

FINLAND



Flag Description: The flag of Finland (Finnish: *Suomen lippu*), dates from the beginning of the 20th century and while variants are in use, in general it consists of a white background with a blue cross. The Finnish flag is very similar in design to those used by Sweden, Norway and Denmark.



Background: Finland was a province and then a grand duchy under Sweden from the 12th to the 19th centuries and an autonomous grand duchy of Russia after 1809. It won its complete independence in 1917. During World War II, it was able to successfully defend its freedom and resist invasions by the Soviet Union - albeit with some loss of territory. In the subsequent half century, the Finns made a remarkable transformation from a farm/forest economy to a diversified modern industrial economy; per capita income is now on par with Western Europe. As a member of the European Union, Finland was the only Nordic state to join the euro system at its initiation in January 1999.

Geography Finland. Location: Northern Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea, Gulf of Bothnia, and Gulf of Finland, between Sweden and Russia. Geographic coordinates: 64 00 N, 26 00 E. Area: total: 338,145 sq km. Area: slightly smaller than Montana. Land boundaries: total: 2,681 km. Border countries: Norway 727 km, Sweden 614 km, Russia 1,340 km. Coastline: 1,250 km. Climate: cold temperate; potentially subarctic but comparatively mild because of moderating influence of the North Atlantic Current, Baltic Sea, and more than 60,000 lakes. Terrain: mostly low, flat to rolling plains interspersed with lakes and low hills. Natural resources: timber, iron ore, copper, lead, zinc, chromite, nickel, gold, silver, limestone. Natural hazards: NA. Environment - current issues: air pollution from manufacturing and power plants contributing to acid rain; water pollution from industrial wastes, agricultural chemicals; habitat loss threatens wildlife populations. Geography - note: long boundary with Russia; Helsinki is northernmost national capital on European continent; population concentrated on small SW coastal plain. (CIA Fact Book 2006)

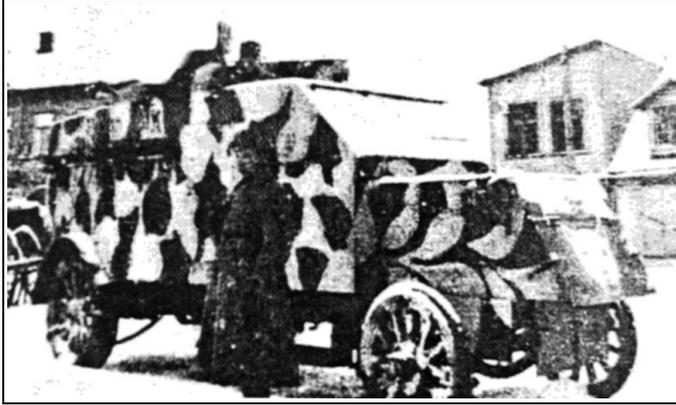


Right: Finnish Army SISU XA-185 6x6 APC during Ferry Operations. The vehicle itself is amphibious and could have crossed the water obstacle on its own. (Finnish Army photo)

1918 Car, Armd, 4x2. Austin, Mod 1917. Car had been captured from the Russians and given the serial number S.A. P2, (see UK for vehicle details).

1918 Car, Armd, 4x2. Izhorsky-Fiat. At least one car was captured from Russia, circa 1918-1919. The vehicle was issued the Finnish serial P.A. 2 around 1920. (see Russian entry for vehicle details).

1919 Car, Armd, 4x2. Peerless.



Above: Captured Peerless, "Pohjan Poika", circa 1919.

Remarks: At least one ex-Russian Peerless heavy armored car was captured by Finnish troops while supporting Estonia in 1919, (see Russia for vehicle details).

1920 Car, Armd, 4x2, Armstrong-Whitworth Fiat, PA-1.



Above: Car PA-1 during a military exercise in the 1920s.

1938 Car, Armd, 6x4, Landsverk L182 M/38 SW. At least one car was obtained by Finland in 1939.

1941 Car, Armd, 4x2. FAI. At least one FAI was captured by Finland and in service in 1945, (see Russia for vehicle details). The FAI in Finnish service was known as the BAB-A.

1941 Car, Armd, 4x2. BA-20M. One BA-20M was captured and put into service by Finland as a BAB-B. Serial numbered R-12, the car was put into action during 1941 and was still in service until at least 1957, (see Russia for vehicle details).

