

Honduras Country Handbook

This handbook provides basic reference information on Honduras, including its geography, history, government, military forces, and communications and transportation networks. This information is intended to familiarize military personnel with local customs and area knowledge to assist them during their assignment to Honduras.

The Marine Corps Intelligence Activity is the community coordinator for the Country Handbook Program. This product reflects the coordinated U.S. Defense Intelligence Community position on Honduras.

Dissemination and use of this publication is restricted to official military and government personnel from the United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and other countries as required and designated for support of coalition operations.

The photos and text reproduced herein have been extracted solely for research, comment, and information reporting, and are intended for fair use by designated personnel in their official duties, including local reproduction for training. Further dissemination of copyrighted material contained in this document, to include excerpts and graphics, is strictly prohibited under Title 17, U.S. Code.

CONTENTS

KEY FACTS	1
U.S. MISSION	2
U.S. Embassy	2
U.S. Consulate	2
U.S. Military Facilities	3
Land Mines	3
Entry Requirements	3
Customs Restrictions	4
GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE	4
Geography	4
Land Statistics	6
Borders	6
Bodies of Water	6
Topography	8
Environment	12
Climate	13
Climatic Patterns	13
Phenomena	16
INFRASTRUCTURE	16
Transportation	16
Roads	17
Rail	21
Air	22
Communication	27
General Description	27
Radio	28
Television	29

Contents (Continued)

Telecommunication	30
Newspapers and Magazines	31
Postal Service	32
Internet	32
Satellites	33
SOCIETY AND CULTURE	34
Population Patterns	34
Society	36
People	37
Ethnic Groups	37
Language	39
Family	39
Roles of Men and Women	40
Customs and Courtesies	40
Education and Literacy	42
Religion	43
Recreation	44
Cultural Considerations	44
MEDICAL ASSESSMENT	45
Disease Risks to Deployed Personnel	45
Medical Capabilities	47
Civilian Health Care	47
Military Health Care	48
Key Medical Facilities	48
HISTORY	49
Chronology of Key Events	52
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS	54
Government	54

Contents (Continued)

National Level	56
Local Level	58
Politics	59
Political Parties	60
Foreign Relations	61
International Organizations	64
Nongovernmental Organizations	65
Corruption	65
ECONOMY	66
Economic Aid	66
Banking Services	67
Resources	69
Outlook	78
THREAT	78
Crime	79
Drug Trafficking	79
Major Intelligence Services	80
ARMED FORCES	82
Army	82
Mission	82
Organization	83
Personnel	84
Uniforms	84
Training	86
Recent Operations	87
Equipment	88
Communication	90
Unit Dispositions	91

Contents (Continued)

Navy	93
Mission	93
Organization	93
Personnel	94
Training	94
Equipment	95
Air Arm	95
Marines	95
Mission	95
Organization	96
Personnel	96
Training	96
Equipment	96
Air Force	97
Mission	97
Organization	97
Capabilities	98
Personnel	98
Training	98
Equipment	100

APPENDICES

Equipment Recognition	A-1
Holidays	B-1
Language	C-1
Dangerous Animals and Plants	D-1

Contents (Continued)

ILLUSTRATIONS

Honduras	ix
National Flag	1
Central America	5
Topography	8
Land Use	10
Tegucigalpa	12
Nueva Ocotepaque and Puerto Lempira Weather	14
Tela and Tegucigalpa Weather	15
Transportation Network	17
Tertiary Road	18
Toncontin International Airport	23
Population Density	35
Woman Washing Clothes	40
School Children	43
Government Organization	55
Administrative Districts	58
Industry	71
Gathering Water	73
Farm	75
Market	76
National Police Officers	81
Military Regions	84
Army Rank Insignia	85
Honduran Soliders	88
Army Bases	91
Navy Rank Insignia	93
Naval Bases	94

Contents (Continued)

Marine Organization	96
Marine Bases	97
Air Force Rank Insignia	99
Air Force Bases	100



Honduras

KEY FACTS

Official Country Name. Republic of Honduras

Short Form. Honduras

Head of State. President Porfirio Lobo Sosa (27 January 2010)

Capital. Tegucigalpa

National Flag. Three equal horizontal bands of blue, white, and blue; five blue stars are centered on the white band.

Time Zone. GMT -6 hours

Telephone Country Code. 504

Population. 7.79 million (2009)

Languages. Spanish (official), English, and indigenous dialects

Official Currency. Lempira (HNL); 18.983 Lempira = US\$1

Credit/Debit Card Use. American Express, Diners Club, and MasterCard are not widely accepted; Visa is most accepted (Note: there may be surcharges for using credit/debit cards).

ATM Availability. Cirrus, Maestro, Visa, MasterCard, Plus, American Express ATMs are widely available.

Calendar. Gregorian



National Flag



U.S. MISSION

U.S. Embassy

The mission of the U.S. Embassy in Honduras is to promote diplomacy, human rights, economic growth, and development between the United States and Honduras. The embassy represents U.S. interests and maintains diplomatic relations with the government of Honduras.

<i>Mailing Address</i>	American Embassy Avenida La Paz, Tegucigalpa M.D.C., Honduras
<i>Telephone Number</i>	(504) 236-9320 or 238-5114
<i>Fax Number</i>	(504) 236-9037
<i>Internet Address</i>	honduras.usembassy.gov
<i>Hours</i>	Monday through Friday, 0800 to 1700

U.S. Consulate

The consular section is at the embassy. The mission of the U.S. Consulate is to assist U.S. citizens in Honduras and provide immigrant and non-immigrant visa services. American Citizen Services provides passport services, public notary services, legal advice, medical and emergency assistance, marriage and foreign adoption services, and voter registration. The consular section provides American citizens visiting Honduras the opportunity to register their visit in case of emergency. The American Citizen Services unit is open Monday through Friday 0800 to 1130.

Honduras has a Virtual Presence Post (VPP) for San Pedro Sula. The mission of the VPP is to help outreach groups develop relationships with the host community, facilitate partnerships, and help implement programs in San Pedro Sula. The group is staffed

by embassy employees and can be reached via e-mail at VCSPS@state.gov or on their web site, sanpedrosula.usvpp.gov.

U.S. Military Facilities

Soto Cano Air Base (1423N 08737W) is a Honduran Air Base in the Department of Comayagua and is home to the Honduran Air Force Academy. U.S. forces from Joint Task Force- (JTF-) Bravo are guests on the air base. It comprises more than 1,200 U.S. military and civilian personnel from all branches. The facility is a U.S. military staging area for humanitarian, counterdrug, and disaster-relief missions in the region.

JTF-Bravo consists of elements from the Joint Staff, U.S. Air Force 612th Air Base Squadron, Army Forces, U.S. Army Medical, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment (1/228th), and the Joint Security Forces.

Land Mines

Land mines and unexploded ordnance are still recovered near the borders with Nicaragua and El Salvador. Landslides, mudslides, and floods have scattered mines across the Departments of Gracias a Dios, Olancho, El Paraíso, Choluteca, Valle, and Francisco Morazan.

Entry Requirements

Immunizations for the following are required or recommended for persons traveling to Honduras: measles, mumps, and rubella; DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus); hepatitis A and B; typhoid; rabies; and malaria. Before traveling to Honduras travelers should start taking anti-malarial medicines. Any travelers arriving from

yellow-fever-infected areas of Africa or the Americas must present a yellow fever vaccination certificate.

Because Honduras is a member of the Central America-4 (CA-4), with Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, travelers must not exceed 90 days of total travel throughout the CA-4. Any foreigners barred from travel from within any other CA-4 country are not allowed entry into Honduras.

Customs Restrictions

Prohibited import items:

- Religious materials
- Narcotics
- Firearms and explosives

Prohibited export items:

- Antiques or artifacts of pre-colonial dates
- Narcotics
- Business equipment
- Birds, feathers, and other flora or fauna
- Firearms and explosives
- Photographs of official buildings

The import/export duty-free limits are:

- 200 cigarettes, 100 cigars, or 450 grams of tobacco
- 2 bottles of alcoholic beverages
- Perfume of a reasonable amount
- Gifts totaling no more than US\$1,000

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Geography

Located in Central America, Honduras borders Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Honduras has an extensive coastline

along the Caribbean Sea and a shorter one along the Pacific Ocean. Honduras is a rugged country with many mountains and valleys. The landscape along Honduras' coasts is relatively flat and has many mangrove forests. The country's dense tropical forests dominate the eastern region known as the Miskito Coast along the Guyape, Guyambre, Patuca, Coco, and Sico Rivers. Rivers are the primary source of water throughout the country.

Lake Yojoa is the largest natural body of fresh water found inland. Honduras' geographical location and topography allow a variety of climates. Precipitation patterns depend on the location, but as a whole the coastal areas are warmer and more humid than the mountainous interior.



Central America

Land Statistics

Total Area	112,090 square kilometers (43,278 square miles)
Water Area	200 square kilometers (77 square miles)
Coastline*	820 kilometers (510 miles)
Area Comparative	Slightly larger than Virginia
Central Coordinates	1500N 08630E
Land Usage	Cultivated: 13 percent

*The Caribbean Sea is located along Honduras' northern coastline, and the Pacific Ocean creates the southern coastline. The coastline along the Pacific Ocean is 124 kilometers (77 miles) long and the coastline along the Caribbean Sea is 644 kilometers (400 miles) long.

Borders

Direction	Country	Length km (mi)
West	Guatemala	256 (159)
West	El Salvador	342 (213)
East	Nicaragua	922 (573)
Total Land Boundaries		1,520 (944)

Border Disputes

Honduras has ongoing maritime border disputes with El Salvador, Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Jamaica, and Cuba. The three islands of El Tigre, Meanguera, and Meanguerita in the Gulf of Fonseca are in dispute between Honduras and El Salvador. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) awarded El Tigre to Honduras, while Meanguera and Meanguerita were awarded to El Salvador. The border disputes between Honduras and El Salvador, which

began in 1861, were finally settled by the ICJ in 1992, but minor disagreements continue.

Honduras disputes maritime boundaries with Nicaragua, and the Honduran Navy randomly boards vessels along the east coast. In October 2007, the ICJ awarded four islands off the coast of Honduras and Nicaragua to Honduras.

Bodies of Water

Lake Yojoa

Lake Yojoa (1453N 08759W) is Honduras' only major lake and is 22 kilometers (14 miles) long and 14 kilometers (9 miles) wide at its widest point. The lake is of volcanic origin and covers an area of 285 square kilometers (110 square miles) at an elevation of 650 meters (2,133 feet). The lake is in the central northwest, about a 2.5-hour drive from the capital.

Caratasca Lagoon

The Caratasca Lagoon (1523N 08355W) is in the eastern Department of Gracias a Dios. It is 88 kilometers (55 miles) long, extends inland for 40 kilometers (25 miles), and is linked with the Caribbean Sea by a 5-kilometer- (3-mile-) long channel. The lagoon is easily accessible from the city of Puerto Lempira, near the southeastern shoreline. There are many lagoons along the Caribbean coastline, but none of them are comparable in size to Caratasca.

Most rivers in Honduras form broad fertile river valleys. Thirteen rivers drain into the Caribbean Sea, and five drain into the Pacific Ocean. Rivers define half of Honduras' international borders. The Ulua River is the most significant river because it provides a transportation connection to the Caribbean Sea and is the site of a

planned hydroelectric power plant. The longest is the Rio Coco. Most rivers begin in the central region and flow outward. Seasonal waterways are found around the Miskito Coast.

Topography

Honduras has three geographical regions. There are narrow coastal plains along the Caribbean Coast that widen in the northeast, a mountainous interior with many river valleys, and the coastal plain of the Gulf of Fonseca on the Pacific Coast. The central region is characterized by mountainous terrain and deep valleys. About 80 percent of the country consists of mountains. A number of islands on the Caribbean and Pacific coasts belong to Honduras.



Topography

The largest island is Roatan, in the Caribbean Sea. Roatan is 50 kilometers (31 miles) long and 2 to 5 kilometers (1 to 3 miles) wide. A few islands are still disputed territories between Honduras and its neighbors.

The major landform in the country is the Central American Cordillera mountain range. The Central American Cordillera crosses Honduras from east to west. Parts of the Central American Cordillera are the Sierra Nombre de Dios, along the northern coast; the Sierra de Agalta and Sierra del Rio Tinto, which form the eastern divide; and the Sierra de Celaque and Sierra del Merendon, which form the western divide along El Salvador and Guatemala. The eastern regions consist mainly of dense tropical forests with little development while most of the population lives in the San Pedro Sulla valley in the northwest.

Highest Elevation Cerro Las Minas -
2,870 meters (9,416 feet)

Lowest Elevation Roatan Island - 0 meters (0 feet)

Vegetation is abundant throughout much of Honduras. Forests cover 4.6 million hectares (11.4 million acres), 41.5 percent of the total land area. Vegetative regions consist of wet and dry tropical forests, mangroves, and cloud forests. Mixed forests with dense vegetation exist at all altitudes ranging from 600 to 1,900 meters (1,969 to 6,234 feet). Tropical dry forests exist on flat areas and around the hills of southern Honduras along the Pacific Coast. Cloud forests receive more rainfall, and the vegetation is mainly pine and oak trees. Any area of land with an altitude greater than 1,800 meters (5,906 feet) is protected, although only 31 percent of the declared areas have been protected or mapped. The cloud forests in Honduras remain the most intact habitat of their kind in Central America.



Land Use

Honduras has forests of pine, fir, cedar, oak, balsa, rosewood, ebony, mahogany, ceiba (kapok), sapodilla, rubber, and walnut. Rainforests have an assortment of tropical trees, vines, ferns, lichens, mosses, and orchids. Mangroves and palm forests occupy low coastal areas along the Pacific and Caribbean coasts.

Movement through the dense mangrove forests is labor intensive; they are best navigated with small, light watercraft. All mangrove forests in Honduras are protected. Savannas are found close to the Pacific Coast, in the upper river valleys, and in the interior areas close to the Caribbean Coast. The eastern Department of Olancho and areas around the Patuca River, Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve, and Sico-Paulaya Valley have dense tropical forests, but timber harvesting has left vast open patches of land.

Honduran soil ranges from slate, quartz, sandstone, and volcanic rock in the central mountains to clay, sandstone, and limestone in the southeastern hills. Soil in the northern plain consists of limestones and marls (mixture of clays, calcium, and magnesium carbonates) and large areas of alluvial deposits along rivers and coastal areas consisting of gravel, marsh, and sand. Unlike other Central American countries, Honduras has no mineral-rich soil.

Cross-country Movement

Four-wheel drive and high ground clearance vehicles with heavy-duty suspension are best suited for cross-country travel in Honduras. Frequent natural disasters make highway maintenance difficult. Traveling through Honduras can be dangerous; threats include heavy rain, landslides, mudslides, flooding, earthquakes, car jacking, armed robbery, drug smugglers, roaming livestock, and minefields. Cross-country movement should be conducted in a party of more than one vehicle for safety reasons.

The annual hurricane season (1 June to 30 November) creates hazardous conditions for on- and off-road travel. Unmarked minefields are in the Departments of Gracias a Dios, Olancho, El Paraíso, Choluteca, Valle, and Francisco Morazan. Caution should be used when traveling off road in these areas.

Urban Geography

The big urban centers such as Tegucigalpa, Comayagua, and San Pedro Sula have a mix of architecture and design from the colonial and modern eras. Downtown areas generally have a historical colonial center, and newer sections have modern amenities such as restaurants, hotels, shopping malls, and residential areas. Streets are narrow, and houses have barred windows.



Tegucigalpa

Terrain dictates the layout of Tegucigalpa, and navigating streets can be confusing. Tegucigalpa is connected with Comayaguera on the west side of the Choluteca River by several bridges. San Pedro Sula is modeled on a grid system and is divided into quadrants with numbered streets. Avenues run north to south and streets run east to west.

Environment

Honduras' mining and timber sectors have extensively damaged the environment, and the lack of adequate infrastructure has created several environmental concerns. Issues in Honduras affecting the overall environmental health are water pollution, deforestation, land degradation, soil erosion, and air pollution.

Air quality concerns have developed as a result of lack of pollution controls on the industrial and agricultural sectors. Honduras' four international airports close often during the dry season because of

air pollution. Indoor air pollution is a problem because more than 50 percent of the population uses wood fuel for cooking.

Deforestation has occurred because of poor control measures, corruption, and illegal logging. Farmers use traditional slash-and-burn techniques to clear land, and illegal logging is rampant throughout the country. The eastern Department of Olancho suffers from severe deforestation. Other documented areas of deforestation include areas around the Patuca River, Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve, and Sico-Paulaya Valley. It is estimated that as much as 96 percent of pine and 80 percent of mahogany wood is illegally harvested annually.

Honduras has signed and is a member of agreements on biodiversity, climate change, desertification, endangered species, hazardous wastes, the Law of the Sea, marine dumping, ozone layer protection, ship pollution, tropical timber, and wetlands.

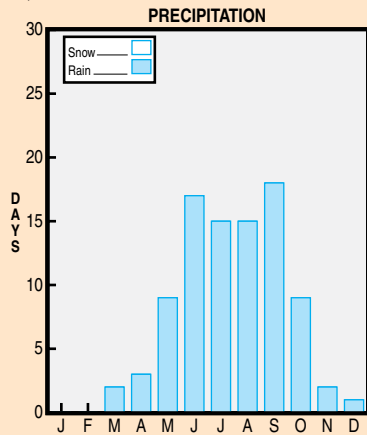
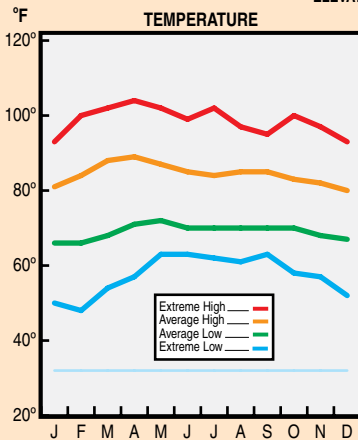
Climate

Climatic Patterns

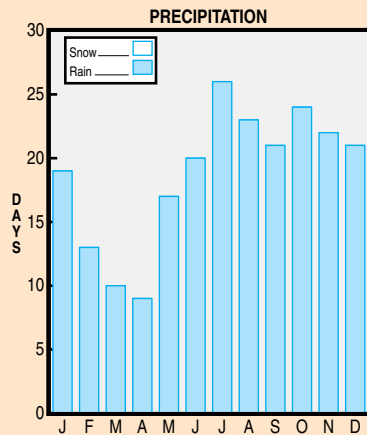
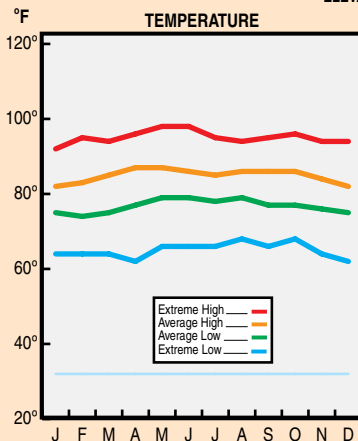
Honduras has a wet season and a dry season, and temperatures vary with elevation. The wet season is from May to October and overlaps with the hurricane season. During the 2007 wet season, precipitation levels throughout most of Honduras ranged between 500 millimeters (20 inches) and 1,500 millimeters (59 inches). The areas bordering the Gulf of Fonseca received up to 2,750 millimeters (108 inches) of precipitation during the 2007 wet season. The Departments of Colon, Olancho, El Paraíso, and Gracias a Dios have high temperatures and receive rainfall throughout the year.

The dry season is from November to April and droughts do occur. The interior regions of the country have a much drier climate.

NUEVA OCOTEPAQUE ELEVATION: 2,054 FT

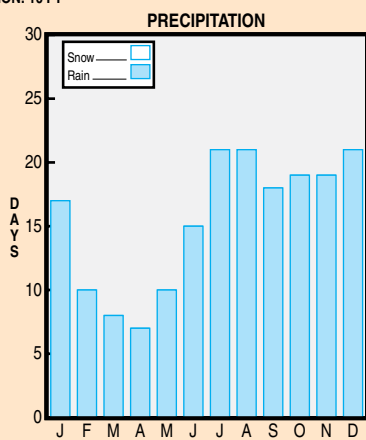
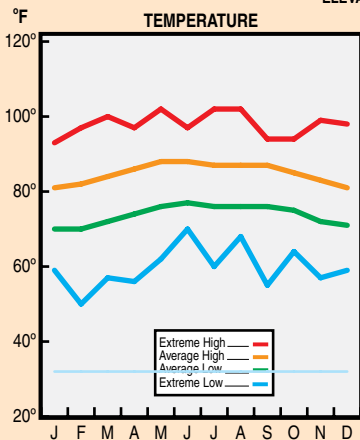


PUERTO LEMPIRA ELEVATION: 43 FT

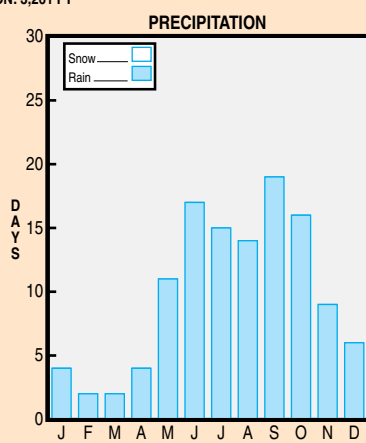
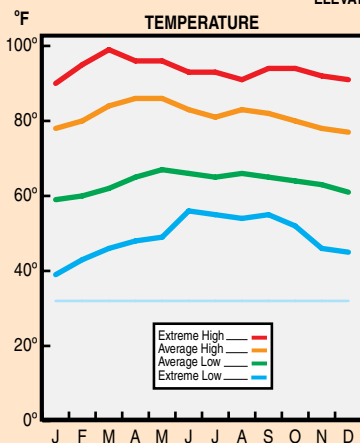


Nueva Ocotepeque and Puerto Lempira Weather

TELA
ELEVATION: 10 FT



TEGUCIGALPA
ELEVATION: 3,261 FT



Tela and Tegucigalpa Weather

Phenomena

Hurricanes

Hurricane season is from 1 June to 30 November. Past major hurricanes include Mitch, a category 4 storm that killed more than 5,600 people in Honduras in 1998, and Felix, which made landfall in Nicaragua in 2007 as a category 5 storm and then moved over Honduras. Torrential rains generally accompany hurricanes, and flooding, landslides, and mudslides may occur.

