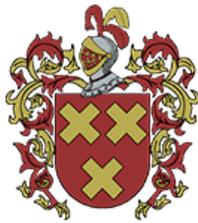
By dawn on Monday, although the strong-armed clashes had ceased, with nothing known about casualties, at night residents of different neighborhoods of the capital sporadically say they heard some shots.

Mogadishu woke up peacefully, although the rebels have strengthened in large areas of the capital, where trenches with heavily armed men and many closed streets are seen, waiting for the leaders of both sides throughout the morning to find some agreed solution, which urgently requested by the United Nations and various Western foreign ministries, before Somalia continues to sink into the depths.

Image Source: Autor

**Guadi Calvo**

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# Nigeria overwhelmed by fundamentalism

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



*Funeral for those killed by suspected Boko Haram militants in Zaabarmar, Nigeria, Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020. AP - Jossy Ola*

Since mid-March, the fundamentalist groups Boko Haram and the Islamic State of West Africa Province or ISWAP, both tributary to Daesh, have increased their actions against different targets in the northeastern states of Borno and Yobe in Nigeria, which intensified between April 10 and 14, forcing the evacuation of humanitarian personnel and the displacement of almost 40,000 residents, from the different cities, villages and thousands of peasants who live in the area.

For the third time in a week, last Tuesday, April 13, Boko Haram men attacked the city of Damasak, the main city of the Mobbar district, in Borno, with a population of 56,000 inhabitants, in which some 10,000 displaced persons also reside. internal, since the terrorist attacks that occurred between 2014 and 2017 and in their surroundings

in areas of very difficult access, approximately 120 thousand.

The terrorist action forced some 65,000 residents to flee to Maiduguri, the capital of Borno, to the city of Geidam in Yobe state and to Diffa, in Niger, less than two kilometers from the border. Some 20 people were killed in the attacks and another 30 were injured. In addition to causing the destruction of infrastructure and much material from the assistance services of the United Nations Humanitarian Center, several homes, the police station and a health center. According to official sources, air strikes have killed 21 of the terrorists involved in the attacks.

On Friday, April 23, the city of Geidam, with more than 160,000 inhabitants, in the state of Yobe, was besieged by mujahideen belonging to the ISWAP organization, a group that split from

Boko Haram in 2016. And after the takeover, a dozen people died, eleven of them belonging to the same family, in the midst of the fighting between the insurgents and the government troops. In addition to looting shops and burning homes, the terrorists destroyed communication towers and it is believed that they kidnapped an undetermined number of people for ransom, one of the classic sources of financing for this group. Geidam is a very important commercial center for agricultural producers in the Diffa region, which has caused prices to skyrocket. In Niger, where there are more than half a million Nigerian refugees, they are often stigmatized by the locals, since it is believed that, among the displaced, Boko Haram would have many informants and "sleeping cells".

On the other hand, the governor of the northern State of Niger

(Nigeria), Abubakar Bello, warned about the presence of takfirists in the Shiroro area and in other departments of the State, where kidnappings continue to take place. What later could mean a serious security problem for the city of Abuja, the country's capital, which is only 140 kilometers away.

Boko Haram men, on Sunday night, the 25th, killed some 37 army personnel in the vicinity of the city of Mainok, some 55 kilometers from Maiduguri, during coordinated attacks on a base and a military convoy. The terrorists, who were traveling in armored vehicles, first ambushed the convoy, to immediately attack the base belonging to the army. As it was known, the terrorists have once again used state-of-the-art weapons, including grenade launchers. After the brief seizure of the base, the mujahideen stole weapons, transportation and communication elements. The fighting between insurgents and regular troops lasted for almost the whole day. According to military sources, the attacked convoy was transporting weapons and ammunition. After the ambush they went to the base near Mainok, which has already been targeted by terrorists on several occasions.

Both Boko Haram and ISWAP have been associated with gangs of common criminals, who are in charge of mass kidnappings of students, who later the terrorists negotiate the ransom with their families, one of the most important occurred on December 11, 2020, when 330 students between the ages of 11 and 20 were kidnapped from a high school in the city of Kankara, in the state of Katsina, in the north of the country (See: Nigeria: Boko Haram, technically very much alive.) a fact that continues to be repeated frequently.

