



ARMENIA

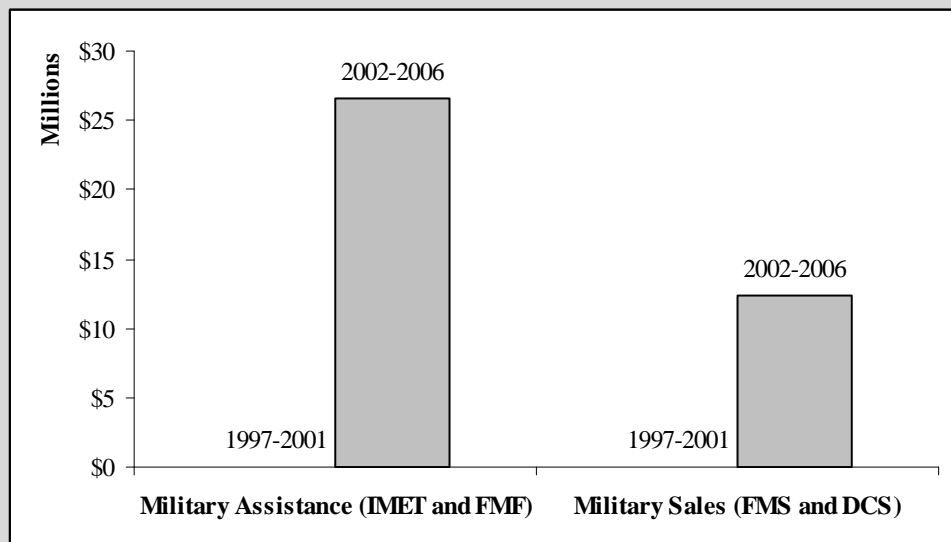
Background

Armenia gained its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, and the subsequent presidential election in October 1991 installed Levon Ter-Petrosyan – who had been elected head of government in 1990 – as president. Ter-Petrosyan was reelected in 1996, but resigned in 1998, facing opposition to his policies towards the secessionist region of Nagorno Karabakh from within his government. Prime Minister Robert Kocharyan replaced

Ter-Petrosyan as president following general elections in March 1998, and was reelected in 2003 in a heavily disputed election that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) noted fell short of international standards. Parliamentary elections held in 2003 were also widely considered to be flawed. Despite such irregularities, the stated goal of the Armenian government is to continue working towards a parliamentary democracy. A series of constitutional amendments were passed in a November 2005 referendum and, although the referendum was procedurally flawed, the amendments take some steps towards checking the power of the executive branch.

The U.S. State Department's 2006 report on human rights practices concluded that, despite limited improvements, the human rights situation in Armenia remains quite poor. Arrests and detainments are often arbitrary, and pre-trial beatings are commonplace. Security and police forces act with impunity and regularly mistreat citizens during both arrest and questioning, though most instances go unreported due to fear of retribution. The courts are subject to political pressure from other branches of the government and corruption is acknowledged as endemic in all branches and levels of government.

**U.S. Military Assistance and Sales to Armenia,
Pre-Sept. 11 vs. Post-Sept. 11**



Freedom of assembly and religion are somewhat limited and, although there is no official censorship, many journalists practice self-censorship. Armenia has no laws against domestic violence, which is believed to be widespread, and human traffickers continue to use Armenia as a trafficking corridor. Although the U.S. State Department's 2006 report on terrorism noted "few perceived terrorist threats" in Armenia, the country's porous borders allow it to be used as a corridor for the trafficking of, "illicit materials, persons, and finances." The report also noted Armenia's "reliance on ties with neighboring Iran" as a point of potential concern.

A fragile "no-war, no-peace" state still holds in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, and the U.S. State Department reported that, in 2005, armed clashes along the ceasefire lines occurred at a higher frequency than in previous years, with 273 violations reported on both sides. The conflict in Nagorno Karabakh began in 1988 when the majority ethnic Armenian region voted to secede from Azerbaijan and the tensions that developed between the secessionist region and Azerbaijan ignited an armed conflict, during which 30,000 people were killed and hundreds of thousands of Azeris and Armenians were forcefully relocated. Although Russia brokered a cease-fire in 1994 that ended major hostilities, sporadic violence in the region has continued for over a decade. At the outbreak of the conflict, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) created the Minsk Group to work towards a resolution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, but all proposals created by the Minsk Group have so far been rejected by one or both parties to the conflict. Armenian President Robert Kocharyan¹ and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev met in Minsk on Nov. 28, 2006, for the latest OSCE-sponsored discussion on Nagorno Karabakh, but the two have not yet arrived at a resolution to the conflict. Although the separatist government of Nagorno Karabakh adopted its own constitution on Dec. 10, 2006, the international community has largely ignored this development, and the OSCE chairman called the constitutional referendum "counter-productive to the ongoing conflict settlement process."

