



GUARDIA CIVIL

Specialties





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Public Safety



Public Safety Units' main mission is to protect the free exercise of citizens' rights and freedoms through the use of preventive measures. The territorial deployment of Guardia Civil allows covering an extensive area, protecting a large number of citizens who highly value the proximity of this service. This distribution also allows the members of Public Safety Units to establish a close relationship with their cohabitants, preventing risk situations, assisting when needed and to investigating when circumstances required it.

During the last few years, the Guardia Civil has adapted its methods to the current needs of citizens. To date, those Units working in rural areas have sophisticated resources to provide an efficient, fast and customized attention to citizens, using state-of-the-art technologies to guarantee a faster daily service. Currently, our vehicles have built-in GPS systems allowing the Operational Service Centres to distribute and optimize all available resources at any moment, with the aim of fulfilling every single existing demand.

In order to cover the needs of the Guardia Civil Stations, there is a Public Safety Unit specialized and centralized at Provincial HQ level. Its mission is to increase police presence where most needed, to establish a closer link with the population, and thus ensuring the security demanded by citizens.





Road Traffic Group



This Group, created on 26 August 1959 pursuant to the General Order No 32, is specialized in any matter related to performing the tasks assigned to Guardia Civil in the field of road traffic, transports and intercity public roads and streets, as well as inner city traffic where applicable. It was specifically designed, trained and organized to this end.

The Units included in the Road Traffic Group are responsible for prevention of crimes against road safety and accidents, including the investigation of the causes; assisting and protecting the users of public roads; restoring safety and flow of vehicles in case of disturbance; controlling traffic to improve the traffic flow; enforcing traffic regulations and road transports; watching over public roadways; and any other task entrusted to them upon legal provisions or regulations.



Environmental Protection Service



The Environmental Protection Service of Guardia Civil (also known as SEPRONA) was established within the Guardia Civil institution by General Order 72/1988, as a result of the article 12.1 B.e) of the Organic Law 2/1986 of 13 March, on the State Security Forces and Bodies.

This Service was restructured in 2000 and 2011. Today it has around 2,000 members responsible for law enforcement with regard to nature and environmental protection in its broadest sense.

More than 27 years after its creation, SEPRONA has become an essential icon in Spanish rural scene, although this specialized service also develops an important task in protecting urban environments. Currently, it is one of the Guardia Civil units enjoying a greater social recognition.





Air Service



Since the Helicopter Service was created in 1973, Guardia Civil has increased the services provided to citizens by means of its Helicopter Units, which have strengthened the operational capacity of the Institution in many senses, either working separately or in co-ordination with other units.

The Air Service is the specialized group acting when the mission entrusted requires the use of aeronautical means and equipments.

Its specific mission consists in organizing, coordinating and exploiting the air resources of Guardia Civil. It also provides technical advice regarding the exercise of competences covered by GC as aeronautical administrative police. Besides, it cooperates with the relevant judicial authorities in issues corresponding to this field.

Since 2008, the Air Service has a fixed wing section in which operate two CESSNA CN-35 aircraft, that basically carry out immigration control services.



Remount & Dog Handling Service



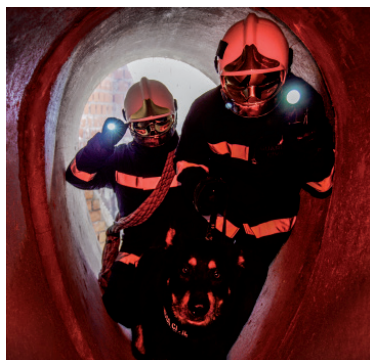
The Remount & Dog Handling Service (SECIR) is a specialized unit of Guardia Civil that uses dogs in the interest of providing services to citizens.

Under SECIR we can find the Dog Training Centre (CADEPE) and the Central Dog Handling Unit (UCICE), both located in El Pardo (Madrid).

The dogs are trained for drug and explosive detection, as well as for security and rescue purposes. The training also includes other detection categories such as currency, fire accelerants, submerged human remains, biological traces, poisoned baits, fired weapons, drugs and tobacco passive alert.

CADEPE is responsible for the selection of students and their subsequent training through specialization courses. This Centre is not only the oldest in Spain, but it is also a pioneer in the implementation of the FRONTEX training system.

