

DEFENCE AND SECURITY IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Pedro Dajer, FUDIS

“The Armed Forces are essentially obedient and non-political. In no case do they have faculty to deliberate. They were created with the purpose of defending the independence and integrity of the Republic, and keep public order in support of the Constitution and laws. They can intervene whenever requested by the Executive Government Branch in civic action programs and other plans destined to promote the social and economic development of the country.” This is contained in article 93 of the Dominican Republic Constitution. This results in that the duty of the national defence and security relies principally upon the Armed Forces.

The outlook of national defence and security changes according to the passing of time due to the events which have been registered, marking the course of history. For example, the outlook which existed in the beginning of the past century when the Dominican Republic was a victim of the first North American intervention during the dictatorship of Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, or later during the second North American Intervention, is not the same viewpoint of today.

At present and for many years back numerous changes demanded have occurred in relation to defence and security, principally due to two main factors: the globalization phenomenon and the terrorist attack of September 11 during the year 2001.

Globalization brings, among other things, the transnationalization of culture, values and social assets, causing varied opinions regarding important aspects of traditional national sovereignty while pressing for the changes to occur aimed to redefine the institution of the Armed Forces (FFAA) in such a manner as to include actors of the civil society as well as from other institutions of the Government in the task of defending the nation. There is an existing demand towards the entire replanting of strategies and defence policies.

Likewise, there has been an increasing demand to professionalize the Armed Forces (FFAA). This not only refers to academic formation specialized in strategic knowledge and military logistics, but rather addresses the necessary formation to train militaries to understand the mechanisms of democratic exercise, national prerogatives, and mainly, the treatment of human rights.

Another demand, regarding internal security is that which refers to the demilitarization of the National Police; this is because always in the Dominican Republic, although it has been emphasized during recent years, there has been transposition of duties between army and police. This may be noticed in the existing mixed patrol battalions, and if we take a look at higher military levels, we may see a practice of choosing officers of the Armed Forces to become Chiefs of the National Police (two of the most recent three police chiefs are militaries).

The September 11 terrorist attack which occurred against the United States during the year 2001 marked a great change that affected the security and defence concept not only for the United States, but also for the entire world, and right after such an occurrence,

the security component was incorporated into the frame of economic and commercial integration negotiations.

The result from all this and other factors is that the Armed Forces have had to refocus their roles taking into account a the new frame presented as a point of battle and prevention of terrorism and drug trafficking which comes to be united to the duty of making national order prevail in the face of unpleasant situations which may arise inside the country and the guard of the Dominican-Haitian frontier.

Well now, what has been done to comply with these new demands?

In 1996, the Instituto Militar de Educación Superior (IMES) which stands for Military Institute of Higher Education, was created to improve the educational level and reinforce proper knowledge to allow military members to adequately adjust to the technological, economic and cultural advances increasingly being experienced in the world. Later, in the year 200 the Instituto de Altos Estudios para la Defensa y Seguridad Nacional (IAEDESSEN) which stands for Institute of High Learning for the National Defence and Security, was created, which is more adaptable to the new global and national tendencies in respect to security, defence and national development, and where more importance is given to matters referring to knowledge and respect of human rights. An important factor is that the registration of civil is allowed, although conditioned, in the masteries imparted by this institute, a fact which promotes civic-military relations.

On the other hand, in the new Organic Law No.96-04 of the National Police which was enacted, it is established that the Chief of the National Police must be an active officer with more than 20 years experience in the institution and be a graduate of the Police Specialized Institute of High Learning; this law prohibits that this position be executed by an active member of the Armed Forces, which constitutes a clear example of the efforts being made to demilitarize the National Police.

In the procurement to help offset and prevent terrorism, the different bodies composing the Armed Forces have been submitted to numerous specialized training, and on its part the State has made considerable investments in high technology equipment to achieve better efficiency in that sector.

To conclude it should be pointed out that as new events take place through the passing of time, defence and national security objectives and roles of the Armed Forces should become reinforced and adapted to the new situation and other needs. Defence and national security will depend on the time it will take for the Armed Forces to adapt to these new requirements.

