Law Enforcers of the Bahamas



Commissioner of Police

Mr. Paul Rolle



Commodore of the Defence Force

Mr. Raymond King

We need law enforcers to make sure that the laws are obeyed. People who break the law are committing a crime and must be apprehended and brought to justice. Law enforcers are needed to make sure that laws are obeyed. There are two law enforcing bodies in the Bahamas.

The Royal Bahamas Police Force was established in 1840. It is the duty of the police to arrest people who commit a crime and bring them to court. The police work throughout the day and night to make sure that citizens can feel safe and secure.

Police are trained at the **Police Training College** located on Thompson Boulevard or University Drive. There are different ranks in the police force and various divisions. The lowest rank in the force is called **Constable.** Constables can be promoted to **Corporal**. Other ranks in the police force are **Sergeants**, **Inspectors,** and **Superintendent.** The highest position on the police force is **Commissioner.** He or she is the officer who is in charge of the entire force.

Royal Bahamas Police Force logo

Royal Bahamas Defence Force logo

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The Royal Bahamas Defence Force is Another body that helps to enforce our laws. This force was created in **1979** by an **Act of Parliament**. The person in charge of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force is the commodore. The rank of '**Commodore'** is the highest rank and the rank of **'Midshipman'** is the primary entry level for all career officers. The aim of this force are

1) To protect our fishing ground from foreign poachers.
2) To prevent drugs from coming into or passing through the islands of the Bahamas.

The Bahamas has a **territorial boundary** that extends 19 kilometers from their coastlines. This means that the Bahamas has a right to protect all its water. The Bahamas territorial waters are all the waters owned by the country.

The Royal Bahamas Defence Force patrols the water within our territorial boundaries. They apprehend **poachers, smugglers of drugs, and illegal aliens.** It also intercepts ships found polluting the waters. The Defence Force also assists in the enforcement of order along with relief in times of disaster.

Definitions

- **Poachers** are fishermen who fish illegally in Bahamian waters.
- To **confiscate** something means to take it away.
- A **fine** is money paid in punishment for a crime.
- **Drug smugglers** are people who smuggle drugs in and through the Bahamas.
- **Radar** is an instrument used for detecting boats and planes that are up to 300 km away.
- **Illegal immigrants** are people who enter the Bahamas without permission.
- Anyone found guilty of drug smuggling faces a heavy fine and is usually imprisoned.

Some illegal immigrants are trying to reach the United States. They come to the islands on boats. If they are caught, they will be **repatriated,** sent back or **deported** to their own country. the majority of illegal immigrants in the Bahamas come from Haiti.

Other organizations that help to enforce the law in the Bahamas are the **Immigration** and **Customs officers.** These officers work at the port of entry of the country and are responsible for detecting illegal immigrants and substances such as drugs and weapons that are smuggled into the country.

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Immigration officers check passports to make sure that people entering the Bahamas have the correct **documents** and are not criminal who are wanted in other countries.

Department of Immigration logo



Immigration Officer



Director of Immigration, Mr. Clarence Russell

Customs officers check the goods and supplies brought into the country. their primary job is to **levy taxes or duties** on each item brought into the country. However, they make sure that everything being brought into the country is legal and permitted.

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Customs Officers



Dr. Geannine Moss

Comptroller of Customs

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