El Niño/La Niña

El Niño, which occurs every 6 or 7 years, affects Honduras' climate. El Niño brings warm Pacific waters to the surface. Air and water temperatures, tides, currents, rainfall, and humidity are all higher than normal. Winds blowing from east to west strengthen, and the hurricane season becomes more active and stronger. El Niño usually begins in late December and lasts until May, and is usually followed by La Niña, which creates a cooling effect around the central and eastern Pacific regions usually lasting up to 12 months. Expect flooding, landslides, and mudslides to accompany an El Niño/La Niña phenomena.

Earthquakes

Honduras lies along the volcano and earthquake zone known as the Ring of Fire. There are no active volcanoes, but earthquakes and tremors are common.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation

The transportation network was severely damaged during Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Honduras has one of the least developed

road networks in Central America, but with the help of international aid, loans, and investment, the road network is improving. The national railroad is used primarily for transporting agricultural products and minor passenger traffic. Maritime transport remains essential to the economy with vast amounts of trade goods being shipped from Honduran ports to the United States and Europe.

Roads

Road conditions are poor. Hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, mudslides, and landslides are natural disasters that have affected road travel in Honduras. The best roads are along the Caribbean and Pacific coastal regions. Traffic travels on the right side of the road.

Honduras' road network is vitally important to the economy. There are 14,036 kilometers (8,722 miles) of roadway in Honduras. Primary roads make up 3,276 kilometers (2,036 miles), 2,555 ki-



Transportation Network

lometers (1,588 miles) of which are paved. Secondary roads make up 2,555 kilometers (1,588 miles) of the road network, of which 16 percent are paved. Tertiary roads make up the majority of Honduras' road network, covering 8,205 kilometers (5,098 miles). Secondary and tertiary roads are in poor condition. Paved roads are constructed using asphalt, concrete, or a double surface treatment. Select granular material (crushed rock) and dirt are used on unpaved roads.

Unpaved road surfaces require extensive maintenance after the rainy season, slow transit time to markets, and degrade vehicle performance. The central, main highway, CA-5, connects Tegucigalpa to San Pedro Sula. CA-5 also connects to Puerto Cortés on the Caribbean Coast and Puerto Cutuco in El Salvador on the Pacific Coast. CA-5 is a major route for import and export traffic between



Tertiary Road

the Pacific and Caribbean coast ports from Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and Comayagua.

Since 2005, the World Bank, OPEC, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, and the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation have invested in projects to improve Honduras' roadways. In November 2007, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) approved a US\$30 million loan to upgrade and expand the highway. Sixty percent of the highway will be expanded to four lanes, and signage will be improved along 350 kilometers (217 miles) of highways. CA-5 is part of the Atlantic Corridor of the international road network of the Plan Puebla Panama, a regional integration initiative sponsored by the Central American countries and Mexico.

Highway CA-13 is the only primary road supporting the tourism industry along the Caribbean Coast, making it vitally important to the region. The highway stretches from San Pedro Sula in the Department of Cortés to Trujillo in the Department of Colón. The width of the highway varies between two and four lanes. The stretch of roadway between El Progreso and Tela is two lanes. The Pan-American Highway, also known as CA-1, cuts through the southern Departments of Valle and Choluteca, continuing south into Nicaragua.

Travelers should avoid driving at night along roadways, side streets, trails, and beaches; vehicles travel without headlights and livestock roams freely. Criminals target roads through El Progreso, Tela, Trujillo, La Cieba, and Santa Barbara. The roads between Limones to La Union, Olancho through Salama to Saba, Gualaco to San Estaban, La Esperanza to Gracias, and San Pedro Sula to Copan are particularly dangerous. Armed robbery, car and busjackings, petty theft, and kidnapping are common crimes com-

mitted along roads in Honduras. In December 2004, gang members murdered passengers aboard a bus. Vehicles are unsafe and maintenance is poor.

Taxis, buses, and colectivos (shared taxis) are common forms of public transportation. Taxis are available at any hour with services to all the main towns and villages. Taxis are not metered, and fares should be agreed upon before beginning any travel. Passengers should insist that the taxi not pick up other passengers. Buses operate in most cities and make regular trips to the larger cities. Public transportation is not recommended. Traffic fatalities are common, and poor safety practices often result in accidents caused by poorly lit or unmarked roads, speeding, running stop signs and lights, and driving without headlights.

In 1998, Hurricane Mitch destroyed and severely damaged many of the country's bridges. Honduras has built and improved bridges with the help of major investments, loans, and large amounts of international aid.

There are road bridges and footbridges throughout Honduras. The Rio Choluteca Suspension Bridge (1318N 08712W) is a steel-framed and steel-cabled truss bridge spanning 300 meters (984 feet) across the Choluteca River.

Modern road bridges like the Sol Naciente Bridge in Choluteca and the Estocolmo Bridge in Tegucigalpa are constructed using pre-stressed concrete. The Mapulaca-Ciudad Victoria Bridge is a suspension footbridge that connects Mapulaca, Honduras, to Victoria, El Salvador. The bridge spans the Lempa River. The main span of the footbridge is 170 meters (558 feet). Tegucigalpa is connected to Comayaguela on the west side of the Choluteca River by several bridges.

Rail

In 1998, Hurricane Mitch damaged portions of the rail system east of Tela and in areas around La Ceiba. Honduras purchased the Tela Railway in 1975 from United Brands Company. The national carrier is Ferrocarril Nacional de Honduras (FNH), or Honduras National Railway.

As of 2006, there were 699 kilometers (434 miles) of train track. Two widths of narrow-gauge railroad track are used: 279 kilometers (173 miles) of 1.067-meter track and 420 kilometers (261 miles) of 0.914-meter track.

Portions of the FNH and Tela Railway remain in use. The Tela Railway remains operative along about 90 kilometers (56 miles) of the total system. FNH uses 2 steamers, 34 diesel locomotives, 37 passenger coaches, 22 diesel railcars, and 1,960 wagons along the wider railway tracks. Along the narrower tracks, 8 diesel-electric and 2 diesel-mechanical locomotives, 17 diesel railcars, 16 passenger coaches, and 530 wagons operate. Twenty-eight diesel locomotives, 18 railcars, 70 passenger coaches, and 1,324 freight wagons operate along the Tela line.

Tracks run from San Pedro Sula to Puerto Cortés, south through Chamelecon to Santa Rita, and along the northern coastal plains through Songuera to the eastern Sulla Valley and Olanchito. A branch of railroad tracks extends from Santa Rita north to Toloa through the Aguan Valley. There is no rail service with neighboring countries, but a Taiwanese group has expressed interest in linking Guatemala's railway to Puerto Cortés.

Trains carry lumber and other agricultural products. A *trencito* (passenger railcar) and *burra* (manually pushed railcar) travel between La Union and La Ceiba to the Cuero y Salado Wildlife

Refuge. The 9.5-kilometer (6-mile) trip costs US\$10.50 per person and takes 45 minutes. Passenger service is no longer available between Puerto Cortés, through the banana plantations, and Tela. The rail system has little effect on the economy.

Air

Twelve of the 112 airports in Honduras have paved runways. The longest paved runways are between 2,438 and 3,047 meters (7,999 to 9,997 feet). Eighty-three of the 100 unpaved runways are less than 914 meters (2,999 feet) long.

Primary Airports

Airport Name, Coordinates	Elevation meters (feet)	Runway	
		Length x Width; meters (feet)	Remarks
Colonel Enrique Soto Cano Air Base (Comayagua), 1422N 08737W	628(2,060)	2,441 x 45 (8,008 x 148)	Asphalt
Goloson Intl (La Ceiba) Military and civilian use, 1544N 08651W	15 (49)	3,010 x 45 (9,875 x 148)	Asphalt
Guanaja, 1626N 08554W	15 (49)	1,220 x 18 (4,002 x 59)	Asphalt
Juan Manuel Galvez Intl (Roatan), 1619N 08631W	5 (16)	2,240 x 45 (7,349 x 148)	Asphalt
La Mesa Intl (San Pedro) Military and civilian use, 1527N 08755W	28 (92)	2,805 x 45 (9,203 x 148)	Concrete
Tela, 1546N 08728W	2 (7)	1,346 x 30 (4,416 x 98)	Asphalt



Toncontin International Airport

Airport Name, Coordinates	Elevation meters (feet)	Runway	
		Length x Width; meters (feet)	Remarks
Toncontin Intl (Tegucigalpa) Military and civilian use, 1403N 08713W	1,004 (3,294)	1,863 x 45 (6,112 x 148)	Asphalt
Trujillo Military and civilian use, 1555N 08556W	1 (3)	1,071 x 29 (3,514 x 95)	Asphalt

Airlines

TACA and Copa are regional airlines operating flights in cooperation with U.S. airline companies in Honduras. Alitalia, British Airways, Japan Airlines, KLM/Air France, Lufthansa, and Varig have local representatives in Honduras offering connections to destinations worldwide.

Weather conditions in the region can affect air traffic. Honduras' four international airports close often during the dry season because of air pollution, mainly from smoke. The hurricane season (1 June to 30 November) creates hazardous conditions for air traffic. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reports that Honduras' Civil Aviation Authority does not comply with the International Civil Aviation Organization's safety standards. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), Organization of American States (OAS), and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) have provided the government of Honduras with training to develop national civil aviation security programs, combat terrorism, and meet ICAO standards.

Maritime

Primary Port Facilities

Port, Coord.	Berthing Availability	Depth		Comment
		Anchor m (ft)	Pier m (ft)	
Puerto Cortés, 1550N 08757W	Vessels more than 152 m (500 ft) long	11–12.2 (36–40)	7.9–9.1 (26–30)	Access channel is 1,200 m (3,937 ft) long, 400 m (1,312 ft) wide. Has ac- cess to lifts that move 100 tons or more.
Tela, 1547N 08727W	Vessels more than 152 m (500 ft) long	14–15.2 (46–50)	7.9–9.1 (26–30)	Port has access to small railway
East Harbor, 1605N 08654W	Vessels up to 152 m (500 ft) long	6.4–7.6 (21–25)	N/A	

Port, Coord.	Berthing Availability	Depth		Comment
		Anchor m (ft)	Pier m (ft)	
La Ceiba, 1547N 08648W	Vessels up to 152 m (500 ft) long	11–12.2 (36–40)	6.4–7.6 (21–25)	Access channel is 600 m (1,969 ft) long and 100 m (328 ft) wide
Coxen Bay (Roatan Island), 1619N 08633W	Vessels more than 152 m (500 ft) long	N/A	9.4–10.7 (31–35)	
Trujillo, 1555N 08557W	Vessels more than 152 m (500 ft) long	7.9–9.1 (26–30)	4.9–6.1 (16–20)	
Puerto Castilla, 1600N 08559W	Vessels more than 152 m (500 ft) long	23.2+ (76+)	11–12.2 (36–40)	
Guanaja (Isla de Guanaja), 1626N 08553W	Vessels more than 152 m (500 ft) long	14–15.2 (46–50)	4.9–6.1 (16–20)	
Islas Santanilla (Isla de Guanaja), 1725N 08356W	Vessels up to 152 m (500 ft) long	15.5– 16.8 (51–55)	N/A	
Puerto San Lorenzo, 1324N 08727W	Vessels more than 152 m (500 ft) long	6.4–7.6 (21–25)	6.4–7.6 (21–25)	Access channel is 32 km (20 mi) long and 122 m (400 ft) wide and 11 m (36 ft) deep
Amapala, 1318N 08739W	Vessels more than 152 m (500 ft) long	11–12.2 (36–40)	NA	

Puerto Cortés is the most significant port in Honduras. Eighty-five percent of the goods passing through Puerto Cortés are Honduran with Europe and the United States as the main destinations. Many types of vessels use Honduras' ports, including U.S. and Honduran naval vessels, bulk carriers, chemical tankers, cargo and container

ships, livestock carriers, passenger and cargo ships, petroleum tankers, vehicle carriers, and specialized tankers.

Honduras joined the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1956. The IMO International Safety Management code requires all member states' maritime vessels to comply with safety and pollution standards.

Maritime border disputes between Honduras and its neighbors occur off both coasts, and the Honduran Navy patrolling these areas will board vessels.

The *Empresa Nacional Portuaria* (ENP) is the national port authority. In 2005, Puerto Cortés became part of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Container Security Initiative. The agreement with the United States allows U.S. customs officials to randomly inspect containers destined for U.S. ports. The program is designed to prevent weapons and terrorists from being smuggled into the United States on ships or in shipping containers.

Honduras is a partner in the Proliferation Security Initiative, which allows U.S. personnel to interdict vessels suspected of shipping materials with which to construct and deliver weapons of mass destruction. Honduras has not signed an official ship-boarding agreement.

There are many lagoons along the Caribbean coastline. The Caratasca Lagoon (1523N 08355W), in the eastern Department of Gracias a Dios, is linked with the Caribbean Sea by a 5-kilometer (3-mile-) long channel. Lake Yojoa (1453N 08759W) is Honduras' only major natural lake and is 22 kilometers (14 miles) long and 14 kilometers (9 miles) wide. Small recreational watercraft operate in the lake. The Ulua, Aguan, Negro, Platano, Patuca, and Coco rivers can be navigated by shallow-draft vessels in their downstream portions, but only light watercraft can be used upstream from the rapids. The *Rio Platano* (Platano River) is 115 kilometers (71 miles) long.

The Coco River creates the southern border with Nicaragua and is 780 kilometers (485 miles) long. Only the lower 225 kilometers (140 miles) are navigable. Smaller sea-going vessels and personal watercraft such as *cayucos* (dugout canoes), kayaks, tourist boats, ferries, cruise liners, fishing boats and yachts use Honduras' waterways.

Communication

General Description

Most of Honduras' newspapers and radio and television stations are in or near San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa. Telephone coverage is concentrated around the central and western regions of the country with coverage along the coasts as well. All media services, radio, television, Internet, and newspapers are privately owned but subject to government regulations. Rural areas have little or no access to a fixed telephone or Internet, and mobile-phone subscribers outnumber landline subscribers.

Constitutional law provides freedom of speech, but defamation laws restrict the media and require journalists to reveal their sources. Media coverage is influenced by threats and bribes due to internal corruption, political pressure, and outside influences. Journalists are harassed, bribed, threatened, physically attacked, and denied access to information. Violence against journalists is common. Self-censorship is practiced to avoid offending the government, political, and economic interests of media owners who are powerful businessmen or politicians.

A fiber-optic submarine cable system connects both the Americas Region Caribbean Ring System (ARCOS-1) and the MAYA-1 cables from Central and South America, and the Caribbean region to the United States. For Honduras, ARCOS-1 began service in 2002, 2 years after MAYA-1.

Radio

As of 1998, there were 306 radio stations in Honduras; 241 AM, 53 FM, and 12 shortwave. Radio stations play popular music from the United States and Europe in addition to talk radio, sports, and news programs. International broadcasts include programs from Voice of America and BBC Radio. Radio HRN and Radio America are privately owned stations.

As of 1997, there were 395 radios per 1,000 people in Honduras. There were an estimated 2.9 million radios in Honduras as of 2007. About 90 percent of homes in Tegucigalpa have radios.

Major Stations	Programming
<i>Radio HRN (660 AM, La Ceiba; 1080 AM, Choluteca; 680 AM, Tocoa, Comayagua, and San Pedro Sula; 670 AM, Copan; 710 AM, Olanchito; 92.9 FM, Tegucigalpa; 95.5 FM San Pedro Sula)</i>	Talk, Spanish
<i>Radio America (610 AM, Tegucigalpa; 94.7 FM, Tegucigalpa and Olanchito; 99.3 FM, La Ceiba; 99.3 FM, Copan; 99.1 FM, San Pedro Sula)</i>	News
<i>Stereo Luz (103.7 FM, Tegucigalpa)</i>	Adult contemporary, Spanish
<i>HRVC VOZ Evangelica (810 AM La Ceiba; 1140 AM Choluteca; 980 AM Comayagua; 1390 AM Copan and Tegucigalpa; 1310 San Pedro Sula; 1040 AM El Paraíso and Olanchito; 4820 short wave Tegucigalpa)</i>	Gospel, religious, Spanish
<i>Power FM (90.1 FM, San Pedro Sula)</i>	Dance
<i>Estereo Metropolis (97.5 FM, Comayagua)</i>	Spanish
<i>Estereo Amor (104.9 FM, Tegucigalpa)</i>	Spanish

Television

Honduras has 12 television stations. Cable, satellite, and Internet are methods used to deliver television programming. American television shows, movies, and local broadcasts of Spanish channels are available. Some English-language programs are dubbed and subtitled in Spanish. BBC, CNN, C-SPAN, and ESPN are international broadcasts available in Spanish, and entertainment channels such as HBO, OLE, and CINEMAX are included with cable subscriptions.

The Televiscentro Corporation owns three TV networks: Canal 5, Telecadena, and Telesistema Hondureño. Broadcasts over the Internet are accessed through Televiscentro Online. Repeaters are required to cover the Televiscentro Corporation's broadcasting areas. CBC Canal 6, Vica TV, and SOTEL Canal 11 are privately owned television broadcasting stations.

In 2004, there were 143 television sets per 1,000 people in Honduras. In 2005, 58 percent of households had a television, well below the Latin America and Caribbean regional average of 87 percent.

Primary Television Stations	Ownership	Channels and Location
Channel 5	Televiscentro Corporation	Ch 5, Tela , La Ceiba, Copan, Puerto Cortés, Santa Barbara, Tegucigalpa; Ch 9, Choluteca, Sonaguera, Comayagua, San Pedro Sula, and Juticalpa
Channel 6 (CBC)	Private	Ch 6, San Pedro Sula

Primary Television Stations	Ownership	Channels and Location
SOTEL Channel 11	Private	Ch 11, Tegucigalpa
Vica TV	Private	Ch 2, San Pedro Sula; Ch 9, Tegucigalpa
Telecadena	Televiscentro Corporation	Ch 7, Tegucigalpa; Ch 13, La Ceiba, Tela, Choluteca, and Puerto Cortés
Telesistema Hondureño	Televiscentro Corporation	Ch 3, La Ceiba, Tela, Puerto Cortés, and Tegucigalpa; Ch 7, Choluteca, Comayagua, San Pedro Sula, and Olanchito
Metrovision	N/A	Ch 52, Comayagua, and La Paz; Ch 54, San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa

Telecommunication

The state-owned company Hondutel dominates the telecommunications market and provides fixed and mobile telephone services. Honduras' telecommunications infrastructure is one of the least developed in Central America and the system is incapable of meeting demands. After Hondutel officially lost its monopoly over the telecommunications sector in December 2005, private subcontractors operating under Hondutel began modernizing the telecommunications network. Availability of fixed telephone lines is below demand, and more people have turned to mobile telephones.

Companies offering cellular services are Hondutel, Millicom, Digicel, and American Movil. Hondutel oversees three cellular service providers for Tegucigalpa (Tegucel), San Pedro Sula (Sulacel), and La Ceiba (Ceibacel). Telefonica Celular (also known

as Tigo and CELTEL) is a subsidiary of Millicom International Cellular, a Luxemburg-based company offering cellular services in Honduras. Digicel, a subsidiary of Digicel Central America Holdings Limited, is a new cellular service provider in Honduras. Sercom de Honduras (also known as CLARO) is a subsidiary of Mexico's American Movil. Cellular phone coverage is good along the coasts and around major cities and towns but lacking in the eastern Departments of Olancho and Gracias a Dios.

Honduras Telecommunication Statistics (2006)

<i>Total telephone subscribers</i>	2,954,400
<i>Telephone subscribers per 100 inhabitants</i>	40.1
<i>Main telephone lines</i>	713,600
<i>Main telephone lines per 100 inhabitants</i>	9.7
<i>Mobile users</i>	2,240,800
<i>Mobile users per 100 inhabitants</i>	30.4

Newspapers and Magazines

Print media is privately owned and published mainly in Spanish. *Honduras This Week* and *Utila East Wind* are available in English. *Honduras This Week*, *El Heraldo*, and *La Tribuna* are published in Tegucigalpa. *La Prensa*, *El Tiempo*, and *El Nuevo Dia* are published in San Pedro Sula. Few Hondurans can afford to buy books and instead get much of their information from newspapers.

Business owners and politicians own most of the news media. *El Heraldo*, *La Prensa*, *El Tiempo*, and *La Tribuna* are four major daily newspapers that are privately owned. Honduras' newspapers are members of the Inter American Press Association (IAPA), which defends the rights of an independent press in the Americas.

The *Miami Herald*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, and *USA Today* are available the day of or a day

after publication. *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines are available at several newsstands or by subscription.

Publication	Politics	Lang.	Freq.	Web Address
<i>Bay Islands Voice</i>	N/A	English, Spanish	Biweekly	www.bayislandsvoice.com
<i>Tiempo del Mundo</i>	N/A	Spanish	Daily	www.tiemposdelmundo.com
<i>El Tiempo</i>	Liberal	Spanish	Daily	www.tiempo.hn
<i>El Heraldó</i>	Conserv.	Spanish	Daily	www.elheraldo.hn
<i>La Prensa</i>	Conserv.	Spanish	Daily	www.laprensahn.com
<i>La Tribuna</i>	Liberal	Spanish	Daily	www.latribuna.hn
<i>El Libertado</i>	N/A	Spanish	Daily	www.ellibertador.hn
<i>El Nuevo Día</i>	N/A	Spanish	Daily	N/A
<i>Utila East Wind</i>	N/A	English, Spanish	Monthly	www.utilaeastwind.com
<i>Honduras This Week</i>	N/A	English	Weekly	www.marrder.com/htw

Postal Service

Honducor is the official postal service and is the country's only major postal operator. As of 2003, 711 post offices covered 38,651 square kilometers (14,923 square miles) and delivered mail to more than 22.6 million recipients. Mail is delivered each day in the cities, but only weekly in rural areas. Worldwide delivery services are available from Fed Ex, DHL, UPS, Express Mail Service (EMS), TNT, and Urgent Express. The postal system is not a dependable source for mailing and receiving packages; a private carrier is recommended. Mail can take several weeks to travel between Honduras and the United States.

Internet

Honduras lacks adequate hardware to support Internet traffic, causing slow and unreliable connections. Dial-up, cable, and

leased lines provide most Internet access in Honduras. There are dedicated Internet connections for businesses requiring such services. Other available technologies include VSATS, ISDN, DSL, GSM, GPRS, and WiFi.

The Honduran public can access the Internet through home computers, Internet cafes, and kiosks. Most cities including Tegucigalpa, Roatan, La Ceiba, and San Pedro Sula have Internet cafes for public use. Many Hondurans use Internet cafes and kiosks because they are less expensive and do not require owning a personal computer (PC), telephone line, or Internet subscription. There are no government restrictions on the Internet.