**Functional Classification of expenses executed 2002-2003,
Budgeted 2004, central administration
(In %)**

Source: "Income Budget and Law of Public Expenses of the Central Government, year 2004", National Budget Office

DUTIES	2001	2002	2003	2004
General Services	20.0	21.7	16.2	15.4
General Administration	8.5	11.7	8.0	7.5
Justice and Public Order	4.6	4.3	3.6	3.7
National Defense	6.1	4.7	3.8	3.1
International Relations	0.6	1.1	0.9	1.1
Social Services	46.6	45.7	39.4	37.2
Education	15.6	15.9	13.2	11.7
Sports, Rec., Cul., & Rel.	1.4	2.5	2.5	1.4
Health	10.6	10.5	8.7	7.9
Social Assistance	6.4	4.2	3.5	3.6
Housing & Urbanism	3.0	2.7	2.2	0.5
Potable Water and	2.1	2.7	2.3	3.2
Sewerage	4.2	4.4	3.7	4.8
Municipal Services	3.4	2.7	3.3	4.1
Social Security				
	19.7	20.4	15.8	14.3
Economic Services				
	5.4	5.0	4.2	3.4
Farming and Fishing	1.5	1.3	1.1	0.9
Irrigation	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4
Industry and Commerce	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Mining	8.5	6.7	4.5	3.5
Transportation	0.1	1.2	1.0	0.5
Communications	2.1	3.9	3.3	4.5
Energy	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6
Tourism	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Labor	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Banking and Insurance				
	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.7
Environmental Protection	12.9	11.6	28.1	32.4
Public Debt				

