

French National Police

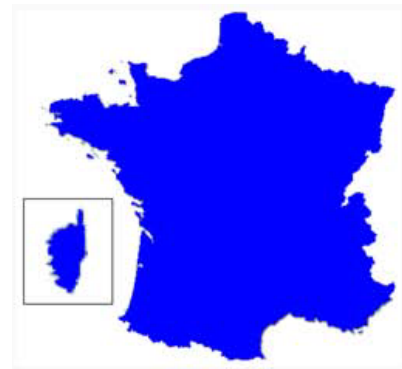
Formed	1966
Preceding Agency	Sûreté Nationale
Employees	150,000

Jurisdictional Structure

Size	551,695km ²
Population	60 million

Operational Structure

Headquarters	Paris
Directorates	13



France
(Metropolitan and Overseas Territories)

The **National Police** (*Police Nationale*), is one of two national police forces and the main civil law enforcement agency of France. The National Police comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior and has about 150,000 employees.

With primary jurisdiction in large cities and towns, *Police Nationale*:

- conducts security operations (patrols, traffic control, identity checks etc.)
- under orders and supervision of the Investigating magistrates of the judiciary, conducts criminal enquiries, serves search warrants, etc.;
- maintains specific services ("judicial police") for criminal enquiries.

The other main agency is the military **Gendarmerie**, with primary jurisdiction in smaller towns and rural and border areas.

Organisation

Headed by the DGPN (Direction Générale de la Police nationale, General Direction of the National Police), the police is divided into directorates:

- *Direction de l'administration de la police nationale* (Directorate of Administration of the National Police; DAPN)
- *Direction de la formation de police nationale* (Directorate of Training of the National Police; DFPN)
- *Direction centrale de la police judiciaire* (Central Directorate of Judicial Police; DCPJ) – major criminal investigations (known as "36 Quai des Orfèvres" in Paris) (It is actually located at 11 rue des Saussaies.)
- *Direction centrale de la sécurité publique* (Central Directorate of Public Security; DCSP) - uniformed patrol and response
 - Groupes d'Intervention de la Police Nationale (Intervention Groups of the National Police; GIPN) - 9 regional SWAT teams
- *Direction centrale de la police aux frontières* (Central Directorate of Border Police; DCPAF)
- *Inspection générale de la police nationale* (Inspectorate General of the National Police; IPGN) - headed by the Inspector General and responsible for internal affairs
- *Direction centrale des compagnies républicaines de sécurité* (Central Directorate of the Republican Security Companies; DCCRS) - riot police commonly referred to as the CRS



CRS in riot control gear



- *Service de coopération technique internationale de police* (Technical International Police Co-operation Service; SCTIP)
- *Service de protection des hautes personnalités* (Important Persons Protection Service; SPHP) – VIP protection, although the President of the French Republic is protected by both the Gendarmerie & the National Police (half/half) joined in a service called the *Groupe de Sécurité de la Présidence de la République*
- The *Préfecture de Police* (Prefecture of Police) provides police and security services in Greater Paris
- *Recherche Assistance Intervention Dissuasion* (Research, Assistance, Intervention, Deterrence; RAID) - counter-terrorist unit

Former Directorates

As of 1 July 2008, the following two National Police directorates:

- *Direction de la surveillance du territoire* (Directorate of Territorial Surveillance; DST) - counterintelligence, counterespionage, counterterrorism
- *Direction centrale des renseignements généraux* (Central Directorate of General Information; DCRG or RG) - records, research, analysis, policing gambling and horse racing

were merged into one single domestic intelligence agency titled the *Direction centrale du renseignement intérieur* (DCRI), and placed directly under the Ministry of the Interior.

Ranks

The National Police is divided into three *corps*, in the terminology of the French Civil Service, in ascending order of seniority:

The *Corps de maîtrise et d'application* (Authority and Enforcement Corps) corresponds approximately to the enlisted and non-commissioned ranks in a military force, or to constables and sergeants in a British-style civil police force.



Gardien de la paix stagiaire ("guardian of the peace, intern") 1st year after school

Gardien de la paix ("guardian of the peace")

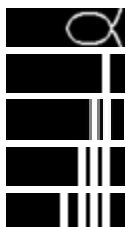
Sous-brigadier, after 12 years of service

Brigadier

Brigadier-chef

Brigadier-major

The *Corps de commande et d'encadrement* (Command and Management Corps) corresponds approximately to the lower commissioned ranks of a military force, or to grades of inspector in a British-style civil police force. These ranks were previously known as *inspecteurs* if detectives or *officiers de la paix* if uniformed, although CRS officers always used the current ranks.



Lieutenant student

Lieutenant intern

Lieutenant (formerly *Officier de la paix* or *Inspecteur*)

Capitaine (formerly *Officier de la paix principal* or *Inspecteur principal*)

Commandant (formerly *Commandant* or *Inspecteur divisionnaire*)

The *Corps de conception et de direction* (Conception and Direction Corps) corresponds approximately to the higher commissioned ranks of a military force, or to grades of superintendent and chief officers in a British-style civil police force.





<i>Commissaire de police</i>	-	Police Commissioner
<i>Commissaire divisionnaire</i>	-	Divisional Commissioner
<i>Contrôleur général</i>	-	Controller General
<i>Inspecteur général</i>	-	Inspector General
<i>Directeur des services actifs</i>	-	Director of the Active Services

Rank insignia is worn on the shoulders or on the chest (squared shaped instead of rectangular).

Prior to 1995 two civilian corps ("Inspecteurs" and "Enquêteurs") existed in which plain-clothes officers were given the training and authority to conduct investigations. The closest Anglo-American equivalent is the private investigator.

The powers of making a full arrest, hearing suspects, overseeing searches ordered by the judiciary, etc., are restricted to members of the police or the gendarmerie with the qualification of "officer of judiciary police" (*officier de police judiciaire* or OPJ). Other officers are only "agents of judiciary police" (*agents de police judiciaire* or APJ) and have only limited authority, restricted to assisting the officers.

Equipment

Vehicles

Generally, in the provinces, a police station has six vehicles (four cars and two vans), eight motorcycles and two cars CRS (a van and an unmarked car). Most police vehicles are French brands such as Renault and Citroen but other French brands are also seen, e.g. Peugeot.



The Police operate 45 helicopters.

- Aérospatiale Alouette III (SE 3160, SA 316, SA 319B)
- Eurocopter EC 145
- Eurocopter Ecureuil (AS 350B, AS 350BA, AS 350B-1)
- Eurocopter Fennec (AS 550U-2)

Reference: www.interieur.gouv.fr/rubriques/c/c3_police_nationale/c33_organisation