### **Niger, the erased border**

The insurmountable differences between the current emir of Boko Haram, Abubakar Shekau, who leads the organization founded in 2002 by Sheikh Mohamed Yusuf, assassinated in 2009, while being a prisoner of the army, to Shekau, a deluded fanatic, facing the proposals of Abu Musab al-Barnawi, son of Yusuf, who, in 2016, would end up leaving the group along with the khatiba he commanded to found the Islamic State in West Africa or ISWAP, who proposed to stop attacking the civilian population and concentrate operations against military targets. The emir of Boko Haram led his group to become one of the deadliest in the world, killing nearly 70,000 people and causing the displacement of between 1.5 and 2 million people since his inauguration.

The schism between the two fundamentalist leaders, instead of weakening their organizations, both tributary to global Daesh, seems to have strengthened them, since in the last five years the actions of both groups have not only multiplied, but have also advanced towards neighboring countries, such as Cameroon, Ivory Coast and essentially Niger, a country whose borders have been practically erased by terrorists who operate alternately on both sides of the dividing line without any control.

The recent attacks against the Nigerien security and defense forces confirm the thesis of the strengthening of both terrorist organizations, which constantly carry out attacks against the Nigerien army and different populations near the border, which has allowed the Niamey government to confirm that the Abubakar Shekau gang has established a base in the country.

The Nigerien regions of Maradi and Tahoua, among the most populous in the country, are suffering almost daily attacks from gangs of common criminals from Nigeria and with fluid contacts with Boko Haram, "partners" in many of their operations, which has made the new Nigerien president, Mohamed Bazoum, who took office on April 2, concentrate his first government actions on reinforcing border security and not only combating terrorism, but also criminal gangs dedicated fundamentally to the cattle theft and kidnapping of people, with an epicenter in the southwest of the country, in the border strip, which runs from the city of Maradi to Dogondoutchi, about 400 kilometers.

Many of the members of these criminal gangs are members of nomadic tribes, such as the Fulani, whose livelihoods, grazing, have been altered by the expansion of crops. What has led farmers to form self-defense groups, which have given rise to the mujahideen of Boko Haram, and other groups operating in the Sahel, particularly in Mali, Chad and Burkina Faso as the Islamic State in the Great Sahara (ISGS) to collaborate with their allies and expand the Wahhabi theories, which they uphold, deepening insecurity even more.

Two of the terrorist actions that have had the most impact on the international press occurred in 2020, when in early August of that year, eight civilians, six French tourists and two local assistants, were killed by him in Koure, 65 kilometers to the east. of Niamey, (See: Niger, the secret deaths) and in October, the kidnapping of the American citizen, Philip Walton, in a village in the department of Konni, by criminals specialized in kidnapping, on behalf of one of the Wahhabi groups, which operate in Niger, for whose rescue he forced a

joint action of troops from the United States, Niger and Nigeria, who with information provided by the CIA located Walton, already in Nigerian territory, a group of special SEAL forces carried out the rescue, killing six of the seven captors.

The ISGS has operated mainly in the Tillabery region, next to the border with Mali, where in 2017, after an ambush on a contingent of US military and Nigerien troops,

twelve members were killed, including four Green Berets (See : Trump ambushed in the Sahel) and in January of this year a hundred villagers were murdered returning from a market (See: Niger, between terror and poverty).

In 2018, Niger began to reinforce border security, deploying an army battalion in Madarounfa (Maradi department), which is supported and trained by the

Belgian army. In November 2019, 250 police officers were sent to Konni, Tahoua, equipped and trained by the European Union Capacity Development Mission. Reinforcements that were stopped with the consequent degradation of border security, a challenge that President Mohamed Bazoum must undertake urgently, to prevent his country, like Nigeria, from being overwhelmed by fundamentalism.

Image Source:  
<https://www.france24.com/>



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# Afghanistan, only desert and blood

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, left, and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the top political leader of the Taliban group, sign a peace agreement between the Taliban and US officials in Doha, Qatar. February 29, 2020. © Hussein Sayed/AP

On May 1, the 2,500 US troops, together with the 7,000 of their Western coalition partners, who invaded Afghanistan in 2001, began the total withdrawal from the country, as President Joe Biden had announced on April 14. , missing the Doha (Qatar) agreements of February 2020, between the Trump administration and the Taliban.