U.S. Military Assistance Prior to Sept. 11, 2001

Prior to 2001, Armenia had not reported any conventional weapons imports from the United States to the U.N. Arms Register of Conventional Arms, although since 1997 it had submitted a report on national military holdings. Armenia received no U.S. military assistance between FY 90 and FY 94, and the United States banned arms sales to Armenia (along with Azerbaijan) in July 1993. Thus Armenia did not receive military assistance in any form (FMS, DCS, FMF, IMET, or EDA) from FY 90 until FY 01.

U.S. Military Assistance Since Sept. 11, 2001

After Sept. 11, 2001, Armenia extended overflight rights to the United States in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. A contingent of Armenian soldiers has served in Iraq since 2005,

¹ Armenian President Robert Kocharyan is originally from Nagorno Karabakh and served as the region's president from 1994 until 1997. After becoming President of Armenia in 1998, he announced that, due to his origin, he would represent the interests of Karabakh Armenians during the negotiations. However, the positions adopted by Armenia and those of the Nagorno Karabakh authorities have not always coincided, and these discrepancies have periodically obstructed the negotiation process. As Nagorno Karabakh's right to participate in the negotiations was legally confirmed in the 1994 CSCE Budapest Summit Declaration, the government of Nagorno Karabakh has suggested that its own representatives should rejoin the negotiating process, in order to work more effectively towards a resolution to the conflict.

and the Armenian government recently extended the mandate for the troops from December 2006 until December 2007. Because of this cooperation, and because of its own domestic struggles to eradicate terrorist networks, the U.S. State Department considers Armenia to be a “front-line state” in the “war on terror.”

Military assistance to Armenia since Sept. 11, 2001, mirrors that of its neighbor and rival, Azerbaijan, both of whom the United States now considers allies. Armenia was one of six countries (along with Azerbaijan) that had U.S. sanctions against it removed in the immediate aftermath of the attacks.² The arms sanctions were lifted despite the fact that the Nagorno Karabakh conflict was still unresolved (the justification for imposing the sanctions). Armenia immediately began receiving IMET funding and FMF in FY 02, with assistance totaling \$75,000 and \$4 million, respectively. In the five years since Sept. 11, Armenia has received over \$26 million in military assistance, and an additional \$7.5 million is requested over FY 07 and FY 08.

Although commercial weapons sales to Armenia did not experience a significant escalation after 2001 (only \$63,000 of DCS licenses have been issued between FY 02 and FY 05), \$12.1 million of defense articles have been transferred under FMS licensing during the same period. Additionally, Armenia received \$332,000 in Anti-terrorism Assistance (ATA) through the Non-proliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining, and Related Activities (NADR) account in FY 05, and is slated to receive over \$1 million more in FY 06 and FY 07. Whereas prior to Sept. 11 Armenia had received no military assistance whatsoever from the United States, the country received more than \$30 million between FY 02 and FY 05 alone, with an estimated \$12 million more slated to go to Armenia in FY 06 and FY 07.

² The other countries are: Azerbaijan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Serbia and Montenegro.

U.S. Military Assistance and Sales to Armenia, FY 90 - FY 08					
	IMET	FMF	DCS	FMS	EDA
1990	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	n/a
1991	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	n/a
1992	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	n/a
1993	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1994	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1995	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1996	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1997	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1998	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1999	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2001	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1990-2001	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1997-2001	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2002	\$75,000	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
2003	\$659,000	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
2004	\$869,000	\$2,485,000	\$0	\$8,857,000	\$0
2005	\$696,000	\$7,936,000	\$28,000	\$84,000	\$0
2006	\$838,000	\$3,960,000	\$270,000	\$3,149,000	\$0
2002-2006	\$3,137,000	\$23,381,000	\$298,000	\$12,090,000	\$0
2007	\$790,000	\$3,500,000	\$166,000	\$8,600,000	\$0
2008	\$300,000	\$3,000,000	\$825,000	\$6,000,000	n/a

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