



Bhutan

Demographics:

Population: 2,139,549 - other estimates range as low as 810,000 (July 2003 est.)

Area: 47,000 sq km

Government: Monarchy; special treaty relationship with India



Army

Personnel:

Active: ~7,000

Reserves: militia

Organization:

The RBA raised six "wings" since 1997, each of which is equivalent to an under-sized infantry battalion, and is currently in the process of expanding to a total of 20 wings. Once training is completed the wings are deployed for counterinsurgency duties, primarily in the along the eastern border areas. The army's primary mission was border defense, but it also has assisted the Royal Bhutan Police in performing internal security duties. The army also provided security at the Paro airport and regulated the sale, ownership, and licensing of civilian-owned firearms. For ceremonial occasions, the army had a band, some members of which were trained in India.

Air Force

Bases: Thimpu

Aircraft Inventory:

HAL-Dornier Do228	1
Mil Mi-8 'Hip'	1