Agreement in which the North Americans undertook that the withdrawal would be completed on May 1st. Biden unilaterally established that, "due to logistical problems," that only on that date would the evacuation of the troops begin, which will end on September 11, when the twenty years of the attacks on the towers of New York. The episode that gave then President George W. Bush the excuse to invade the Central Asian country that cost Washington the lives of more than 2,400 soldiers

and two billion dollars. While it meant for Afghanistan, beyond the devastation of its territory, the death, according to "very" official figures, of some 241,000 people, in addition to the hundreds of thousands of deaths that Bush Jr. and his successors in the presidency, drowning in whole nations blood, provoked with their global war against terrorism, with which they have achieved nothing good for humanity.

As May approached, reports of large-scale or targeted attacks, bombings and deaths began to roll in at breakneck speed, with more than a hundred attacks recorded by day four against security forces and other government facilities in 26 of the 34 provinces.

On Friday the 30th, a truck with explosives detonated south of Kabul, killing 27 people. On the first Saturday, a professor at the

University of Kabul was shot dead, as part of a selective assassination campaign that began several months ago, where journalists, health workers, civil servants, judges and intellectuals were "selected". Also on Saturday, Kandahar airport came under rocket fire as a small group of US forces dismantled what little remained of their base. On Tuesday, a senior police officer was killed in Paktika province. This Wednesday five, militiamen, after hours of combat, evicted Army men from the Barka district, in the northern province of Baghlan.

Facts that clearly show the will of the Taliban leadership, refusing to accept Biden's extension, considering that, as of May 1, they had their hands free to attack any foreign troops inside the country, a clumsiness that the fine diplomacy of the Taliban, will not commit. But

yes, and as expected, the harsh military onslaught increased, which has been escalating, particularly since the intra-Afghan talks were interrupted last October, against different targets of the Afghan National Army (ENA), in almost all the country's provinces. , thus demonstrating its ability to operate on the different fronts that it opens and closes practically as it pleases. The actions of the insurgents during 2020, according to data from the United Nations, caused the death of three thousand civilians, while approximately another six thousand were injured. Only in the city of Kabul, the capital, the most protected place in the country, with 4.5 million inhabitants, last year there were 255 deaths and 562 injuries.

The hardest clashes, from the escalation that began on the first day, took place in the always disputed province of Helmand, where throughout these twenty years, both English and Americans have suffered most of their casualties, where the great poppy fields, for the production of opium and heroin, whose traffic, some two billion dollars a year, is one of the most important sources of financing for the mujahideen, who at the moment are in a situation of strength, like never since the US invasion in 2001.

The fiercest fighting is taking place around the city of Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand, with some 45,000 inhabitants, where according to official reports, always unbelievable, the ENA would have killed a hundred militiamen, without disclosing in number of own casualties. The clashes began on May 3 with the assault on the base known as Camp Antonik, which the Americans had handed over to Afghan forces the day before. The fighting has caused some 1,000 families to flee the area. According to reports, the offensive is also

carried out in other parts of the province. While the Taliban reported that they killed dozens of soldiers, data as unreliable as the official ones.

The operations in Helmand are not an isolated event, since attacks have been reported since the first of the month, always against ENA targets, in at least six other provinces, including Ghazni, where on Saturday the first, the insurgents they attacked a military base, essential for the security of the province, killing several soldiers and taking almost a hundred prisoners.

The Pentagon has apparently not given much importance to the fighting, in his remarks on day three, John Kirby, the spokesman for the Department of Defense, reported: "So far we have not seen anything that has affected the reduction (of troops), or that has had a significant impact on the mission in question." Therefore, the withdrawal would continue without extensions, which until day four had been covered between two and six percent. All the American and European troops are being directed to Bagram, about sixty kilometers from Kabul, the most important that the United States still maintains in the country, from where they will be transported to their places of origin. While it had already taken out of the country an equivalent to 60 C-17 aircraft in material and delivered more than 1,300 combat equipment for its destruction.

In the last hours of Friday the 30th, a car bomb that exploded in Pul-e-Alam, the capital of the eastern province of Logar, killed around thirty ENA troops, while another ten had died, after the explosion of a device that the militiamen managed to detonate, under an army outpost, introduced through a tunnel, in the southwestern province of Farah on Monday the third.

