

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Flag: a wide medium blue vertical band on the fly side with a yellow isosceles triangle abutting the band and the top of the flag; the remainder of the flag is medium blue with seven full five-pointed white stars and two half stars top and bottom along the hypotenuse of the triangle; the triangle approximates the shape of the country and its three points stand for the constituent peoples - Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs; the stars represent Europe; the colors (white, blue, and yellow) are traditionally linked with Bosnia.



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 initiated 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. 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 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. 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. Bosnia and Herzegovina deployed a unit of 37 men to destroy munitions and clear mines, in addition to 6 command personnel as part of the Multinational force in Iraq. The unit was first deployed to Fallujah, then Talil Air Base, and was then located at Camp Echo. In December 2006, the Bosnian government formerly extended its mandate through June 2007. Bosnia and Herzegovina is planning to send another 49 soldiers from the 6th infantry division to Iraq in August 2008, their mission being to protect/guard Camp Victory in Baghdad. Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH): Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Air and Air Defense Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Zrakoplovstvo i Protuzračna Obrana, ZPO) (2013).



Right: Bosnia-Herzegovina Security Contingent during operations in Iraq.

1992 Car, Armd, 6x6. M8 Modified.



Above: 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.



Remarks: As of 2006 B-H had at least 15 BOV-3 anti-aircraft vehicles in service some of which had been converted to Internal Security vehicles.

1992 Carrier, Personnel, Armored, 6x6 TAM-150.



Above: Local built 6x6 APC on TAM-150 chassis.

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

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

2007 Carrier, Weapons, 4x4 M966.



Remarks: While the B-H Contingent was serving in Iraq with U.S. forces they were equipped with M1114 HMMWV Weapons Carriers. When the unit rotated out of Iraq the vehicles were returned to B-H with them.