COLOMBIA

Area ........................................ 1,150,000 sq. km.
Population (1932) ...................... 8,828,000
Density per sq. km...................... 7.7
Length of railway system (estimate 1930) (in use) 2,950 km.

I. Army.

ORGANS OF MILITARY COMMAND AND ADMINISTRATION.

In time of peace, the supreme command of the army is vested in the President of the Republic; in time of war, he may delegate his powers to a general.

MINISTRY OF WAR.

The Ministry of War comprises the following branches, which are directly under the Minister:

Minister's Secretariat.

No. 1 Department: Secretariat and three sections (Pensions, Justice, Chaplains).

No. 2 Department: General Staff, which includes the five following bureaux:

(1) Operations and Communications; (2) Territorial Service and Mobilisation; (3) Information; (4) Transport and Lines of Communication; (5) Military History and Personnel.

The Staff College is under this department.

No. 3 Department: General Inspectorate of the Army, which includes two sections: infantry and technical troops, and mounted troops.

Under this department is the military cadet school (100 cadets).

No. 4 Department: Material, which includes three sections: armaments and munitions; clothing, equipment and bedding; quarters and buildings.
Under this department are placed the ammunition factory, the army workshops, the clothing factories of the Ministry of War, the armament and ammunition depots, and the clothing and equipment depots.

No. 5 Department: Personnel, under which are placed the general army archives.

4 independent sections: Accountancy and Treasury, River Flotilla and Air Fleet, Medical and Food Supplies, Remount and Veterinary Service.

**Inspectorate-General of the Army.**

The Inspector-General of the army is the senior divisional general. He supervises the execution of military measures emanating from the Government and the Ministry of War. He must inspect every command, military institution and army unit at least once a year.

**Higher Command.**

The brigade commands are responsible for the direction and training of officers and men. They direct the administrative services and are also charged with the maintenance of barracks, arms, etc. These commands constitute the recruiting centres of the corresponding military areas.

**Territorial Military Districts.**

The country is divided into 14 zones (one for each department). Each departmental zone is divided into military districts, the number of which is fixed by the Ministry of War. The total number of military districts may not exceed 26.

The military districts are divided into territorial areas, the number of which is fixed by the Ministry of War. The total number of territorial areas may not exceed 150.

For purposes of territorial military service, each departmental zone is under the orders of the Governor, who comes under the Ministry of War.

Each departmental zone supplies the contingent required for the replacement of the army effectives.

**Composition of the Army.**

1. Higher Formations.

5 mixed brigades.

The First Brigade includes:

Brigade headquarters staff, 3 infantry battalions, 1 group of cavalry, 1 group of artillery, 1 railway battalion.
The Second Brigade includes:
Brigade headquarters staff, 3 battalions of infantry, 1 railway battalion.

The Third Brigade includes:
Brigade headquarters staff, 3 battalions of infantry, 1 group of cavalry, 1 artillery battery.

The Fourth Brigade includes:
Brigade headquarters staff, 2 battalions of infantry, 1 railway battalion (2 companies).

The Fifth Brigade includes:
Brigade headquarters staff, 3 battalions of infantry, 1 battalion of sappers (2 companies), 1 group of cavalry (2 squadrons).

There is also a Guard of Honour battalion.

A battalion of infantry consists of 1 headquarters, 3 rifle companies and 1 heavy machine-gun company with 4 machine-guns.

A group of cavalry consists of 1 headquarters and 2 cavalry squadrons.

The group of artillery consists of 1 headquarters and two 4-gun batteries.

The battalion of sappers consists of 1 headquarters, 1 company of sappers and 1 bridging company.

A railway battalion consists of 1 headquarters and 2 traffic companies.

The battalion forming the Guard of Honour consists of 1 headquarters and 4 rifle companies. As regards duties, it is under the President of the Republic, and as regards organisation, training, and administration, under the Minister of War.

The army has also an Amazon Frontiers Headquarters and 2 troops of factory guards (munitions and aviation).

2. Arms and Services.

Infantry: 15 battalions (60 companies including 14 machine-gun companies).

Cavalry: 6 squadrons.

Artillery: 3 batteries.

Engineers (sappers): 1 battalion (2 companies).

Air Force:
1 training squadron (6 machines).
3 fighting aeroplanes.
6 scouting aeroplanes.

