MEXICO’S NATIONAL GUARD

What do we know so far?

JANUARY 2020
SOME CONTEXT

• What is it?
  • A police force, with military design and outlook
  • Some similarities to a gendarmerie force
  • Formally, it is a part of the Ministry of Public Safety (SSPC)

• What is it for?
  • Territorial control (allegedly)
  • Increased federal presence at the state and local levels

• Why was it created?
  • Gradual nationalization of public safety
  • Emergency narrative
  • Mistrust towards the Federal Police
  • Personal style
SOME CONTEXT

• Does it look like foreign models?
  • Some similarities to Chile (Carabineros) and Colombia (Policía Nacional)
  • Not really like France, Spain or Italy

• How big will it be?
  • Initially, 50-70,000
  • Mostly military personnel
  • In the medium term, 130-140,000 (if recruitment goals are met)
How “military” is the National Guard?

GN troops by origin (October 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td>35232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PF</td>
<td>14738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDENA (Support)</td>
<td>13464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PN</td>
<td>6871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMAR (Support)</td>
<td>615</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 70,920

GN troops by origin, % (October 2019)

- PM: 49%
- PF: 19%
- SEDENA (Support): 21%
- PN: 10%
- SEMAR (Support): 1%

Source: SSPC
Where are they recruiting?

• 12 recruitment centers, all in Army bases

1. Campo Militar No. 1-L, CDMX
2. Campo Militar No. 2-B, Mexicali B.C.
3. Campo Militar No. 9-B, Mazatlán, Sinaloa.
4. Campo Militar No. 7-A, Apodaca, Nuevo León.
5. Campo Militar No. 15-A, La Mojonera, Jalisco.
7. Campo Militar No. 31-B, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas.
11. Campo Militar No. 6-B, Torreón Coahuila.
How are they trained?

- Induction course (veterans)
  - 7 weeks
  - 385 class hours
  - 3677 officers per course
How are they trained?

- Induction course (new troops)
  - 5 months
  - 972 class hours
  - 2414 troops in the first generation
How are they deployed?

GN deployment by state, absolute numbers
(October 2019)

Source: SSPC
Where are they deployed?

GN deployment by state
Troops per 1000 inhabitants (October 2019)

Fuente: SSPC
How much money is being spent?

GN: budget project 2020 by expenditure chapter (MXN millions)

- Servicios personales: 2842
- Gasto de operación: 1000
- Materiales y suministros: 0
- Gasto de inversión: 0

Source: PPEF 2020

GN: budget project 2020, wages and benefits, by expenditure concept (MXN millions)

- Remuneraciones adicionales y especiales: 1600
- Seguridad social: 1242

Source: PPEF 2020

- GN: no position listed in SSPC budget analytics
- No budget alloted for the creation of new positions in 2020
So what do we know?

• The construction of the GN is led by SEDENA (Defense), not by SSPC
• The GN is growing by transferring more military personnel, not by recruiting civilians.
• The deployment of the GN is driven by institutional inertia, not by operational needs.
• There is no real border between the GN and the armed forces. The “functional separation” requirement, established by law, is being met with something called “oficios de comisión”.
• This is not a temporary situation. There are no budget allocations to hire personnel at the GN in 2020.
But will it work?

- No increase in personnel in the short term
  - Military units at the GN were already deployed and doing LE work
  - No net increase in number of deployed troops
  - Potential loss of PF personnel

- Unrealistic recruitment goals
  - Net recruitment by armed forces, 1998-2018: 34,000
  - Increased strain on Army and Navy

- Legal problems
  - Potential legal challenges on "functional separation" issue
  - Potential challenges on legality of arrests made by GN
  - Myriad administrative problems because of unorthodox arrangement

- Long-term sustainability?
  - GN could be basically closed down within 24 hours without even going through Congress.
THANK YOU

Alejandro Hope

alejandrohope@outlook.com

Twitter: @ahope71