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Venezuela gets 2m reserve troops and want to buy more weapons

By: fromPortugal on: 16.02.2006 [10:28] (450 reads)



Venezuela has increased the number of reservists in its military to a total of two million men and women.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has told a huge rally of supporters that he wants to buy more weapons to defend his country from invasion.

(4860 bytes) [c]

Venezuela gets 2m reserve troops

Venezuela has increased the number of reservists in its military to a total of two million men and women.

Army high command spokesman Col Herrera Jimenez said that around one-and-a-half million Venezuelans had recently signed up to become reservists.

He said the kind of war Venezuela wanted to fight was a people's war like in Iraq, "where an entire population is rising up against a foreign aggressor".

The news may alarm the US and countries neighbouring Venezuela.

Since last November, Venezuela's armed forces have been carrying out a massive recruitment drive for new reservists.

Boosting defences

Weather

Baghdad
FR, 17/02
+10..+12 °C
NW, 6 m/s

Basrah
FR, 17/02
+16..+18 °C
NW, 6 m/s

Calendar-Filter

< Feb > < 2006 >

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Today						

Col Jimenez, who is in charge of the military's recruitment programme, said that the country's two million reservists would serve in the territorial guard and the reserve of the army, air force and navy.

"We fully expect these reservists be armed and to be able to fight in the front line if and when required," he said.

He said the four months of basic training would start in the first week of March.

Venezuela's military high command and indeed President Hugo Chavez himself say they want to boost the country's defences to repel any potential threat or attempt to invade the country.

His decision to increase the reservists from 500,000 last year to two million means that around one in five Venezuelan adults could be called up for military service in the event of war.

Rifle deal

President Chavez has repeatedly accused the US of aggressive behaviour towards Venezuela.

The US has a military reserve roughly half the size of the one being assembled in Venezuela.

However Venezuela only has enough rifles to equip its professional army of around 80,000 soldiers.

But last year President Chavez announced the military was purchasing a further 100,000 Russian assault rifles.

The government is also studying the possibility of manufacturing many more of these Kalashnikov rifles in Venezuelan factories.

[link](#)

Venezuela 'to buy more weapons'

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has told a huge rally of supporters that he wants to buy more weapons to defend his country from invasion.

Speaking in the capital Caracas, Mr Chavez said 100,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles already on order from Russia were not enough.

Venezuela needed a million well-armed men and women, he said.

Mr Chavez also likened US President George W Bush to the German Nazi leader, Adolf Hitler.

Diplomatic relations between Venezuela and the US have been strained, but they worsened earlier this week when both countries expelled one another's diplomats after Caracas accused the US embassy of spying.

The Venezuelan government has repeatedly accused Washington of trying to destabilise President Chavez - an allegation rejected by US officials.

'Defend our fatherland'

The BBC's Greg Morsbach in Caracas says the rally - to celebrate a failed coup led by Mr Chavez in 1992 - got off to a militaristic start, with a bugler heralding the arrival of President Chavez at the podium.

Wearing his trademark red army beret, Mr Chavez said Washington was considering invading Venezuela.

"I ask for permission ... to buy another cargo of arms because the gringos want us unarmed. We have to defend our fatherland," he said.

"Venezuela needs to have one million well-equipped and well-armed men and women."

Last year the US tried to block the sale of 12 Spanish military planes to Venezuela that were made with US technology.

But Madrid recently said it would go ahead with the sale using more expensive European parts.

'Inflammatory rhetoric'

Turning to oil, the president said if the Bush administration wished to cut diplomatic ties to Venezuela, he would have no second thoughts about closing all the Venezuelan refineries in the US.

"Let's see what'll happen to the price of crude oil then", Mr Chavez told his audience.

He said the US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had been wrong last week to compare the Venezuelan president with Adolf Hitler:

"The imperialist, genocidal, fascist attitude of the US president has no limits. I think Hitler would be like a suckling baby next to George W Bush."

Washington is deeply opposed to the government of left-wing Mr Chavez, who is a vocal critic of the US.

The US has expressed concerns about Venezuelan democracy under Mr Chavez and about the effect of his government's military purchases on regional stability.

But the US has not said it will break off relations with Venezuela, and correspondents say Washington has dismissed threats by Mr Chavez as inflammatory rhetoric aimed at his core supporters.

[link](#)

9 comments

Only comments

Article and comments

Comments per page 50

A wise move

by Yasis on 16.02.2006 [12:55]

A wise move by Chavez. There is no knowing what the intentions of USA are.

A strong military force can deter a USA invasion or air strike.

Venezuela however does not have means to retaliate on U.S. territory.

Perhaps Chavez should import long range ballistic missiles from North Korea.