Honduras Internet Statistics (2006)

<i>Total Internet hosts</i>	4,672 (2007)
<i>Hosts per 10,000 inhabitants</i>	6.2 (2007)
<i>Users</i>	344,100
<i>Users per 100 inhabitants</i>	4.7
<i>Total number of PCs</i>	139,884
<i>PCs per 100 inhabitants</i>	1.9
<i>Internet broadband per 100 inhabitants</i>	0

Satellites

Honduras has two satellite earth stations in the Atlantic Ocean linked with the Central American Microwave System. Internet, television, and mobile communications are available via satellite links in Honduras.

SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Statistics (2010)

<i>Population</i>	7.9 million
<i>Population Growth Rate</i>	2.1 percent (2007 est.)
<i>Birth Rate</i>	25.61 births per 1,000 people
<i>Death Rate</i>	4.99 deaths per 1,000 people
<i>Net Migration Rate</i>	-1.27 migrants per 1,000 people
<i>Life Expectancy at Birth</i>	Total population 70.51 years Male: 68.82 Female: 72.28 years
<i>Population Age Structure</i>	0-14 years: 38 percent 15-64 years: 58.4 percent 65 years and older: 3.6 percent
<i>Date of Last Census</i>	2001

Population Patterns

Honduras has an average population density of 61 inhabitants per square kilometer (159 per square mile). Population distribution is uneven, however, with most of the population living in large cities along the northern coast and in the Comayagua and San Pedro Sula valleys. Forty-seven percent of the total population is urban. Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula account for more than 70 percent of the urban population and nearly 25 percent of the total population. The five departments bordering El Salvador (Ocotepeque, Lempira, Intibuca, La Paz, Valle) have a much higher population density than the four eastern departments of Colon, Olancho, Gracias a Dios, and El Paraíso. The Rio Ulua Valley is the only heavily populated lowland area.



Population Density

Ten Largest Cities by Population

City	Coordinates	Population
Tegucigalpa	1409N 8722W	850,000
San Pedro Sula	1547N 8803W	489,000
Choloma	1561N 8795W	139,100
La Ceiba	1578N 8679W	130,218
El Progreso	1540N 8782W	100,810
Choluteca	1330N 8720W	76,300
Comayagua	1446N 8765W	58,784
Puerto Cortés	1583N 8795W	48,013
La Lima	1543N 8791W	45,955
Danli	1404N 8658W	44,800

Most rural to urban migration has been from the southwestern departments (Ocotepeque, Lempira, Intibuca, La Paz, and Valle) to the Caribbean coast (Cortés, Yoro, Atlantida, and Colón) and the capital city of Tegucigalpa. This flow of people also includes Salvadorans who crossed the border in search of land and jobs, causing tension between the two nations. Early 20th century banana plantations offered job opportunities and attracted people from throughout the country, resulting in sharp population increases.

Society

Violence and corruption have had a major impact on Honduran society and personal security. Many Hondurans lack faith in their political leaders and feel they must take matters into their own hands to achieve goals and protect interests.

Hondurans treat Americans with respect and go out of their way to do something when asked. Although Honduras has a good relationship with the United States, some feel that the country gained independence from Spain only to become a U.S. colony. Hondurans, despite some fears and resentments, generally identify more with other Latin and Central American peoples and share a sense of pride in the greater Latin culture.

Hondurans traditionally celebrate with lots of food and dancing. Annual celebrations include the Day of the Americas (14 April), Feast Day of the Virgin of Suyapa (3 February), Columbus Day (12 October), Christmas, and New Year's Day. Other traditions are specific to regions and minority groups.

People

The Honduran population is a mixture of indigenous, African, and Spanish heritage. There are also small minorities of Europeans, Africans, Asians and Arabs. There are six main indigenous groups: Miskito, Pech, Maya Chorti, Lenca, Jicaque, and Tawahka. The Garifuna are descendents of African slaves.

Male-to-female Ratio (2007 est.)

<i>At birth</i>	1 male(s) to female
<i>Under 15 years of age</i>	1 male(s) to female
<i>15 to 64 years of age</i>	1 male(s) to female
<i>65 years and older</i>	0.8 male(s) to female

Ethnic Groups

About 90 percent of the population is of mixed indigenous and European ancestry (*mestizo*). The remaining 10 percent is composed of indigenous groups and people of European, African, Asian, and Arab descent. Those who practice Hispanic culture are referred to as *ladinos*. Most *ladinos* speak Spanish and are Roman Catholic. Discrimination against indigenous groups is a serious problem.

Miskito Indians

The Miskito Indians are descendents of African slaves who escaped to the Miskito rainforest and intermarried with the native Indians. They speak English in addition to their native Miskito language. Most are Protestants. They live mainly along the coast and in rural coastal areas, which forces many to look for seasonal work in other areas. They are the poorest of the indigenous groups and interact with the government through active ethnic organiza-

tions to protect the rainforest, promote bilingual education, and protect fishing rights.

Lenca Indians

The Lenca are the largest indigenous group in Honduras. They live in the western and southern highlands. Few speak the native language, and most of the culture has been gone for decades. Homes are made of mud and bamboo with clay or tile roofs and most lack running water or electricity. Many Lenca work on coffee plantations. The Guancasco is a dance unique to the Lenca that celebrates peace between two villages.

Chorti Indians

Chortis are direct descendants of the Mayas and number between 1,500 and 2,000. They migrated to the northern coastal areas in the 17th and 18th centuries. Few still speak the Chorti language and most have adopted Western clothing and names. The Chorti are known for their crafts and for a small ecotourism business, which includes visits to the Mayan ruins.

Tawahka Indians

The Tawahka Indians are the smallest of the indigenous groups in Honduras, numbering fewer than 1,000. They live in a 233-hectare (576-acre) area of the Miskito rainforest. The Tawahkas are known for their crafts including bark cloth, wall hangings, and pictures. They still perform traditional dances.

Garifuna Indians

The Garifuna Indians, originally from the island of St. Vincent, have lived along the Caribbean Coast for 200 years. They number 250,000 and survive by fishing. Traditional ceremonies are still held in some villages, and houses are built with wild cane and palm leaves.

Language

Group	Population	Location/Region
Spanish	5.6 million	N/A
Lenca	100,000	Departments of La Paz, Lempira, Intibuca, Comayagua, Santa Babara, Valle, and Francisco Morozan
Garifuna	98,000	Along Caribbean Coast
Miskito	10,000 to 29,000	Gracias a Dios
Tolpan/Jicaque	19,000	Department of Yoro
Chorti	4,200	Copan and Ocotepeque
Pech	2,600	North central coast
Tawahka	1,000	Banks of Patuca River; Gracias a Dios and parts of Olancho Departments

Family

Family ties are strong, and social activities revolve around family and community. Extended family members, commonly including grandparents, siblings, nieces, and nephews, often live in the same household. Extended family serves as a support network that shares resources and responsibilities. Family loyalty is taught at an early age, and children learn to trust family members over outsiders. Family also defines social identity based on the level of economic prosperity. Wealthier relatives will assist poorer family members but more often will associate with relatives of similar economic standing. The practice of *compadrazgo* is often used to establish a closer relationship between poorer relatives and wealthier ones or with wealthier friends. *Compadres* (godparents) are chosen at baptism or marriage and become a second set of parents for the chosen children. The relationship is expected to be lifelong.

Roles of Men and Women

Men have a dominant role in the family, are the head of the household, and are expected to provide monetary support. They are the authority figures and expect to be obeyed and respected. Traditionally, women were expected to stay home, raise children, and manage the household. Men have freedom of movement. Women, however, may not be allowed to leave home alone after dark. Many women work outside the home. Some are doctors, lawyers, and business owners.



Woman Washing Clothes

Most high-ranking officials are men, although women have made gains, having served as members of congress and as cabinet members. Honduras has a strong women's movement. Since the 1920s, women have united to fight for individual and children's rights, resulting in the 1984 Family Code, which provides rights for children of single mothers and requires fathers to support their children. The age of consent for marriage is 21, and the universal suffrage is age 18.

Customs and Courtesies

Waving the index finger means "no." Clasping both hands indicates approval. Touching the finger below the eye means caution. Placing a hand under the elbow signifies stinginess.

The "OK" sign is considered obscene in Honduras. The "thumbs up" sign is acceptable. Pointing the index finger at someone is rude; always wave the hand palm side down to get someone's at-

tention. Snapping the fingers shows enthusiasm. Urban gang members often communicate using hand signals; do not imitate signals you do not understand.

A hug with a light kiss on the cheek is a common form of greeting between family members and friends. Men generally shake hands. Conversations commonly begin with “*buenos dias*” (“good day”).

Most Hondurans are traditional and conservative. Be aware that what the local people wear is not necessarily appropriate for U.S. citizens. Shirts and shoes must be worn at all times. Casual clothing such as shorts or flip-flops is not acceptable. Women should avoid low-cut necklines, although sleeveless blouses and dresses are acceptable. Businessmen do not always wear suits and ties. Short-sleeved shirts are acceptable, as are khakis or nice jeans. Earrings worn by men and other body piercings are discouraged. Tattoos are often worn by gang members for identification and are not advised for U.S. citizens.

Hondurans often identify people by their appearance, believing, for example, that an individual of Asian heritage is actually Chinese rather than a U.S. citizen. Those of African descent may be assumed to be Garifuna.

When visiting, gifts are not required; however, common gifts include knickknacks, pictures, books, calendars, and souvenirs. Visiting is a common pastime. Hosts almost always offer food or drinks. Those who arrive near mealtime are often invited to dinner. Hondurans may say “*buen provecho*” (“may it do you good”) before sitting down to a meal. Social occasions have flexible start and end times.

When dining out, always keep hands but not elbows above the table. The fork is usually held in the right hand and the knife in the

left. In rural areas, small pieces of tortilla may be used to scoop food. A tip of 10 to 15 percent is common at finer restaurants.

Spanish is the official language, but English is spoken throughout the country. Miskito and Garifuna dialects are spoken along the Caribbean coast. Some indigenous groups, such as the Jicaque Indians, have managed to keep their languages and traditions intact. Others, such as the Lencas, have lost their language, but many traditions survive. Still others, such as the Tolupan and Chorti, have lost much of both.

Education and Literacy

Pre-basic education in Honduras is tuition-free and mandatory for 6 years beginning at age 6. This is followed by two additional 3-year programs of basic education for ages 9 through 12 and ages 12 through 15. Those who complete both levels of basic education may go on to the upper secondary level to complete studies in science and humanities (ages 15 to 17) or a technical profession (ages 15 to 18). Private and public universities offer higher education programs lasting 3 to 5 years, depending on the course of study.

Education is highly valued. Eighty percent of adults and 89 percent of youth in Honduras are literate. Boys and girls attend primary school in nearly equal numbers (94 percent), and nearly 90 percent go on to attend secondary school. Those who can, attend college in the United States or Europe.

Primary school curricula focus on development of basic knowledge, skills, and critical thinking. This is followed by an introduction to scientific and technical knowledge and the addition of foreign-language training. However, few Hondurans can afford to buy



School Children

books and instead get much of their information from newspapers. Honduran literature often takes the form of legends and folklore.

Religion

More than 80 to 90 percent of Hondurans are Catholic, but there are a few Anglicans, Baptists, Mennonites, Mormons, Moravians, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Hebrews. There is a Jewish community in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. Most people in the Bay Islands are Protestant.

Freedom of religion is guaranteed by the constitution; however, the government subsidizes Catholic schools, and religious education is part of the public school curriculum. Most Hondurans celebrate festivals and traditional holidays, but few attend church regularly, and the church has lost much of its influence. Hondurans

believe saints have special powers, and most Hondurans have pictures of saints in their homes.

Recreation

Fútbol (soccer) is the most popular sport in Honduras and is played by men and boys either as part of a league or professionally. In rural areas, card and dice games are popular along with dominoes. Girls like to dance and play basketball. Dances are held on weekends, and discos are common in cities. The wealthy enjoy movies, baseball, tennis, golf, cycling, swimming, and holidays at the beach.

Visiting with family is common. Family members play checkers, chess, or cards. Children play marbles, hide-and-seek, and kick-the-can. Storytelling is an important holiday tradition.

Cultural Considerations

Public displays of affection are common in Honduras. Drinking and smoking are frowned upon by some Christians, and alcohol is prohibited in some areas. Hondurans stand close together when speaking, and men and women often walk arm-in-arm along the street. Staring is common and usually represents curiosity. Do not take pictures without asking permission. Pedestrians do not have the right-of-way, and most vehicles will not slow down. Hondurans may indicate direction by pointing their lips. There is a strong machismo culture, and young women in particular may be subject to cat calls and whistling.

Hondurans have two first names and two last names representing both sides of the family. The mother's family name is last and the father's family name is second to last as in Elena Maria Garcia (father's family name) Lopez (mother's family name).

Use titles as a sign of respect when addressing others, especially in business. *Dona* may be placed in front of a woman's name and *Don* in front of a man's name. Senior managers make decisions. Meeting times are flexible.

Shopping hours are Monday through Friday, 0800 or 0900 to 1200 and 1330 to 1800, and Saturday, 0800 to 1700. Banking hours are Monday through Friday, 0900 to 1600 (or 1800), and Saturday, 0900 to 1200. Businesses close from Wednesday through the end of the week during Holy Week (the week before Easter). Many businesses and government offices close on national holidays and the first Monday after an election.

MEDICAL ASSESSMENT

Disease Risks to Deployed Personnel

The National Center for Medical Intelligence (NCMI) assesses Honduras as HIGH RISK for infectious diseases, with an overall disease risk that will adversely impact mission effectiveness unless force health protection measures are implemented.

The following is a summary of the infectious disease risks in Honduras. Risk varies greatly depending on location, individual exposures, and other factors. More detailed information is contained in Baseline Infectious Disease Risk Assessments, produced by the NCMI, available through the following channels:

- Unclassified Internet: <http://www.afmic.osis.gov>
- SIPR: <http://www.ncmi.dia.smil.mil>

Food- or Waterborne Diseases

Sanitation is poor throughout the country, including in major urban areas. Local food and water sources (including ice) may

be contaminated with pathogenic bacteria, parasites, and viruses to which most U.S. service members have little or no natural immunity. Diarrheal diseases can be expected to temporarily incapacitate a high percentage of personnel within days if local food, water, or ice is consumed. Hepatitis A and typhoid fever can cause prolonged illness in a smaller percentage of unvaccinated personnel.

Vector-borne Diseases

Ecological conditions in urban and rural areas support large populations of arthropod vectors, including mosquitoes and sandflies, with variable rates of transmission. Dengue fever and malaria are the major vector-borne risks in Honduras and are capable of debilitating a significant percentage of personnel for up to a week or more. Other vector-borne diseases are transmitted at varying levels.

Water-contact Diseases

Personnel who have direct contact with surface water, such as by wading or swimming in creeks, lakes, or irrigated fields, may experience high rates of leptospirosis infection, particularly after flooding. In addition, bodies of surface water are likely to be contaminated with human and animal waste.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Gonorrhea, chlamydia, and other infections are common and may affect a high percentage of personnel who have sexual contact, particularly with prostitutes. HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B also are risks associated with unprotected sexual contact. Although the immediate impact of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B on an operation is limited, the long-term health impact on individuals is substantial.

Animal-contact Diseases

Rabies risk is well above that in the United States, and any bite or scratch from a dog, cat, mongoose, or bat should be reported promptly and treated with rabies prophylaxis. Q fever is present at low levels, with occasional human cases reported from occupational exposure or direct contact with infected livestock or from exposure to barnyards or fields contaminated by fluids from infected animals.

Medical Capabilities

Honduras' substandard health care system ranks as one of the worst in the Western Hemisphere. Up to 90 percent of the population does not have access to definitive medical care. Physicians generally are competent by U.S. standards, but paraprofessional medical personnel are poorly trained. All medical facilities, most of which are concentrated in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, are below U.S. standards. Blood quality is not uniformly reliable throughout the health care system, and there is no regulatory system to ensure safe blood.

Civilian Health Care

Although the infrastructure is more robust in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, public and private health care throughout the country is well below U.S. standards. Most medical facilities are inadequately designed, are poorly equipped and maintained, and have insufficient numbers of beds for the population served. Although Tegucigalpa has an ambulance service, vehicular traffic, especially during work days, makes it difficult to provide timely patient transport to medical facilities. Since at least 30 percent of Hondurans have no access to modern health care, traditional medicine often is used as a substitute, especially among Amerindians in remote

areas. Most births in these areas are attended by traditional midwives who have no formal medical training.

Most of Honduras' longstanding public health problems stem from a meager economy and insufficient health care funding. In October 1998, Hurricane Mitch devastated the already struggling health care system. The public health sector, which was slowly improving before this setback, will require at least 10 to 15 years to reach pre-hurricane condition. A tremendous amount of foreign aid was given to the region to help counter the devastating effects of the hurricane; however, this aid is beginning to dwindle.

Military Health Care

Military medicine relies heavily on civilian contract medical personnel, especially physicians. Physicians assigned to or supporting the military generally are competent by U.S. standards. Honduran medical schools train most physicians. Fifty-seven percent of physicians in military medical facilities are civilian contractors, many of whom also maintain private practices. Honduras has no dedicated aeromedical evacuation assets. The use of aircraft for medical evacuation is extremely limited.

Key Medical Facilities

<i>Facility</i>	Tegucigalpa Hospital Honduras Medical Center
<i>Coordinates</i>	140544N 0871125W
<i>Location</i>	Colonia Las Minitas Avenue Juan Lindo
<i>Telephone</i>	(504) 216-1500
<i>Type</i>	Private, 74 Beds
<i>Capabilities</i>	Medical – Cardiology, Dermatology, Gen. Internal Medicine, Neurology, Oncology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Radiology;

<i>Capabilities (cont.)</i>	Surgical – General Surgery, Neurosurgery, OB/GYN, Ophthalmology, Orthopedic Surgery, Otorhinolaryngology, Plastic Surgery, and Urology
<i>Comments</i>	Has an advanced trauma center.

<i>Facility</i>	Tegucigalpa Hospital Y Clinicas Viera
<i>Coordinates</i>	140622N 0871205W
<i>Location</i>	Avenue Jerez, 11a-12a Avenue
<i>Telephone</i>	Unknown
<i>Type</i>	Private, 44 Beds
<i>Capabilities</i>	Medical – General Medicine, Nephrology, Psychiatry; Surgical – General Surgery, OB/GYN
<i>Comments</i>	CT Scanner, ECG, EEG, Endoscope, Ultrasound, X-ray, Blood Bank, ER, Operating Room. Some English speaking staff. Water not potable.

HISTORY

Prior to the Spanish conquest in 1539, Honduras was populated by several indigenous groups with distinct languages and cultures. The most well known and advanced of these groups were the Mayan people of the Yucatan and Guatemala, who reached western Honduras in the 5th century A.D. and dominated the region for more than 3 centuries. After the Mayans, other groups emerged, such as members of the Toltec of central Mexico, who migrated into parts of western and southern Honduras; members of the Chibcha of Colombia, who established themselves in northeastern Honduras; the Lenca, who migrated to west-central Honduras; and groups related to the Aztecs, who established themselves at various locations from the Caribbean Coast to the Gulf of Fonseca on the Pacific Coast. These groups established trade within their immediate regions and as far away as Panama and Mexico.

Christopher Columbus landed in Honduras during his last voyage in 1502 but did little exploring. In 1524, four separate Spanish land expedition groups began rivaling over Honduras. Because of these groups fighting for control and resistance from the indigenous population, it was 1539 before the conquest of Honduras was complete. Honduras became a province within the Federal Republic of Central America, which stretched from southern Mexico to Costa Rica, until it gained independence.

Since it gained independence, Honduras has had challenges maintaining stability and building an economy. Liberals wanted greater local autonomy, a limited role for the church, integration of native people into the Hispanic culture, and to follow the U.S. and Western European models of political and economic development. Conservatives wanted a strong central government, a large role for the church, a traditional subservient role for native people, and an aristocratic government modeled after Spain. Meanwhile, Honduras and neighboring countries (Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua) viewed each other as threats, interfered in each others' affairs, and provided sanctuary to each others' exiles. Beginning in the 1920s and continuing throughout the 20th century, the United States intervened militarily and diplomatically to help resolve regional conflicts.

Honduras enjoyed a period of relative stability from 1932 to 1949 under President Tiburcio Carias Andino of the conservative National Party of Honduras (PNH) and from 1949 to 1954 under his chosen successor, Minister of War Juan Manuel Galvez. However, dissatisfaction with some of his successor's policies caused Carias to re-seek the presidency in 1954, which led to a split in the conservative party. The split forced a three-way race between Carias, Ramon Villeda Morales of the Liberal Party of Honduras (PLH), and former vice president Abraham Williams

Calderón of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), moderates who broke away from PNH. Neither candidate received a majority of votes, and amidst confusion, Vice President Julio Lozano Diaz took control of the government.

The military overthrew Diaz in 1956 and set up congressional elections. The liberal PLH won the majority of seats and elected Villeda to a 6-year term to start January 1958. However, because of dissatisfaction with Villeda and the prospect of another PLH electoral victory, the military overthrew him in October 1963, canceled elections, dissolved Congress, suspended the constitution, and established military rule under Col Lopez Arellano.

Honduras returned to civilian rule in 1982 under President Roberto Suazo Cordova of the PLH. Under Cordova, Honduras received substantial military aid from the United States to give sanctuary to U.S.-backed Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, or Contras, attempting to overthrow Nicaragua's pro-Soviet government under the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), or Sandinistas. In the end, Nicaraguan FSLN President Daniel Jose Ortega Saavedra lost to opposition candidate Violeta Barrios de Chamorro in the February 1990 elections.

Since Honduras returned to civilian rule, democracy has been relatively stable. Beginning with the 1982 election of Cordova and continuing through the 2005 election of current President Jose Manuel Zelaya Rosales, the country has had seven consecutive democratic elections. However, each new government has faced challenges with the economy, crime, corruption, and human rights abuses.

In 1993, Honduras set up a commission to address alleged human rights abuses from the military during the 1980s. Two years later, the first military officers were charged. In 1998 and 1999, respectively, the police and military came under civilian control.

However, reports of abuses from the police continued, including reports of police-backed death squads killing children in the streets in 2000.

The economy did begin to improve in the 1990s; however, devastation from Hurricane Mitch in October 1998 was a major setback, and Honduras needed hundreds of millions of dollars in international aid to overcome the effects. However, more recent events may help to stimulate the country's economy, including the country's approval of the Central American Free Trade Agreement and the receipt of significant debt relief.

In June 2009, a coup authorized by the Supreme Court ousted President Zelaya for violating the constitution. Acting President and former National Assembly President Robert Micheletti had the support of the military as well as the nation's business leaders, while Zelaya, exiled to Costa Rica, had the backing of most nations in the hemisphere, and that of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations. Micheletti remained de facto president of Honduras until Porfirio Lobo was inaugurated in January 2010. Once in office, Lobo granted amnesty to all persons involved in the coup.

