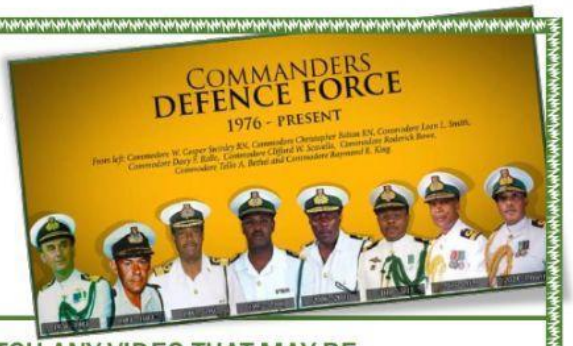
SCHOOL: CLEVELAND ENEAS PRIMARY SCHOOL
GRADE 6: SOCIAL STUDIES
THEME 1: OUR SYSTEM of GOVERNMENT
TOPIC: ENFORCING the LAWS of THE BAHAMAS
PART 2



Very Important

READ ALL OF THESE NOTES AND WATCH ANY VIDEO THAT MAY BE ATTACHED BEFORE ATTEMPTING THE ASSIGNMENT ON THE NEXT PAGE.

VOCABULARY:

poachers – fishermen that fish illegally in Bahamian waters.
confiscate – to take away
fine – money paid as punishment for a crime committed
drug smugglers – people who sneak in illegal narcotics into the country
illegal immigrant – people who enter the country without permission
repatriated or **deported** – sent back to your native country
radar – an instrument used for detecting boats and planes 300 km away
territorial boundary – water that extends 19 kilometers from the coastlines

THE ROYAL BAHAMS DEFENSE FORCE (RBDF).

Royal Bahamas Defense Force is another law enforcement body that helps to enforce our laws. It was established in **1979** by an Act of Parliament

Motto: Guard our Heritage

The **TWO** main goals of this force are:
1. to protect our fishing grounds from foreign poachers.
2. to prevent drugs coming into or passing through the islands of The Bahamas.

The person in charge of the **RBDF** carries the title of **Commodore**.
The current/present: **Commodore Raymond E. King**

The Bahamas has a **territorial boundary** that extends **19 kilometers** from the coastlines. This means that The Bahamas has a right to protect all of its water. The RBDF patrols the water within our territorial boundaries. They **apprehend** (arrest) poachers, drugs smugglers, and illegal aliens. It also **intercepts** (capture, seize) ships found polluting the waters.

Information gathered from "*Primary Social Studies and Tourism Education Book 6*"

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Defense Force Officers also assist with keeping order along with relief in times of disaster (they work along with **NEMA** – (**National Emergency Management Agency**). They grant work permits and residency status for foreigners.

The Bahamas Customs & Excise Department

Other organizations that help enforce the law in The Bahamas are Immigration and Customs Officers. These officers work at **the ports of entry** (**airports** and **docks**). They are responsible for detecting drugs, illegal immigrants and weapons that are smuggled into the country.

CUSTOMS OFFICERS: check the goods and supplies brought into the country. Their **primary duty** is to charge taxes or duties on each item being brought in to the country; however, they also make sure that the items being brought in are legal and permitted.

- The title given to the person in charge of this department is **Controller of Customs**
- Its headquarters is on Thompson Boulevard, New Providence.
- Began soon after the arrival of Woodes Rogers in 1729
- Today's agency began March 21st **1914**

IT IS IMPORTANT to NOTE: The government earns most of its revenue (income, money) through the **taxes** collected by the Customs department.

The Bahamas Department of Immigration

IMMIGRATION OFFICERS: check your passport to make sure persons entering the country have the correct documents and are not criminals who are wanted in another country. Most immigrants come from Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Jamaica.

This agency was established by an Act of Parliament **January 1st, 1939**.

- The title of the Government Ministry responsible for this department is the Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- The current Minister of Foreign Affairs is **The Honorable Darren Henfield**
- The title given to the person in charge of the Department of Immigration is **Director of Immigration**.
- The current Director of Immigration is **C. Alexander Russell II**

The Honorable Darren Henfield

C. Alexander Russell II

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