I can see that countries are learning from DPRK and taking advantage of USA's war in Iraq.

This is good.

LBOG.....Note!..

by EnglishWorkingclassDissident. on 16.02.2006 [13:35]

This BBC thread hasn't quite got upto speed with your pronouncement on NO LEFT WING NO RIGHT WING, (Washington is deeply opposed to the government of left-wing Mr Chavez, who is a vocal critic of the US.).....MAYBE you should get in touch with the BBC to alert them of there discrepancies, I'm sure they'd be most greatfull.

Excellent...

by kamau on 16.02.2006 [13:53]

...A two million (wo)man Venezuelan army reserve verses the United Snakes' 1 million (wo)man army reserve minus those in Iraq and those retiring and those refusing to fight.

This is great news indeed. Try attacking Venezuela now, Bush!

@kamau

by verve on 16.02.2006 [14:10]

it would only take a draft to grab a few million patsys out of 290 million lard asses. You know they'll fight to protect US fast food hedgemony. The US will not stand for an interruption in the flow of transfatty acids that supports the nation.

This my be true, Verve but...

by kamau on 16.02.2006 [15:01]

...I'm almost certain people going into the Venezuelan ready reserves will be vetted just like any other military. This is SOP.

Sorry Verve...

by kamau on 16.02.2006 [15:02]

...SOP = Standard Operating Procedure (just in case...).

In fact...

by kamau on 16.02.2006 [15:04]

...this is the best way for the Venezuelan government to out any spy amongst their midst as this is one of the very means they will try to use to topple a

government, and that is to join the military and get their training. I think it's safe to say that the Venezuelan government, under the leadership of President Hugo Chavez, has it under control.

Iranian Majlis speaker praises Venezuela's support for Iran

by Iranian-Shi'ite on 16.02.2006 [16:33]

Iranian Majlis Speaker Gholam-Ali Haddad Adel said on Tuesday his country was appreciative of Venezuela's stance to Tehran at international fora.

Iran would like to assist Venezuela in effort to develop by sharing its economic and technological resources, he said in an address to deputies of the Venezuelan National Assembly in Caracas.

Venezuela, a Latin American country, has strategic importance in Iranian policy given the 100 agreements already signed by the two countries in the last two years, he noted.

He maintained that the two revolutionary countries are drawn to each other in the interest of enhancing unity and convergence and strengthening of cooperation.

h <http://www.irna.ir/en/news/view/line-22/0602157883110825.htm>

Venezuela's Patriotism and Hugo Chavez

by BigPearl on 16.02.2006 [17:27]

This is what dynamic leaders can do for oppressed peoples.

Hugo Chavez. Compassionate Socialist Revolutionary.

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Posting comments:

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Feb 10: Iranian pilgrim,
driver shot dead near
Samarra

Min	Max
28427	32041



принимает
WebMoney



Feb 08: City councillor
between Kirkuk and
Hawija

Feb 08: One by car
bomb, Karada, Baghdad

Feb 07: 3-7 by bombs,
Bab al-Sharjee,
Baghdad

Feb 07: Policeman shot
dead in Baquba

Feb 07: Council head
shot dead in Falluja

Feb 07: Al-Sadr
supporter in Dora,
Baghdad

Feb 06: Sunni brothers
found bound, shot, Abu
Dashir, Baghdad

Feb 05: Two men found
bound, shot, Shula,
Baghdad

Feb 05: Two police shot
dead in Kirkuk

Feb 05: Prisoner
governor shot dead in
Basra

Feb 05: Engineer shot
dead in Hilla

Feb 05: Four bodies
found shot dead, Adel,
Baghdad

Feb 05: 2-5 by roadside
bomb in Madain

Feb 04: One by roadside
bomb in Nahravan

Feb 04: One by rocket in
Samarra

Feb 03: Fourteen Sunni
men found dead, Shula,
Baghdad

Feb 03: Former Baath
Party official in Mosul

US army soldier dead in
Kirkuk

Feb 02: Policeman by
roadside bomb in Mosul

Feb 02: Man's body
found shot in Euphrates,
Musayyib

Feb 02: Sixteen by car
bombs in Amin,
Baghdad

Feb 02: Two in minibus
south of Baghdad

Feb 02: Woman killed by
helicopter fire, Sadr City

Feb 02: 14 bodies found
in Kasra wa Atash,
Baghdad

Feb 02: Body found in
Nabae, near Dujail

Feb 02: Driver of police
major in Basra

Feb 01: Eight labourers
by bomb, Al Jadida,
Baghdad

Jan 31: Two children in
crossfire in Hit

Feb 01: One by roadside
bomb in Baquba

Feb 01: One by roadside
bomb in Amiriya