UCICE is made up of handlers-trainers whose mission is training service dogs, as well as providing operational support to other Guardia Civil units throughout the Spanish territory.





EOD & CBRN



The specific mission of this service consists in organizing, managing and conducting operations aimed at searching for, detecting, neutralizing and making safe all sort of devices (explosive, incendiary, radiological, biological or chemical), as well as interventions in CBRN emergency situations. This overall mission comprises the following basic tasks: acting in the reestablishment of security after a bomb threat; technical supervision and maintenance of the CBRN Defence System of Guardia Civil; gathering, studying, assessing and spreading relevant information concerning new detection and defusing equipments, techniques and procedures.

In 1973, the position of “Expert in explosives” was created. The evolution of the different types of threats has demanded from the Guardia Civil a considerable structural update in order to respond adequately to them, resulting in the establishment of the present Explosive Ordnance Disposal and CBRN Defence Service.



Maritime Service



Although the Royal Decree of 22nd February 1991 could be considered the Founding Act for the Guardia Civil Sea Service, it started working in 1992 (General Order No 51, of 17th March). This service originated in the requirements to provide the institution with adequate equipment and qualified human resources to cope with all the tasks assigned within Spanish territorial waters and, exceptionally, beyond them.

The functions entrusted to this service are: prevention and investigation of criminal offences; drafting of preliminary and technical reports; fighting illegal immigration; prevention and fight against fraud and smuggling; environmental and nature protection; fishery inspection and supervision; and protection of the Spanish national sunken heritage.





Mountain Rescue



The specific mission of the Mountain Rescue Service consists in carrying out those tasks assigned to Guardia Civil in mountain areas or in other locations that, due to their difficult orographic or climatological characteristics, require special physical and technical skills, and the use of appropriate technical equipments.

This specific mission comprises the following basic tasks: to provide assistance to injured, lost or isolated people in mountain areas or in places of difficult access; to look after the enforcement of the environmental protection laws in high mountain areas; to ensure safety and compliance with the legislation in force in these areas; to carry out surveillance and prevention tasks; and to maintain law and order on ski slopes and in mountain sports competitions.



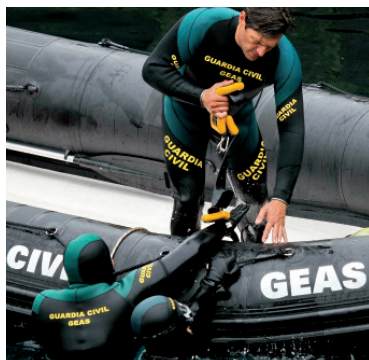
Underwater Search



In 1962, some underwater search activities were documented in Almeria. However, this specialized unit was officially established in 1981 in the form of Specialized Groups for Underwater Activities (GEAS).

Their main tasks are related with water and underwater environments:

- Searching, finding and rescuing persons or objects in aquatic environments.
- Surveillance, prevention and protection of historical sunken national heritage.
- Criminal investigation tasks related to incidents in underwater environments.
- Support to other units in technical and operational matters related to this field.
- Reconnaissance of the seabed, vessel hulls, submerged heritage or other objects.
- Exploration and reconnaissance of the seabed (or any underwater floor) using remote controlled devices.





Intelligence Service



The Intelligence Service, directly under the Operations Command, is in charge of organizing, conducting and managing how to gather, receive, process, analyze and disseminate the relevant information for law and order purposes in the context of Guardia Civil daily tasks. It is also responsible for the operational use of information, especially as regards counter-terrorism at national and international levels.

The Intelligence Service of Guardia Civil (SIGC) is comprised of a number of specific Intelligence Units working together as a whole to fight terrorism and fulfil any other task entrusted upon them.

In addition to the activities specific to the SIGC, gathering information intended to facilitate decision-making by the relevant Commands and its subsequent dissemination is a responsibility shared by all members of the Institution, regardless of their department or assignment, directly under the authority of their natural commanders.



Criminal Investigation Police



The Criminal Investigation Police Units are responsible for investigating and fighting crimes and offences by means of specific investigation police tasks, i.e. those deriving from their functional relationship with the Judicial Authorities and the Prosecution, implementing all the services ordered by them.