Chronology of Key Events

Year	Event
-------------	--------------

<i>1502</i>	Christopher Columbus lands in Honduras.
-------------	---

<i>1525-</i>	Spain conquers Honduras.
--------------	--------------------------

<i>1539</i>	
-------------	--

<i>1821</i>	Honduras gains its independence from Spain but becomes part of Mexico.
-------------	--

<i>1838</i>	Honduras becomes fully independent.
-------------	-------------------------------------

- 1932-** Honduras under right-wing National Party of Honduras
- 1949** (PNH) dictatorship led by Gen Tiburcio Carias Andino.
- 1963** Col Osvaldo Lopez Arellano takes power by coup.
- 1969** Brief but costly war with El Salvador over heavy immigration and disputed border.
- 1974** Lopez resigns after he allegedly accepts a bribe from a U.S. company.
- 1975** Col Juan Alberto Melgar Castro takes power.
- 1978** Melgar ousted in coup led by Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia.
- 1980** Gen Paz signs peace treaty with El Salvador.
- 1981** Roberto Suazo Cordova of the centrist Liberal Party of Honduras (PLH) is elected president, leading the first civilian government in more than a century.
- 1982** U.S.-backed Contras launch operation against Nicaragua's Sandinista government from Honduran territory.
- 1986** Jose Azcona del Hoyo elected president after the law was changed to stipulate a maximum one-term presidency.
- 1989** Gen Alvarez is assassinated by left-wing guerrillas in Tegucigalpa.
- 1989** Summit of Central American presidents in El Salvador reaches agreement on demobilization of Nicaraguan Contras based in Honduras.
- 1998** Hurricane Mitch devastates Honduras.
- 1999** Honduras and Nicaragua agree to halt ground troop deployments and pull naval forces from the Caribbean Sea pending resolution of a border dispute.
- 2001** Honduran Committee for the Defense of Human Rights says more than 1,000 street children were murdered in 2000 by death squads backed by the police.
- 2003** Congress votes to send troops to Iraq, making Honduras the first Central American country to deploy.

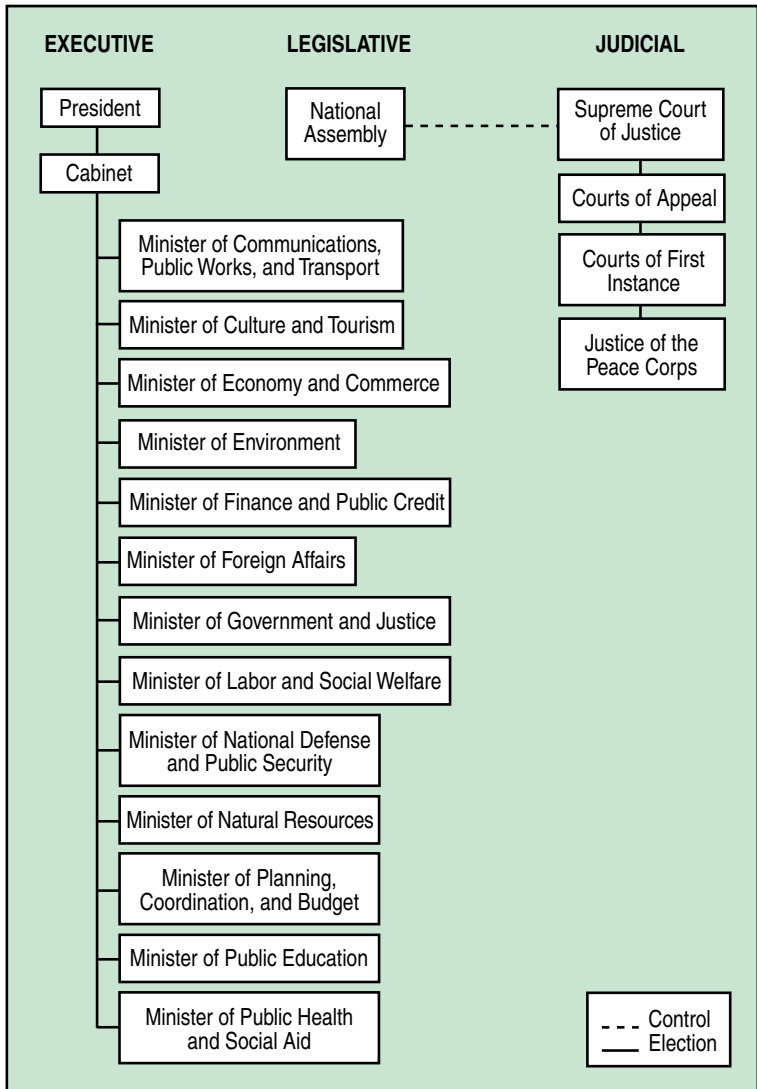
- 2003** Honduras signs U.S. free-trade agreement.
- 2004** Honduran troops withdraw from Iraq.
- 2005** Tropical Storm Gamma kills more than 30 people and forces tens of thousands from homes.
- 2005** PLH's Manuel Zelaya is declared the winner of presidential elections.
- 2007** The International Court of Justice in the Hague settles a long-running territorial dispute between Honduras and Nicaragua.
- 2009** Zelaya is ousted in a coup supported by the Supreme Court, Congress, and the military; National Assembly President Roberto Micheleti is de facto president until January 2010.
- 2010** President Porfirio Lobo is inaugurated, returning the PNH to power.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Government

The Republic of Honduras is a democracy. The government has three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. The executive branch consists of the president, 3 vice presidents, and 13 cabinet members. The legislative branch has 1 chamber with 128 deputies and 128 alternates. Direct elections for the executive and legislature occur every 4 years. A simple majority of votes is needed to win.

Prior to the 1997 election, the legislature was apportioned based on the percentage of votes a party's presidential candidate received. The constitution limits the president to one 4-year term. The judiciary consists of local courts, courts of first instance, appellate courts, and the Supreme Court of Justice. The Supreme



Government Organization

Court consists of nine magistrates and seven alternates. Congress elects the magistrates every 4 years.

Prior to gaining independence in 1821, Honduras was a Spanish colony. Honduras became completely independent in 1838, but regional and internal conflicts interfered with its ability to form a stable government. From 1963 to 1978, Honduras was under military rule. From 1978 to 1982, it transitioned from military rule to an interim government to democracy. Honduras had a stable democracy after transitioning to civilian democratic rule from 1982 until President Zelaya was removed from office for violating the constitution in 2009.

National Level

The current (1982) constitution established three independent and coequal branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial. However, historically, the executive branch has tended to dominate the other two.

Executive Branch

The president heads the executive branch, which also consists of three vice presidents and 13 appointed cabinet members. The president, who is elected to a single 4-year term, is also head of state, head of government, and commander of the armed forces. The executive branch is responsible for creating a national development plan, obtaining congressional approval, and then executing the plan. Other responsibilities include conducting health, education, environmental, transportation, social, economic, financial, and foreign policy; national defense; and internal security. The president has the power to introduce, sanction, veto, and publish legislation and may convene special legislative sessions.

Legislative Branch

The legislative branch, or National Congress, has 1 chamber, 128 principal deputies, and an equal number of alternates. Congress is elected every 4 years at the same time as the president. A simple majority is needed to win. Prior to the 1997 elections, congressional seats were divided based on the amount of votes each party's presidential nominee received within a department or province.

Congress addresses legislative issues through various commissions and committees, many of which parallel executive branch ministries. Congress is responsible for government spending and has the power to levy taxes, assessments, and other fees. In addition, Congress oversees the other branches and independent agencies and has the power to elect, question, and impeach officials. Congress also has the power to declare war, make peace, and approve or disapprove international treaties signed by the president.

Normal congressional sessions last from January to October, but they can be extended, and special sessions can be convened. The president of Congress presides; he is chosen by a majority of deputies. Before the end of regular sessions, Congress chooses a special committee that remains on duty when Congress adjourns. This committee, called the Permanent Committee of Congress, consists of nine principal deputies and their alternates.

Judicial Branch

The judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court of Justice, courts of appeal, courts of first instance, and local courts. The Supreme Court consists of nine justices and seven alternates and is divided into three chambers: criminal, civil, and labor. Congress elects the justices every 4 years, although the justices are nearly always selected by the president.

Some of the Court’s duties include determining if laws are constitutional, appointing lower court judges and public prosecutors, holding trials of impeachment, and publishing the Court’s official record. The courts of appeal hear civil, commercial, criminal, and habeas corpus cases appealed from lower courts. Courts of first instance try serious civil and criminal cases. Local courts handle minor criminal cases.

Local Level

Honduras is divided into 18 departments. Each department is further divided into municipalities; there are 290 municipalities in all. The chief executive at the department level is the governor. The governor may freely appoint or remove an assistant or secre-



Administrative Districts

tary. At the municipal level, the chief executive is the mayor and the legislative branch is the municipal council. The size of the council varies depending on the local population. The municipal government also consists of a secretary, treasurer, and, depending on its annual revenue, an auditor. The president freely appoints or removes governors, but mayors and councils are chosen every 4 years through direct elections. The governor acts as a liaison between the department and national agencies, institutions, and delegations, whereas municipal governments have more autonomy.

Politics

Honduras elects its president, Congress, and municipal authorities every 4 years. Voting is mandatory for all citizens 18 years of age or older. Elections took place in November 2009. Since returning to civilian rule in 1982, Honduras has had eight consecutive elections. The United States considers the elections free and fair although it denounced the 2009 coup as illegal and undemocratic.

Citizens have opportunities to influence the process through various political parties—the National Party of Honduras (PNH), Liberal Party of Honduras (PLH), National Innovation and Unity Party (PINU), Democratic Unification Party (PUD), and Christian Democratic Party (PDCH). The PNH and PLH have traditionally dominated. The PNH is slightly right of center; the PLH is slightly left. The PINU and PDCH are centrist parties. The PUD is a coalition of former exiles who accepted amnesty and formed a party.

Other political pressure groups include the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras (CODEH), Confederation of Honduran Workers (CTH), Coordinating Committee of Popular Organizations (CCOP), General Workers Confederation (CGT), Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (COHEP), National

Association of Honduran Campesinos (ANACH), National Union of Campesinos (UNC), Popular Bloc (BP), and United Confederation of Honduran Workers (CUTH).

Political Parties

Prior to general elections, political parties hold conventions to choose their candidates. The two major parties are the PLH and PNH. They control 62 and 55 congressional seats, respectively. The PUD, PDCH, and PINU have much less influence. They control five, four, and two seats, respectively. Little or no substantive differences exist between the two major parties. The PLH has a slightly larger membership. Support is based mostly on family, personal, and regional loyalties.

Before the 1997 election, congressional seats were awarded based on the percentage of votes each presidential candidate received in a given province. Under this system, winning the presidency all but guaranteed a party's congressional majority and dominance over the rest of government because the president appointed governors and with congressional approval chose Supreme Court justices; the Supreme Court then appointed lower court judges. Since 1997, Hondurans have voted for the executive and legislature on separate ballots. This process has made representatives more accountable to the electorate.

Party Name	Description
-------------------	--------------------

<i>Liberal Party of Honduras (PLH)</i>	Founded in 1891; slightly left of center; originated out of the liberal reform efforts of the late 19th century; traditional support base in urban areas and more developed northern departments
---	--

Party Name Description

National Party of Honduras (PNH) Formed in 1902; slightly right of center; splinter group of PLH and more conservative; traditional base of support in rural areas and less developed southern departments

Democratic Unification Party (PUD) Founded in 1994; members consist of a coalition of former exiled armed opposition groups who accepted amnesty and joined the political process

Christian Democratic Party (PDCH) Formed in 1975 out of the Christian Democratic Movement of Honduras (MDCH) founded in 1968 by lay persons associated with the Roman Catholic Church; officially recognized political party in 1980; support comes from Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choluteca, and La Ceiba

National Innovation and Unity Party (PINU) Formed in 1970 but not recognized as a political party until 1980; support is primarily through urban middle-class professionals from Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choluteca, and La Ceiba

Foreign Relations

Honduras shares borders with Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Since Honduras gained independence, relations between these nations have been shaped by conflicts caused by internal issues. Such disputes led opposition groups to seek refuge in neighboring countries, which often became staging grounds for exiles to revolt against their own governments. The United States intervened on several occasions to help restore or maintain stability. Honduras recently settled a border dispute with El Salvador but still has maritime border disputes with El Salvador, Nicaragua, Jamaica, Belize, Guatemala, and Cuba.

Honduras is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere and receives substantial military and economic aid from the United States. In 2006, Honduras received US\$1.4 billion in debt relief from the Inter-American Development Bank and in 2007 nearly US\$1 billion in debt relief under the World Bank and International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative.

United States

Historically, the United States has donated the largest amount of money to Honduras, including US\$1.6 billion in economic and military aid in the 1980s and US\$1 billion in disaster relief in the 1990s. Honduras receives millions more each year for development assistance, fighting HIV/AIDS, food aid, and through Peace Corps efforts. In 2005, Honduras opened a Millennium Challenge Account worth US\$215 million for rural development and transportation projects.

The two countries work together on several transnational issues: narcotics trafficking, money laundering, international terrorism, illegal migration, and human trafficking. For example, a small U.S. military contingent, among other activities, supports counternarcotics operations in Honduras; Honduras provided 370 troops to support U.S. efforts in Iraq. During the 1980s, Honduras allowed U.S.-backed Contras from Nicaragua to use its territory to plan operations against Nicaragua's communist Sandinista government.

The United States is also a major trading partner for Honduras. Nearly two-thirds of Honduras' exports go to the United States and nearly half of its imports come from the United States. Since the 1980s, Honduras has enjoyed duty-free importation of many goods into the United States, which has helped certain sectors of its economy. Honduras believes that the Central American Free

Trade Agreement of 2005 will help attract foreign investment and transform its agricultural sector.

El Salvador

In 1960, Honduras and El Salvador signed the General Treaty of Central American Integration, which established the Central American Common Market (CACM) in 1961. In 1965, both became part of a military pact called the Central American Defense Council. However, this was suspended at the end of the decade when a border dispute, migration concerns, and other tensions led to a war with El Salvador, known as the “Soccer War.” The two countries signed a peace treaty in 1980 and joined forces against leftist Salvadoran rebels.

Relations gradually improved, especially in the 1990s when good relations among Central American presidents in general renewed efforts toward political and economic integration. In 1992, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) settled the border dispute that brought the two nations to war, and both agreed to abide by the Court’s decision. In 2005, both countries entered the Central American Free Trade Agreement with the United States.

Nicaragua

In 1960, Honduras and Nicaragua signed the General Treaty of Central American Integration, establishing the CACM. In 1965, both became part the Central American Defense Council. However, by the end of the decade, Honduras had suspended participation in the CACM because of strained relations with El Salvador.

Relations became strained in the 1980s as the communist Sandinista rebels took control of Nicaragua. During this period, Honduras received substantial economic and military aid from the United States in exchange for allowing Nicaraguan Contras to

train and stage attacks from Honduran soil. Talks between Central American leaders led to Nicaragua agreeing to hold elections in February 1990. The Sandinistas lost the election, and Nicaraguan rebels left Honduras and returned home. Relations improved in the 1990s when good relations among Central American presidents in general renewed efforts toward political and economic integration. In 2005, both countries entered the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) with the United States.

A territorial dispute with Honduras regarding the Caribbean Sea was submitted to the International Court at The Hague for resolution and was resolved in October 2007. Presidents Ortega and Zelaya met on 8 October 2007 to recognize the finality of the decision. The court awarded the Republic of Honduras sovereignty over Bobel Cay, Savanna Cay, Port Royal Cay, and South Cay.

Guatemala

Relations between Honduras and Guatemala improved in the 1960s. In 1960, both signed the General Treaty of Central American Integration, which established the CACM. In 1965, both became part the Central American Defense Council. However, by the end of the decade, Honduras suspended participation in the CACM. Relations improved again in the 1990s when good relations among Central American presidents in general renewed efforts toward political and economic integration. In 2005, both countries entered the CAFTA with the United States.

International Organizations

Honduras participates in the following international organizations:

- Organization of American States
- United Nations
- Central American Integration Bank Organization

- Inter-American Development Bank
- Central American Common Market
- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund
- International Criminal Court
- Interpol
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent

Nongovernmental Organizations

NGOs provide a range of programs and services that mainly focus on poverty, hunger, nutrition, health, education, agriculture, environment, human rights, economic development, and disaster relief.

International NGOs active in Honduras include the following:

- Catholic Relief Services
- Cooperative Assistance Relief Everywhere (CARE)
- Save the Children
- Covenant House of Latin America (*Casa Alianza*)

Corruption

Corruption has been a problem in Honduras since it gained independence in 1821. Until recently, political, military, and social elites have acted with impunity, mainly because government officials were subject to bribery and other outside influences. Since returning to civilian rule in 1982, the government has taken steps toward fighting corruption, such as allowing international human rights organizations to operate without restrictions, strengthening transparency laws, prosecuting officials accused of corruption, and providing human rights training to the police and military.

ECONOMY

Honduras is the second most impoverished country in Central America. The economy is supported by international trading of manufactured and agricultural products. The United States is Honduras' largest trading partner, and Honduras is the third largest exporter of apparel and textiles to the United States. Hurricane Mitch severely damaged the economy in 1998, causing more than US\$3 billion in damages, and Honduras is still recovering from the destruction. Honduras receives a great deal of economic aid and relief from several sources including the United States. The country lacks an efficient utilities infrastructure, but new utility plants are soon to be in operation. Foreign investments are steadily increasing, and remittances from abroad, mainly the United States, continue to rise.

Much of Honduras' economic gains have come from the World Bank, IMF, and other donors. The country imports more than it exports; the latest account balance was US\$178.5 million (2006 est.) U.S. exports to Honduras include chemicals, plastic materials, paper, electrical materials, medical equipment and supplies, and oils and lubricants.

Economic Aid

Honduras received US\$681 million in aid during 2005. In 2006, Honduras had US\$3.9 billion in external debt. Economic aid comes from sources such as the IMF, the World Bank, G-8, USAID, U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Peace Corps, European Union, United Nations Development Programme, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

USAID's requested budget in 2007 for Honduras was US\$41 million, but it received only US\$37 million. In Honduras, USAID helps foster democratic institutions, develop education, increase private sector employment and income, manage overdue debt, provide humanitarian aid, increase agricultural production, and provide small business loans.

In 2005, Honduras signed the Millennium Challenge Account compact with the United States. The U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation will invest US\$215 million over 5 years to help Honduras improve its road infrastructure, diversify agriculture, and get its products to market.

Honduras is considered a Highly Indebted Poor Country under the IMF and World Bank. Under the Country Assistance Strategy, and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, Honduras qualifies for economic aid. Since 2005, lenders have continuously forgiven Honduras' external debts. The most recent aid Honduras received from the United States occurred in 2007 after Hurricane Felix.

Banking Services

National and international private and public banking institutions operate in Honduras. The National Development Bank, National Agricultural Development Bank, and the Municipal Bank are state owned. The National Development and Agricultural Banks provide services to the agricultural sector. The Municipal Bank provides assistance at the local level. Banco Atlantida, an affiliate of Chase Manhattan in the United States, is the largest commercial bank, accounting for more than 50 percent of the total assets of private banks operating in Honduras. Banco de Honduras is a subsidiary of Citibank.

The largest banks operating branches in Honduras are HSBC, BAC, and Citibank. Each bank provides personal and business banking services, including ATM transactions. Western Union and Money Gram provide electronic money wiring services.

Economic Statistics (2010)

<i>GDP</i>	33.8 billion (PPP)
<i>GDP Growth Rate</i>	2.5 percent
<i>Per Capita GDP</i>	US\$4,200
<i>Inflation Rate</i>	4.6 percent
<i>National Debt</i>	US\$354 million
<i>Unemployment Rate</i>	5.1 percent (official) 28 percent (unofficial/underemployed)
<i>Total Value of Imports</i>	US\$8.9 billion
<i>Import Commodities</i>	Agricultural products: 16.3 percent Fuels and mining products: 20.8 percent Manufactures: 62.9 percent
<i>Import Partners</i>	United States: 41 percent Guatemala: 10 percent El Salvador: 6 percent European Union: 6 percent Costa Rica: 5 percent Others: 32 percent
<i>Total Value of Exports</i>	US\$5 billion
<i>Export Commodities</i>	Agricultural products: 24.6 percent Fuels and mining products: 3.7 percent Manufactures: 71.7 percent

<i>Export Partners</i>	United States: 35 percent
	European Union: 25 percent
	El Salvador: 11 percent
	Guatemala: 7 percent
	Mexico: 5 percent
	Others: 17 percent
<i>Labor Force</i>	Agriculture: 34 percent
	Industry: 23 percent
	Services: 43 percent

Resources

Gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, iron-ore, cadmium, gypsum, limestone, marble, and timber are natural resources that contribute to the country's economy. There are petroleum deposits in the Rio Sula Valley and offshore along the Caribbean Coast, but there have been only limited investments. Salt, marble and gypsum are extracted from the Department of Choluteca in southern Honduras. All of the lead, zinc, and silver mined in 2005 came from the El Mochito mine near Lake Yojoa and the town of Las Vegas in the Department of Santa Barbara. There are gold reserves in the Departments of Francisco Morazan and Copan. Small amounts of opal are extracted only by artisanal miners near Sosoal in the western Department of Lempira.

Air pollution and water pollution are problematic in Honduras. Air pollution has developed because of the lack of environmental controls on the industrial and agricultural sectors. Farmers use traditional slash-and-burn techniques to clear land, and illegal loggers burn forests to clear undergrowth to ease their access to timber resources. Both industries create tremendous amounts of air pollution. Honduras' four international airports close often during the dry season because of air pollution, mostly from smoke.

Water pollution is a nationwide problem. Industrial, agricultural, and human wastewater contaminates many surface water resources. Lake Yojoa, the largest natural lake in Honduras, is heavily polluted from nearby mining activities, and bacteria rates in the lake are high, leading to health problems for communities around the lake. Contaminated water from nearby lakes and rivers is becoming more of a risk for communities without access to improved water sources.

Industry

Mineral production accounted for 1.5 percent of the GDP in 2005. To help regulate the mining industry, the government suspended any new grants on mineral licenses and advocated a ban on all open-pit mining activities in 2005, which decreased foreign direct investment (FDI) in the mining sector.

Tourism continues to grow and is the main industry for Honduras' islands in the Caribbean. The islands of Roatan, Utila, and Guanaja draw numerous tourists each year. Copan, an ancient Mayan city on the mainland, and the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve, in the Department of Olancho, draw numerous tourists. According to the Ministry of Tourism, tourism had an annual growth rate of more than 10 percent in 2006 over 2005. The Ministry of Tourism is responsible for regulating the tourism industry.