1941 Car, Armd, 6x4. BA-3.



Above: BA-3 in Finnish service.

Remarks: At least one BA-3 was captured by Finland and put into service (see Russia for vehicle details).

1942 Car, Armd, 4x2. D-8. At least one D-8 was captured and used by Finland circa 1942, (see Russia for vehicle details).

1942 Car, Armd, 4x2. FAI-M. At least one FAI-M was captured by Finland in 1942, (see Russia for vehicle details). In Finnish service the FAI-M (serial R-28) and the BA-20M (R-12) were both known as the BAB-B.

1942 Car, Armd, 6x4, BA-10.



Remarks: At least one BA-10 was in Finnish service in 1942 with the serial number R-15. In Finnish service the BA-10 was known as the BAF-C (see Russia for vehicle details).

1945 Car, Armd, 6x4, BA-6. At least one captured BA-6 was used by Finland from 1945 to 1959 and known as the BAF-B, (see Russia for vehicle details).

1966 Carr, Pers, Armd, 8x8. BTR-60 PA (armored top), (see Russia for vehicle details).

1971 Carr, Pers, Armd, 8x8. BTR-60 PB (with turret), (see Russia for vehicle details).

1971 Veh, Util, 4x4. GAZ-69.



1977 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. Vammaskosken Tehtaalla VK.

Remarks: Finland's first development of a home grown personnel carrier, the VK had six-wheel drive and was amphibious. Specs: Weight of vehicle: Empty, 18,000 lbs. (8172 kgs). *Transmission:* manual. Horsepower, 115hp. Max. fording depth, amphibious. *Manufacturer:* Valmet Oy:n. Crew, 2-10. **Remarks:** Prototype vehicle issued serial number Ps 691-1, no series production undertaken.

1982 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. Sisu XA-180 aka Psajon 83.

1983 Veh, Cmd, 8x8, BTR-60 PU / BTR-R (C&C), (see Russia for vehicle details).

1983 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. Valmet 1912-6 aka Psajon 84.

Remarks: A further development of the VK, the Valmet was in direct competition with the SISU XA-180 SA. Specifications: Dimensions: Length, overall, xxx in. (xxxx mm). Width, overall, xx in. (xx mm). Height, overall, xx in. (xx mm). Ground clearance, xx in. (xxx mm). Weight of vehicle: Empty, 28,000 lbs. (xxxx kgs). Armor: .xx to .xxx in (xxx - xxx mm). *Transmission:* manual, x-forward, x-reverse. *Engine:* xxxxxxxxxxxx. Horsepower, 220 hp. *Performance:* Max. speed land, mph (80 km/h), water xx mph (9 km/h). Cruising range, xxx miles (xxx km). Max. step xx in. (.x mm). Max. fording depth, amphibious. *Manufacturer:* Valmet Oy. Crew, 2-16. **Remarks:** Prototype vehicle issued serial number Ps 680-84, no series production undertaken.

1990 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. XA-180 YK aka Psajon 83 YK.

Remarks: This was the peace-keeping version of the -180 with an open turret fitted with the Russian 14.7 mm DShK-M heavy machine gun and air-conditioning.

1992 Carr, Anti-Aircraft, 6x6. Sisu-Crotale, XA-181 aka Kantaa.

Remarks: This is the basic XA-180 chassis with outriggers added for stabilization and the Crotale NG anti-aircraft defense system fitted. A total of twenty vehicles were completed for the Finnish Army.

1995 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. Sisu XA-185. **Remarks:** The -185 is similar to the XA-180 but with a more powerful engine,

