

CROATIA



Flag Description:

three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and blue superimposed by the Croatian coat of arms (red and white checkered)



Background: The lands that today comprise Croatia were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until the close of World War I. In 1918, the Croats, Serbs, and Slovenes formed a kingdom known after 1929 as Yugoslavia. Following World War II, Yugoslavia became a federal independent Communist state under the strong hand of Marshal TITO. Although Croatia declared its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, it took four years of sporadic, but often bitter, fighting before occupying Serb armies were mostly cleared from Croatian lands. Under UN supervision, the last Serb-held enclave in eastern Slavonia was returned to Croatia in 1998.

Geography: Location, Southeastern Europe, bordering the Adriatic Sea, between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia. Area: total: 56,542 sq km. Area - comparative: slightly smaller than West Virginia. Land boundaries: total: 2,197 km. Border countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina 932 km, Hungary 329 km, Serbia 241 km, Montenegro 25 km, Slovenia 670 km. Coastline:

5,835 km (mainland 1,777 km, islands 4,058 km). Climate: Mediterranean and continental; continental climate predominant with hot summers and cold winters; mild winters, dry summers along coast. Terrain: geographically diverse; flat plains along Hungarian border, low mountains and highlands near Adriatic coastline and islands. Natural resources: oil, some coal, bauxite, low-grade iron ore, calcium, gypsum, natural asphalt, silica, mica, clays, salt, hydropower. Natural hazards: destructive earthquakes. Geography - note: controls most land routes from Western Europe to Aegean Sea and Turkish Straits; the vast majority of Adriatic Sea islands lie off the coast of Croatia - some 1,200 islands, islets, ridges, and rocks.

Military Notes: Branches, Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia (Oruzane Snage Republike Hrvatske, OSRH), consists of five major commands directly subordinate to a General Staff: Ground Forces (Hrvatska Kopnena Vojska, HKoV), Naval Forces (Hrvatska Ratna Mornarica, HRM), Air Force, Joint Education and Training Command, Logistics Command; Military Police Force supports each of the three Croatian military forces (2007). Vehicles used during the fight for sepearation from Yugoslavia and Serbia sometimes carried the letters ZNG which stood for Zbor Narodne Garde (National Guard Corps). (CIA World Factbook 2007)

1991 Car, Armd, 4x2. Car, Armd, Imp, 4x2. VW

1991 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x2. APC, Improvised, 4x2

1991 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x2. APC, Imp, 4x2. Petrinja (Croatia)

1991 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x4, APC, Imp, 6x4

1991 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x2. APC, Imp, 4x2. Sisak (Croatia)

1991 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. APC, Improvised, 6x6

1991 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x2. APC, Improvised, 4x2

1991 Carr, Wpns.Truck, Armd, 20mm, 4x4

1992 Carr, Anti-Aircraft, Strijela 10 CRO, 6x6

1992 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Torpedo, LOV-OP

2000 Carr, Wpns. TAM 150 w/20mm AA.



Above: Unarmored Croatian TAM 150 with pedestal mounted 20mm cannon in the back.