

ECUADOR

GENERAL

Area ¹	451,000 sq. km
Population (estimation).	2,000,000
Density per sq. km.	4.4
Length of railway system (VI. 1929)	1,017 km.

I.

Army.

A. SUPREME MILITARY AUTHORITY AND ITS ORGANS

The supreme military authority is in the hands of the President of the Republic.

In time of war the Head of the Executive may appoint a commander-in-chief. The latter assumes full power and responsibility for the conduct of the war.

1. *The Ministry of War, Marine and Aviation.*

The Ministry of War, Marine and Aviation administers the land, sea and air forces of the country.

It consists of :

The Secretariat of the Minister ;

Secretarial Branch ;

Department No. I : Army (6 Sections : personnel, mobilisation, intendance, justice, medical and remounts) ;

Department No. II : Navy ;

Department No. III : Air force ;

Department No. IV : Mobilisation.

In peace time, the command and administration of the forces are exercised by the Ministry of War through the following organs :

(a) the Inspectorate-General of the Army, and

(b) the Area Commands.

¹ Source : *Institut international de Statistique*. The Hague.

The following are also under the Ministry of War :

- (a) the General Staff of the Army ;
- (b) the Permanent High Court ;
- (c) the Supreme Military Council, and
- (d) the Services Assessing Board.

The Ministry of War, as the principal organ of national defence, is responsible for directing and co-ordinating the work of the other organs, in accordance with the suggestions of the Council of National Defence, and with the co-operation of the Inspector-General of the Army and the Chief of the General Staff.

2. *General Staff.*

In agreement with the Minister of War the General Staff is entrusted with the technical preparation of the army for war.

It consists of :

- The Secretariat of the Chief of the General Staff ;
- Department No. I : Training and History (2 Sections) ;
- Department No. II : Operations, Intelligence and Statistics (2 Sections) ;
- Department No. III : Mobilisation and Transportation (2 Sections).

There is also a topographical service, under the General Staff.

3. *The Council of National Defence.*

The Council of National Defence has to examine and deal with the problem of national defence and to ensure uniformity and permanence in the country's military preparation.

It consists of: President, Secretariat, Mixed Deliberative Committee and Exclusively Military Technical Committee.

4. *Inspectorate-General of the Army.*

The Inspectorate-General of the Army is under the Ministry of War and exercises administrative, economic and technical control over the army.

It consists of the Secretariat of the Inspectorate-General and of two Sections (infantry, cavalry, artillery, train and technical services).

5. *The Supreme Military Council.*

The Supreme Military Council, which deals with questions affecting the career and position of army officers, and whose duties are set forth in the Military Promotions and Status Law, is composed as follows ; the Inspector-General of the Army as president ; the chief of the General Staff as vice-president ; the Under-Secretary of War ; the head of the First Military District ; the Head of the First Department of the War Ministry, acting as Secretary, and three general or field officers appointed annually by the Executive.

B. MILITARY AREAS

The Republic is divided into 4 military areas which are under the authority of the General Staff and the Ministry of War. Each area contains one army division.

C. COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY

The Army consists of :

- The Active Army ;
- The First Reserve ;
- The Second Reserve.

The Active Army is composed of men of twenty years of age called up for service with the colours and of all those who have been called up for training, or for other reasons.

The First Reserve consists of men of 20 who have not performed their military service, and men of 21 to 35 years of age.

The Second Reserve is composed of men aged from 18 to 19 and 36 to 50 years, inclusive.

In peace time the Army is composed of :

- 10 infantry battalions, of 4 companies each.
- 2 battalions of sappers and engineers (7 companies).
- 1 cavalry regiment (3 squadrons).
- 3 independent squadrons.
- 3 artillery regiments, consisting of two 2-battery groups each.
- 1 air company.

There is also an Air Force, with a certain number of small squadrons.

The Auxiliary Services of the Army are as follows :

- Intendance ;
- Health, Sanitary and Chemical Departments ;
- Justice ;
- Veterinary Service.

D. RECRUITING SYSTEM

Military service is compulsory for all citizens between the ages of twenty to fifty inclusive ; all citizens are liable to serve for three years.

The only exceptions which the law allows are in cases of physical unfitness or mental disease.

CADRES.

(a) *Recruiting of Officers for the Active Army.*

The officers of the Active Army are recruited as follows :

- (a) Commissioned from the Military School or institutions established for the instruction and training of cadets ;

(b) Promoted from the ranks ;

(c) Selected from personnel on the "available" and "retired" lists.

As regards promotion from the ranks, first-class sergeants born in Ecuador who have passed an examination, are not over 27 years of age and are unmarried, can obtain commissioned rank by promotions which take place once a year under the conditions stated below.

