

Burkina Faso National Gendarmerie

Year of creation: 1960

Ministry: Ministry of National Defense and Veterans Affairs

Status of the leader: military

Address of the headquarters or central staff:

Etat-major de la Gendarmerie Nationale 01 BP : 361 - OUAGADOUGOU

Website : <https://gendarmerienationale.bf>



History of the Institution

The Burkina Faso National Gendarmerie is the heir of the French National Gendarmerie, which first post was established in Ouagadougou on June 2nd, 1939. Within the framework of the Upper Volta colony, the French Gendarmerie was organized into sections by decree n°49-1365 of August 23rd, 1949, then into companies by decree n°51-1455 of December 18th, 1951, and into groups by the interministerial decision of November 27th, 1957.

The Burkinabe National Gendarmerie was created in 1960, when the Republic of Upper Volta gained independence. It is part of the Burkinabe national army created by law 74-60/AN of August 3rd, 1960. In 1967, the decree of April 6th, sets the rules of employment of the National Gendarmerie.

Decree No. 77-358/PRES/DN-AC of September 20th, 1977, provided for the creation of a national gendarmerie school. The corps underwent changes closely linked to the history of its country and in particular during the revolutionary period from 1983 to 1987. On August 4th, 1984, the Republic of Upper Volta became Burkina Faso ('Home of men of integrity').

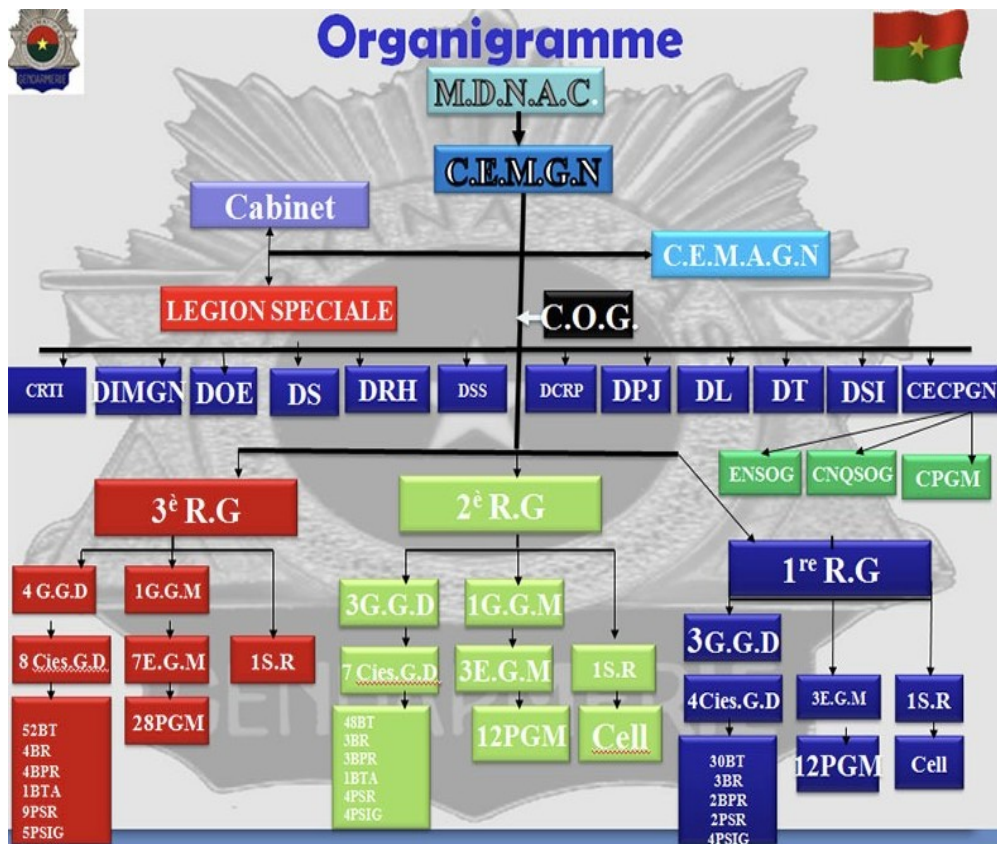
In 1985, a major restructuring took place with the creation of 6 gendarmerie groups (Dori, Ouahigouya, Dédougou, Bobo, Ouagadougou, Fada). In 1994, it was decided to create 3 gendarmerie regions (Kaya, Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouagadougou).

