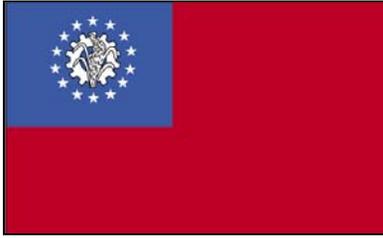


## BURMA/MYANMAR



**Flag Description:** Red with a blue rectangle in the upper hoist-side corner bearing 14, white, five-pointed stars encircling a cogwheel containing a stalk of rice; the 14 stars represent the seven administrative divisions and seven states.



**Background:** Britain conquered Burma over a period of 62 years (1824-1886) and incorporated it into its Indian Empire. Burma was administered as a province of India until 1937 when it became a separate, self-governing colony; independence from the Commonwealth was attained in 1948. Gen. NE Win dominated the government from 1962 to 1988, first as military ruler, then as self-appointed president, and later as political broker. Despite multiparty legislative elections in 1990 that resulted in the main opposition party - the National League for Democracy (NLD) - winning a victory, the ruling junta refused to hand over power. NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who kept under house arrest from 1989 to 1995 and 2000 to 2002, was imprisoned in May 2003 and then returned to transferred to house arrest, where she remains as of 2007.

**Geography:** Location, Southeastern Asia, bordering the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, between Bangladesh and Thailand. Area: total: 678,500 sq km. Area - comparative: slightly smaller than Texas. Land boundaries: total: 5,876 km. Border countries: Bangladesh 193 km, China 2,185 km, India 1,463 km, Laos 235 km, Thailand 1,800 km. Coastline: 1,930 km. Climate: tropical monsoon; cloudy, rainy, hot, humid summers (southwest monsoon, June to September); less cloudy, scant rainfall, mild temperatures, lower humidity during winter (northeast monsoon, December to April). Terrain: central lowlands ringed by steep, rugged highlands. Natural resources: petroleum, timber, tin, antimony, zinc, copper, tungsten, lead, coal, some marble, limestone, precious stones, natural gas, hydropower. Natural hazards: destructive earthquakes and cyclones; flooding and landslides common during rainy season (June to September); periodic droughts. Geography - note: strategic location near major Indian Ocean shipping lanes.

**Military:** Myanmar Armed Forces (Tatmadaw): Army, Navy, Air Force as of 2005. (CIA World Factbook 2007)

**1965 Veh, Recce, 4x4, Ferret Mk 2, FV701E,**  
(see UK for vehicle details).

**1985 Car, Armd, 4x4. Local Production.**



A locally produced armored car based on a commercial truck chassis with Nissan engine.

**2003 Carr, Pers, Armd, 8x8. BTR-3U.** 10 new vehicles were delivered in 2003 from the Ukraine with a further 990 to be built under license in Burma (see Ukraine for vehicle details).