

COSTA RICA

GENERAL

Area	60,000 sq. km.
Population (XII.1929)	504,000
Density per sq. km.:	8.4
Length of railway system (1928) (excluding some industrial lines)	555 km.

I.

Army.

The President of the Republic is the supreme head of the Army. The Department of Public Security is under the direction of a Secretary of State. There is also a Commander-in-Chief, a local commandant, an infantry instructor and a cavalry instructor.

A Directorate General of Aeronautics, attached to the Office of the Secretary of State for Public Security, was created in November 1929; it regulates and supervises air traffic and all matters relating to the commercial and military air services.

The regular army of Costa Rica consists of infantry and artillery.

Budgetary establishment of the regular army (infantry and artillery) for 1928: 44 officers and 268 other ranks; for 1929, 52 officers and 266 other ranks.

The statutory peace establishment of the active army has been fixed for the year 1929 at a maximum of 500; this may be raised to 5,000 in case of internal disturbances.

The total number of men enrolled is 50,485, of whom 37,280 belong to the active army. The latter consists of 33 battalions, which may be mobilised in case of necessity.

Military Police. The Department of Military Police is also part of the Department of Public Security. The total establishment of the military police for 1928 was 343 officers and other ranks; for 1929, 354. The provincial police has a strength of 316.

RECRUITING.

All citizens of Costa Rica between the ages of 18 and 50 are liable for military service.

The army is divided into two parts: the active army and the reserve. The former includes all men between 18 and 40, the latter men between 40 and 50.

There is also a National Guard consisting of men between 50 and 60.

II.

Budget Expenditure on Public Security.

A. NOTES ON BUDGET PROCEDURE.

(1) The financial year coincided with the calendar year until 1928 ; as from July 1929 the budget year covers the period July 1st to June 30th.

(2) The budget is gross.

(3) Expenditure on the army is included in that of the Ministry of Public Security (Army, Police, military bands, the marine and penitentiaries).

B. BUDGET EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC SECURITY.

	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929-30
	Closed accounts				Estimates
	Colones (000's)				
Ministry of Public Security. .	2,359	2,622	2,627	2,709	2,752

NOTES. — (1) Expenditure on military pensions is charged, jointly with civil pensions, to the Ministry of Finance.

(2) The expenditure on the marine is entirely devoted to civil purposes.