## **Twenty years is nothing**

The North American withdrawal not only means acknowledging a new defeat, no matter how hard they try to hide it, such as those in Iraq, Syria, Somalia and Yemen, and although it cannot be defined as such, the disaster it has caused in Libya does not leave of being one more link in the tragic sequel of mistakes so far this century, which makes Vietnam, from a distance, seem almost an anecdote.

Afghanistan, perhaps, is the epitome of North American clumsiness, which after twenty years of bloody occupation and in an asymmetric war like few in living memory, making use of infinite material resources not only of themselves, but also of partners, such as the The United Kingdom, France, or Germany, among other military powers, at the time the withdrawal began, only controls fifty percent of the territory. One of the main reasons why it is descending to accept that it is practically escaping from there, which is confirmed, with the confidential paper, which has just been released, which Washington has not yet denied, where in addition to what was agreed in Doha , that the Taliban would not attack US targets after February 2020, there was a secret clause, in which the mullahs would commit to establishing "security rings" around US targets, to prevent attacks by Daesh Khorasan, as well as its "intermittent" allies of the Haqqani Network, who very often operate independently, to the decisions of the maximum Taliban leader, Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, beyond the fact that the emir and son of the founder of the Network, Sirajuddin Haqqani, he is one of the highest-ranking commanders in the Taliban structure. What has been left in doubt with the arrival of May, since according to statements by

the Taliban high command: "Until now our commitment not to attack foreign forces is until May 1, after that, whether we will attack or not is a topic under discussion". Although it is unlikely that he will do so, since it would be a provocation to harass such a powerful enemy, a little more than five months before he withdraws defeated and without time to define the 17,000 Afghans, with different degrees of

collaboration. , who are waiting for their visas to travel to the United States, knowing that they are sentenced to death, sentences that will inevitably be carried out sooner rather than later.

On the other hand, military experts agree that President Ashraf Ghani will have to leave the south of the country at the hands of the mullahs, if he intends to keep other more "peaceful" regions.

Regardless of what happens with the Doha agreements and the intra-Afghan talks after September 11, Afghanistan begins once again a year zero, full of turbulence, where two thirds of the almost forty million inhabitants live below the threshold of poverty, with close to five million internally displaced persons, without infrastructure and without industry, where everything is just desert and blood.

Image Source:  
<https://www.france24.com/>





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# Colombia: Nationally Made Armored Vehicles

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)



*Family of armored vehicles produced by a Colombian armorer based in Bogotá.*

The Colombian Armed Forces have a fairly heterogeneous set of nationally manufactured armored vehicles. They have been acquired in small lots, to cover specific needs, without obeying strategic plans for the development of the force, or to promote the national industry in the defense sector. Most of them are quite poorly designed, although they are functional for the purpose for which they were purchased. The previous experience of the manufacturers was limited to armoring luxury vehicles.

Colombian armorers have international fame in their sector, because they have armored dozens and dozens of cars each year, due to the high rates of violence and crime in Colombia. Some of these companies have armored vehicles for foreign clients, and others have taken their innovations to other countries, where they compete for quality and price.

The vehicles that can be seen in the photograph that it illustrates, have the appearance of old valuables transports, however, their functions are very different. From left to right we can see:

- A riot control vehicle with a front and rear water jet, as well as a push shovel to remove objects that block the streets, these vehicles can transport personnel from the Mobile Anti-Riot Squads (ESMAD), with all their individual equipment.
- The second vehicle is similar but smaller, it does not have the water jets, and instead LRAD devices (Long Range Acoustic Device or Long-Range Acoustic Device) have been placed. The LRAD is a "non-lethal weapon", produced by the American Technology Corporation of the USA. It has two uses: it can be used for the emission of messages and also for the emission of sounds that are painful. It is used in war situations, in emergencies and catastrophes, and especially to break up violent demonstrations. More recently, these types of vehicles have been equipped with the NL/TLMS (Non-Lethal / Tube-Launched Munition System of 38 mm. called Venom. This is a launch system of 30 ammunition, divided into 3 sections of 10, which manages to launch its load at a distance of 150 meters. The 'Venom' system can be loaded with stun rounds (flash-stud), smoke rounds (CS agent chemical load), rubber rounds, or combinations of these types of ammunition can be made. The device is operated with a manual control with several locks, and requires an electrical power source for its operation. Its use to repress social protest in 2021 was highly questioned in Colombia.

