



VENEZUELA

Flag Description: three equal horizontal bands of yellow (top), blue, and red with the coat of arms on the hoist side of the yellow band and an arc of eight white five-pointed stars centered in the blue band.



Background: Venezuela was one of three countries that emerged from the collapse of Gran Colombia in 1830 (the others being Ecuador and New Granada, which became Colombia). For most of the first half of the 20th century, Venezuela was ruled by generally benevolent military strongmen, who promoted the oil industry and allowed for some social reforms. Democratically elected governments have held sway since 1959. Current concerns include: a weakening of democratic institutions, political polarization, a politicized military, drug-related violence along the Colombian border, increasing internal drug consumption, over-dependence on the petroleum industry with its price fluctuations, and irresponsible mining operations that are endangering the rain forest and indigenous peoples.

Geography Venezuela: Location: Northern South America, bordering the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, between Colombia and Guyana. Area: total: 912,050 sq km. Area - comparative: slightly more than twice the size of California. Land boundaries:

total: 4,993 km. border countries: Brazil 2,200 km, Colombia 2,050 km, Guyana 743 km. Coastline: 2,800 km. Climate: tropical; hot, humid; more moderate in highlands. Terrain: Andes Mountains and Maracaibo Lowlands in northwest; central plains (llanos); Guiana Highlands in southeast. Natural resources: petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, gold, bauxite, other minerals, hydro-power, diamonds. Natural hazards: subject to floods, rock slides, mudslides; periodic droughts. Environment - current issues: sewage pollution of Lago de Valencia; oil and urban pollution of Lago de Maracaibo; deforestation; soil degradation; urban and industrial pollution, especially along the Caribbean coast; threat to the rain forest from irresponsible mining operations. Geography - note: on major sea and air routes linking North and South America. (CIA Factbook 2006)

Military Notes: Venezuela has started it's own light military vehicle and truck production.

1943 Veh, Recce. M3A1 Scout Car.



Remarks: Between 1943 and 1946 the US supplied six M3A1s to Venezuela as part of the Lend-Lease program (see US for vehicle details).

1950 Car, Armd, 6x6. M8 Armored Car.



Remarks: (Left) After WWII, M8s were supplied to Venezuela as part of the Military Assistance Program (see US for vehicle details).

1960 Car, Armd, 4x4. Commando V100. Remarks: Venezuela received 15 Commandos from the US as part of Military Aid Program (see US for vehicle details).

1980 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. Engesa EE-11 Urutu.

Remarks: 38 to 60 carriers were delivered from Brazil to Venezuela (see Brazil for vehicle details).

1984 Car, Armd, 4x4. Arrowpointe Dragoon 300/90mm.



Remarks: The Dragoon 300 series as marketed by Arrowpointe included a low recoil 90mm gun option. Without any formal interest from the US military, sales were focused on overseas customers in Central and South America as well as Asia. At least six 90mm armed Dragoons were purchased by Venezuela (see US for vehicle details).

1987 Veh, Utility. Truck, ¼-ton, M151.

Remarks: As of 1987 Venezuela had an unknown number of M151 vehicles (Ref: TM 9-2320-356-BD, see US for vehicle details).