Industrial plants are mainly in urban areas such as Tegucigalpa and San Pedro. Tegucigalpa manufactures plastics, wood products, candles, textiles, furniture, and leather. San Pedro Sula is the industrial center and manufactures matches, tobacco products, cement, sugar, alcohol and beverages, fats and oils, shoes, and candles. The city's proximity to agricultural areas also makes it an important food processing center. The clothing, or *maquila*, industry employs 130,000 Hondurans, and it is the largest for-



Industry

Foreign earnings contributor to the GDP. Twenty-three percent of the total workforce works in industry, and 43 percent works in the service sector.

Utilities

Honduras' primary power sources are thermal and hydro power plants. Both produce near equal amounts of electricity. Thermal plants are not good sources of energy because of their heavy operational and productivity costs, but a sufficient number of alterna-

tive power plants are not available to replace the required electrical needs. Renewable energy sources make up 0.4 percent of the installed capacity. There are no nuclear power plants. Electricity production exceeds consumption, but because of the poor infrastructure, electricity is lost, and power outages occur.

State-owned energy company *Empresa Nacional de Energia Electrica* (ENEE) loses an estimated US\$200 million a year because of power loss, illegal connectivity, fraud, and billing errors. Ten percent of the electricity ENEE purchases from electrical companies is physically lost through transmission, and 25 percent of the total power ENEE generates is lost. If the electrical system is not updated and expanded, Honduras will face an energy crisis. In 2005, more than 66 percent of the power generated in Honduras came from private companies.

More than 7 million people are without access to electricity in Honduras. The current grid system is inefficient, unreliable, and outdated. Power outages and fluctuations happen frequently in urban areas, especially in Tegucigalpa. All electronics should have regulators, surge protectors, and an uninterruptible power supply. The electrical current is 110 volts, 60 cycles, with an alternating current. Electrical plug types are Type A and B, the same types used in the United States.

Wood is an alternative fuel used by the population. Current alternative energy sources used for providing electricity are solar power and biomass. Biomass is an important energy provider in individual households and small industries, especially in the agriculture sector. UNESCO funded solar power operations in the villages of San Ramon Centro, Choluteca, San Francisco, and Lempira and is considering more funding for similar projects. Biomass and biogas from agricultural waste generate electricity on a small scale in La

Grecia, Villanueva, Sava, Santa Barbara, and Choluteca. There is the potential for geothermal power, but more investment into the sector is required.

Water

Bacteria and pollution from human, agricultural, and industrial waste contaminate water sources. Tap water is not potable, but bottled water is widely available. In Tegucigalpa, water shortages occur several times per week year round, especially during the dry season. The local water company in Tegucigalpa enforces water rationing. Wastewater contaminates many surface water resources, especially the Chamalecon River from San Pedro Sula to Puerto Cortés on the Caribbean Coast. In rural and urban areas, wells, rivers, and springs are sources of water. Lake Yojoa is heavily polluted from nearby mining activities.

Ninety-five percent of the urban population and 81 percent of the rural population have access to safe drinking water. Eighty seven percent of the urban population and 54 percent of the rural population have access to improved sanitation facilities. Access to sanitation and water has slightly improved. Rural and urban areas without access to water services get water through underground sources or by carrying it from a nearby source, usually a spring, river, or well.



Gathering Water

Areas lacking access to improved sanitation facilities use septic tanks, latrines, or other disposal means.

The government has increased its spending in the water and sanitation sector to improve the overall coverage area. The Regional Water and Sanitation Network of Central America, co-financed by USAID and the Swiss Cooperation Agency, funds poor municipalities to implement processes for building water and sanitation systems.

The Water Framework Law, passed in 2003, outlines policies regarding the legal right of access to safe water. The government regulates water and sanitation through the Ministry of Health and the Natural Resources and Environment Secretariat. The *Ente Regulador de los Servicios de Agua Potable y Saneamiento*, or Potable Water and Sanitation Regulatory Agency (ERSAPS), is the regulatory body for drinking water and sanitation services. The ERSAPS is a subordinate of the Ministry of Health. The *Servicio Autónomo Nacional de Acueductos y Alcantarillados*, or National Autonomous Water and Sewerage Service, is the national service provider in Honduras.

Agriculture

Thirty-four percent of the total labor force works in agriculture. Coffee and bananas are the principal export crops in Honduras. Other agricultural products include palm oil, melons, pineapple, sugar, tobacco, citrus, shrimp, lobster, livestock, and timber. Corn, sorghum, beans, and rice are subsistence crops. Historically, Honduras depended on the coffee and banana export markets, but now its diversified economy allows the country to withstand volatile market fluctuations. The fishing industry has had great success in Honduras; its main exports to the United States are shrimp and tilapia.

Most local farmers in Honduras do not practice modern farming techniques or enforce safety measures. Farming on a plot of land until the soil is no longer fertile is common practice. Proper irrigation and fertilization methods are not used. There is limited access to resources that would allow farmers to provide and produce more than a subsistence crop. Hondurans use traditional farming methods such as the slashing and burning of land to plant crops. Some farmers use techniques that involve the improper use of agrochemicals, leading to soil contamination and other environmental problems. The harsh farming methods used by most Hondurans eventually lead to soil degradation, which already affects most of the country.

Banana plantations operate near the northern coasts. Chiquita and Dole operate the largest banana plantations in Honduras. The ba-



Farm

nana sector has been slow to recover from Hurricane Mitch in 1998 and is exporting only 50 percent of the pre-Mitch export level.

Honduras' coffee sector suffered from Hurricane Mitch as well, but since then it has made an extraordinary resurgence into the global market and has surpassed pre-Mitch export levels. Low global market prices also affected the coffee exports from Honduras. Coffee production occurs in almost all of the country's departments. The coffee infrastructure has improved because of investments in irrigation and roadways. Investments are being made to improve local bridges and roads to facilitate the flow of agricultural products to the market.

Shrimp is heavily cultivated along the mangrove forests lining the Pacific Coast in southern Honduras. Honduras' Pacific Coast is home to the world's largest shrimp farm with a 67-square-kilo-



Market

meter (26-square-mile) production area. The shrimp farms stock wild-caught shrimp and shrimp larvae.

Foreign Investment

The United States is Honduras' largest contributor of FDI. Bilateral trade between the United States and Honduras totaled US\$7.4 billion in 2006. The United States heavily invests in the maquila (manufacturing) sector. Other sectors the United States invests in include agriculture, tourism, energy, fishing, animal feed production, information technology, telecommunications, fuel distribution, tobacco manufacturing, insurance and leasing, and fast food.

According to the Central Bank of Honduras, in 2006 the following countries invested:

- United States: US\$146.7 million
- Guatemala: 18.4 million
- Mexico: 16.7 million
- Switzerland: 11.7 million
- United Kingdom: 10.5 million
- Panama: 9.2 million
- El Salvador: 7.6 million
- France: 6.2 million
- Holland: 1.3 million

Other countries and regions with investments include the following:

- Holland
- Spain
- Italy
- Canada
- Central America
- Asia

More than 300 foreign-affiliated companies operate in Honduras, and more than 150 are U.S. companies. FDI increased by US\$13 million in 2006 to US\$385 million from 2005, while Honduras' outward FDI remained at US\$22 million. In 2000, inward FDI stock was US\$1.3 billion; by the end of 2006, stocks of inward FDI totaled more than US\$2.9 billion, more than doubling over 6 years.

Outlook

There is great potential in nearly every sector in Honduras, but the country remains vulnerable to external shocks and the U.S. economy. Since the economic crisis after Hurricane Mitch in 1998, Honduras' economy has been slow to stabilize. Remittances from Hondurans abroad accounted for more than 20 percent of the national GDP in 2006, totaling more than US\$2.3 billion. Poverty decreased and the economy increased with the help of remittances, mainly from the United States. A substantial decrease in remittances would severely impact the economy.

The country's dependence on relatively few exports, mainly coffee, bananas, shrimp, and timber, all of which are easily affected by natural disasters, leave Honduras' economy vulnerable to external shocks. The economy has begun to diversify, and it is supported by international trading of manufactured and agricultural products. Development in Honduras' natural resources could provide a source of economic growth with less reliance on foreign aid. Development in alternative energies would greatly reduce reliance on foreign oil.

THREAT

Honduras is the third most corrupt nation in Central America. Government corruption, police brutality, political violence, gang violence, violence against women and children, and human traf-

ficking are serious threats affecting Honduras. The integrity of the police and military forces is often in doubt, and corruption and brutality are common among the security forces, leading to mistrust by the population.

Crime

Honduras has a serious crime problem, particularly with gangs, and travelers should exercise caution. Violent crime is widespread and often involves the use of weapons. Petty crime is prevalent near areas frequented by tourists. People have been robbed in secluded areas, at tourist attractions, along beaches, riding public transportation, boating, and hiking.

Travelers should avoid traveling alone or walking at night. Travelers have been the victims of rape, shooting, murder, kidnapping, robbery, carjacking, and petty crimes. Backpacks and purses are targets for “snatch and grabs” by criminals on motorcycles. Valuables should not be visible, as break-ins are common.

Crimes against travelers are most reported along routes between Limones to La Union, Olancho through Salama to Saba, Gualaco to San Esteban, La Esperanza to Gracias, and San Pedro Sula to Copan. Travelers should exercise caution on routes through El Progreso, Tela, Trujillo, La Cieba, and through Santa Barbara. Criminal gangs frequently target the roads around the San Pedro Sula airport. Most crimes involve weapons.

Drug Trafficking

Honduras is directly along the drug trade route from Colombia to the United States. Cannabis, cocaine, crack, heroine, and amphetamines are commonly smuggled along these routes. Cannabis is transported in the form of seeds, resin, dried, and plants. The drugs are smug-

gled to Guatemala and Mexico along the Pan American Highway to their intended destinations, primarily in the United States.

In 2006, cocaine seized from sea-going vessels totaled 6,636 kilograms (14,630 pounds); other operations seized 736 kilograms (1,623 pounds) of cocaine and 807 kilograms (1,779 pounds) of cannabis. The El Salvador National Police also seized 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of heroin at the Amatillo border crossing from Honduras.

Colombian and Mexican drug cartels control the flow of drugs. Major gangs such as the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and Mara 18 operate throughout Latin America and the United States and often provide security for drug shipments through their countries. Drug cartels usually pay gangs with weapons for distributing narcotics.

Honduras imports chemicals from the United States and Europe, and the level of accountability and control is limited, providing opportunities for drug cartels to exploit the system. The Ministry of Health is responsible for tracking chemical shipments that come into the country.

The Department of Homeland Security, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Internal Revenue Service are giving Honduran law enforcement officials specialized courses on topics such as financial crimes investigation, money laundering, international terrorism, narcotics trafficking, alien smuggling, terrorist financing, law, and accountability in government.

Major Intelligence Services

National intelligence organizations primarily focus on counternarcotics operations. The Intelligence Community receives help and

training from the United States, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and the NGO Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras. Bilateral relations with the United States include a Special Vetted Unit that gathers narcotics intelligence that is then passed to other Honduran law enforcement agencies. The unit targets major traffickers operating in Honduras and has led to the disruption and disbanding of international organized crime groups.

Ministry of Public Security

The Ministry of Public Security oversees the Preventive Police, Transit Police, Frontier Police, Tourist Police, and Prison Police. The ministry lacks proper funding and staff, and corruption is a serious problem throughout the security forces. *Direccion de Lucha Contra el Narcotrafico* is responsible for narcotics investigations under the Ministry of Public Security.



National Police Officers

Ministry of Security

Special Investigative Units

The General Office of Criminal Investigation (DGIC) and the Directorate of Special Investigations are counternarcotics units responsible for narcotics-related crimes. The units conduct investigations with the help of the Ministry of Security. The DGIC lacks sufficient manpower, training, equipment, pay, and morale.

Joint Information Coordination Center

The Joint Information Coordination Center (JICC) is known as the *Centro de Informacion Conjunto* (CEINCO) locally. The JICC performs counternarcotics intelligence, analysis, and operational planning in regional investigations and operations.

ARMED FORCES

Army

Mission

The army is the largest branch of the Honduran Armed Forces, consisting of infantry, armor, artillery, engineers, communications, supply, and medical services. The Honduras Army has a mission to defend national territory and support the security forces against the threat of internal subversion. The army's secondary missions consist of development work such as building roads and supporting other government agencies.

Organization

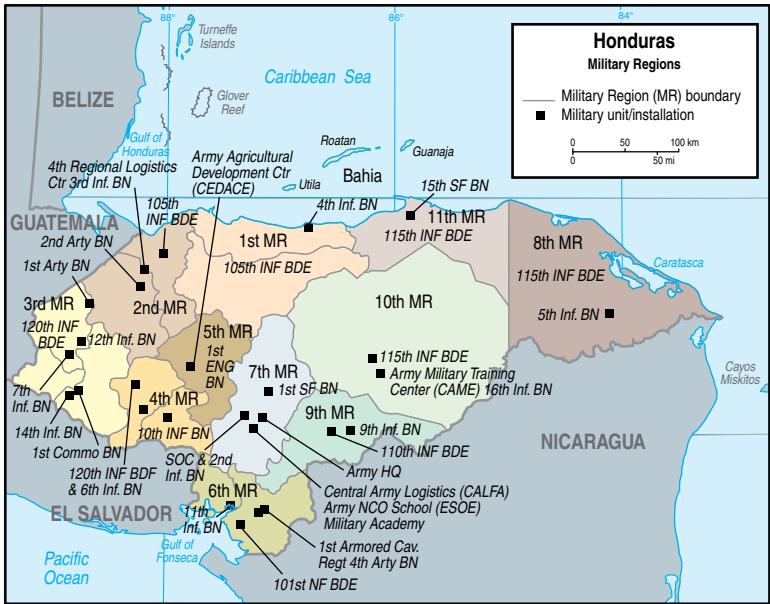
The basic unit is the battalion; the army commander is usually a colonel. Subordinate to him are the commanders of the operational commands, the military zones, and the general reserve units.

As of late 2008, the Army battalions are as follows:

- 12 infantry battalions distributed among 5 infantry brigades
- 1 infantry battalion operating independently
- An armored cavalry regiment consisting of 2 battalions
- 3 artillery battalions
- 2 Special Forces battalions
- 1 engineer battalion
- 1 signals battalion

The country is divided into 11 military regions, as follows:

Region	Area(s) Covered	Overseen by
1st	Atlántida, Yoro, Bahia Islands	105th Infantry Brigade, headquartered in San Pedro Sula
2nd	Cortés and Santa Barbara	
3rd	Copan, Lempira, and Ocotepeque	120th Infantry Brigade, headquartered in Santa Rosa de Copan
4th	Intibucá and La Paz	10th Infantry Battalion
5th	Comayagua	1st Engineers Battalion
6th	Valle and Choluteca	101st Infantry Brigade, HQ in Choluteca
7th	Francisco Morazán	Special Operations Command, headquartered in Tamara, Francisco Morazán
8th	Gracias a Dios	115th Infantry Brigade, headquartered in La Colina, Juticalpa, Olancho



Military Regions

Region	Area(s) Covered	Overseen by
9th	El Paraíso	110th Infantry Brigade, headquartered in El Paraíso
10th	Olancho	115th Infantry Brigade, headquartered in La Colina, Juticalpa
11th	Colon	

Personnel

As of 2010, the strength of the Honduran Army was approximately 7,000 soldiers with an additional 2,000 active reserve soldiers.

Uniforms

The Honduran Army is phasing out a field uniform in olive green that includes a cap and black boots. Soldiers are being issued a

E N L I S T E D					
	Honduras Rank	Cabo	Sargento Raso	Sargento Segundo	Sargento Primero
	<i>U.S. Equivalent</i>	<i>Corporal</i>	<i>Sergeant</i>	<i>Sergeant 1st Class</i>	<i>Master Sergeant</i>
O F F I C E R					
	Honduras Rank	Subteniente	Teniente	Capitán	Mayor
	<i>U.S. Equivalent</i>	<i>Lieutenant 2nd Class</i>	<i>Lieutenant 1st Class</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>Major</i>
	Teniente Coronel	Coronel	General de Brigada	General de División	
	<i>Lieutenant Colonel</i>	<i>Colonel</i>	<i>Brigadier General</i>	<i>Major General</i>	

Army Rank Insignia

woodland camouflage fatigue similar to U.S. Army Battle Dress Utilities and khaki-colored field uniforms. The service uniform consists of beige shirt, beige trousers with black stripes down the sides, a black belt, and black shoes. Officers wear their rank insignia on the collar, and enlisted personnel wear rank insignia on their sleeves.

The Honduran Armed Forces is changing the uniform under the Transformation Plan 2021 to a digital uniform similar to that of the U.S. Marine Corps. Because of the number of woodland camouflaged fabric uniforms in the inventory; it will take a couple of years to field the new uniforms and eliminate the current ones.

Training

Honduran Army Professional Development Centers

Center	Location	Description
General Francisco Morazán Military Academy	Las Tapias (outskirts of Tegucigalpa)	University degree program modeled on West Point
Officer Development School (EAO)	Las Tapias	Combined-arms courses for lieutenants and captains
Army Military Training Center (CAME)	El Bijagual, Olancho	Provides various programs equal to advanced individual training (AIT) and a unit national training center (NTC)
Northern Military Lyceum	San Pedro Sula	Reserve Officer Training Center
Army Technical School (ETE)	Las Tapias	Soldier/civilians training for nursing, ordnance disposal, vehicle body work, etc.
Army Military Intelligence School	Las Tapias	
Army Non-Commissioned School (ESOE)	Las Tapias	Year-long NCO academy
Army Agricultural Development Center (CEDACE)	Siguatepeque	Trains soldiers in basic agricultural skills

Recent Operations

From 2003 to 2008, the Honduran Armed Forces was involved in several major domestic and international operations. Task Force “Xatruch” (TFX) deployed to Iraq to support reconstruction efforts. The 370-person TFX deployed in 2003 for a 6-month rotation along with battalion-sized contingents from El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua as part of the Spanish Brigade assigned to the Polish Division.

Consisting of two infantry companies, one military police company, and a support company, the Honduran contingent worked with local police to patrol the An Najaf area in south-central Iraq. Six female soldiers assigned to TFX acted as interlocutors with Iraqi women, thus respecting local customs. To gain peacekeeping experience, more than half of the 35 TFX officers were veterans of the UN peacekeeping mission in the Sinai, another international mission that Honduras has undertaken since the 1990s.

With extensive training and equipment for the mission, TFX performed well in Iraq. The task force received a warm welcome upon its return to Honduras. The army took steps to capture the lessons learned; the unit was disbanded and the officers and NCOs, all volunteers, were dispersed to various units to spread the training and experience throughout the army.

Major domestic operations include a short-term surge of support to police anti-gang efforts. Between 2003 and 2005, Honduras’ military conducted Operation HARD HAND in response to high levels of violent crime caused by an influx of Mara Salvatrucha-type gangs. Honduran troops were ordered out of their barracks and sent to patrol the streets of urban centers alongside the police.



Honduran Soliders

The army has made a long-term commitment to support environmental operations. The Honduran economy depends on agriculture and forestry. Smuggling and illegal harvesting of timber, exotic animals, and crops—particularly from national parks and ecological preserves—is a major problem. The army is tasking units to patrol vast stretches of territory in these areas.

Equipment

Honduras has recently procured cargo trucks from India to support logistics, military civic action, and emergency operations. The army also received 35 motorcycles to conduct motorized patrols for forest protection and to support the National Police.

The army is seeking to replace its entire military transportation fleet. It lacks trained maintenance personnel and an adequate logistics system to maintain equipment. As a result, once vehicles and equipment become non operational, they tend to remain non operational. As tactical vehicles fail, they are replaced with commercial buses and cargo trucks.

A lack of armored personnel carriers continues to be a shortfall. Honduras is hoping to alleviate some of the shortage by procuring used M113 personnel carriers from the United States. All equipment listed below is from the United States unless otherwise noted.

Armor

Type	Quantity
<i>M24 Light Tank</i>	10 (probably stored)
<i>Scorpion Light Tank</i>	12 (UK)
<i>Scimitar Light Tank</i>	3 (UK)
<i>Sultan Armored Command Vehicle</i>	1 (UK)
<i>Saladin Ktz 93 Armored Car</i>	72; 48 in service (UK)
<i>RBY Mk 1 Scout Car</i>	16; 13 in service (Israel)

Artillery

Type	Quantity
<i>M101 105-mm howitzer</i>	16 (probably stored)
<i>M102 105-mm howitzer</i>	24
<i>M198 155-mm howitzer</i>	4
<i>M116 75-mm pack howitzer</i>	8 (none in service)

Mortars

Type	Quantity
<i>M2 60-mm mortar</i>	83
<i>81-mm mortar</i>	35

Type	Quantity
<i>Thompson-Brandt 120-mm mortar</i>	20 (France)
<i>Soltam 120-mm mortar</i>	20 (Israel)
<i>Soltam 160-mm mortar</i>	30 (Israel)

Antitank

Type	Quantity
<i>Carl Gustav 84-mm recoilless rifle</i>	120
<i>M40/A1 106-mm recoilless rifle</i>	80
<i>M67 90-mm recoilless rifle</i>	3
<i>M72A1 LAW</i>	300
<i>M18 57-mm recoilless rifle</i>	n/a (probably inoperable)

Air Defense

Type	Quantity
<i>M55A2 20-mm gun system</i>	80; 30 in service
<i>M167/VULCAN 20-mm gun system</i>	24
<i>TCM-20</i>	24

Small Arms

Honduras has numerous small arms in its inventory, to include the FN FAL, M14, M16A1, Galil, and Ruger Mini-14 rifles; ST Kinetics Ultimax 100 5.56-mm (Singapore), FN MAG 7.62-mm (Belgium), H&K MP5, Uzi, and Thompson sub machineguns, M16A1 Heavy Barrel, Madsen Mod 1950, M1919, M2HB, and M60 machineguns; and M79 and M203 grenade launchers.

Communication

The current communication equipment used by the army is extremely antiquated. The army seeks to improve the national mili-



Army Bases

tary radio network, upgrade secure voice and tactical communications, and acquire a more sophisticated radar system to replace the U.S.-manned radar facility operating at Trujillo. The existing radar is a TPS-70 that is part of the Caribbean Basin Radar Network. The network’s primary goal is to provide enhanced drug surveillance capabilities in the Caribbean region.