**Classification of expense executed 2002-2003, budgeted 2004
By institution (in millions RD\$ and percentages)**

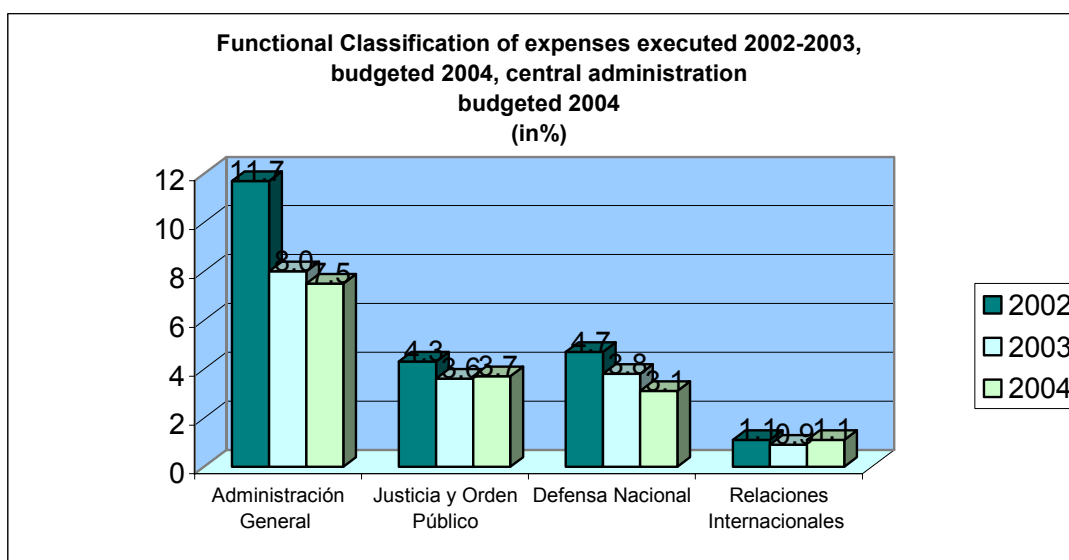
Institution	Executed* 2002	Part. %	Executed* 2003	Part. %	Budgeted 2004	Part. %
National Congress	771.3	1.0	940.6	1.0	1,063.5	0.9
Presidency of the Rep.	14,832.4	20.1	11,834.8	12.9	8,267.0	6.8
Sec. Interior & Police	5,835.3	7.9	6,758.5	7.4	9,032.0	7.5
Sec. FFAA Armed Forces	4,257.8	5.8	4,789.9	5.2	5,214.5	4.3
Sec. External Affairs	724.3	1.0	1,026.8	1.1	1,309.3	1.1
Sec. Finance	2,683.9	3.6	4,327.4	4.7	10,604.9	8.8
Sec. Education	9,151.0	12.4	9,419.3	10.3	12,770.6	10.6
Sec. Public Health	7,368.7	10.0	6,889.7	7.5	12,575.1	10.4
Sec. Sports	1,176.0	1.6	2,055.2	2.2	1,099.3	0.9
Sec. Labor	626.8	0.8	915.5	1.0	569.9	0.5
Sec. Agriculture	3,681.7	5.0	3,836.4	4.2	4,072.0	3.4
Sec. Public Works	3,884.5	5.3	3,916.7	4.3	3,068.9	2.5
Sec. Industry and Commerce	282.6	0.4	604.2	0.7	513.9	0.4
Sec. Tourism	643.7	0.9	702.1	0.8	775.2	0.6
Attorneyship Gral.of the Rep.	453.7	0.6	511.0	0.6	665.2	0.6
Sec. Woman	113.5	0.2	137.8	0.2	199.9	0.2
Sec. Culture	420.3	0.6	415.5	0.5	512.2	0.4
Sec. Youth	127.0	0.2	116.4	0.1	144.7	0.1
Sec. Environment	1,216.4	1.6	1,465.9	1.6	1,833.1	1.5
Sec. Higher Education	1,183.6	1.6	1,268.0	1.4	1,511.0	1.2
Judicial Power	948.0	1.3	998.5	1.1	1,362.5	1.1
Central Electoral Board	1,113.6	1.5	713.4	0.8	1,834.4	1.5
Chamber of Accounts	61.0	0.1	95.4	0.1	130.0	0.1
Public Debt	10,266.7	13.9	25,972.2	28.3	39,085.4	32.3
Tesoro Nacional	2,026.2	2.7	1,952.1	2.1	2,712.9	2.2

Source: "Income Budget and Law of Public Expenses of the Central Government, year 2004", National Budget Office

Distribution of the Budgeted Expense for 2004 by programmatic structure of the Secretariat of State of the Armed Forces (in RDS)

Description	Total
Central activities	589,175,676
Land Defense	1,801,964,170
Naval Defense	849,186,273
Air Defense	1,006,445,784
Administration of special contributions	967,731,242
Total	5,214,503,145

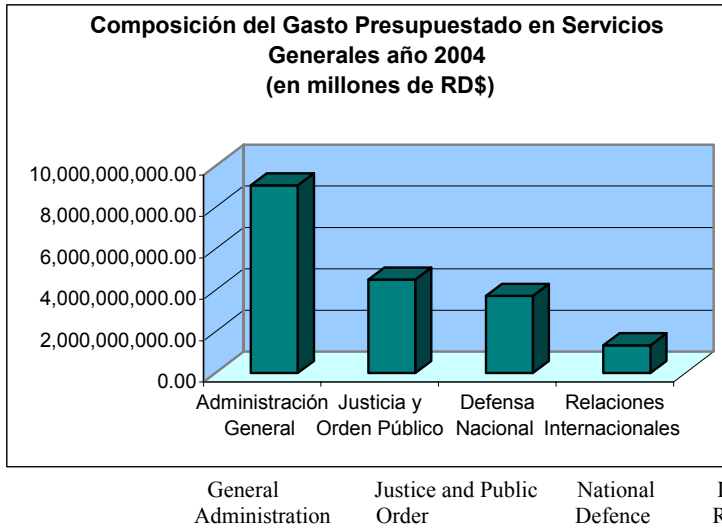
Source: "Income Budget and Law of Public Expenses of the Central Government, year 2004", National Budget Office



