



PHILIPPINES



Background: The Philippine Islands became a Spanish colony during the 16th century; they were ceded to the US in 1898 following the Spanish-American War. In 1935 the Philippines became a self-governing commonwealth. Manuel Quezon was elected President and was tasked with preparing the country for independence. In 1942 the islands fell under Japanese occupation during WWII, and US forces and Filipinos fought together during 1944-45 to regain control. On 4 July 1946 the Philippines attained their independence. The 20-year rule of Ferdinand Marcos ended in 1986, when a widespread popular rebellion forced him into exile and installed Corazon Aquino as president. Her presidency was hampered by several coup attempts, which prevented a return to full political stability. Fidel Ramos was elected president in 1992 and his administration was marked by greater stability and progress. In 1992, the US closed its last military bases on the islands. Joseph Estrada was elected president in 1998, but was succeeded by his vice-president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in January 2001 after Estrada's stormy impeachment trial on corruption charges broke down and widespread demonstrations led to his ouster. Macapagal-Arroyo was elected to a six-year term in May 2004. The Philippine Government faces threats from armed communist insurgencies and from Muslim separatists in the south.

Geography Philippines. Location: Southeastern Asia, archipelago between the Philippine Sea and the South China Sea, east of Vietnam. Area: total: 300,000 sq km. Area - comparative: slightly larger than Arizona. Land boundaries: 0 km. Coastline: 36,289 km. Climate: tropical marine; northeast monsoon (November to April); southwest monsoon (May to October). Terrain: mostly mountains with narrow to extensive coastal lowlands. Natural resources: timber, petroleum, nickel, cobalt, silver, gold, salt, copper. Natural hazards: astride typhoon belt, usually affected by 15 and struck by five to six cyclonic storms per year; landslides; active volcanoes; destructive earthquakes; tsunamis. Environment - current issues: uncontrolled deforestation especially in watershed areas; soil erosion; air and water pollution in major urban centers; coral reef degradation; increasing pollution of coastal mangrove swamps that are important fish breeding grounds. Geography - note: the Philippine

archipelago is made up of 7,107 islands; favorably located in relation to many of Southeast Asia's main water bodies: the South China Sea, Philippine Sea, Sulu Sea, Celebes Sea, and Luzon Strait. (CIA World Factbook 2006).

1968 Car, Armd, 4x4. Armored Jeep.



Above: Up-armored CJ derived jeep as first put into service in 1968. (Photo: Author's Collection)

Remarks: Designed and manufactured in the Philippines, the armored jeeps were first introduced in 1968. Based on either the CJ-2A or CJ-

3A chassis, they had a surprisingly long service life, as some of these vehicles were still in service 20 years later.

Vehicle Data: Weight empty (est), 2,500 lbs (1135 kgs). Length, 123 in (3124 mm). Width, 59 in (1498 mm). Height, 69.5 in (1762 mm). Ground Clearance, 8.5 in (216 mm). Wheel Base, 80 in (2032 mm). Wheel Tread, 48 in (1225 mm). Drive, 4x4. Armor, mild steel plate. NBC Protection, none. *Armament:* (1) .30 cal. LMG, Browning. Elevation & traverse, manual. Fire Control, optical. *Capacity:* Fuel, 10.5 gals (39.7 liters) gasoline. Crew/Passengers, 1/3. *Engine:* (1) Gasoline, in-line, water-cooled 4-cylinder producing 60 hp (44.5 kW) @ 4000 rpm. Mfr, White. Location, front. *Transmission:*

Manual with 3-fwd and 1-rev gears. Model, selective 4x4. Suspension System: Leaf spring. Wheels Steerable, front pair. No of wheels, 4. *General Data:* Elec Voltage, 12 Volt. *Performance:* Speed, 50 mph (80.5 km/h). Range (est), 300 mi (483 km). Forcing Depth (est), 12 in (305 mm). Max Grade (est), 50%. *Usage:* Philippine Army and National Police. *Manufacturer:* Designed and built in the Philippines.

1995 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Kalakian, APC, 4x4.

1995 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Hari-Digma, APC, 4x4

1975 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. APC, Imp, 4x4.

1990 Car, Armd, 6x6. Textron LAV-300 Mk I.



Above: Philippine Marine LAV-300 APC.
(Photo: Philippine Marine Corps)

Remarks: An upgrade from the original Commando V300 developed in 1978, the LAV-300 was chosen by the Philippine Marines when they couldn't get the tracked LVTP7A1. The LAV-300 was chosen because of its amphibious capability and the factory willingness to modify the design to meet their unique needs. Among the changes were the installations of two external waterjets for amphibious propulsion, the addition of a rear ramp to the passenger compartment for quicker exit and entry and the addition of a bow trim vane for prolonged water operations. The Philippine Marines now field two variants, the 90mm armed fire support vehicle and the personnel carrier with 7.62mm/.50 cal machine gun turret. *Usage:* Only user of the LAV-300 is the Philippine Marine Corp. *Manufacturer:* Cadillac-Gage Textron Marine, USA (see US for vehicle details).

1994 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. GKN, Sankey, Simba.

Remarks: GKN delivered 12 vehicles to the Philippines in 1994 along with a license to build an additional 138 in the Philippines between 1994 and 1997 (see UK for vehicle details).