Unit Dispositions

101st Infantry Brigade

Choluteca

11th Infantry Bn

San Lorenzo

1st Armored Cavalry Regiment

Las Trincheras

4th Artillery Bn

Choluteca

<i>105th Infantry Brigade</i>	San Pedro Sula
<i>3rd Infantry Bn</i>	El Naco
<i>4th Infantry Bn</i>	La Ceiba
<i>14th Infantry Bn</i>	El Progreso
<i>2nd Artillery Bn</i>	Pinalejo
<i>4th Regional Logistics Group</i>	El Naco
<i>110th Infantry Brigade</i>	El Paraíso
<i>6th Infantry Bn</i>	Ojo de Agua
<i>9th Infantry Bn</i>	Jamastran
<i>115th Infantry Brigade</i>	La Colina, Juticalpa, Olancho
<i>5th Infantry Bn</i>	Mocoron
<i>16th Infantry Bn</i>	Juticalpa
<i>120th Infantry Brigade</i>	Santa Rosa do Copan
<i>7th Infantry Bn</i>	St. Rosa de Copan
<i>12th Infantry Bn</i>	Cucuyagua
<i>Special Operations Command</i>	Tamara, Francisco Morazán
<i>1st Special Forces Bn</i>	La Venta
<i>15th Special Forces Bn</i>	Rio Claro
<i>1st Artillery Bn</i>	Zambrano
<i>2nd Infantry Bn (Airborne)</i>	Tamara
Independent Units	
<i>10th Infantry Bn</i>	Marcala
<i>1st Engineer Bn</i>	San Francisco, Siguatepeque, Comayagua

ENLISTED						
	Honduras Rank	Cabo de Marina	Maestre III	Maestre II	Maestre I	
	U.S. Equivalent	<i>Seaman 1st Class</i>	<i>Petty Officer 3rd Class</i>	<i>Petty Officer 2nd Class</i>	<i>Petty Officer 1st Class</i>	
	OFFICER					
		Honduras Rank	Alférez de Fragata	Teniente de Fragata	Teniente de Navio	Capitan de Corbeta
U.S. Equivalent		<i>Ensign</i>	<i>Lieutenant Junior Grade</i>	<i>Lieutenant</i>	<i>Lieutenant Commander</i>	
						
		Capitan de Fragata	Capitan de Navio	Contralmirante	Almirante	
	<i>Commander</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>Rear Admiral</i>	<i>Admiral</i>		

Navy Rank Insignia

Personnel

The Honduran Navy is the smallest of the services, with 1,100 to 1,400 personnel. This includes 450 naval infantry in the Honduran Marine Battalion.

Training

Navy officers receive their basic military training at the *Academia Naval de Honduras* (Naval Academy) in La Ceiba, complemented by course work in the United States. Most officers also pursue follow-on practical training with either the U.S. or the Chilean Navy. There is a technical school called *Centro de Estudios Navales* (Naval Studies Center) at Puerto Cortés.



Naval Bases

Equipment

A lack of modern equipment limits the Honduran Navy to a coast guard role. The navy also has a surface fleet inventory and aviation assets.

Class	Role	Total
Swiftships 105 ft	Coastal Patrol Craft	3
Lantana Guardian	Coastal Patrol Craft	1
Nor-Tech 43 ft	Patrol Boat	4
Seward 85 ft	Patrol Boat	1
Swiftships 65 ft	Patrol Boat	6
USCG 44 ft	Patrol Boat	4
Boston Whaler Outrage	Patrol Boat	10
River Patrol Boats	Patrol Boat	18
LCM (8)	Medium Landing Craft	2
Lantana 149 ft	Utility Landing Craft	1

Air Arm

Honduras is the only Central American country that has a naval air arm. There are four land-based maritime-patrol aircraft and two general-purpose amphibious craft. Naval aircraft use air force bases.

Marines

Mission

The Honduran Marine Battalion directly supports the navy in controlling the country's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone. The marines also help to control and regulate the merchant marine and the nation's ports. They provide and maintain navigational aids and conduct coastal lifesaving and naval base security.

Organization

The Marine Battalion is divided into three independent companies. The smallest company has a limited amphibious capability.

Personnel

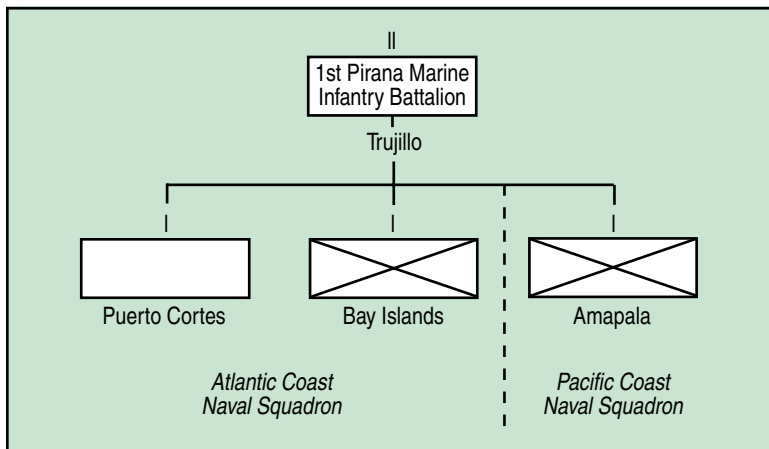
Honduran Marine Battalion strength is 450 marines.

Training

Naval officers receive their basic military training at the Military Academy Francisco Morazan at Tegucigalpa, complemented by course work in the United States.

Equipment

Honduras' Marines have limited amphibious capability, employing one Punta Caxinas LCU and three Warunta (ex-U.S. LCM 8-class).



Marine Organization



Marine Bases

Air Force

Mission

The role of Honduras' Air Force is to defend the national air space and provide tactical and logistic support to the army and navy.

Organization

Honduras' Air Force doctrine is based on the U.S. Air Force. The commander of the air force reports to chief of the armed forces' joint staff. The air force has 130 aircraft organized into a fighter squadron, a close air support squadron, a presidential flight squadron, a transport squadron, and a helicopter squadron. The fighter

squadron is at Colonel Héctor Caracciollo Moncada Air Base (BA HCM) in Moncada, La Ceiba; the close air support squadron is at Colonel Armando Escalon Espinal Air Base (BA AEE) in San Pedro Sulu; and the transport squadron, helicopter squadron, and presidential flight squadron are based at Colonel Hermán Acosta Mejía Air Base (BA HAM) in Toncontin.

Capabilities

Honduras' Air Force traditionally has been the best-equipped and -trained air force in Central America. During the 1969 war with El Salvador, it established total air superiority within the first 24 hours of hostilities, despite a preemptive Salvadoran Air Force strike on its main base.












The Honduran Air Force took part in UN operations in Haiti in 1994. It has also played a significant role supporting counternarcotics operations undertaken by the army and police. The air force has been employed in numerous international aid and disaster support operations, to include deploying helicopters to Guatemala during 2005 and Nicaragua in 2007.

Personnel

Honduras' Air Force consists of 1,100 military personnel and 1,200 active reserve members.

Training

Honduran Air Force officers receive their initial training at the Military Academy (*Academia Militar*) at Tegucigalpa and some ground school conducted by the Military Aviation School (*Academia de Aviacion Militar*) at Toncontin. Subsequent specialized training at this school, the flying elements of which were formerly based at Toncontín, moved to Soto Cano Air Base,

E N L I S T E D					
	Honduras Rank	Cabo Tecnico	Sargento Tecnico 2da Clase	Sargento Tecnico 1ra Clase	Sargento Mayor
	<i>U.S. Equivalent</i>	<i>Sergeant</i>	<i>Technician Sergeant</i>	<i>Master Sergeant</i>	<i>Sergeant Major</i>
O F F I C E R					
	Honduras Rank	Subteniente	Teniente	Capitán	Mayor
	<i>U.S. Equivalent</i>	<i>Lieutenant 2nd Class</i>	<i>Lieutenant 1st Class</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>Major</i>
					
		Teniente Coronel	Coronel	General de Brigada	General de División
		<i>Lieutenant Colonel</i>	<i>Colonel</i>	<i>Brigadier General</i>	<i>Major General</i>

Air Force Rank Insignia

Palmerola. Years of U.S. forces basing at Palmerola have resulted in improved facilities.

Various non-aviation courses still take place at Toncontín, and the air force also provides training for its other ranks at Toncontín. As in the case of the army, most officers and selected noncom-



Air Force Bases

missioned personnel also receive continuation training abroad. All training is nominally carried out at Toncontín, but the flying elements of the *Escuela de Aviación* are regularly deployed to each of the other three main air bases.

Equipment

Aircraft

All equipment is from the United States unless otherwise noted.

Type	Role	Quantity
Northrop F-5E/F(dual-seat trainer) Tiger II	Fighter	8/2 (2 operational)
Cessna A-37B Dragonfly	Attack/recon	7

Type	Role	Quantity
Lockheed C-130A Hercules	Transport	1
T-41D Mescalero	Trainer	4
EMB-312 Tucano	Trainer	9
Cessna 182P Skylane	Utility	2
Cessna 185F Skywagon	Utility	1
Cessna 310R	Utility	1
Piper PA-31 Cheftain	Utility	1
Piper PA-42 Cheyenne	Utility	1
Douglas C-47D Skytrain	Transport	2
IAI Arava 201	Transport	1 (Israel)
IAI 1124 Westwind	VIP transport	1 (Israel)
Aero Commander	Transport	1
MD 500D	Utility helicopter	2
Bell UH-1H Iroquios	Utility helicopter	2
Bell 412SP	Utility helicopter	8
TH-55 Osage	Utility helicopter	2

Armament

Type	Role
<i>AIM-9</i>	Air-to-air missile
<i>Shafir Mk 2</i>	Air-to-air missile
<i>BLU-10B</i>	GPB (guided bomb units)
<i>BR-125</i>	GPB
<i>BR-250</i>	GPB
<i>Mk 81/82</i>	GPB
<i>Hydra 70</i>	Rocket
<i>INTA 511</i>	Rocket
<i>INTA 59</i>	Rocket
<i>LAU-59</i>	Rocket pod

APPENDIX A: EQUIPMENT RECOGNITION

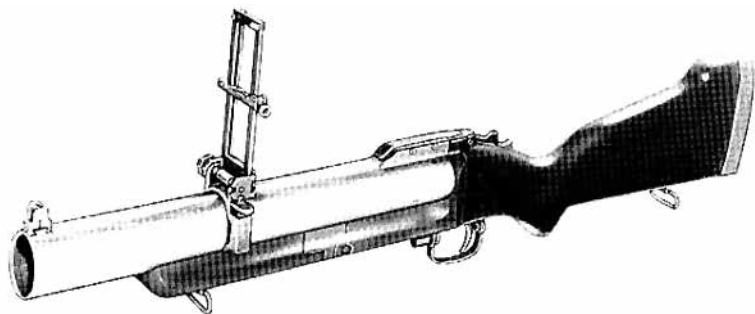
INFANTRY WEAPONS

40-mm M203 Grenade Launcher



Caliber	40-mm
System of Operation	Single-Shot Pump
Overall Length	394 mm
Weight (Loaded)	5 kg (w/M16A1/A2)

40-mm M79 Grenade Launcher



Caliber	40-mm
System of Operation	Single-Shot
Overall Length	737 mm
Weight (Loaded)	2.95 kg

7.62-mm M60



Maximum Effective Range	1,800 m
Caliber	7.62 x 51 NATO
System of Operation	Gas, automatic
Overall Length	1.26 m
Feed Device	Disintegrating link belt
Weight	11.79 kg (with butt stock and bipod)

.50 cal. Browning M2 HB



Maximum Effective Range	1,500+
Caliber	.50 caliber Browning (12.7x99)
System of Operation	Short Recoil
Overall Length	1.651 m
Feed Device	100
Weight (Loaded)	5 kg (w/M16A1/A2)

ARMOR

Scorpion 76-mm Recce



Crew	3
Armament	
Main	1.76-mm gun
Coaxial	1.762-mm MG
Smoke	2x4
Night Vision	Yes
NBC Capable	Yes
Maximum Road Range	644 km
Maximum Speed	80.5 km/h
Fuel Capacity	423 liters
Fording	1.06 m
Gradient	60 percent
Vertical Obstacle	0.5 m
Combat Weight	8,723 kg
Height	2.1 m
Length	4.794 m
Width	2.134 m

Scimitar



Crew	3
Armament	
Main	1.76-mm gun
Coaxial	1.762-mm MG
Smoke	2x4
Night Vision	Yes
NBC Capable	Yes
Maximum Road Range	644 km
Maximum Speed	80.5 km/h
Fuel Capacity	423 liters
Fording	1.06 m
Gradient	60 percent
Vertical Obstacle	0.5 m
Combat Weight	8,723 kg
Height	2.1 m
Length	4.794 m
Width	2.134 m

Alvis Saladin Armored Car



Crew	3
Armament	
Main	1.76-mm L5A1 rifled gun w/42 rds
Coaxial	2 x 7.62-mm MG w/2,7250 rds
Night Vision	No
NBC Capable	No
Maximum Road Range	400 km
Maximum Speed	72 km/h
Fuel Capacity	241 liters
Fording	1.07 m
Gradient	46 percent
Combat Weight	11,509 kg
Height	2.19 (turret roof)
Length	4.93 m
Width	2.54 m

RAMTA RBY Mk 1 Light Reconnaissance Vehicle



Crew/Passengers	2/6
Armament	
Main	106-mm M40 Recoilless Rifle
Coaxial	Assorted 7.62-mm or 12.7-mm MGs
Night Vision	Optional
NBC Capable	No
Maximum Road Range	550 km
Maximum Speed	100 km/h
Fuel Capacity	140 liters
Fording	0.75 m
Gradient	60 percent
Combat Weight	4,500 kg
Height	1.54 m
Length	5.023 m
Width	2.03 m

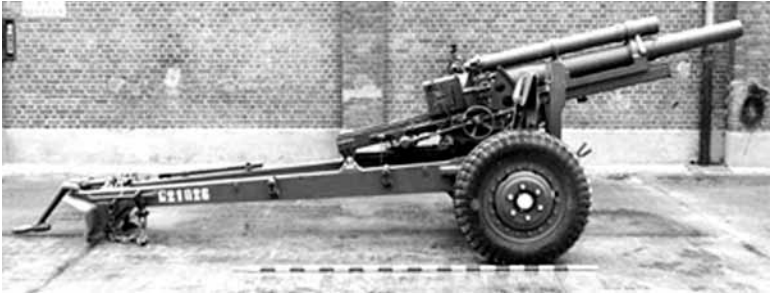
ARTILLERY

155-mm M198 Towed Howitzer



Crew	11
Maximum Range	18,150 m (M107 projectile); 22,000 (M483A1 projectile); 30,000 m (RAP)
Rate of Fire	4 rds/min
Prime Mover	6x6 Truck
Maximum Towing Speed	72 km/h (roads); 8 km/h (cross-country)
Length	12.34 m (traveling); 11 m (firing)
Weight	7,163 kg

105-mm M101/M102 Towed Howitzer



Crew	8
Maximum Range	11,270 m
Rate of Fire	10 rds/min
Prime Mover	6x6 Truck
Maximum Towing Speed	65 km/h (roads); 25 km/h (cross-country)
Length	5.994 m (traveling)
Width	3.65 m
Height	3.124 m
Weight	2,030 kg

Soltam 160-mm Mortar



Crew	6
Maximum Range	9,600 m
Rate of Fire	10 rds/min
Prime Mover	4x4 Truck
Maximum Towing Speed	60 km/h (roads); 25 km/h (cross-country)
Length	3.640 m (traveling)
Weight	1,790 kg

106-mm M40A1 Towed Recoilless Rifle



Caliber	106-mm
Maximum Range	6,900 m
Rate of Fire	5 rds/min
Elevation	+22 to -17 degrees
Traverse	360 degrees
Weight	113.9 kg (combat order)

M67 90-mm Recoilless Rifle



Crew	2
Range	
Maximum	2,100 m
Effective	450 m
Length	1.35 m
Weight	16.4 kg (empty)
Height	432 mm (ground mounted)

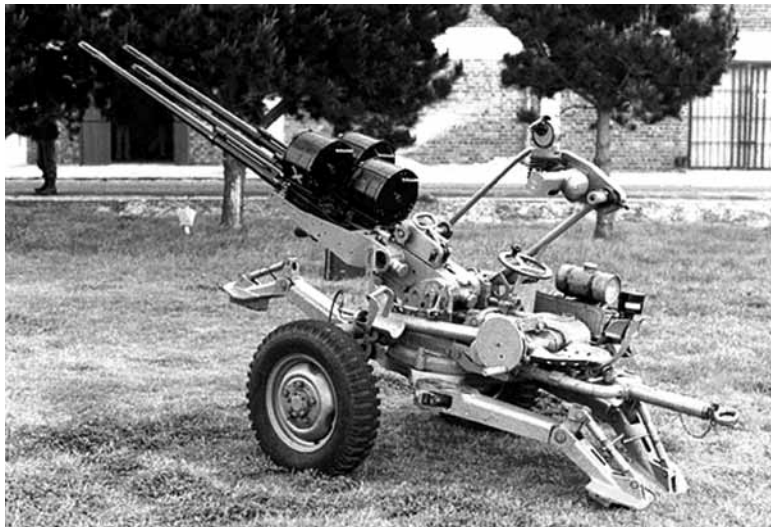
Carl Gustaf 84-mm M3 Recoilless Rifle



Caliber	84-mm
Range	
Maximum Indirect	1,300 m
Effective	700 m
Length	1.065 m
Weight	10 kg (empty)
Height	432 mm (ground mounted)

AIR DEFENSE

M55 20-mm Triple-barrel ADA



Crew	6
Range	
Maximum Tactical	1,200-1,500 m
Maximum Horizontal	5,500 m
Maximum Vertical (<80 degrees)	4,000 m
Rate of Fire (per barrel)	700 rds/min (Cyclic)
Combat Weight	1,100 kg
Length	4.3 m (traveling)
Width	1.27 m (traveling)
Height	1.47 m (traveling)

20-mm M167



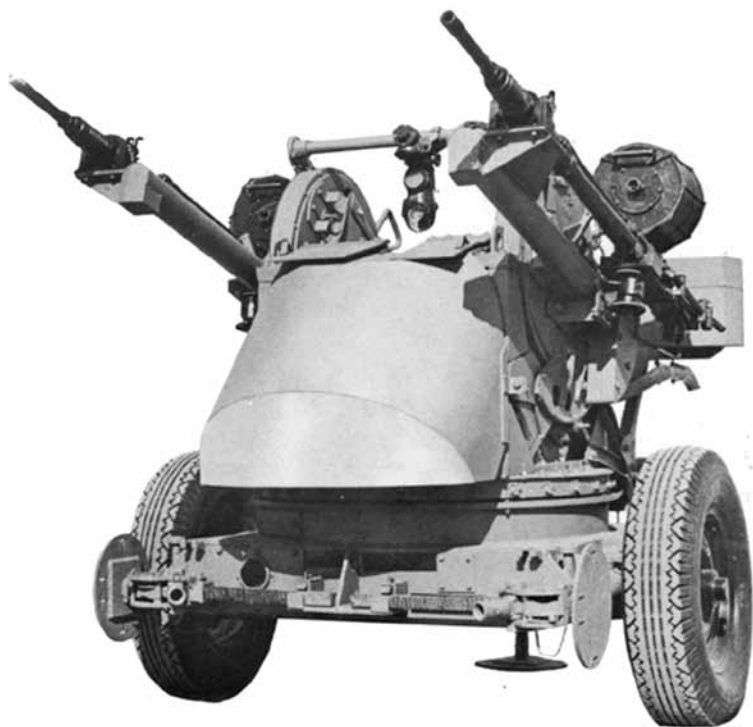
Crew	2 (1 on weapon)
Maximum Tactical Range	1,200 m (Antiaircraft); 2,200 m (Ground)
Rate of Fire (per barrel)	1,000 - 3,000 rds/min
Azimuth	Unlimited
Elevation	-5 to +80 degrees
Fire Control	Range update computer and lead computing gunsight
Ammunition	APT, HPT, TP, HEI, TPT, HEIT
Weight	1,588 kg (traveling); 1,565 kg (firing)
Length	4.906 m (traveling)
Width	1.98 m
Primary Mover	6x6 Truck

SA-7



Type	2-stage, low altitude manportable SAM system
Effective Range	800 to 3,200 m
Effective Altitude	50 to 1,500 m
Maximum Target Speed	Outbound 800 km/h; inbound 540 km/h
Number of Reloads	5 per launcher
Warhead	1.17 kg HE-frag with contact fuze
Guidance	Infrared passive homing
Combat Weight	9.15 kg
Launcher Length	1.49 m

20-mm Israeli TCM-20 Twin ADA



Crew	4
Operation	Blowback, with positive breech locking
Ranges	
Tactical	1,200 m
Maximum Vertical	4,000 m
Maximum Horizontal	5,500 m
Cyclic Rate of Fire	650-800 rounds/minute, each
Elevation Limits; Rate	-10 to +90 degrees; 50 degrees/second
Traverse Limit; Rate	360 degrees; 60 degrees/second
Combat Weight	1,350 kg
Length x Width x Height	3.3 x 1.7 x 1.6 m, traveling
Platform	Medium Truck or towed 2-wheel trailer

AIRCRAFT

F-5 E/F Tiger II



Mission	Light tactical fighter and reconnaissance aircraft
Armament	2 x M39Z2 20-mm guns w/280 rds/gun in forward fuselage
Maximum Range	2,483 km
Maximum Speed	Mach 1.64
Weight	4,410 kg
Height	4.07 m
Length	14.45 m
Wingspan	8.13 m

Note: The F-5E is a lightweight supersonic aircraft developed as an inexpensive, easily maintained fighter capable of operating from unimproved airfields. Up to 3,175 kg of mixed ordnance can be carried on its fuselage and four underwing stations.