To this end, the Units develop investigating tasks, strategic and operational analyses, intelligence production and other forensic missions. On top of this, they keep contacts with Universities, specialized forums, and other national and international security agencies and organizations with whom they intensely cooperate in the fight against threats to society.

The Service is structured as follows: A Command Office, that includes the Central Operational Unit (UCO), the Criminal Investigation Technical Unit, the Criminalistic Service, and the Organic Units of Territorial Criminal Investigation, located at Provincial HQs and several Regional HQs.





Customs and Borders



In 1940, Guardia Civil was tasked with the protection of the Spanish economic interests. Until that moment, the tasks corresponding to this field had been competence of the Cuerpo de Carabineros (Border Police Corps).

Pursuant to Law of 15th March 1940, Guardia Civil started taking over fiscal tasks, conducting actions aimed at preventing and fighting smuggling, drug trafficking, fraud and other fiscal offences.

There are several factors (the increasing importance of the Spanish borders—which are now part of the outer European Union borders; the fact that Spain has become a member of the European Economic Community— an area without internal frontiers; the full expansion of drug trafficking; and the growing significance of illegal immigration) which make it necessary to establish permanent and close relations with the national and international bodies competent in taxation and in control over coastlines, borders, ports, airports and territorial waters.



Security & Stand-by Group



The Security & Stand-by Group was established in 1988 to provide Guardia Civil with specialised units to carry out certain functions of restoring public order and in the case of serious dangers, emergencies or calamities.

Currently, this is the main Stand-by Unit of Guardia Civil, specifically designed, trained and organised to temporarily support other Units, and with the specific mission of preventing, maintaining and restoring (when required) public order and safety.

Additionally, the Group is responsible for:

- providing or cooperating in VIP's security and protection
- cooperating in civil protection matters, specially in case of serious dangers, emergencies or calamities
- taking action in CBRN (nuclear, radiological, biological or chemical) incidents, either independently or as a part of a larger response deployment
- reinforcing and providing support to other Units of Guardia Civil according to their own working principles
- participating in the international missions assigned to the Group
- Implementing the special operational deployments entrusted upon the Group.





Special Intervention Unit



The Special Intervention Unit (established by General Order No 6, of 3rd February 1982) is designed as an independent and specialized central Unit of Guardia Civil, intended to carry out specific missions both in the national territory and abroad. Its tasks include: handling of situations involving hostage-taking or kidnappings, and neutralizing the danger once the victims have been located; arresting exceptionally dangerous criminals (such as members of terrorist organizations or of drug trafficking networks) or insane individuals especially aggressive, as well as people under particularly dangerous circumstances (only in exceptional cases); in extraordinary cases, providing close protection to dignitaries and VIPs in imminent danger of becoming targets of a terrorist attack; and in general, conducting operations which require an early and highly specialised response or their specific intervention, due to the type of danger or threat such a situation poses.



Rural Action Unit



The Rural Anti-Terrorist Group (nowadays, Rapid Action Group -Grupo de Acción Rápida, GAR) was established by General Order No 41/82 of 15th June, when the need for a especially trained Unit to fight against terrorism proved evident, resulting in the establishment of the Special Group for Security.

The General Order No 25, of 21 September 1998, established the Rural Action Unit, as an operational task force designed, trained and organized in order to fulfil its specific mission: the fight against terrorism and the conduction of operations entailing serious risks and requiring an early response.





Underground Unit



The Underground Unit was established to fulfil the missions and tasks entrusted with a national scope, depending organically, functionally and technically on the Security & Stand-by Group, that is the only one entitled to assign specific missions to this Unit.

At an operational level, the Unit is included within the basic action team (EBA), that is the essential working unit in this service, and it is made up of four specialists divided in two teams: the underground team and the surface team, the latter responsible for supporting and protecting the former, and a strengthened basic action team (EBAR) for long term or complex operations, that is made up of a regular EBA plus as many additional member as needed.

