



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



**Background:** Explored and claimed by Christopher Columbus on his first voyage in 1492, the island of Hispaniola became a springboard for Spanish conquest of the Caribbean and the American mainland. In 1697, Spain recognized French dominion over the western third of the island, which in 1804 became Haiti. The remainder of the island, by then known as Santo Domingo, sought to gain its own independence in 1821, but was conquered and ruled by the Haitians for 22 years; it finally attained independence as the Dominican Republic in 1844. In 1861, the Dominicans voluntarily returned to the Spanish Empire, but two years later they launched a war that restored independence in 1865. A legacy of unsettled, mostly non-representative rule followed, capped by the dictatorship of Rafael Leonidas Trujillo from 1930-1961. Juan Bosch was elected president in 1962, but was deposed in a military coup in 1963. In 1965, the United States led an intervention in the midst of a civil war sparked by an

uprising to restore Bosch. In 1966, Joaquin Balaguer defeated Bosch in an election to become president. Balaguer maintained a tight grip on power for most of the next 30 years when international reaction to flawed elections forced him to curtail his term in 1996. Since then, regular competitive elections have been held in which opposition candidates have won the presidency. Former President (1996-2000) Leonel Fernandez Reyna won election to a second term in 2004 following a constitutional amendment allowing presidents to serve more than one term.

**Geography Dominican Republic:** Location: Caribbean, eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola, between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, east of Haiti. Area: total: 48,730 sq km. Area - comparative: slightly more than twice the size of New Hampshire. Land boundaries: total: 360 km. Border countries: Haiti 360 km. Coastline: 1,288 km. Climate: tropical maritime; little seasonal temperature variation; seasonal variation in rainfall. Terrain: rugged highlands and mountains with fertile valleys interspersed. Natural resources: nickel, bauxite, gold, silver. Natural hazards: lies in the middle of the hurricane belt and subject to severe storms from June to October; occasional flooding; periodic droughts. Geography - note: shares island of Hispaniola with Haiti. (CIA Factbook 2006)

### 1943 Veh, Recce. M3A1 Scout Car.

Remarks: Between 1943 and 1946 the US delivered four M3A1s to the Dominican Republic as part of the Lend-Lease program (see US for vehicle details).

195x Car, Armd, 4x4, M39/40 Lynx. (see Sweden for vehicle details).

1981 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Carro de Asalto RM-79

1981 Carr, Wpns, Carros de Asalto, Marina de Guerra.