

Central African Republic National Gendarmerie

Year Established: 1962

Ministry: Ministry of Public Security

Status of the leader: military

Address of head-office or the Central headquarter.

Direction Générale de la Gendarmerie Nationale
BP 790 BANGUI, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



History of the Institution

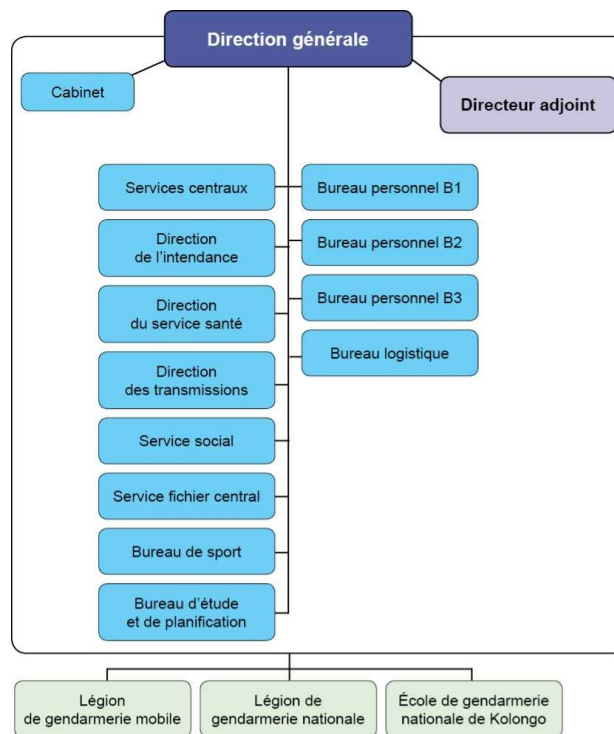
The French National Gendarmerie was established at the end of the 1920s in the colony of Oubangui-Chari which was part of French Equatorial Africa (AEF). In 1945, a section was created in this territory and the first African auxiliary gendarmes were recruited the following year. Ten years later, a company was formed in Bangui. It was successively called the Oubangui-Chari group and then the Central African group.

At the time of independence in August 1960, this group became the Gendarmerie Legion of the Central African Republic, and later the Central African Gendarmerie. The number of gendarmes was 1,600 in 1970, nearly 1,000 in 1983 and approximately 1,300 in the early 1990s.

In 1991, the National Gendarmerie of the Central African Republic comprised a territorial gendarmerie legion divided into 4 groups, 15 companies and 116 brigades and specialized units, as well as a mobile gendarmerie legion made up of a service squadron, two intervention squadrons and an intervention group of the National Gendarmerie.

In 2003, the Central African Gendarmerie was composed of four battalions, a mobile legion, a territorial legion, and a training center. Over the course of its history, the institution has been confronted with several coups d'état and three civil wars starting in 2004. Inter-ethnic and inter-religious confrontations as well as violence within the civilian population provoked a humanitarian crisis that led to the intervention of the European Union with the deployment of the European Gendarmerie Force (EUFOR CAR), the African Union and the UN (MINUSCA).

Organisation Central Administration



Territorial organization

- National Gendarmerie Legion:
 - 6 groups,
 - 16 companies,
 - 5 surveillance and intervention platoons,
 - 1 Criminal investigation section,
 - 4 Criminal investigation brigades,
 - 114 territorial brigades.
- Mobile Gendarmerie Legion.

Missions

The Central African Gendarmerie is a military force which missions, in cooperation with the Central African Police Force, consist of ensuring public safety and security, maintaining order and enforcing laws in order to protect institutions, people and property.



Human resources

Overall numbers (or Overall actual).

The Central African Gendarmerie comprises 2,220 personnel, officers and non-commissioned officers. They have military status. There are no conscripts in the gendarmerie because there is no conscription in the Central African Republic. Women have been recruited since 1990. Barracking is not the norm for all gendarmes. In Bangui, some are provided with accommodation in the Izamo camp.

Training Organisms

The National Gendarmerie School is located in the Kolongo district in the 6th arrondissement in the south of Bangui.



Special capabilities:

Weapons: pistols, MAT-49, MAS 36, Kalashnikov, DKM, RPG 7, Makarov handguns.

Links with the French Gendarmerie Cooperation

Until 2013, gendarmes from the technical and structural cooperation within the Central African gendarmerie and police were embarked upon in the framework of the Security Sector Reform (SSR).