new transmission, as well as additional firing ports and crew hatches in the roof. Besides the troop carrier, the XA-185 has been completed in several different versions; Ambulance, and Control, Crotale Anti-Aircraft carrier, Radar, Recovery vehicle, TOW carrier, fitted with a manual turret and 12.7 mm machine gun and armed with a Delco 30mm cannon turret. Specifications for the XA-185: Dimensions: Length, overall, 289.7 in. (7360 mm). Width, overall, 114.2 in. (2900 mm). Height, overall, 90.6 in. (2300 mm). Ground clearance, 15.8 in. (400 mm). Weight of vehicle: Empty, 29,735 lbs. (13,500 kgs), loaded, 41,850 lbs. (19,000 kgs). Armor: .24-.47 in (6-12 mm). *Transmission:* Automatic, Allison, 6-F and 2-R. *Engine:* Located left middle, behind the driver. Valmet 612 DWI, 6-cyl, diesel, water-cooled, 7.4 liter, turbo-charged. Horsepower, 248 hp. Fuel, 76.6 gals. (290 ltrs.) Steering: Power steering is applied to the first four wheels. *Performance:* Max. speed land, 71.5 mph (115 km/h), water 7.5 mph (12 km/h). Cruising range, 600 miles (900 km). Max. Fording depth, (without add-on armor) amphibious. *Armament:* (1) 12.7 mm or (1) 7.62 mm machine gun. *Manufacturer:* Patria Vehicles. Crew, 2-10.

1994 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. XA-186 NO. **Remarks:** This is the version currently in service with Norway. Starting with the XA-186 armor protection was increased, but the vehicles are no longer amphibious. A total of seventy of these vehicles have been ordered by Norway, with the first batch of twenty-two followed by an additional forty-eight. The Norwegian APCs are fitted with a small, low turret mounting the M2 .50 cal. HMG. Norway also ordered three other versions of the XA-186, the Ambulance, Command post and Recovery vehicle.

1997 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. XA-188 PWI aka Gevechtsvoertuig Voor Vredesmissies (GVV).

Remarks: The XA-188 is the export version of the XA-185 up-graded for the Netherlands, ninety carriers being ordered in 1997. With more standard armor protection than previous models, an engine with more horsepower has been used, but the XA-188 is no longer amphibious. Besides personnel carriers for the Dutch Marines, Ambulance, Command and control and Recovery versions were also included in the order.

2000 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. Sisu XA-200.

Remarks: Production of the Sisu XA- series has been taken over by Patria Vehicles. The new series now comes with heavier armor standard (with protection from up to 12.7 to 14.5 mm weapons), but no longer is amphibious.

2001 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. Patria Pasi XA-201.

Remarks: Denmark leased a small number of personnel carriers and ambulances for peace keeping duties. These were based on the XA-200 chassis and hull.

2001 Carr, Pers, Armored, 6x6. Patria Pasi XA-202.

Remarks: The XA-202S is an Armored Wheeled Command Vehicle for Sweden. Besides adding height to the rear compartment, the machine gun ring was moved forward to the vehicle commander's hatch. It also has an auxillary power unit and fittings for masts and communications gear.

2001 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. Patria Pasi XA-203. Remarks: Forty-eight of the XA-203 have been ordered by the Finnish Army for their Rapid Deployment Force, and an additional 104 have been ordered by Sweden as the XA-203S. All of the 203 series are now fitted with seat-belts, central tire inflation system, and night/all weather vision systems for the crew and gunner. The XA-203S will mount the Hagglund power turret as used on Swedish APCs. While no longer amphibious, the XA-200 series can ford up to 59 in. (1,500 mm) of water without special preparation.

2001 Carr, Pers, Armd, 8x8. Patria Armored Modular Vehicle (AMV). Remarks: A new larger 8x8 multi-mission carrier is under development.



Above: The Patria AMV as seen in 2009.

2004 Carr, Wpns, 6x6. XA-203 Advanced Mortar System (AMOS).



Above: Patria AMOS in final form, the first vehicles were delivered to the Finnish Army in 2006. (Photo: Patria Oy)

Remarks: A co-development of the (Finnish) Patria and Swedish (Hagglunds) the AMOS uses a turret mounted, soft-recoil, twin 120 mm mortar system for its armament. The vehicle has a full 360 degree traverse, on board fire control computer, and a direct fire capability. The Finnish Army was the first to take deliveries of the new vehicle.

2004 Carr, Personnel, Armd, 6x6. XC-360P Rosomak aka Wolverine. Remarks: The XC-360P will be the base vehicle designation for a series being built for Poland. As of 2004 a total of 690 carriers were on order.

2008 Vehicle, Utility, 4x4. Land Rover Defender.



2008 Vehicle, Utility, 4x4. Mercedes-Benz G-Class

The Finnish Army uses the MB *Geländewagen* mostly in its armored configuration or the ambulance; but other versions are also in service.