Cessna A-37 Dragonfly



Mission	Ground Attack Fighter
Crew	2 (side-by-side)
Armament	
Permanent	7.62-mm machinegun mounted under forward fuselage and 4 pylon stations under each wing
Typical	2x 394-kg, 1x 272-kg, and 1x 227-kg bombs under each wing
Other External Stores	Various conventional bombs, fire bombs, rocket pods, gun pods, and flare launcher mounted under wings
Maximum level speed	816 km/h
Range with Maximum Payload	740 km
Service Ceiling	12,730 m
Maximum Takeoff Weight	6,350 kg
Weight Empty	2,817 kg
Length x Wing Span x Height	8.62 x 10.93 x 2.70 m

Arava 201



Mission	Short Take-off and Landing (STOL) Light Transport
Structure	Braced high-wing monoplane with single streamline section strut each side
Engine	2 x 559 kW (750 shp) Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6A-34 turboprops, each driving a Hartzell HC-B3TN three-blade hydraulically actuated fully feathering reversible-pitch metal propeller
Fuselage	Cigar-shaped with rounded nose and rear
Tail	The tail unit is a cantilever structure, with twin fins and rudders, carried on twin booms extending rearward from engine nacelles
Range w/max payload and 45 min reserve	140 nm
Max speed	325 km/h
Service Ceiling	25,000 ft

MD 520 MG



Crew	2
Armament	2 x 7.62-mm gun pods; assorted rockets, possibly ATGM
Maximum Range	429 km
Maximum Speed	152 kt
Rotor Diameter	8.05 m
Length	8.61 m

UH-1H



Crew	3
Armament	Assorted guns, rockets, and missiles
Maximum Range	400 km
Maximum Speed	128 kt
Length	12.98 m
Height	3.87 m

SHIPS

SWIFT 105 FOOT Class (PCF)



Complement	17 (3 Officers)
Maximum Speed	30 kts
Armament	1 x GE 20-mm Sea Vulcan; 2 x 12.7-mm MGs; 6 x Hispano-Suiza 20-mm guns (2 triple mounts)
Displacement	111 tonnes (full load)
LOA/Beam/Draft m(ft)	32 x 7.2 x 2.1 (105 x 23.6 x 7)

GUARDIAN Class Patrol Boat



Complement	17 (3 Officers)
Maximum Speed	30 kts
Armament	1 x GE 20-mm Sea Vulcan; 2 x 12.7-mm MGs; 6 x Hispano-Suiza 20-mm guns (2 triple mounts)
Displacement	105.8 tonnes (full load)
LOA/Beam/Draft m(ft)	32.3 x 6.3 x 2.1 (106 x 20.7 x 7)

SWIFT 85 FOOT Class Patrol Boat



Complement	10 (2 Officers)
Maximum Speed	25 kts
Armament	None
Displacement	67.2 tonnes (full load)
LOA/Beam/Draft m(ft)	25.9 x 6.1 x 1.8 (85 x 20 x 5.9)

SWIFT 65 FOOT Class Coastal Patrol Craft



Complement	9 (2 Officers)
Maximum Speed	25 kts
Armament	1 x 12.7-mm MGs 2 twin mounts); 3 x 7.62-mm MGs
Displacement	34 tonnes (full load)
LOA/Beam/Draft m(ft)	21.3 x 5.2 x 1.6 (69.9 x 17.1 x 5.2)

TYPE 44 Class Patrol Boat



Complement	4
Maximum Speed	14 kts
Armament	None
Displacement	19.8 tonnes (full load)
LOA/Beam/Draft m(ft)	13.5 x 3.9 x 1.1 (44.3 x 12.8 x 3.6)

OUTRAGE Class Patrol Boat



Complement	4
Maximum Speed	30 kts
Armament	1 x 12.7-mm MG; 2 x 7.62-mm MGs
Displacement	2.2 tonnes (full load)
LOA/Beam/Draft m(ft)	7.6 x 2.4 x 0.4 (24.9 x 7.9 x 1.3)

Landing Craft, Utility



Complement	18 (3 Officers)
Maximum Speed	14 kts
Armament	None
Displacement	635 tonnes (full load)
LOA/Beam/Draft m(ft)	45.4 x 10 x 2 (149 x 33 x 6.5)

Landing Craft, Medium



Complement	5
Maximum Speed	11 kts
Armament	None
Displacement	120 tonnes (full load)
LOA/Beam/Draft m(ft)	22.7 x 6.6 x 1.8 (74.5 x 21.7 x 5.9)

APPENDIX B:

HOLIDAYS

Holiday	Description	Traditional Date(s)
<i>New Year's Day</i>	Commemorates the start of the calendar year	1 January
<i>Holy Week</i>	Week prior to, but not including, Easter	Easter: 24 April 2011 8 April 2012 12 April 2013
<i>Americas Day</i>	Honors Honduras' native indians	14 April
<i>Labor Day</i>	Celebration of worker solidarity	1 May
<i>Independence Day</i>	Commemorates independence from Spain	15 September
<i>Morazan Day</i>	Birthday of Honduran national hero	3 October
<i>Columbus Day</i>	Marks Columbus' discovery of America	12 October
<i>Armed Forces Day</i>	Marks 1956 revolution	21 October
<i>Christmas</i>	Birth of Christ	25 December

APPENDIX C: LANGUAGE

Common Words and Phrases

English	Spanish
Yes	<i>Sí</i>
No	<i>No</i>
Please	<i>Por favor</i>
Thank you	<i>Gracias</i>
Thank you very much	<i>Muchas gracias</i>
You're welcome	<i>De nada</i>
Excuse me!	<i>Con permiso!</i>
Sorry!	<i>Lo siento!</i>
Good morning/Good day	<i>Buenos días</i>
Good afternoon	<i>Buenas tarde</i>
Good evening/ Good night	<i>Buenas noches</i>
How are you doing?	<i>Cómo está?</i>
How is it going?	<i>Cómo le va?</i>
Very well, thanks.	<i>Muy bien, gracias.</i>
And you?	<i>Y usted?</i>
Pleasure to meet you.	<i>Mucho gusto en conocerle.</i>
I speak a little Spanish.	<i>Yo hablo un poco de español.</i>
What's your name?	<i>Cómo se llama?</i>
My name is	<i>Me llamo ...</i>
Where are you from?	<i>De dónde es usted?</i>
I am from the United States.	<i>Yo soy de los Estados Unidos.</i>
Are you here alone?	<i>Está solo(a)?</i>
I'm here with my friends.	<i>Estoy aquí con mis amigos</i>
Shall we go to the ...	<i>Vamos a la ...?</i>

English

I'll be back later.

See you later.

Good-bye!

Spanish*Vuelvo mas tarde.**Hasta luego.**Adiós!***Personal Pronouns and Relatives****English**

I/We

You (informal/formal)

He/She/They (male/female)

My or Mine (male & female)

Your/Yours (informal; masc./fem.)

Your/Yours (formal; masc./fem.)

His/Hers/Theirs

Man/Woman

Friends (male/female)

Boyfriend/Girlfriend

Family

Relative

Children

Husband/Wife

Father/Mother

Son/Daughter

Brother/Sister

Grandfather/Grandmother

Uncle/Aunt

Cousin (male/female)

Nephew/Niece

Spanish*Yo/Nosotros**Tú/Usted**Él/Ella/Ellos/Ellas**Mi/Mío (Mía)**Tu/El tuyo/La tuya**Su/El suyo/La suya**Su/Su/Suyo/Suya**Hombre/Mujer**Amigos/Amigas**Novio/Novia**Familia**Pariente**Hijos**Esposo/Esposa**Padre/Madre**Hijo/Hija**Hermano/Hermana**Abuelo/Abuela**Tío/Tía**Primo/Prima**Sobrino/Sobrina*

Dining at a Restaurant

English

Breakfast

Lunch/Dinner

Can you bring me ...?

Fork/Knife/Spoon

Plate/Cup/Glass/Napkin

Could we have a table?

Could you bring me a menu,
please?

Can you recommend a good
restaurant?

I'm hungry/thirsty.

I would like something to eat/
drink.

Non-smoking area.

The bill (check), please.

What do you recommend?

I would like ...

Beer

Beer (Draft)

Bread

Butter

Cake

Cheese

Chicken

Coffee

Desserts

Eggs

Spanish

Desayuno

Almuerzo/Cena

Puede traerme ...?

Tenedor/Cuchillo/Cuchara

Plato/Taza/Vaso/Servilleta

Puede darnos una mesa?

*Puede traerme una carta, por
favor?*

*Puede recomendarme un
buen restaurante?*

Tengo hambre /sed.

*Yo quisiera algo para comer/
beber.*

Prohibido de fumar.

La cuenta, por favor.

Qué me recomienda?

Yo quisiera ...

Cerveza

Cerveza de barril

Pan

Mantequilla

Pastel

Queso

Pollo

Café

Postres

Huevos

English

Fish
Food
Fruit
Meat
Milk
Orange Juice
Potatoes
Rice and Beans
Salad
Shrimp
Salt and Pepper
Soup
Steak
Sugar
Tea
Vegetables
Water
Wine

Spanish

Pescado
Comida
Fruta
Carne
Leche
Jugo de naranja
Patatas (Papas)
Arroz y Frijoles
Ensalada
Camarones
Sal y Pimienta
Sopa
Bistec
Azúcar
Té
Legumbres (Vegetales)
Água
Vino

Directions and Places**English**

Is it near here?
It's not very far.
How do you get there?
Is it within walking distance?
Is it ...?
Near/Far
Here/There

Spanish

Está cerca de aquí?
No está muy lejos.
Cómo se va allí ?
Se puede ir caminando?
Es ...?
Cerca/Lejos
Aquí/Allí/Allá

English

North/South

East/West

Left/Right

Straight/Forward

Up/Down

How do I get to ...?

Where is the?

Airport

Apartment

Bakery

Bank

Bar

Beach

Building

Church

City/Town

Downtown

Fire Station

Hospital

Hotel

House

Laundry

Night Club

Office

Pharmacy

English

Police Station

Spanish*Norte/Sur**Este/Oeste**Izquierda/Derecha**Siga derecho**Arriba/Abajo**Cómo puedo ir a ...?**Dónde está ...?**Aeropuerto**Apartamento**Panadería**Banco**Bar**Playa**Edificio**Iglesia**Ciudad/Pueblo**El Centro**Estación de bomberos**Hospital**Hotel**Casa**Lavandería**Club Nocturno**Oficina**Farmacia**Spanish**Comisaría/Estación de
policía*

English

Post Office
Restaurant
Store
Street/Road
Supermarket

Spanish

Correo
Restaurante
Tienda
Calle/Camino
Supermercado

Colors**English**

What color is it?
Is it ...?
Light...
Dark...
Black
Blue
Brown
Green
Gray
Orange
Pink
Purple
Red
White
Yellow

Spanish

De qué color es?
Es ...?
...claro
...oscuro
Negro
Azul
Marrón
Verde
Gris
Naranja
Rosado
Violeta
Rojo
Blanco
Amarillo

Days of the Week and Time**English**

What day is it today?
The week

Spanish

Qué día es hoy?
La Semana

English

The day

The date

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Last week

Next week

Weekend

Yesterday/today/tomorrow

The day before yesterday

Now/Later

In the morning/afternoon

During the day

In the evening/at night

What time is it?

Hours/Minutes/Seconds

It's one o'clock.

It's two o'clock.

Five past three

Ten to four

Noon/Midnight

Spanish*El Día**La Fecha**domingo**lunes**martes**miércoles**jueves**viernes**sábado**La Semana pasada**La Próxima semana**El Fin de semana**Ayer/Hoy/Mañana**Anteayer**Ahora/Mas tarde**de (en) la mañana/de (en) la tarde**Durante el día**de (en) la noche**Qué hora es?**Horas/Minutos/Segundos**Es la una.**Son las dos.**Son las tres y cinco.**Son las cuatro menos diez.**Mediodía/Medianoche*

Years, Months and Seasons

English	Spanish
The year	<i>El año</i>
This year	<i>Éste año</i>
Last year	<i>El Año pasado</i>
Next year	<i>El Próximo año</i>
The months	<i>Los meses</i>
January/February	<i>enero/febrero</i>
March/April	<i>marzo/abril</i>
May/June	<i>mayo/junio</i>
July/August	<i>julio/agosto</i>
September/October	<i>septiembre/octubre</i>
November/December	<i>noviembre/diciembre</i>
Seasons	<i>Estaciones del año</i>
Spring/Summer	<i>La primavera/ el verano</i>
Autumn/Winter	<i>El otoño/el invierno</i>

Numbers

English	Spanish
Number	<i>Número</i>
Zero (0)	<i>Zero</i>
One (1)	<i>Uno (counting)</i>
One (1)	<i>Un(masc.)/una(fem.)</i>
Two (2)	<i>Dos</i>
Three (3)	<i>Tres</i>
Four (4)	<i>Cuatro</i>
Five (5)	<i>Cinco</i>
Six (6)	<i>Seis</i>
Seven (7)	<i>Siete</i>

English

Eight (8)

Nine (9)

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

30

40

50

60

70

80

90

100

101

102

110

120

Spanish*Ocho**Nueve**Diez**Once**Doce**Trece**Catorce**Quince**Dieciséis**Diecisiete**Dieciocho**Diecinueve**Veinte**Veintiuno**Veintidos**Veintitres**Treinta**Cuarenta**Cinquenta**Sesenta**Setenta**Ochenta**Noventa**Cien/Ciento**Ciento uno**Ciento dos**Ciento y diez**Ciento y veinte*

English

200

500

1,000

10,000

100,000

1,000,000

First

Second

Third

Spanish*Dos cientos**Quinientos**Mil**Diez mil**Cien mil**Un million**Primero**Segundo**Tercero***Security and Combat Situations****English**

Answer the question!

Does anyone speak English?

Do you understand?

Do you have weapons?

Don't move!

Come with me!

Follow me!

Follow our orders!

Give me your weapon!

Halt!

Hands up!

Hurry up/Slow down!

I do not speak English.

I do not understand.

Keep away! Not a step further!

Spanish*Responda!/Contesta la pregunta!**Alguien habla inglés?**Entiende?**Tiene armas?**No se mueva!**Venga conmigo!**Sígame!**Obedesca las ordenes!**Deme su arma!**Pare!**Manos arriba!**Apúrese/Mas espacio!**No hablo inglés.**No entiendo.**Pare ya!*

English

Lay down your weapon!

Lie down!

Line up!

Move!

Move back!

Open fire!

Stay where you are!

Stop or I will shoot/fire!

Surrender!

You are a prisoner.

Spanish

Ponga el arma en el suelo!

Échese al suelo!

Póngase en fila!

Ande!/Muevase!

Para atrás!

Abre Fuego!

Quédese donde está!

Pare o tiro!

Ríndase!

Usted es prisionero.

Interrogation and Identification**English**

Are you carrying a weapon?

Come here!

Come with me!

Do you have any explosives?

Do you have any identification papers?

Do you need medical attention?

Don't be frightened!

I don't understand.

Please, speak more slowly.

Wait here.

We must search this place.

Spanish

Está usted armado?

Venga acá!

Venga conmigo!

Tiene explosivos?

Tiene algun(os) documento(s) de identificación?

Necesita atención médica?

No tenga miedo!

No entiendo.

Por favor, hable más despacio.

Espere aquí.

Tenemos que registrar este lugar.

English

We must search you.

We want to help you.

Were you in the armed forces?

Where are you from?

Where do you serve?

Where is your unit?

What group/unit do you belong to?

What is your date of birth?

What is your name?

What is your occupation?

What is your place of birth?

What is your rank/title?

What nationality are you?

Who is in charge?

Who is your leader?

Spanish

Tenemos que registrarlo.

Queremos ayudárle.

Estaba en las fuerzas armadas?

De dónde es usted?

Dónde sirve?

Dónde está su unidad?

A que grupo /unidad pertenece?

Cuál es su fecha de nacimiento?

Cuál es su nombre?

Cuál es su profesión?

Dónde nació?

Cuál es su rango/título?

De que nacionalidad es usted?

Quién es el encargado?

Quién es su líder?

Professions and Occupations**English**

What do you do?

I am a ...

Commander

Dentist

Doctor

Driver

Spanish

Cuál es su profesión?

Yo soy ...

Comandante

Dentista

Médico

Chofer

English

Farmer

Fisherman

Government employee

Guard

Housewife

Laborer

Marine (Corps)

Mechanic

Officer

Pilot

Policeman

Sailor

Salesman

Soldier

Student

Teacher

Spanish*Granjero**Pescador**Empleado de gobierno**Guardia**Ama de casa**Trabajador**Infantería de Marina**Mecánico**Oficial**Piloto**Policía**Marinero**Vendedor**Soldado**Estudiante**Profesor(a)***Civil Affairs and Refugee Operations****English**

Are there any dead?

Come one at a time!

Do you have food?

Do you have water?

Do you need help?

Do you need...?

Clothing

Food

Medicine

Spanish*Hay algún muerto?**Vengan uno a uno!**Tiene comida?**Tiene agua?**Necesita ayuda?**Necesita ...?**Ropa**Comida**Medicina*

English

Protection

Shelter

Shoes

Water

Don't be afraid.

Don't push. We have plenty of food.

Form a line!

How many are sick?

How many children do you have?

We are Americans.

We have food/water.

What happened?

Where are you going?

Where is your family?

You are next.

Spanish*Protección**Refugio**Zapatos**Agua**No tenga miedo.**No empuje. Tenemos suficiente comida.**Formen una línea!**Cuántos están enfermos?**Cuántos hijos tiene?**Somos americanos.**Tenemos comida/agua.**Qué pasó?**A dónde va?**Dónde está su familia?**Usted es el próximo.***Map Terminology and Terrain****English**

Atlantic Ocean

Bay

Beach

Border

Bridge

Canyon

Cave

Coast

English

Spanish*Océano Atlántico**Bahía**Playa**Frontera**Puente**Cañon**Cueva**Costa**Spanish*

English

City/town

Current

Dam

Dirt road

East/West

Forest

Harbor (port)

High-water mark

Hill

House

Island

Lake

Line of latitude/longitude

Main road

Map

Meadow

Meridian

Mountain

North/South

Orchard

Path

Park

Paved road

Peninsula

River

Road (street)

Rock

Sand

Spanish*Ciudad/Pueblo**Corriente**Represa**Carretera**Este/Oeste**Bosque**Puerto**Marea alta**Colina**Casa**Isla**Lago**Línea de latitud/longitud**Camino principal**Mapa**Prado**Meridiano**Montaña**Norte/Sur**Huerto**Caminito**Parque**Carretera pavimentada**Península**Río**Camino/calle**Piedra**Arena*

English

Sand dunes
Sea (ocean)
Surf
South America
Swamp
Tree
Tunnel
Valley
Village
Wall
Water
Waves

Spanish

Dunas
Mar
Resaca
América del Sur/Sudamérica
Pantano
Árbol
Túnel
Valle
Aldea
Muro/pared
Agua
Olas

METOC and Weather Terminology**English**

The weather
Weather forecast
Weather chart
Weather map
Do you think it's going to ...?
Clear sky
Clouds
Cloudy
Fog
Ice
Hot/cold/warm
Lightning
Moon

Spanish

Tiempo
Pronóstico del tiempo
Carta del tiempo
Mapa meteorológico
Piensa que va a...?
Cielo claro
Nubes
Nublado
Neblina
Hielo
Caliente (calor)/frío/tibio
Relámpago
Luna

English

Overcast

Precipitation

Rain

Sky

Stars

Sun

Temperature

Thunder

Thunderstorm

Warm front / cold front

Wind

Wind direction

Wind speed

Spanish*Encapotado**Precipitación**Lluvia**Cielo**Estrellas**Sol**Temperatura**Trueno**Tormenta**Frente caliente / frente frío**Viento**Dirección del viento**Velocidad del viento***Military Vocabulary and Service Specific Terms****English**

Ammunition

Antenna

Armed forces

Armed personnel

Barbed wire

Barracks

Barrel (gun)

Bullets

Base

Battle

Briefing

Camp

Spanish*Municiones**Antena**Fuerzas armadas**Personal armado**Alambre de púas**Barracas**Cañón**Balas**Base**Batalla**Reunión de información**Campamento*

English

Cannon
Car (automobile)
Chemical warfare
Combat
Commander
Communications
Compass
Danger
Danger, high voltage
Flag
Flagpole
Friend/enemy
Group / unit
Guard
Hand-to-hand fighting
Headquarters
Helicopter
Identification papers
Infrared laser rangefinder
Instructor
Intelligence
Intelligence officer
Knife/bayonet
English
Leader
Machine gun
Magazine (weapon)
Map

Spanish

Cañón
Carro
Guerra química
Combate
Comandante
Comunicaciones
Compás
Peligro
Peligro, alto-voltaje
Bandera
Asta de bandera
Amigo/Enemigo
Grupo / unidad
Guardia
Combate mano-a-mano
Quartel-general
Helicóptero
Documentos de identificación
Telémetro láser de infrarroja
Instructor
Inteligencia
Agente de inteligencia
Cuchillo/bayoneta
Spanish
Líder
Ametralladora
Peine
Mapa

English

Military police
Mission
Officer
Open fire!
Patrol
Position
Prisoners
Restricted area (no entry)

Radio

Radar antenna

Reconnaissance

Retreat

Rifle

Rope

Semiautomatic pistol

Special Forces

Target

Train

Truck

Uniform (military)

War

Spanish

Policía militar
Misión
Oficial
Abre fuego!
Patrulla
Posición
Prisioneros
*Area restringida/
prohibida entrada*

Radio

Antena de radar

Reconocimiento

Retirada

Rifle

Soga

Pistola semi-automática

Fuerzas Especiales

Blanco

Tren

Camión

Uniforme

Guerra

Army Specific Terms**English**

Anti-tank rocket launcher
Armored personnel carrier
Army

Spanish

Lanzacohetes antitanque
Vehículo blindado
Ejército

English

Artillery
Grenade launcher
Hand grenade
Infantry
Mine field
English
Mortar
Parachute
Paratrooper
Rocket launcher
Sleeping bag
Soldier
Stronghold (fortification)
Tank
Tent
Trigger

Spanish

Artillería
Lanzador de granada
Granada de mano
Infantería
Campo minado
Spanish
Mortero
Paracaídas
Soldado paracaidista
Lanzacohetes
Saco de dormir
Soldado
Fortaleza
Tanque
Tienda
Gatillo

Navy Specific Terms**English**

Aircraft carrier
Anchor
Boat
Bow/stern
Crew
Deck
Destroyer
Flight deck
Frigate

Spanish

Portaviones
Ancla
Barco
Proa/popa
Tribulación
Cubierta
Destructor
Cubierta de aterrizaje
Fragata

English

Guided-missile cruiser

Hatch

Hull

Inflatable boat (RIB)

Landing craft

Life raft

Marine (Corps)

Minesweeper

Navy

Periscope

Port/starboard

Sailor

SCUBA diver

Ship

Shipyards

Submarine

Torpedos

Warship

Spanish*Crucero misil teledirigido**Escotilla**Casco**Bote inflable (El Zodiac)**Lancha de desembarco**Balsa salvavidas**Infantería de Marina**Buscaminas**Marina de guerra**Periscopio**Babor/estribor**Marinero**Hombre rana/**Buzo de escafandra autónoma**Barco**Astillero**Submarino**Torpedos**Buque de guerra***Air Force Specific Terms****English**

Air intake

Aircraft

Air Force

Airfield

Airplane (propeller)

Cockpit (cabin)

Spanish*Entrada de aire**Nave aérea**Fuerza Aérea**Campo de aterrizaje**Avion de hélice/Aeroplano**Cabina del piloto*

English

Cockpit canopy
Combat aircraft
Control stick
Control tower
Ejection seat
Fighter-bomber
Flaps
Jet
Jet engines
Missile(s)
Pilot
Runway
Tarmac (apron)
Taxiway
Terminal building
Transport aircraft
Wing

Spanish

Cubierta de la cabina
Avión de combate
Palanca de mando
Torre de control
Asiento eyectable
Avión de caza-bombardero
Alerones
Jet
Motores de reacción
Misil
Piloto
Pista de aterrizaje
Pista
Pista de taxi
Terminal de pasajeros
Avión de transporte
Alas

APPENDIX I: DANGEROUS ANIMALS AND PLANTS

Snakes

Neotropical Rattlesnake

Description:

Adult length usually 1 meter to 1.8 meters; a relatively stout rattlesnake with a prominent spinal ridge along the body, most evident on the front part of the body. Both the background color and body



pattern are extremely variable; however, in nearly all specimens, the frontmost dorsolateral dark (darker than the background color) blotches on the body are extended rearward into prominent stripes.