The main and specific tasks entrusted upon this unit are:

- Carrying out all preventive reconnaissance tasks for the protection and security of underground areas;
- Drafting the necessary technical reports for the security systems of buildings or facilities under the Guardia Civil protection;
- Providing backup to the security measures other Units may temporarily apply;
- Collecting samples and drafting the corresponding technical reports about any incident related to the milieu, upon request of other units or the judicial/ administrative authorities;
- Providing assistance to victims of accidents or people who get lost in underground networks.
- Any other task entrusted to them in the framework of their responsibilities.



Weapons & Explosives Inspectorate



Guardia Civil is the only competent authority throughout the national territory as far as weapons and explosives are concerned, in conformity with Law 2/86 of 13 March on State Security Forces and Bodies. This law is enforced through the Weapons and Explosives Inspectorate, which carries out its tasks through Weapons and Explosives

Inspection Offices (IAEs) distributed all over Spain: at the level of autonomous regions, the Regional Headquarters' IAEs; at provincial level the Provincial Headquarters' IAEs; and finally, the Company IAEs and the Special IAEs. There are as well IAEs established to facilitate administrative procedures for citizens with an important geographical dispersion.

All IAEs are under the technical supervision of the Weapons & Explosives Central Inspectorate (ICAE), located in Madrid, which is in close cooperation with international agencies and organizations to implement an efficient control of weapons and explosives.





International Missions



The active presence of Spain in international forums has resulted in a higher involvement in the fields of peace and global security. In fact, this is demonstrated by the agreements and commitments reached in the framework of the UN, NATO, European Union, etc. The dual civil and military nature of Guardia Civil has contributed to its involvement in stability and peacekeeping-related missions and operations.

Part of the recognition and success of Guardia Civil missions abroad is due to its professional preparation, adaptation capacity and the wide range of functions developed in the national territory, closely linked with values such as service commitment, humanity and good manners when dealing with the population.

More than 6,000 member of Guardia Civil have taken part in peace operations and missions, mainly under the auspices of United Nations, European Union and NATO.



Cavalry Squadron



This Unit was born on 10th June 1958 by Order of the Director General of the Institution and with the intention of establishing a Unit specifically trained to serve as a mounted force, and it was named Cavalry Squadron of Guardia Civil. It is the only cavalry unit existing in Guardia Civil and the only Sabre Squadron in the world.

The Cavalry Squadron is defined as a “mounted Unit especially trained to fulfil the tasks assigned to this Group and adapted to its specific means and working modes. Likewise, it will take part as an Honour and Protocol Unit in events of special relevance when ordered to do so”.

Among the missions assigned to the Security and Stand-by Group, the Cavalry Squadron is responsible for:

- providing or cooperating in VIP's security and protection
- cooperating in civil protection matters, specially in case of serious dangers, emergencies or calamities
- reinforcing and providing support to other Units of Guardia Civil according to their own working principles
- Implementing the special operational deployments entrusted upon the Group.





Police Equipment & Weapons Service



The mission of the Police Equipment & Weapons Service is to plan the acquisition of weapons, ammunition and other police equipment, as well as the management, control, storage, distribution, inspection and maintenance of such equipment.

The Service is also responsible for:

- proposing the standardization of special weapons, ammunition and equipment allocated to the Institution;
- distributing and follow-up of the equipment (in all related to control and storage):
- tuning of the equipment under its responsibility, through its relevant maintenance levels;
- training courses for personnel interested in entering this specialization (Provincial HQ Armourer), updating the personnel serving in it (Updating Workshops for Provincial HQ Armourers), and training for officers serving as Heads of Police Equipment & Weapons in the different Units of the Institution;
- Inspection and technical management of the Units within this Service.



Information Technologies



IT development, implementation and management within the scope of Guardia Civil are coordinated through the Technical Service Command Office, a central body depending on the General Under-Directorate for Support, whose specific mission is to acquire, control and keep operational the telecommunications & IT systems and equipment of Guardia Civil. Security is a particular feature of these functions, both from the perspective of the integrity and persistence of information and to ensure the continuity of the corporate services.

This Command Office also promotes a continued focus on technological innovation related to the IT & telecommunications industry, including both software and hardware aspects, and assuring that the operational activity of the Institution is dully supported by state-of-the-art technical solutions.

Likewise, within the same organic and technological context, it is also worth mentioning the important tasks of programming, obtaining and ordering of the data needed to produce the relevant statistical analyses of institutional scope needed to support the decision-making process.



