

Congolese National Gendarmerie

Year of creation: 1960

Ministry of affiliation: Ministry of National Defense

Status of the leader: military

Address of head-office or the Central headquarter.

Camp de la Milice - Avenue de l'O.U.A. - BP 2089 - BRAZZAVILLE - CONGO

Website :

<https://www.facebook.com/people/gendarmerie-nationale-du-Congo/100063570728660/>



History of the Institution

Before the independence proclaimed on August 15th, 1960, a detachment of the French Gendarmerie was established during the inter-war period in the colony of Congo integrated into the French Equatorial Africa (AEF). It was transformed into a section by the decree n° 49-1366 of August 23rd, 1949, into a company with the decree n° 1923/CM.D of June 7th, 1956, then into a group.

The Congolese National Gendarmerie was created by decree no. 61-43 of February 16th, 1961, according to the French model, to which it remained very attached.

In June 1966, it became part of the new popular army. Following Lieutenant Pierre Kiganga's abortive attempted putsch against President Marien Ngouabi in March 1970, the Congolese gendarmerie was dissolved on April 3rd, 1970, because of accusations of complicity against certain gendarmes. Its personnel, infrastructure, and equipment were then divided between the police and the army.

The Congolese gendarmerie was restored on June 18th, 1991, and its existence is enshrined in Article 161 of the Constitution of the Republic of Congo of March 15th, 1992, which states that: "The public force is composed of the national police, the gendarmerie and the Congolese armed forces". Article 164 states that: "The National Gendarmerie is a military and civilian force; it operates throughout the territory of the Republic and in the armed forces".

The year 2001 was the year of reorganisation with two texts concerning its use and functioning, including Ordinance No. 5-2001 of February 5th, 2001. The constitution of January 20th, 2002 reproduces in its article 170 the terms of article 161 of the 1992 constitution. It also maintains the dual security system of the National Police and the National Gendarmerie. In 2012, the Gendarmerie was given a Technical Service for Judicial Research and Documentation (TSJRD).

In May 2014, the Congolese Parliament passed Law No. 21-2014 on the orientation and programming of the Congolese Public Force, which defines the development and modernisation perspective of this public force in order to accompany the Congo towards the emergence defined for 2025. As of 2015, the Congolese gendarmerie will see its manpower increase by 45%. Its motto: "Honor, Law and Homeland".

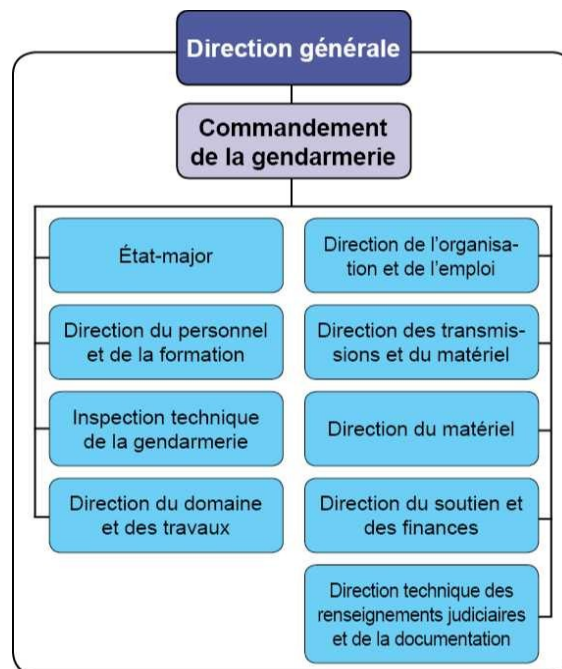


Organisation

The Congolese National Gendarmerie reports to the Ministry of National Defense and is on the same level as the Congolese Armed Forces (CAF).

Central Administration

The command of the Congolese National Gendarmerie, having a central headquarter role, is located in Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of Congo. It includes:



Territorial organisation

- 7 regions.
- 19 companies.
- 79 territorial brigades.

In 2015, three new regions are to be created with 18 companies, 51 territorial brigades, 26 posts, 6 criminal investigations brigades, 2 road safety squads.

Specialised units

- A GIGN-type intervention unit (currently being created).
- A mobile gendarmerie group made up of squadrons and intervention platoons.
- An air transport gendarmerie group with 2 companies (Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire).
- A railway transport gendarmerie company (Pointe-Noire).
- A maritime gendarmerie group.
- 3 road safety squads. Two others are being created.
- Criminal investigation brigades.

The Republican Guard is a separate unit (Presidential Guard) that is not under the authority of the Gendarmerie Command.



Missions

The Congolese National Gendarmerie missions are very diverse and include the surveillance and defense of the territory, national security, the maintenance of public order and the execution of the laws of the Republic.

Human resources

This force has nearly 3,870 personnels with military status, 15% of whom are women. There are no conscripts. Gendarmes are supposed to be housed by the State (CL- NAS), but since the re-creation, a large part of the housing has not yet been retroceded.

Recruitment is by competitive examination with common training at the military academy, then at the application course at the gendarmerie officers' school abroad (including France). The conditions of recruitment for non-commissioned officers established in 2014 are:

- To be of Congolese nationality;
- To be at least 18 years old and no more than 27 years old on the date of the competition;
- To hold a baccalaureate or equivalent diploma;
- To be medically and physically apt;
- To enjoy their civil and civic rights and to be of good character;
- To be at least 1.70 m tall for men and 1.65 m tall for women;
- To be single and childless;
- To be ready to serve in all places and under all circumstances throughout the national territory.

Training Organisms

The National Gendarmerie School is located in the Djoué camp, not far from the Bifouiti market, in Brazzaville. In addition to initial training, it provides preparation for the Gendarmerie's higher qualification diploma (GHQD) and the diploma of judicial police officer (DJPO).

Special capabilities:

Armor vehicles: some VBRG type armor (CoBRA) and armored personnel carriers to maintain order.

Armament: PA Makarov or Tokarev, Kalashnikovs, Cougars, but also of 14.5 mm bitubes.



Links with the French Gendarmerie

There is a gendarmerie technical cooperation agreement between France and the Congo dating from 1974, which was followed by several three-year implementation agreements entitled "institutional support to the gendarmerie".

The current agreement for the implementation of the project "support to internal security gendarmerie" was signed on June 7th, 2012 and covers the period 2012-2015.

This agreement has two main objectives:

- Counseling: to promote the exercise of command by contributing:
 - to the elaboration of the regulations relating to the organisation and employment of the institution, and promoting its implementation and monitoring,
 - to the improvement of the performance of the directorates, especially in the "human resources" field,
 - to the improvement of the material conditions of operation of the gendarmerie headquarters, and its chain of command.
- Training: the aim is to make the gendarmerie autonomous in meeting its
 - basic needs in terms of initial and continuing training of officers and non-commissioned officers, by contributing:
 - to the professional, technical, and ethical training of officer and non-commissioned officer personnel,
 - to the monitoring of the implementation of the educational structures of the training school,
 - to the development of the pedagogical content of the training cycle of officers and non-commissioned officers.

