I.

Army.

The President of the Republic is the supreme head of the army; he either commands the army and navy in person or designates a commander to act in his place. The duties of the Commander in Chief of the army are laid down by the National Congress. The command of the army is entrusted to the General Officer who is regarded by the Federal Executive as best fitted for the appointment.

The Ministry of War is the supreme military authority for all questions concerning organisation, armament, fortifications and military administration.

The General Staff is an intermediate organ between the Commander in Chief of the army and his subordinates; it is placed under the Ministry of War and Marine. The General Staff includes: the General Staff proper and the brigade or regimental staffs which assist the General Staff in carrying out its duties in connection with the army.

In addition to the above mentioned bodies, there is an Inspector-General’s Department which supervises the carrying-out of all measures regarding the organisation, maintenance, distribution and employment of the active army.

The Inspector-General of the army has a certain number of inspectors of arms and services under his immediate orders.

MILITARY AREAS.

The territory of the Republic is divided into a certain number of military areas; these are further sub-divided into military districts, and the latter again into military sub-districts. The command of each military area is entrusted to the commander of the division or brigade stationed in the territory forming the area in question.
CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY.

Every Venezuelan citizen is liable for service in the active army and in the reserve during the periods laid down by the law. The national army includes the Active Army and the reserve army.

The Active Army includes the following arms: infantry, cavalry and artillery, besides the following departments and services: Staff, Engineers, Train, Air Force, Intendance, Remounts and Veterinary Services, Military Justice and Medical Service.

The Venezuelan army is organised in five brigades, consisting, in all, of 33 infantry battalions.

The artillery consists of two fortress and coast artillery groups, one regiment of field artillery and one machine-gun company.

The cavalry consists of two squadrons.

EFFECTIVES.

The active army of Venezuela has a strength of 7,500 men ¹.

II.

Navy.

LIST OF UNITS
(1925)

Gunboats:

1. Mariscal Sucre
(1886, 1912)
Displacement, 1,125 tons. Dimensions, 192 × 30 × 13 feet. H. P. 2,000 = 13 kts. Guns:
2 4-inch; 2 6-pdr.; 6 3-pdr.; 2 1-pdr.

2. General Salom
(1900)
Displacement, 750 tons. Dimensions: 240 × 26 × 13 feet. H. P. 1,900 = 10 kts. Guns:
1 12-pdr.; 4 6-pdr.

3. Miranda (1895)
Displacement, 200 tons. Dimensions: 135 × 19 × 8 feet. H. P. 315 = 10 kts. Guns:
1 6-pdr.

Miscellaneous: 1 armed tug and 1 transport.

Sources.

Código Militar, 1923.
Gaceta oficial, 23/VII/1924.
Jane's Fighting Ships, 1925.

¹ This figure is not official, and its accuracy cannot be guaranteed; the Secretariat has not been able to obtain any official Venezuelan documents showing the strength of the active army.