

## HONDURAS



**Flag Description:** three equal horizontal bands of blue (top), white, and blue with five blue, five-pointed stars arranged in an X pattern centered in the white band; the stars represent the members of the former Federal Republic of Central America - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.



**Background:** Once part of Spain's vast empire in the New World, Honduras became an independent nation in 1821. After two and a half decades of mostly military rule, a freely elected civilian government came to power in 1982. During the 1980s, Honduras proved a haven for anti-Sandinista contras fighting the Marxist Nicaraguan Government and an ally to Salvadoran Government forces fighting leftist guerrillas. The country was devastated by Hurricane Mitch in 1998, which killed about 5,600 people and caused approximately \$2 billion in damage.

**Geography:** Location: Central America, bordering the Caribbean Sea, between Guatemala and Nicaragua and bordering the Gulf of Fonseca (North Pacific Ocean), between El Salvador and Nicaragua. Area: total: 112,090 sq km. Area - comparative: slightly larger than Tennessee. Land boundaries: total: 1,520 km. Border countries: Guatemala 256 km, El Salvador 342 km, Nicaragua 922 km. Coastline: 820 km. Climate:

subtropical in lowlands, temperate in mountains. Terrain: mostly mountains in interior, narrow coastal plains. Natural resources: timber, gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, iron ore, antimony, coal, fish, hydro-power. Natural hazards: frequent, but generally mild, earthquakes; extremely susceptible to damaging hurricanes and floods along the Caribbean coast. Environment - current issues: urban population expanding; deforestation results from logging and the clearing of land for agricultural purposes. Geography - note: has only a short Pacific coast but a long Caribbean shoreline, including the virtually uninhabited eastern Mosquito Coast.

**Military:** Current components, Army, Navy (including Naval Infantry) and Air Force (Fuerza Aerea Hondurena, FAH) (2007). (CIA World Factbook 2007)

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

**Remarks:** Between 1943 and 1946, the US delivered three M3A1s to Honduras as part of the Lend-Lease program (see US for vehicle details).

### 1950 Car, Armd, 4x4. T17E1 Staghound.

**Remarks:** Post-WWII, Honduras received 15 Staghounds from the US as part of Military Assistance Program (see US for vehicle details).