

MEXICO



Flag Description:

three equal vertical bands of green (hoist side), white, and red; the coat of arms (an eagle perched on a cactus with a snake in its beak) is centered in the white band.



Background:

The site of advanced Amerindian civilizations, Mexico came under Spanish rule for three centuries before achieving independence early in the 19th century. A devaluation of the peso in late 1994 threw Mexico into economic turmoil, triggering the worst recession in over half a century. The

nation continues to make an impressive recovery. Ongoing economic and social concerns include low real wages, underemployment for a large segment of the population, inequitable income distribution, and few advancement opportunities for the largely Amerindian population in the impoverished southern states. Elections held in July 2000 marked the first time since the 1910 Mexican Revolution that the opposition defeated the party in government, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). Vicente Fox of the National Action Party (PAN) was sworn in on 1 December 2000.

Geography: Location: Middle America, bordering the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, between Belize and the US and bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between Guatemala and the US. Area: total: 1,972,550 sq km. Area - comparative: slightly less than three times the size of Texas. Land boundaries: total: 4,353 km. Border countries: Belize 250 km, Guatemala 962 km, US 3,141 km. Coastline: 9,330 km. Climate: varies from tropical to desert. Terrain: high, rugged mountains; low coastal plains; high plateaus; desert. Natural resources: petroleum, silver, copper, gold, lead, zinc, natural gas, timber. Natural hazards: tsunamis along the Pacific coast, volcanoes and destructive earthquakes in the center and south, and hurricanes on the Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean coasts. Environment - current issues: scarcity of hazardous waste disposal facilities; rural to urban migration; natural fresh water resources scarce and polluted in the north, inaccessible and poor quality in the center and extreme southeast; raw sewage and industrial effluents polluting rivers in urban areas; deforestation; widespread erosion; desertification; deteriorating agricultural lands; serious air and water pollution in the national capital and urban centers along US-Mexico border; land subsidence in Valley of Mexico caused by groundwater depletion. Geography - note: strategic location on southern border of US.

Military: Branches of the Mexican military include; Secretariat of National Defense (Secretaria de Defensa Nacional, Sedena): Army (Ejercito), Mexican Air Force (Fuerza Aerea Mexicana, FAM); Secretariat of the Navy (Secretaria de Marina, Semar): Mexican Navy (Armada de Mexico, ARM, includes Naval Air Force (FAN) and Marines). By the end of 2006, the Mexican military (particularly the Army) was (and still is) faced with the growing possibility of an armed revolt in the southern portions of the country. (CIA World Factbook 2006)

1912 Car, Armd, 4x2. Guncar, Armd, 4x2. Autocar.

1929 Car, Armd, 4x2. Car, Armd, 4x2. Fiat, M1914.

1914 Car, Armd, 4x2. Mack-Saurer, 4x2. Villa.

1938 Veh, Recce, Car, Scout, 4x4 (Ford M-H).

1916 Car, Armd, 4x2. Brigada Zaragoza.

1943 Veh, Recce. M3A1 Scout Car.

Remarks: Between 1943 and 1946, Mexico received nine M3A1s from the US as part of the Lend-Lease program (see US for vehicle details).

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



M8 Greyhound during parade in Mexico City. (Photo: Author's collection).

Remarks: Post-WWII, Mexico received 38 Greyhounds from the US as part of the Military Aid Program. As of 1990 15 of these cars were still in service (see US for vehicle details).

1965 Car, Armd, 4x4. MAC-1.



Above: US produced 4x4 armored car with 20mm cannon.

1968 Truck, Utility, 1/4-ton, 4x4, CJ-5



Above: CJ-5 "Jeeps" of the Mexican Army during a parade in 1974. (Photo: Author's Collection)

Remarks: Built by Vehiculos Automotores Mexicanos (VAM) (see US for vehicle details).

1968 Truck, Utility, 1/4-ton, 4x4, w/2.75 inch Rocket Launcher, CJ-5.



Above: CJ-5 "Jeeps" with pedestal mounted 3.5-inch Rocket Launcher of the Mexican Army during a parade in 1974. (Photo: Author's Collection)

Remarks: This is the Launcher, Rocket, 3.5-Inch, M20A1B1 mounted in a Mexican license built CJ-5 (see US for vehicle details).

1970 Carr, Wpns, Trk, Launcher, Rkt, 4x2. Kurier

1970 Carr, Wpns, Trk, 4x4, Launcher, Rkt, Jeep J200

1970 Carr, Wpns, Trk, 1-T, 4x4, Launcher Rkt, M601



Above: M601 converted in Mexico to carry free flight rockets. (Photo: Author's Collection)

Remarks: Judging from observed serial numbers, by 1970 at least six M601 vehicles had been converted to mobile rocket launchers.

1970 Veh, Cmd, Trk, 1-T, 4x4, Cmd, M601.



Above: Mexican Army M601 Command Cars. (Photo: Author's Collection)

Remarks: As of 1970 Mexico had ordered at least four M601 Command Cars to go along with their Free Flight Rocket batteries (see US for M601 details).

1975 Veh, Util, Trk, Util, 1-T, 4x4, TM-006.

1990 Car, Armd, 4x4. Panhard M-11 VBL.

In an effort to improve the quality of the armored vehicles available, Mexico added 40 Panhard M-11 VBLs (see France for vehicle details).

1990 Car, Armd, 6x6. Panhard ERC-90F.

In 1990 the Mexican Army had 60 Panhard ERC-90F Sagie armored cars in setrvice. (See France for vehicle details).

1990 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. MOWAG Roland.

As of 1990 Mexico had at least 30 MOWAG Roland carriers on hand.

1990 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. Panhard VCR-TT.



Remarks: Mexican Army VCR-TT (see France for vehicle details).

1994 Car, Armd, 4x4. DN-IV.



Remarks: Locally produced armored car series.

1994 Car, Armd, 4x4. Fox. In 1994 a single Fox armored car was transferred to Mexico from the UK (see UK for vehicle details).

2000 Car, Armd, 4x4. DN-V "Bufalo".



Above: Mexican DN-V with turret and 75mm howitzer from excess M8 Howitzer Motor Carriages. (Photo: Mexican Army)

2006 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Dodge Mini-Commando.



Above: Mexican Navy (1996) Dodge APC used by rapid reaction forces. (Photo: Armada de Mexico)

2006 Carr, Pers, Armd, 8x8. APC-70.



Above: Mexican Navy Marine APC-70. This vehicle is a modified Russian BTR-60 PB. (Photo: Photo: Armada de Mexico)

2006 Veh, Recce. Land Rover Defender.



Above: Mexican Navy Land Rover Defender used by rapid reaction forces. (Photo: Armada de Mexico)