



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Background: Bosnia and Herzegovina's declaration of sovereignty in October 1991 was followed by a declaration of independence from the former Yugoslavia on 3 March 1992 after a referendum boycotted by ethnic Serbs. The Bosnian Serbs - supported by neighboring Serbia and Montenegro - responded with armed resistance aimed at partitioning the republic along ethnic lines and joining Serb-held areas to form a "Greater Serbia." In March 1994, Bosniaks and Croats reduced the number of warring factions from three to two by signing an agreement creating a joint Bosniak/Croat Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On 21 November 1995, in Dayton, Ohio, the warring parties initialed a peace agreement that brought to a halt three years of interethnic civil strife. The Dayton Peace Accords retained Bosnia and Herzegovina's international boundaries and created a joint multi-ethnic and democratic government charged with conducting foreign, diplomatic, and fiscal policy. Also recognized was a second tier of government comprised of two entities roughly equal in size: the Bosniak/Croat Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Bosnian Serb-led Republika Srpska (RS). The Federation and RS governments were charged with overseeing most government functions.

The Office of the High Representative (OHR) was established to oversee the implementation of the civilian aspects of the agreement. In 1995-96, a NATO-led international peacekeeping force (IFOR) of 60,000 troops served in Bosnia to implement and monitor the military aspects of the agreement. IFOR was succeeded by a smaller, NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) whose mission was to deter renewed hostilities. European Union peacekeeping troops (EUFOR) replaced SFOR in December 2004; their mission is to maintain peace and stability throughout the country.

Geography Bosnia and Herzegovina. Location: Southeastern Europe, bordering the Adriatic Sea and Croatia. Area: total: 51,129 sq. km. Area - comparative: slightly smaller than West Virginia. Land boundaries: total: 1,459 km. Border countries: Croatia 932 km, Montenegro 225 km, Serbia 302 km. Coastline: 20 km. Climate: hot summers and cold winters; areas of high elevation have short, cool summers and long, severe winters; mild, rainy winters along coast. Terrain: mountains and valleys. Natural resources: coal, iron ore, bauxite, copper, lead, zinc, chromite, cobalt, manganese, nickel, clay, gypsum, salt, sand, forests, hydropower. Natural hazards: destructive earthquakes. Environment - current issues: air pollution from metallurgical plants; sites for disposing of urban waste are limited; water shortages and destruction of infrastructure because of the 1992-95 civil strife; deforestation. Geography - note: within Bosnia and Herzegovina's recognized borders, the country is divided into a joint Bosniak/Croat Federation (about 51% of the territory) and the Bosnian Serb-led Republika Srpska or RS (about 49% of the territory); the region called Herzegovina is contiguous to Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro (Montenegro), and traditionally has been settled by an ethnic Croat majority in the west and an ethnic Serb majority in the east.

Military Notes: As of 2006 B-H had approximately 7,000 people in the military. Ministry of National Defence, Mojskovec Putnika 3A, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

1992 Car, Armd, 6x6. M8 Modified.



Left: Locally modified M8 armored car.

1992 Carr, Wpns. 9P122 BRDM-2.

As of 2006 B-H had 19 9P122 BRDM-2 anti-tank vehicles in service.

1992 Carr, Wpns. 9P133 BRDM-2.

As of 2006 B-H had eight 9P133 BRDM-2 anti-tank vehicles in service.

1992 Car, Wpns. BOV-3.

As of 2006 B-H had 15 BOV-3 anti-aircraft vehicles in service.

2005 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. WZ551.

Five Chinese WZ551 Type 92 personnel carriers were obtained in 2005.