The Burkina Faso National Gendarmerie was reorganized by Decree No. 95-102/PRES/PM/DEF of March 7th 1995. In 2007, the recruitment was feminized. In December 2013, Colonel Major of the Gendarmerie, Yipéné Djibril Bassolé, became the first brigadier general of the corps.



Organization

The Burkinabe Gendarmerie is an integral part of the armed forces, and is under the authority of the Ministry of National Defense and Veterans Affairs.



Central administration

An Headquarter (equivalent to the French National Gendarmerie General Direction - NGGD), which includes the main directorates (OE/RH/ LOG/PJ/TI/COM...).

Territorial organization

- 3 Gendarmerie regions (1/Kaya - 2/Bobo Dioulasso - 3/Ouagadougou).
- Operational units of the GD and GM divided according to the French model into groups, companies, squadrons... but also BR - SR...

Specialized formations

The gendarmerie has an honor and security squadron that could be similar to the Republican Guard (motorcycle squadron/cavalry squadron...) for the Presidency. It is also present in all institutions via seconded personnel.



@ The brand-new Special Legion, created in 2022 and commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Evrad Somda, includes the Gendarmerie National Intervention Special Unit (GNISU) of which he was Commander at the time, as well as the honor and security squadron, and the Intervention and Surveillance Quick Response Group (ISQRG).

Starting in 2019, the Intervention and Surveillance Quick Response Group (ISQRG), created by a European Union-funded project for the G5 countries (Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Burkina-Faso and Chad) as well as Senegal, enables the operational implementation of four GARSI-SAHEL in Burkina-Faso, for the fight against terrorism in the north, at Toeni and Barani, as well as in the southwest, at Iolonioro and Mangodara. These four specialized units, made up of 480 officers and non-commissioned officers from the Burkinabe Gendarmerie and integrated into the Special Legion in 2022, will be operational from January 2022, with very positive results (over 400 suspected terrorists arrested, numerous terrorist neutralised, and the return of certain displaced populations in the North to their villages deserted by terrorist attacks).

Missions

The missions are identical to those of the French Gendarmerie on the whole spectrum. We find the three main missions of administrative police, judicial police, and military police.

Human resources

The Burkina Faso National Gendarmerie has 8,500 men and women.

Officers are trained at the military academy in Pô (Burkina Faso) or in gendarmerie officer schools abroad. Non-commissioned officers are trained at the national school for non-commissioned officers of the gendarmerie in Bobo Dioulasso. The schooling lasts 2 years. Gendarmes can then prepare for the Judicial Police Officer (JPO or Criminal investigator) and the qualification course for senior officers. There are no specific diplomas required for the mobile gendarmerie. Male and female personnel can serve independently in the mobile gendarmerie and the departmental gendarmerie throughout their career.

Training organisations

- The National School for Non-commissioned Officers of the Gendarmerie (NSNOG) in Bobo-Dioulasso.
- There is no officer training school for the Burkinabe gendarmerie. Since 1946, the French EOGN has trained 90 Burkinabè officers.

Special capabilities:

Weaponry: PA (GK or SIG) - Kalashnikov rifle.

Links with the French Gendarmerie

External missions

Apart from the purchase of equipment, short missions are regularly initiated by theme according to needs, and training is provided both in France and at the Gendarmerie Non-Commissioned National School (GNCNS), which has a regional vocation.

The Burkina Faso National Gendarmerie participates in external operations in Darfur, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, and since 2014 in Mali within the detachment of the national armed forces.

Liaison officers

A three-year agreement signed with France results in the presence of two permanent French cooperants, one coordinating all gendarmerie projects under the chief of staff in Ouagadougou, the second in Bobo Dioulasso under the commander of the schools as a training advisor and expert in law enforcement.

