

## BOLIVIA



**Background:** Bolivia, named after independence fighter Simon Bolivar, broke away from Spanish rule in 1825; much of its subsequent history has consisted of a series of nearly 200 coups and countercoups. Comparatively democratic civilian rule was established in 1982, but leaders have faced difficult problems of deep-seated poverty, social unrest, and illegal drug production. In December 2005, Bolivians elected Movement Toward Socialism leader Evo Morales president - by the widest margin of any leader since the restoration of civilian rule in 1982 - after he ran on a promise to change the country's traditional political class and empower the nation's poor majority.

**Geography Bolivia.** Location: Central South America, southwest of Brazil. Area: total: 1,098,580 sq km. Area - comparative: slightly less than three times the size of Montana. Land boundaries: total: 6,743 km. Border countries: Argentina 832 km, Brazil 3,400 km, Chile 861 km, Paraguay 750 km, Peru 900 km. Coastline: 0 km (landlocked). Climate: varies with altitude;

humid and tropical to cold and semiarid. Terrain: rugged Andes Mountains with a highland plateau (Altiplano), hills, lowland plains of the Amazon Basin. Natural resources: tin, natural gas, petroleum, zinc, tungsten, antimony, silver, iron, lead, gold, timber, hydropower. Natural hazards: flooding in the northeast (March-April). Environment - current issues: the clearing of land for agricultural purposes and the international demand for tropical timber are contributing to deforestation; soil erosion from overgrazing and poor cultivation methods (including slash-and-burn agriculture); desertification; loss of bio-diversity; industrial pollution of water supplies used for drinking and irrigation. Geography - note: landlocked; shares control of Lago Titicaca, world's highest navigable lake (elevation 3,805 m), with Peru. (Info CIA Fact Book 2006).

### **1961 Car, Armd, 4x4, Commando V100.**

Bolivia received 10 cars as part of US Military Aid; by 1990 a total of 15 Commandos were thought to be in service. (See US for vehicle details).

### **1990 Car, Armd, 6x6. EE-9 Cascavel III.**

As of 1990, 24 EE-9s were in service (see Brazil for vehicle details).

### **1985 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. Engesa EE-11 Urutu.**

24 carriers were in service as of 1990. (see Brazil for vehicle details).

### **1987 Veh, Util. Truck, Utility, ¼-ton, M151.**

As of 1987 Bolivia was operating an unknown

quantity of M151 vehicles (see US for vehicle details).

### **1990 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. MOWAG Roland I.**

As of 1990, 24 Roland armored cars were reported to be in service; circa 2000 20 cars were still listed as in service. (See Switzerland for vehicle details).