Source: "Income Budget and Law of Public Expenses of the Central Government, year 2004", National Budget Office

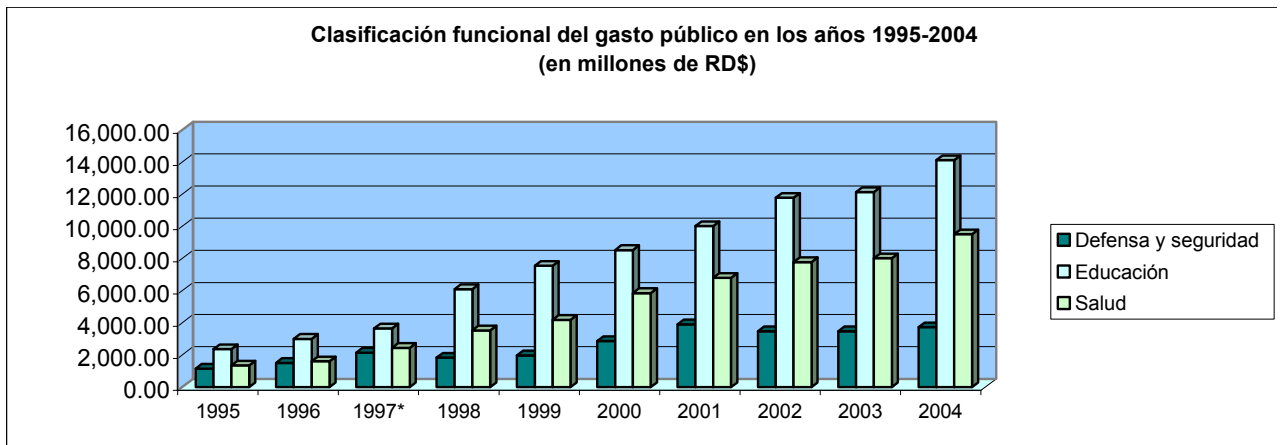
General Administration Justice and Public Order National Defence International Relations

Composition of the Budgeted Expense in General Services year 2004 (in millions RDS)



Source: "Income Budget and Law of Public Expenses of the Central Government, year 2004", National Planning Office.

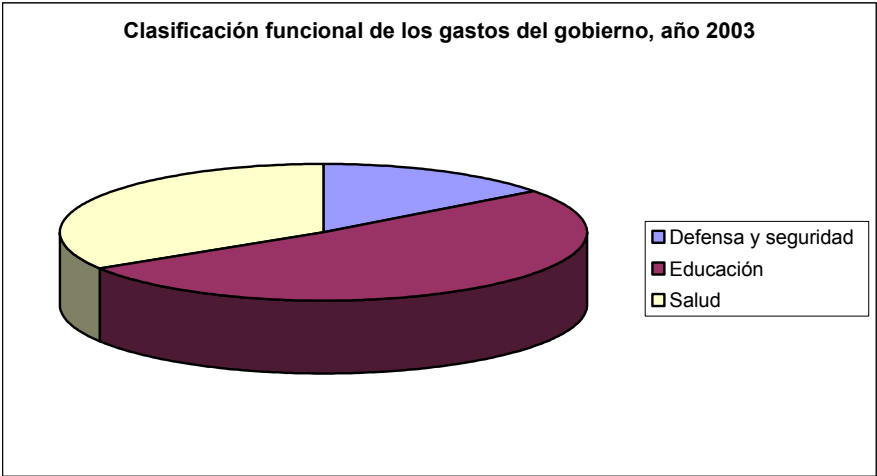
Functional Classification of public expenses for 1995-2004
(In millions RD\$)



Source: "Income Budget and Law of Public Expenses of the Central Government, year 2004", National Planning Office, General Comptroller Office of the Republic, *Preliminary figures

Defense and security
 Education
 Health

Functional Classification of government expenses, year 2003



Defense and security
Education
Health

Source: "Income Budget and Law of Public Expenses of the Central Government, year 2004", National Planning Office.