

## GHANA



**Flag Description:** three equal horizontal bands of red (top), yellow, and green with a large black five-pointed star centered in the yellow band; uses the popular pan-African colors of Ethiopia; similar to the flag of Bolivia, which has a coat of arms centered in the yellow band



**Background:** Formed from the merger of the British colony of the Gold Coast and the Togoland trust territory, Ghana in 1957 became the first sub-Saharan country in colonial Africa to gain its independence. A long series of coups resulted in the suspension of Ghana's third constitution in 1981 and a ban on political parties. A new constitution, restoring multiparty politics, was approved in 1992. Lt. Jerry Rawlings, head of state since 1981, won presidential elections in 1992 and 1996, but was constitutionally prevented from running for a third term in 2000. John Kufuor, who defeated former Vice President John Atta-Mills in a free elections, succeeded him.

**Geography** Location: Western Africa, bordering the Gulf of Guinea, between Cote d'Ivoire and Togo. Area: 239,460 sq km. Area - comparative: slightly smaller than Oregon. Land boundaries: total: 2,094 km. border

countries: Burkina Faso 549 km, Cote d'Ivoire 668 km, Togo 877 km. Coastline: 539 km. Climate: tropical; warm and comparatively dry along southeast coast; hot and humid in southwest; hot and dry in north. Terrain: mostly low plains with dissected plateau in south-central area. Natural resources: gold, timber, industrial diamonds, bauxite, manganese, fish, rubber, hydropower, petroleum, silver, salt, limestone. Natural hazards: dry, dusty, northeastern harmattan winds occur from January to March; droughts. Geography - note: Lake Volta is the world's largest artificial lake. (CIA World Factbook 2007)

**2000 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Glover-WebbTactica.** In 2000, the UK delivered 20 Tactica vehicles to Ghana for an estimated \$9 m.

**2003 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. MICV Ratel 20mm.** South Africa delivered 13 20mm armed Ratels to the Ghana Defence Force in 2003 (see South Africa for vehicle details).

**2003 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. MICV Ratel 90mm.** South Africa delivered six 90mm armed Ratels to the Ghana Defence Force in 2003 plus an additional 20 in 2004. Of the 2004 delivery 18

were the 90mm armed as well as a 20mm armed version and a single flat-top. Other sources put the total number of Ratels delivered at 39 (see South Africa for vehicle details).

**2005 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Rinkhals MPV.** Four vehicles were provided by South Africa in 2005 for the Ghana Defence Force. (see South Africa for vehicle details).