To obtain promotion to the rank of officer, first-class sergeants must have served at least seven years in the ranks, including two consecutive years as first-class sergeants.

Preference is given to first-class sergeants who have obtained the highest places in the annual examinations.

(b) *Recruiting of Reserve Officers.*

Reserve officers are recruited :

(a) From among officers who have retired from the Active Army but have kept their military rank ;

(b) From among first-class sergeants who have voluntarily left the Active Army after more than ten years' service, including two years' service as non-commissioned officers ;

(c) From among citizens who have completed their compulsory military service as reserve officer cadets.

Military schools.

The most advanced centre of technical studies is the Higher War School. There is also a military school for officers, a school for non-commissioned officers, a radio-telegraphic school and schools for the different arms (artillery, infantry, cavalry, etc.).

An aviation school has been established and is administered by senior officers of the Army, the technical direction being in the hands of Italian officers. This school possesses special aerodromes at Quito and Guayaquil.

A practical training school for subaltern officers (1 year course) was formed in 1929.

E. ESTABLISHMENT

I. ARMY.

a) EFFECTIVES ACCORDING TO RANKS.

Officers :

	1928	1929
Generals	4	4
Colonels	11	13
Lieutenant-Colonels	44	39
Majors	87	86
Captains	149	141
Lieutenants	226	222
2nd-Lieutenants	133	126
Total	654 ¹	631 ¹
<i>N. C. O.s</i>	533	529
<i>Corporals and other ranks</i>	4,342	4,267
Total	4,875	4,796
Grand total	5,529	5,427

¹ Including 3 administrative officers (2 for 1929), 38 army doctors (43 for 1929) and 74 (49 for 1929) civilians ranking as officers.

(b) EFFECTIVES ACCORDING TO ARMS¹ (1929).

	Officers ²	N.C.O.s.	Men	Total	Animals
Ministry of War, Marine and Aviation	40	—	34	74	3
Inspectorate-General of the Army	9	—	8	17	4
General Staff	19	—	15	34	3
Military Schools ³	38	7	49	94	20
Military Areas	37	5	51	93	8
Infantry	260	310	2,340	2,910	110
Artillery	87	93	705	885	258
Cavalry	46	44	522	612	613
Engineers	49	58	477	584	62
Aviation	9	8	17	34	—
Miscellaneous	37	4	49	90	38
Total	631	529	4,267	5,427	1,119

2. POLICE.⁴

	1928	1929
(a) Urban police	2,064	2,225
(b) Rural police	255	255
(c) Railway police	14	14
Total	2,333	2,494

3. CARABINEERS.⁴

(1929)

Officers	29
N. C. O.s	29
Corporals and carabineers	1,407

This corps is for the maintenance of public order. Officers and carabineers are recruited from the army units. Service in the corps is assimilated to active service in the army. The corps consists of a headquarters and five squadrons, each of four platoons.

¹ Excluding 205 civil employees.

² Including administrative officers, medical officers and officials graded as officers.

³ Excluding 60 cadets of the Military School.

⁴ Under the Ministry of the Interior.

II.

Navy.

LIST OF UNITS

(1929).

Gunboats :

1. *Libertador Bolivar* (1907) Displacement, 750 tons. Length : 240 feet. Beam : 27 ½ feet. Max. draught : 10 ½ feet. Guns : 4 3-pdr. 3 torpedo-tubes (18-inch).
2. *Cotopaxi* (1884) Displacement, 300 tons. 135 × 21 × 9 feet. 2 small guns.
- Total tonnage on January 1st, 1930 : 1,050 tons.

III.

Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

(1) The budget year coincides with the calendar year.

(2) Expenditure on national defence, shown under the item Ministry of War, the Navy and the Air Force, was as follows :

	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Closed accounts			Estimates
	Suces (ooo's)			
<i>Ministry of War, the Navy and the Air Force :</i>				
Ministry	17.9	22.8	26.0	33.6
Army	7,738.8	8,460.4	8,134.0	8,580.2
Navy	425.0	567.6	638.3	8,23.1
Total defence expenditure.	8,181.7	9,050.8	8,798.3	9,436.9
Military pensions	—	—	1,160.0	—
Total, Ministry of War, the Navy and the Air Force	8,181.7	9,050.8	9,958.3	9,436.9

(3) Expenditure on the navy includes expenditure on harbour-masters' offices and lighthouses.

(4) Military pensions, amounting to 1,048,800 sucres in 1926 and to 1,092,800 sucres in 1927, were not shown under the Ministry of War, the Navy and the Air Force for those years, but under the item "State obligations". For 1929 they were shown jointly with civil pensions under the heading "General and unforeseen expenditure and pensions".