- The third vehicle model was acquired to equip road safety units within the framework of the so-called Meteor Plan, which aims to patrol critical areas of the national road network, with the aim of preventing armed groups from carrying out illegal checkpoints, blocking roads, kidnapping or cargo theft. The vehicles carry a squad of infantry, and are equipped with a turret armed with a machine gun or Mk.19 grenade launcher. They have served their purpose, and some have seen combat, been hit by enemy fire, and survived the experience.
- The fourth vehicle is like the previous one, but smaller. Its measurements allow it to be transported by air on board a C-130 Hercules transport plane. Some vehicles of this model serve in the Plan Meteoro units, and others have been assigned to Air Force bases to contribute to their safety.



*Anti-riot armor of the National Police of Colombia, equipped with the NL/TLMS Venom system on the cabin.*

We can see that, although they are not visually very attractive compared to other vehicles available on the market, they perform the functions for which they were purchased very well. The five models presented here (the one in the second photo is different from the previous ones), are only part of the diversity of armored vehicles produced nationally, which includes Gun Truck-type trucks, a vehicle similar to the Urutú, and also trap trailers, of those that sprout armed turrets and land troops, surprising the enemy.

In general, these vehicles consist of a commercial truck chassis, on which an armored body is applied, with armored glass. It is projected that they can be used for many years, because their maintenance is simple, and they use commercial spare parts available nationally and at affordable prices. In addition, they are very versatile, accepting upgrades, role changes, and the application of turrets, weapons, and systems to adapt to new missions. The most recent models of national armored vehicles are "prettier", although this is not a requirement that appears specified in the tender documents, it is a subjective criterion that somehow influences potential buyers. So now they can also compete in aesthetics.

It is not understood how the National Government / Ministry of Defense continues to buy armored vehicles of this segment abroad, and for functions that vehicles manufactured nationally can perfectly fulfill. It should be mandatory not to import what can be produced in Colombia, also demanding high quality standards from manufacturers. If the Ministry created a cluster of armorers, and gave them all the technical support and advice that they required, a good part of the armored vehicles required by the Armed Forces could be manufactured in the country, with a growing level of complexity and efficiency, which it would eventually allow them to compete in international markets.



*This is the most recent national armored vehicle acquired by the Colombian Army. Aesthetic improvements are observed.*

For example, Colombian companies are capable of producing improved versions of anti-riot and road patrol vehicles, but they can also produce vehicles with self-extending barriers, urban assault vehicles (SWAT type), wheeled personnel carriers (APC) for units of Mechanized/Motorized Infantry, Armored Command Post Vehicles, Armored Mortar Carrier Vehicles, Armored Sanitary Evacuation Vehicles, Armored Reconnaissance Vehicles, Armored Cargo/Ammunition Vehicles, Armored Artillery Trailer Vehicles, among many other possibilities. Of course, R&D is expensive, and so is producing prototypes, which is why companies must join together in a cluster, and have the support and financing of the Ministry of Defense, which will be the beneficiary of the progress made in this matter. Domestic companies can beat foreign bids on quality and price, given enough time, funding, and the promise of a large order. Everything depends on the political will, because we have technical capacities.

**Image Source:**

[www.militaryforces.org](http://www.militaryforces.org)

[https://www.wradio.com.co/images/4133345\\_n\\_vir3.JPG](https://www.wradio.com.co/images/4133345_n_vir3.JPG)

# World Anti-Terrorist Forces

*Audentes Fortuna iuvat*



Republic of Panama

## **National Border Service (SENAFRONT)**

The National Border Service, also called SENAFRONT (acronym for the National Border Service), is a branch of the Panamanian Public Force, responsible for carrying out land operations at the national level. Its main function is to "Guard the land and river borders of the Republic of Panama, as well as other functions inherent to police work in the country's border towns." The National Border Service is a specialized police institution legally constituted by Decree Law No. 8 of August 20, 2008. Currently, this institution has a barracks of approximately 6,000 troops.