Habitat:

Primarily found in semiarid regions and drier openings in more humid environments. Not found in rainforest. Most often found at elevations of less than 700 meters, but has been found at elevations up to 1,000 meters in Costa Rica, 2,000 meters in Mexico and Colombia, 2,300 meters in Peru and 2,800 meters in Venezuela.

Activity and behavioral patterns:

Most active during twilight and early morning hours. Will move away from humans if allowed to do so, but it will assume a defensive coil and strike if cornered or startled. In the defensive position, it will raise its head and front third of its body high off the ground, neck and head bent, and face its antagonist.

Venom's effects:

Reportedly the most dangerous snake in the region. Has both hemotoxic and neurotoxic components, varying among the subspecies. Primarily hemotoxic in Mexican and Central American races, the venom of South American species has myotoxic and neurotoxic components; bites have a relatively high fatality rate. Local tissue damage and swelling is minimal, but the myotoxic component causes extensive skeletal muscle necrosis.

Cantil

Description:

Adult length usually 0.8 meter to 1.4 meters; a heavy-bodied snake. Body color is quite variable, but most specimens have a series of alternating pale and



darker transverse bands, often separated by thin white lines; all have two distinct lines of pale scales on each side of head; one just above eye level, the other just above the jaw line.

Habitat:

Most frequently found in seasonally dry scrub forest and large grassy plains containing scattered trees. Mainly nocturnal; often shelters in crevices or under rocks.

Activity and behavioral patterns:

Aggressive when provoked; will strike repeatedly.

Venom's effects:

Primarily hemotoxic; necrotic effects reportedly extensive; fatalities have occurred.

Jumping Pit Viper

Description:

Adult length usually 0.4 to 0.9 meter; an extremely stout-bodied snake. Background color usually varying shades of gray or brown, often with pinkish, reddish, or purplish undertones; dorsum usually has a series of darker, roughly diamond-shaped markings. Older specimens become almost entirely dark.



Habitat:

Most often found in forested areas, including tropical rain forest and lower cloud forest.

Activity and behavioral patterns:

Nocturnal; usually slow-moving and not aggressive, but may make a wide-open mouth display when disturbed, and can strike effectively up to half its body length. Terrestrial, usually found coiled on the forest floor, but may climb a short distance up trees.

Venom's effects:

Primarily hemotoxic and relatively mild; many snakebite victims reportedly have experienced only localized pain and swelling, with no permanent damage.

Allen's Coral Snake

No Photograph Available

Description:

Maximum adult length usually 0.8 meter to 1.1 meters. Black cap on dorsum of head is extended rearward, nearly bisecting a broad, yellow transverse band; body usually has alternating broad dull red and black rings separated by much narrower yellow or white rings.

Habitat:

Most common in lowland rainforest and subtropical wet forest, occasional along rivers in drier areas. Primarily found at elevations of less than 1,000 meters; has been found up to 2,000 meters in Costa Rica.

Activity and behavioral patterns:

A secretive, but fairly common snake; is responsible for many snake bites in Central America. Sometimes found close to human dwellings. Coral snakes are usually nonaggressive, and most bites occur during attempts to capture the snake.

Venom's effects:

Coral snake venom is primarily neurotoxic. The antivenins Antimicurus may be effective.

***Guatemalan Palm
Pit Viper*****Description:**

Adult length usually 0.6 to 0.7 meter; a moderately slender snake with a prehensile tail. Background usually green to bluish-green, usually with no distinctive patterning. The side of the head lacks a postocular dark stripe.

**Habitat:**

Most often found in lower montane wet forest/moist forest at elevations of 500 to 2,000 meters.

Activity and behavioral patterns:

Arboreal and diurnal. Usually not aggressive and remain quietly coiled in vegetation, but will strike if brushed against or touched.

Venom's effects:

There is no specific data available. Venoms of this genus primarily are hemotoxic, but also may contain neurotoxic components. Specific antivenins are not produced.

March's Palm Pit Viper**Description:**

Adult length usually 0.5 to 1.0 meter; a moderately slender snake with a prehensile tail. Background color usually yellow-green to blue-green, usually with no distinctive patterning; some specimens may have indistinct blue or yellow green mottling on the sides. The side of the head lacks a distinct stripe behind the eyes.

**Habitat:**

Most common in rainforest, lower montane wet forest, and cloud forest at elevations of 500 to at least 1,500 meters.

Activity and behavioral patterns:

Usually encountered coiled in trees or bushes. Usually non-aggressive; may strike if brushed against or touched.

Venom characteristics:

Specific data are lacking, but bites have resulted in human deaths. Bothriechis venoms primarily are hemotoxic, but also may contain neurotoxic components.

Eyelash Palm Pit Viper

Description:

Adult length usually less than 0.6 meter; a moderately slender snake with a prehensile tail. Background color and markings are extremely variable. The majority of specimens have a background color of green, olive green, or gray-green,



finely suffused with black; a pure yellow phase occurs from Honduras through Panama. Although all specimens have erect scales above their eyes that resemble eyelashes. These are usually less conspicuous in snakes from Ecuador and Colombia.

Habitat:

Most often found in tropical moist forest, wet subtropical forest (cloud forest), and mountain area wet forest. Usually found in shrubs, trees, and vine tangles close to rivers and streams. Found at elevations up to 2,650 meters in Colombia.

Activity and behavioral patterns:

Primarily arboreal and diurnal. Characteristically coils with mouth wide open when disturbed. Usually not aggressive, but reportedly can be quick to bite when disturbed.

Venom's effects:

There is no specific data available. Pit viper venom is primarily hemotoxic, but also may contain neurotoxic components. Specific antivenins are not produced.

Terciopelo

Description:

Adult length usually less than 1.2 to 1.8 meters; maximum of 2.5 meters; a moderately slender snake. Background color and patterns are highly variable,



but many specimens have what appears to be a series of X markings down the back. Snout is markedly pointed.

Habitat:

Found at elevations from sea level to 1,300 meters in northern areas of its range, and to 2,700 meters in southern areas. Most often found in tropical rainforest and tropical evergreen forest. In drier habitats, stays mainly near rivers and other water sources.

Activity and behavioral patterns:

Terrestrial, but occasionally found in bushes and low trees. Nocturnal; often will seek prey near human habitations and in or near cultivated areas. Unpredictable when disturbed; it is easily provoked to strike. It moves very rapidly, reverses direction abruptly, and defends itself vigorously. Extremely dangerous and often fatal.

Venom's effects:

Carries a large supply of potent venom that primarily is hemotoxic and cytotoxic; bite can result in systemic internal bleeding and local tissue destruction.

Central American Coral Snake

No Photograph Available

Description:

Maximum adult length may exceed 1 meter. Quite variable; may be bicolored or tricolored. Head black, usually with a yellow (red

in bicolored specimen) ring of variable width at about the midpoint. Body pattern usually consists of relatively broad red (may be quite dull) and black rings (the red rings often much broader than the black ones), usually separated by narrower yellowish rings (in tricolored specimens).

Habitat:

Found in lowland rain forest, dry forest, lower cloud forest and lower montane dry forest at elevations of up to 1,600 meters.

Activity and behavioral patterns:

This species is the major cause of coral snakebites in Central America. Coral snakes usually are not aggressive; most bites occur during attempts to capture the snake.

Venom's effects:

Venom has myonecrotic toxins, and neurotoxins with presynaptic and postsynaptic effect; has caused human fatalities.

***Godman's Montane
Pit Viper***

Description:

Adult length usually 0.4 to 0.6 meter; a moderately stout snake. Background highly variable, but usually a fairly dark snake overall.



Habitat:

Most often found in lower montane wet forest and cloud forest, lower montane dry forest—mainly among pine-oaks, and high montane forest and meadows at elevations of 1,600-3,200 meters.

Activity and behavioral patterns:

Diurnal/nocturnal; often encountered crawling or coiled along forest paths. Somewhat aggressive; can vigorously defend itself.

Venom's effects:

No specific data available. Although bites may result in considerable swelling, they reportedly are not especially dangerous, and no fatalities have been recorded.

Variable Coral Snake**Description:**

Maximum adult length usually less than 0.8 meter. Except for a yellowish snout tip, the head usually is black with a broad yellow ring behind the eyes. Body pattern is extremely variable, even within subspecies. Usually with broad to very broad reddish rings (often containing some black pigment), separated by a series of broad black rings narrowly bordered with yellow (rybyr); the total number of and relative width of these rings is variable.



low ring behind the eyes. Body pattern is extremely variable, even within subspecies. Usually with broad to very broad reddish rings (often containing some black pigment), separated by a series of broad black rings narrowly bordered with yellow (rybyr); the total number of and relative width of these rings is variable.

Habitat:

Tropical rain forest, evergreen forest, deciduous forest, cloud forest, and pin-oak forest. Occurs at elevations up to 1,350 meters.

Activity and behavioral patterns:

No data; a major cause of coral snake bite in Mexico and Guatemala. Coral snakes usually are nonaggressive; most bites occur during attempts to capture the snake.

Venom's effects:

Specific data are lacking; coral snake venom primarily neurotoxic.

Rain Forest Hog-nosed Pit Viper**Description:**

Adult length usually 0.3 to 0.6 meter. A moderately stout pit viper with an upturned snout. Background colors include tan, brown, reddish-brown, yellowish-brown, grayish-brown, and gray. Most

specimens have a narrow reddish line down middle of the back, and a dorsal pattern of rectangular patches of alternating colors — some specimens gray, with row of small black rectangular patches on either side of middorsal stripe.



Habitat:

Primarily lowland rainforest and mountain area wet forest at elevations of less than 900 meters; has been found up to 1,900 meters in Colombia.

Activity and behavioral patterns:

Active day and night. Mostly terrestrial, but can be found climbing in shrubs or small trees. Frequently found coiled in patchy sunlight in leaf litter (very hard to see because of coloration and small size).

Venom's effects:

Venom may be more toxic than usual for the genus; human fatalities have been attributed to its bite. Venoms predominantly are hemotoxic with necrotic (tissue-destroying) factors. Most species have relatively low venom yield, and bite usually has mild to moderately severe effects. There are no specific antivenins manufactured.

Slender Hog-nosed Pit Viper

Description:

Adult length usually 0.4 to 0.5 meter; maximum of 0.8 meter. A relatively slender pitviper with an upturned snout. Background colors include tan, brown, gray, and grayish-brown, with a narrow white, yellow, or rust brown middorsal line bisecting a series of roughly rectangular, dark brown to blackish dorsal blotches.

Habitat:

Seasonally dry forests, including tropical dry and arid forest, subtropical dry forest, and the drier portions of tropical moist forest. Occurs at elevations up to 1,000 meters.

**Activity and behavioral patterns:**

Most frequently encountered at night; most active during local rainy seasons. Alert and quick to strike, but fatalities have not been recorded.

Venom's effects:

Specific data are lacking; Porthidium venoms predominantly are hemotoxic with necrotic (tissue-destroying) factors. Most species have relatively low venom yield, and bite usually has mild to moderately severe effects.

Dangerous Invertebrates

Scorpions

Although scorpions in the region are capable of inflicting a painful sting, none are known to be life-threatening.

**Millipedes**

Millipedes do not bite and in general are harmless to humans. However, when handled, some larger millipedes (may be more

than 50 centimeters long) secrete a very noxious fluid that can cause severe blistering upon contact; some can squirt this fluid at least 2 feet.

Centipedes

Although area centipedes are capable of inflicting a painful bite, none are known to be life-threatening.



Insects

There is little specific information of medical importance regarding insects. However, nearly all countries have at least one species of moth having venomous/urticating hairs and/or whose larva (caterpillar) has venomous spines. Some caterpillars are very hairy (such as puss moths and flannel moths) and almost unrecognizable as caterpillars, with long silky hairs completely covering the shorter venomous spines. Others bear prominent clumps of still, venomous spines on an otherwise smooth body. Contact with these caterpillars can be very painful. Some are brightly colored.

Paederus are small (usually 4 to 7 millimeters), slender rove beetles that do not look like typical beetles and have very short wing covers that expose most of their flexible abdomens. When crushed, their body fluid contains an agent that will blister skin on contact. The lesions take about a week to heal and the area remains painful for several weeks. The substance is extremely irritating if it gets into the eyes; temporary blindness has been reported.

Spiders

Although there are several spider species found in the region that are capable of inflicting a painful bite, including some very large and physically imposing tarantulas, none are known to be life-threatening.



Dangerous Plants

Agave

Other Names:

Century plant, agave, maguey.

Mechanisms of toxicity:

American species are not edible; some contain saponins, oxalic acid, and others calcium oxalate crystals called raphides. Sap is irritating.



Comments:

Many species (family has 650 species of tropical and subtropical regions—widely cultivated, thick-stemmed plants with confusing, controversial taxonomy.) Leaves are long and narrow with spiny edges. Uses include cultured ornamentals, medicinals, food sources (cooked in tortillas; heart (bud) is edible, source of pulque (a fermented beverage) or mexal (a type of brandy), used as fiber source (papermaking).

African Teak

Other names:

Osage Orange, fustic, bow wood.

Mechanisms of toxicity:

Benzophenones, xanthones, stilbenes, flavonoids, and tannins known to the genus. Has a milky, bitter sap; yields orange dye that causes skin inflammation.



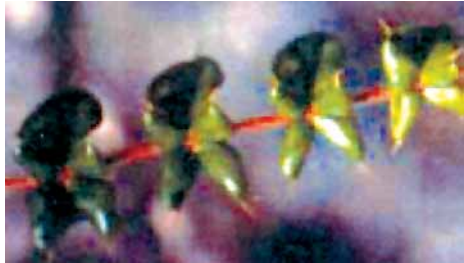
Comments:

Includes 12 species found in tropical America, South Africa, and Madagascar.

Guao

Mechanisms of toxicity:

Several species cause contact dermatitis. A member of the Anacardiaceae family with potential allergic manifestations similar to its relatives, marking nut tree, poison ivy, and cashew.



Comments:

Approximately 20 tropical American species of shrubs or small trees with long-leaf stems and few or no branches. Often the leaves are spiny and clustered at the ends of the branches; flowers are small and green.

Cowitch Cherry

Mechanism of toxicity:

Genus is found in tropical America, especially in the Caribbean. Can be a tree or shrub, and sometimes has stinging hairs.



Comments:

With careful handling, many parts are cooked and eaten.

Velvet Bean

Other names:

Cowitch, cowhage, pica-pica, ox eye bean, horse-eye bean.

Mechanisms of toxicity:

Many of the species' pods and flowers are covered with irritant hairs (proteolytic enzymes). Can be dangerous if they become embedded in the eye. Beans tend to be foul tasting, even after thorough boiling, so little danger of ingestion exists.



Comments:

Many species are widely naturalized.

Strychnine

Other names:

Nuxvomica tree, Snakewood tree

Mechanisms of toxicity:

The entire plant, including the seeds, contains the powerfully acting indole alkaloid strychnine, which can kill.

Comments:

Genus of 190 different species of trees, shrubs and vines with berry-like fruits, found in most tropical regions. Some have the reputation of having edible fruit despite dangerous seeds. It is a source of curare obtained by stripping and macerating its bark. Curare, now used as a muscle relaxant, was formerly used as an arrow poison by South American Indians.

***Panama Tree*****Other names:**

Castano, tartargum.

Mechanisms of toxicity:

Seeds are edible, but pods have internal stiff bristles that easily penetrate skin, causing intense irritation.

**Comments:**

There are 200 tropical species.

Scarlet Wisteria**Other names:**

Corkwood tree, bagpod, purple sesbane, false poinciana, rattlebush

Mechanisms of toxicity:

All parts are poisonous; most poisonings due to



use in herbal teas. Causes Budd-Chiari syndrome. Seeds contain saponins. Up to 24 hours after ingestion, nausea and vomiting occur, with abdominal pain, abnormal accumulation of serous fluid in the abdominal cavity, abnormal enlargement of the spleen, severe diarrhea, hemolysis (red blood cell destruction), respiratory failure, and death.

Comments:

Deciduous shrub or small tree with drooping, red-orange flowers in axillary clusters; June-September. Fruit is a legume with partitions between seeds. Native to South America.

Shanshi

Mechanisms of toxicity:

Contains a number of alkaloids. Causes hallucinogenic effects due to glycosides that have not yet been identified. Has caused death.



Comments:

This is a group of deciduous shrubs or small trees with red, yellow, or purple/black berry-like fruit. Has five one-seeded nutlets. Bark used for tanning, crushed fruit as a fly poison. Used in folk remedies.

Bulb Yam

Other Name:

Air potato, wild yam.

Mechanisms of Toxicity:

Bulb yam, air potato, and wild yam have tubers that contain diosgenin, a steroidal saponin, the alkaloid dioscorine, and a nor-diterpene lactone (diosbulbine). They and some other yams are poisonous when eaten raw. Causes gastroenteritis (nausea, bloody

diarrhea). Some individuals eat them after special preparation. Has been used to commit murder. Found mainly in the lowlands.

Comments:

A prickly climber with a cluster of tubers just below the soil surface. Considered the chief “famine-food” of the tropical East. Poisonous unless properly prepared.



Other species of this genus are good to eat with no special preparation, such as goa yam and buck yam.

Heliotrope

Other names:

Cherry pie, scorpion’s tail, Indian heliotrope.

Mechanisms of toxicity:

Contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids. Cause of large epidemics (Afghanistan, India) of illness following ingestion of bread made with flour contaminated with members of this genus. The pathologic effects (Budd-Chiari syndrome) take weeks to months, and death comes slowly over years. Chronic copper poisoning has occurred associated with this plant.



Comments:

A large genus of worldwide distribution (250 tropical and temperate trees and shrubs).

Bitter Apple, Bitter Gourd**No Photograph Available.****Mechanisms of toxicity:**

Dried pulp is a drastic purgative that has caused bloody diarrhea, even toxic colitis and death; chemical nature unclear.

Comments:

Has a thick tap-root and numerous coarse, sprawling, branched stems up to 18 feet long. Leaves are longer than they are wide and have stiff hairs on both surfaces. Tend to be most abundant in dry inland areas. Botanical literature frequently confused as to identification; easy to mistake for harmless plants.

Buck Thorn**Other names:**

Calderonii, tuilldora, coyotillo.

Mechanisms of toxicity:

Poisonous; associated with weakness, muscle paralysis. Slow onset; toxins are anthraquinone glycosides in the fruit, which has caused paralysis. Leaves are also poisonous. The fruit is eaten, despite its toxicity.

**Comments:**

Grows in dry regions only and never close to the Atlantic coast. Used as timber.

Jaborandi Plant

No Photograph Available

Mechanisms of toxicity:

Twenty-two tropical American species containing alkaloids (mainly pilocarpine), that cause miosis, increased salivation, diaphoresis, bronchospasm (increased airway resistance, bronchial smooth muscle tone, and increased secretions), pulmonary edema, cardiovascular instability and increased intraocular pressure.

Comments:

None.

Tapioca

Other names:

Manioc, cassava, yuca

Mechanisms of toxicity:

Several varieties contain a toxin that breaks down in heat. Bitter or sweet cassava cannot be distinguished other than by taste. Bitter casava is poisonous when



eaten raw. Cooking (with several changes of water) eliminates the toxic principle (requires special preparation).

Comments:

Genus includes almost 100 species (trees, shrubs, and herbs) of tropical and warm Americas; some varieties are very important as a food source. Same subfamily as Croton. Shrubby tree 3-5 feet high. Widely cultivated. Large tuberous roots rich in starch.

Pokeweed

Other names:

Pokeberry, poke salet.

Mechanisms of toxicity:

Mature stems, roots, and berries are poison (saponins mostly in foliage and roots). Death possible when not prepared properly.



Comments:

Young shoot tips, less than 6 inches, are eaten in many cultures, including Canada; requires proper preparation (boiled with water changes; water contains toxic substances — kills snails that carry bilharzia). Dye from berries used to color ink, wine, sweets.

Trumpet plant

Other name:

Chalice vine.

Mechanisms of toxicity:

The entire plant is toxic with tropane alkaloids.

Comments:

Climbing or erect woody vines with large showy yellow or cream-yellow flowers in a trumpet shape. Fruit is a fleshy elongated berry. Source of sacred hallucinogens in Mexico.



Black Nightshade

Other names:

Deadly nightshade, common nightshade, horse nettle, bit-tersweet, Jerusalem cherry, nipple fruit, quena, wild tomato, apple of Sodom, white-edged nightshade.



Mechanisms of toxicity:

The fruit of the Jerusalem cherry is a black berry; the fully ripe berries are eaten; unripe berries contain solanine alkaloids, which can cause gastroenteritis, weakness, circulatory depression. Can kill

Comments:

Approximately 2,000 species of herbs, vines, shrubs covered with small star-shaped hairs. Perfect white, yellow, or blue flowers. Berries have dry or juicy pulp and several seeds.

Nettle Tree

Other names:

Ortiga brava, pringamoza.

Mechanisms of toxicity:

Trees and shrubs with powerful stinging hairs. The intensity of sting delivered by these plants is



species-variable. The bushy, tree-like varieties tend to be more irritating. Any contact between leaves or branches and skin can result in profound burning pain that can last for more than 24 hours. There is no permanent damage.

Comments:

35 native species in tropical and southern Africa, and tropical America. Often used as hedges or local medicinals.

Blistering Ammania**No Photograph Available****Mechanisms of toxicity:**

Found mostly in wet places; has an extremely acrid sap that produces intense pain and blistering on contact with skin.

Comments:

Often confused with loosestrife plants in the primrose family.

Dalechampia**No Photograph Available****Mechanisms of toxicity:**

Some species with stinging glands cause an irritant skin inflammation.

Comments:

A member of the Euphorbeacea family. Common in Mexico.