In addition, the army comprises 3 railway battalions (6 companies) and 1 medical company.
RECRUITING SYSTEM AND PERIOD OF SERVICE.

Military service in the first-line army is compulsory for all citizens between 21 and 30 years of age. The enlistment of volunteers is prohibited.

The period of service with the colours is one year, and every six months contingents of 3,000 conscripts are called up.

Men who are not exempted or excluded from service by the law serve in the First-Line Army from the age of 21 to the age of 30; in the National Guard from 31 to 40; in the Territorial Guard from 41 to 45, after which age they are no longer subject to any military obligations.

The men comprising the First-Line Army, the National Guard or the Territorial Guard, who are not performing active service, constitute the reserve of each of the above groups. Reservists are placed in the first class if they have undergone full military training; otherwise in the second class.

The Government may call up reservists in time of peace for periods of training, exercises and manoeuvres.

The Territorial Service consists of military staffs, dealing with the mobilisation and supply service of the army.

It comprises the following personnel:

- Majors or captains (commanding zones) ........ 5
- Captains (commanding districts) .................. 16
- Lieutenants and second-lieutenants ............... 9

Total ............................................. 30

- N.C.O.s ........................................ 30
- Orderlies ....................................... 5

General total ..................................... 65

Military Tax.

Persons liable to military service but who have not been drawn by lot to serve with the colours pay a single tax (national defence tax) of from 5 to 100 pesos in lieu of military service.

There is also another single military tax, known as the "exemption charge" (50 to 300 pesos), which may be levied on all citizens liable to military service who have been selected by lot but do not wish to perform active service.

Exemptions.

The following persons are exempt from military service in all circumstances: Catholic clergy and seminarists, members of religious educational communities, disabled persons, and persons unfit for service as a result of disease or infirmity.

Persons engaged in certain duties, and young men who are studying for a professional career (up to the end of their studies) and have not failed in their university examinations, are temporarily exempted from military service.
MILITARY SCHOOLS.

Staff College.—The object of this college is to train field and staff officers. The course lasts for two years.

Military Cadet School.—The school comes under the Inspectorate-General of the Army. The course lasts for four years. Students who have successfully followed the instruction given in the military school leave with the rank of second lieutenant.

A preparatory course for supernumerary cadets, organised in 1929, is attached to the School.

Military Aviation School.—Is directly under the Ministry of War and is established in Madrid (Cundinamarca).

EFFECTIVES.

Army.

I. ESTABLISHMENT (I. XI. 1931).

Officers :.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generals</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonels</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant-Colonels</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commandants</td>
<td>37</td>
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<td>Captains</td>
<td>107</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lieutenants</td>
<td>125</td>
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<td>Second Lieutenants</td>
<td>151</td>
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</table>

Total .................................. 477

N.C.O.s and other ranks ............... 6,170

2. BUDGETARY EFFECTIVES (1930).

Officers ................................ 499
N.C.O.s and other ranks .............. 8,000

Total ................................ 8,499

Police.
(May 1933.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Police</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National police</td>
<td>2,654 men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departmental, district and commissariat police</td>
<td>5,267 men</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal police</td>
<td>2,904 men</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total ................................ 10,825 men
II. Navy.

LIST OF UNITS.
(1933.)

**Gunboats:**
- *Chercinto* (1896)
- *Santa Marta* (19)
- *Cartagena* (1930)
- *Barranquilla* (1923)
- *Esperanza* (1897)
- *Presidente Mosquera*

**Displacement:**
- 643 tons.

**Dimensions:**
- 137' 9" x 23' 6" x 2' 7".
- Speed: 15.5 kts.

**River gunboats:**
- *Esperanza* (1897)
- Displacement: 400 tons.
- *Presidente Mosquera*
- Displacement: 200 tons.

III. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

The budget year coincides with the calendar year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1929</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
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<td>Estimates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of War</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes.**—1. The above expenditure of the Ministry of War includes that on coastguard vessels and river gunboats.

2. The above figures include pensions estimated at 0.3 million pesos for each of the years 1929 to 1933.

3. In addition, special credits amounting to 10.5 million pesos were voted in September and November 1932 for purposes of national defence, covered by the proceeds of a loan. In February 1933, an advance of 5 million pesos was obtained from the *Banco de la Republica* for the same purposes.