SENAFRONT is attached to and depends administratively on the Ministry of Public Security, which is directed by the Executive Branch. This institution is in charge of guarding and maintaining effective control of the borders of Panama with Colombia and the borders of Panama with Costa Rica, naturally by land and river means, trying to prevent narco-guerrilla groups, criminal gangs and unauthorized human groups from crossing the borders towards Panamanian territory.

## Background

Due to the null presence of the Panamanian authorities on its borders with Colombia and Costa Rica in the 1990s and the focus of the governments on issues of greater relevance to the Panamanian state, the borders of Panama are neglected, something that the paramilitary organizations and narco-guerrillas such as the FARC, quickly took advantage, and the first attacks were made on the Panamanian police posts on the border between Panama and Colombia, in the province of Darién. After these attacks and the introduction of these paramilitary organizations from Colombia in Panamanian territory, the state began to pay more attention to its borders, for which several institutions were created that sought to deal with Panama's border security, such as the Special Border Service in 1993, the Reconnaissance and Combat Tactical Unit in 1997, the "DARKUN" in 2000 and the National Border Directorate in 2005, however, these institutions were not very effective, and the paramilitary and narco-guerrilla organizations continued to enter Panamanian territory.<sup>5</sup>



## Creation

On August 20, 2008, during the government of President Martin Torrijos, the National Border Service was created through Decree Law No. 8 of the Executive Branch, which specifies that it will be a specialized police institution in the border area, which will be of a permanent nature and also one of the components of the Public Forces. begins to make incursions into the jungles of the province of Darién, where most of these paramilitary groups were located, such as the 57th front of the FARC, likewise a border control is established both on the border between Panama and Colombia and on the border of Panama with Costa Rica

## Organic Structure

The highest leadership of the National Border Service is made up of the Director General and the Deputy Director General of the institution, together with the inspector general, the departments and advisory directorates.

### Departments

The institution currently has the following departments:

- Executive Secretary
- Department of Legal Advice
- Department of Internal Affairs
- Department of International Affairs
- Protocol and Ceremonial Department
- Armory Department

### Addresses

- The institution currently has twelve addresses:
- National Directorate of Human Resources
- National Intelligence Directorate
- National Directorate of Operations
- National Directorate of Finance

- National Directorate of Generals
- National Directorate of Telematics
- National Directorate of Transport
- National Directorate of Infrastructure
- National Directorate of Doctrine
- National Directorate of Citizen Security
- National Directorate of Labor Welfare
- National Direction of Planning and Strategic Development

## Organization

The National Border Service is currently organized into brigades, battalions and special forces groups, deployed throughout Panamanian territory, of which seven combat battalions and one logistics battalion. In general, the units of the National Border Service are organized in such a way that they are only in charge of guarding the border between Panama and Costa Rica and the border between Panama and Colombia.



## Operating Division

The National Border Service is divided into five main brigade groupings:

- First Eastern Brigade. Darien. 2020
- Second Caribbean Brigade. Nargana. 2016
- Third East Panama Brigade. Panama. 2020
- 4th Western Brigade. Progress. 2020
- Fifth Special Forces Brigade. Darien. 2009

### *1st Eastern Brigade*

It guards the border with Colombia and is divided into six battalions:

- Sambú River Battalion. Chepigana district. 2011
- Center Battalion. Pinogana district. 2007
- Pacific Battalion. Chepigana District. 2008
- General José de Fábrega Battalion. Chepigana District. 2011
- Support and Service Battalion. Darien. 2008
- Chucunaque Battalion. White slabs. 2008

### *Second Caribbean Brigade*

It guards the borders from the Caribbean coast with Colombia and is divided into four battalions:

- Nargana Battalion. Guna Yala. 2008
- Ustupu Battalion . Guna Yala. 2008
- Puerto Obaldia Battalion. Guna Yala. 2008
- Support and Service Battalion. Guna Yala. 2008

### *Third East Panama Brigade*

It guards the borders from the province of Panama and is divided into three battalions:

- Chepo Battalion. Panama. 2020

- Torti Battalion. Panama. 2020
- Support and Service Battalion. Panama. 2020

#### *4th Western Brigade*

It guards the borders with Costa Rica and is divided into four battalions:

- Support and Service Battalion. Chiriqui. 2020
- Second Lieutenant Aurelio Serracín Battalion. Chiriqui. 2020
- Colonel Tomás Armuelles Battalion. Chiriqui. 2020
- Guabito Battalion. Guabito. 2017

#### *5th Special Forces Brigade*

They are in charge of providing support to the different units:

- Special Forces Battalion. Darien. 2008
- Special Boats Unit. Darien. 2008
- Immediate Reaction Force Against Narcoterrorism. Darien. 2008
- Motorized Reaction Group. Darien. 2008
- Immediate Response Unit/Search and Rescue. Darien. 2008
- Canine unit. Darien. 2008



#### **Training**

The agents of the National Border Service receive training from the United States Army to be able to combat drug trafficking and to be able to deal with drug-guerrilla organizations such as the FARC and criminal gangs.

#### **Degrees**

The ranks or ranks of the National Border Service are regulated by Decree Law 8 of August 20, 2008, which states that the ranks or ranks will be granted strictly according to the hierarchical scale established therein, either by seniority or by merit. The degrees or ranks will be acquired permanently and can only be lost in cases of promotion, dismissal, resignation.

The grades or ranks of the National Border Service are ordered or classified by levels of authority:

#### **Shield**

The Shield of the National Border Service consists of a dark green map of the Republic of Panama and its borders with Costa Rica and Colombia. On the map, the letters that form the word "PANAMA" are written in black while on the The map flies over the harpy eagle in attack position, all this in the middle of three large stripes that cover the background with the colors of the national flag of Panama, red, white, and blue. In the upper and lower part of the three stripes there are gold-colored complements, in the upper complement written in black it says "SERVICIO NACIONAL DE FRONTERA" and in the lower complement also written in black it says "GOD AND PATRIA".

## Flag

The Flag of the National Border Service consists of a brown autumn color and in the middle is the shield of the National Border Service, in the lower part of the shield, written in gold, it says "PANAMA", and in the upper part of the shield, also in gold it says "SERVICIO NACIONAL DE FRONTERAS".



## Uniforms

The uniforms used by the members of the National Border Service are provided by the institution itself, as well as the institution providing them with the basic equipment that they must carry during their work. The uniforms vary depending on the grades that the officers have within the institution, likewise the uniforms must carry the rank and name depending on the function they have. The institution gives 3 types of uniforms initially when the troops join:

- Regular Type Uniforms
- Fatigue or Work Uniforms
- Gala and Etiquette type Uniforms

## Armament

### *Pistols*

Glock 17 Semiautomatic Pistol 9x19mm

### *submachine guns*

CZ Scorpion Evo 3 Submachine Gun 9x19mm

### *Assault rifles*

Colt M16A2 and A4 Assault Rifle 5.56x45mm

Colt M4 and M4A1 Carbine 5.56x45mm

AK-103 Assault Rifle 7.62x39mm

IWI Galil ACE Carbine 5.56 x 45 NATO

AKMS Assault Rifle 7.62x39mm

AMD-65 Carbine 7.62x39mm

### *sniper rifles*

Dragunov SVD Sniper Rifle 7.62x54mm

M40A5 Rifle Sniper Rifle 7.62 x 51 NATO

Barrett M82 Sniper Rifle 12.7 x 99 NATO

### *Machine guns*

FN Minimi Light Machine Gun 5.56 x 45 NATO

M249 Light Machine Gun 5.56 x 45 NATO

FN MAG General Purpose Machine Gun 7.62x51mm

M60 Machine Gun General Purpose Machine Gun 7.62x51mm

PKM General Purpose Machine Gun 7.62x54mm

Browning M1919A4 Medium Machine Gun 7.62x51mm

Browning M2HB Heavy/Stationary Machine Gun 12.7x99mm

*Rockets and grenade launchers*  
Colt M203 United 40mm Grenade Launcher  
RPG-18 Rocket Propelled Grenade  
RPG-7 Rocket Propelled Grenade

*mortars*  
Mortar M30 107mm  
Soltam Mortar 60mm  
Mortar M19 60mm

*Vehicles*  
Humvee (HMMWV) -Multipurpose High Mobility Vehicle  
Jeep J8 Artillado BPV -Border Patrol Vehicle - 30 currently





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