



COLOMBIA



Background: Colombia was one of the three countries that emerged from the collapse of Gran Colombia in 1830 (the others are Ecuador and Venezuela). A 40-year conflict between government forces and anti-government insurgent groups and illegal paramilitary groups - both heavily funded by the drug trade - escalated during the 1990s. The insurgents lack the military or popular support necessary to overthrow the government and violence has been decreasing since about 2002, but insurgents continue attacks against civilians and large swaths of the countryside are under guerrilla influence. Paramilitary groups challenge the insurgents for control of territory and the drug trade. Most paramilitary members have demobilized since 2002 in an ongoing peace process, although their commitment to ceasing illicit activity is unclear. The Colombian Government has stepped up efforts to reassert government control, and now has a presence in every one of its municipalities. However, neighboring countries worry about the violence spilling over their borders.

Geography Colombia. Location: Northern South America, bordering the Caribbean Sea, between Panama and Venezuela, and bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between Ecuador and Panama. Geographic coordinates: 4 00 N, 72 00 W. Area: total: 1,138,910 sq km. Area - comparative: slightly less than twice the size of Texas. Land boundaries: total: 6,004 km. Border countries: Brazil 1,643 km, Ecuador 590 km, Panama 225 km, Peru 1,496 km (est.), Venezuela 2,050 km. Coastline: 3,208 km (Caribbean Sea 1,760 km, North Pacific Ocean 1,448 km). Climate: tropical along coast and eastern plains; cooler in highlands. Terrain: flat coastal lowlands, central highlands, high Andes Mountains, eastern lowland plains. Natural resources: petroleum, natural gas, coal, iron ore, nickel, gold, copper, emeralds, hydropower. Natural hazards: highlands subject to volcanic eruptions; occasional earthquakes; periodic droughts. Environment - current issues: deforestation; soil and water quality damage from overuse of pesticides; air pollution, especially in Bogota, from vehicle emissions. Geography - note: only South American country with coastlines on both the North Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea. (Source CIA Fact Book 2006)

1929 Car, Armd, 4x2. Santander.



Above: Improved armored car completed in 1929 for the Colombian Army. (Photo: Author's collection)

Remarks: The single example was built in the Santander battalion workshops in Cucuta, Colombia sometime around 1929. Only the one vehicle was completed.

Data: NBC Protection, individual. *Capacity:* Fuel, gasoline. Crew, 5. *Engine:* Type, gasoline. Location, front. Cooling, liquid. *Transmission:* Type, manual. *Suspension System:* Type, leaf spring. Wheels Steerable, front pair. No of wheels, 4 pneumatic. Night Vision Devices: n/a *Usage:* Colombian Army only. *Manufacturer:* Colombian Army workshops.

1943 Veh, Recce. M3A1 Scout Car.

Remarks: Between 1943 and 1946, Colombia received two M3A1 Scout Cars from the US as part of the Lend-Lease program (see US for vehicle details).

196x Car, Armd, 6x6. M8 Greyhound.

Remarks: Colombia received an initial delivery of eight M8s from the US as part of Military Aid program with additional vehicles delivered over the next ten to fifteen years (see US for vehicle details).

1970 Veh, Utility. M151A1 MUTT.



Above: On parade in Bogota circa 1975.
(Photo: Author's collection)

Remarks: (see US for vehicle details).

1975 Car, Armd, 4x4, converted M2HT.

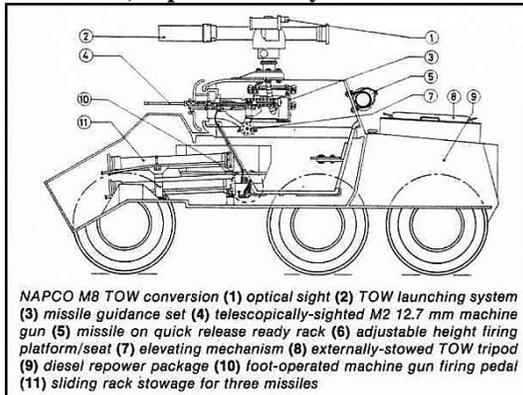
198X Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. EE-11 Urutu.

Remarks: 56 carriers delivered (see Brazil for vehicle details).

198x Car, Armd, 6x6. EE-9 Cascavel IV.

Remarks: 128 vehicle delivered (see Brazil for vehicle details).

198X Carr, Wpns. M8 Greyhound with TOW.



Remarks: At least six vehicles had the 37mm

cannon removed from the turret and replaced with a TOW system and missiles.

198X Carr, Wpns. M8 Greyhound with M55 Quad .50 HMG.

Remarks: At least 18 vehicles were converted with the addition of the quad .50 caliber mounts.

2000 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Aymara.



Photo: A total of 12 Aymara's have been completed and are assigned to Cavalry Group No. 4, de Rio Negro.

Remarks: Developed locally by Colombian industry to try and increase the number of armored personnel carriers available for the Colombian military. The Aymara is fitted with air brakes and a rear view camera for backing.

Vehicle Data: Drive, 4x4. *Capacity:* Fuel, diesel. Crew/Passengers, 2/16. *Engine:* (1) Cummins 6BTA diesel water-cooled engine producing 210 hp (155 kW). Location, front of vehicle. *Transmission:* Allison automatic with 6-fwd and 1-rev gear. *Suspension System:* Coil spring. Wheels Steerable, front pair. No of wheels, 4. *General Data:* Elec Voltage, 12V system. Radio, As fitted by user. *Night Vision Devices:* As fitted by user. *Usage:* Twelve vehicles are presently (2006) in service with the Ejercito Nacional Colombia.