VENEZUELA

GENERAL

Area ........................................ 1,020,400 sq. km.
Population (1928) .................. 3,116,000
Density per sq. km. .............. 3.1
Length of railway system (1927) ...... 945 km.

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.

All matters concerning the army, navy or air force are within the competence of the Federal Government.

With the exception of the police and prison guards, the States and municipalities are not allowed to have forces other than those organised by order of the Federal Government.

The army is made up of a contingent provided by each State, by the federal district and by the dependent federal territories, in proportion to their population.

The Ministry of War and Marine is the supreme authority for all questions concerning organisation, armament, fortifications and administration of army and navy; it is also the organ through which the Commander-in-Chief exercises his command.

It is responsible for:

    Equipment and training of the active army and the naval forces.
    Compulsory military service.
War material and workshops.
Communications and aviation.
Military and naval schools and educational establishments.
Fortresses and barracks.
Building and repair of army buildings; defence works.
Pensions, retired pay, etc.

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.

MILITARY AREAS.

The territory of the Republic is divided into a certain number of military areas; these are further subdivided into military districts, and the latter again into military subdistricts. 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 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 9 brigades, consisting, in all, of 43 infantry battalions.

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

The cavalry consists of one regiment.

Military Schools.
Flying School (10 officer-pilots, 14 mechanics, and 28 pupils).
Cadet Officers’ School (6 officers and 60 cadet officers).
Army School of Radiotelegraphy (20 pupils).

EFFECTIVES.

The active army of Venezuela has a strength of 6,000 men¹.

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.
II.

**Navy.**

**LIST OF UNITS**
*(1929)*

**Gunboats:**

1. *Mariscal Sucre* *(1886)*

2. *General Salom* *(1900)*

3. *Miranda* *(1895)*

Miscellaneous: 2 units.

Total tonnage (3 units) . . . . . . . 2,075 tons.

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III.

**Budget Expenditure on National Defence.**

**A. NOTES ON BUDGET PROCEDURE.**

1. The budget year covers the period from July 1st to June 30th.
2. The budget is gross.
3. Expenditure on defence is shown under the Department of War and the Marine, which also includes expenditure on military pensions, pilotage and lighthouses.

**B. BUDGET EXPENDITURE ON NATIONAL DEFENCE.**

**I. Summary of Defence Expenditure.**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolivars (000's)</td>
<td>13,816</td>
<td>16,750</td>
<td>20,025</td>
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