



## SLOVENIA



**Background:** The Slovenian lands were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until the Empire's dissolution at the end of World War I. In 1918, the Slovenes joined the Serbs and Croats in forming a new multinational state, which was named Yugoslavia in 1929. After World War II, Slovenia became a republic of the renewed Yugoslavia, which though Communist, distanced itself from Moscow's rule. Dissatisfied with the exercise of power by the majority Serbs, the Slovenes succeeded in establishing their independence in 1991 after a short 10-day war. Historical ties to Western Europe, a strong economy, and a stable democracy have assisted in Slovenia's transformation to a modern state. Slovenia acceded to both NATO and the EU in the spring of 2004.

### Geography Slovenia:

Location: Central Europe, eastern Alps bordering the Adriatic Sea, between Austria and Croatia. Area: total: 20,273 sq km. Area - comparative: slightly smaller than New Jersey. Land boundaries: total: 1,334 km. Border countries: Austria 330 km, Croatia 670 km, Italy 232 km, Hungary 102 km. Coastline: 46.6 km. Climate: Mediterranean climate on the coast, continental climate with mild to hot summers and cold winters in the plateaus and valleys to the east. Terrain: a short coastal strip on the Adriatic, an alpine mountain region adjacent to Italy and Austria, mixed mountains and valleys with numerous rivers to the east. Natural resources: lignite coal, lead, zinc, mercury, uranium, silver, hydropower, forests. Natural hazards: flooding and earthquakes. Environment - current issues: Sava River polluted with domestic and industrial waste; pollution of coastal waters with heavy metals and toxic chemicals; forest damage near Koper from air pollution (originating at metallurgical and chemical plants) and resulting acid rain. Geography - note: despite its small size, this eastern Alpine country controls some of Europe's major transit routes. (CIA Handbook 2006)

**Military Notes:** Slovenia has a small but modern army and growing defense industry.

### 2003 Vehicle, Recce. STO Ravne Valuk, 6x6.



Above: Slovenian Valuk ARSV with KFOR in 2002.  
(Photo: KFOR)

**Remarks:** STO Ravne Company of Slovenia, manufactures the Valuk under license from Steyr-Daimler-Puch of Austria. Based on the Pandur Armored Reconnaissance and Scout Vehicle, the Valuk can carry a crew of up to eight

soldiers. Armament can range from a single 7.62mm light machine gun to a 12.7mm (.50 cal) HMG, or even the Rafael of Israel powered Overhead Weapon Station with a 25mm Bushmaster cannon and coax 7.62mm machine gun. Automatic fire suppression in the engine and crew compartment is also supplied.

**Physical Data:** Weight empty, 22,712 lbs (10300 kgs). Loaded, 29,326 lbs (13300 kgs). Length, 228 in (5783 mm). Width, 98.5 in (2500 mm). Height (w/o turret), 81 in (2060 mm). Ground Clearance, 17 in (430 mm). Wheel Base, 120.5 in (3060 mm). Drive, 6x6. Armor, proof from 12.7mm fire from the front arc. With kit, 12.7mm fire from 360 degrees. NBC Protection, vehicle over-pressure. **Armament:** Main (1) 7.62mm LMG, or (1) .50 cal. (12.7mm) HMG, or (1) 25mm Bushmaster cannon and (1) 7.62mm coax. **Capacity:** Fuel, diesel. Ammo/Qty, as per armament fitted. Crew/Passengers, 3/5. **Engine:** (1) Steyr 612.35

6-cylinder, liquid cooled, turbo-diesel producing 310 hp (230 kW). Location, right front next to driver. *Transmission:* Automatic. Speeds Fwd/Rev, 5/1. *Suspension System:* Coil spring 1st & 2<sup>nd</sup> axle, torsion bar on 3<sup>rd</sup> axle. Wheels Steerable, front & middle pair. Turning Radius, 56 ft (17 m). No of wheels, 6 w Central Tire Inflation System (CTIS). *General Data:* Radio, as fitted by user. *Night Vision Devices:* Drive, (3) periscopes plus Day/Night periscope. Commander, (5) periscopes. *Performance:* Speed, 68 mph (110 km/h). Range (est), 310 mi (500 km). Fording Depth, 47 in (1200 mm). Max Grade, 70%. Trench Crossing, 59 in (1500 mm). Step, 19.5 in (500 mm). *Usage:* The Valuk is used by the Slovenian Army with 72 vehicle delivered by 2005. *Manufacturer:* STO Ravne Company, Slovenia.