



## TAJIKISTAN

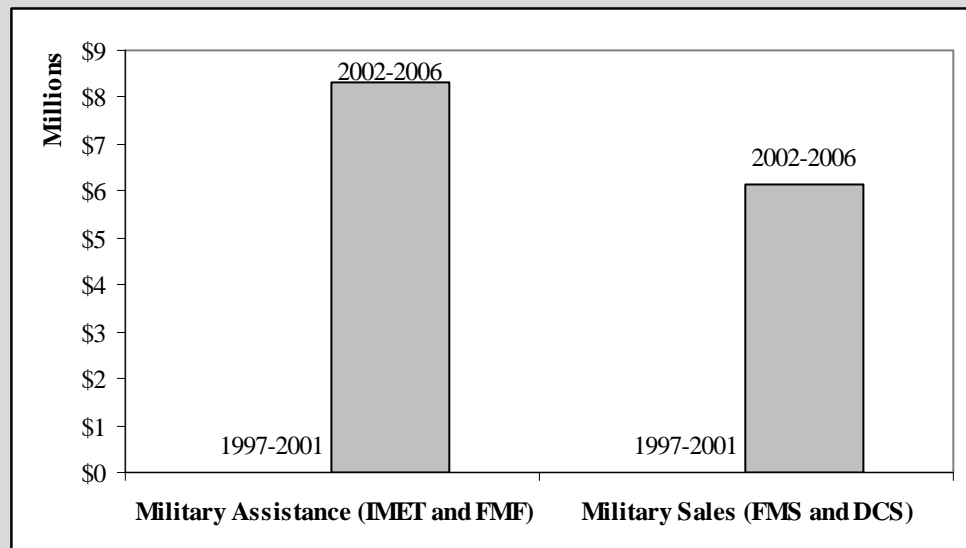
### Background

After the fall of the Russian Empire in 1917, Tajikistan joined several Central Asian neighbors in a movement to resist Soviet control. However, the movement was defeated in 1925, and in 1929, the country was incorporated into the Soviet Union as the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic. Barely a year after declaring independence from the Soviet Union the fall of 1991, a violent civil war broke out in Tajikistan that lasted

five years. The main fighting precipitated after the country's first elected president, Rakhman Nabyev, was ousted by armed protestors four months after taking office. The country was divided between former communist officials (who remained in charge of much of the government structure) and their supporters, and a coalition known as the United Tajik Opposition, which consisted of a variety of groups including Islamists and democratic reformers. Tajikistan's five-year civil war ended in June 1997, but a UN observer mission (UNMOT) remained in the country until 2000 to prevent a resurgence of violence.

During the course of the civil war, another former Communist Party official, Emomali Rahmonov, was elected president and remains in office to this day. Rahmonov led vicious attacks against the anti-government forces taking part in the civil war and began what has become an ongoing process to consolidate power in the executive branch of the government and edge out political opposition. The peace accords that were developed in 1997, consisting of measures to create a more stable democracy have remained unimplemented, in part due to the actions of the Rahmonov regime. None of the presidential or parliamentary elections or referendums held since Rahmonov took office have been

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



considered free or fair. When Rahmonov was re-elected to his second term as president in 1999, he also extended the term of the presidency to seven years. Rahmonov had previously held a referendum—in 1993—that allowed him to run for two additional terms as president. The most recent presidential election, held in November 2006, was boycotted by opposition candidates who considered the whole process staged. Most government positions continue to be held by candidates from pro-government parties, and Rahmonov's party holds nearly all the seats in Tajikistan's parliament.

The U.S. State Department's 2006 report on human rights practices describes Tajikistan's human rights situation as poor, and notes that any efforts at reform are hampered by corruption at all levels of government. Tajik security forces use torture and physical abuse—including sexual abuse and electric shock—against detainees, prisoners, and citizens, in order to extract confessions or obtain bribes, and are rarely prosecuted for committing these abuses. The ability of the security forces to operate with such impunity means that very few incidents of abuse are reported out of fear of retaliation. Police make arrests based on false or politically-motivated charges, subjecting innocent citizens to life-threatening prison conditions. The judiciary is far from an independent body, suffering from corruption, inefficiency, and pressure from the executive as well as from organized crime.

Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are restricted and members of the media are repeatedly harassed, occasionally violently. These freedoms are particularly restricted surrounding national elections. Public demonstrations are rare as the government must issue a permit for any public gathering, and only organizations registered with the Ministry of Justice may apply for a permit. However, in 2006, some independent media outlets were awarded licenses to operate, which represents an improvement over previous years. Sexual harassment against women is endemic and cases are rarely prosecuted. Opposition parties are closely monitored by the government and have limited support within the country, due to citizens' fear of government retaliation.

Although no terrorist groups are known to operate within Tajikistan, its lengthy and poorly-monitored border that it shares with Afghanistan provides a space for extremists to move between countries in the region. Like its Central Asian neighbors, Tajikistan also closely monitors the work of Hizb ut-Tahrir (HT), an organization dedicated to spreading radical Sunni ideology. Although not designated by the U.S. State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, as HT is not directly linked to any acts of international terrorism, the government of Tajikistan and its Central Asian neighbors have banned the organization and have arrested those distributing HT materials for attempting to incite violence. The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), an armed group that has declared jihad on the secular governments of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and is believed to have links to al-Qaida, is also known to launch armed incursions into Tajikistan. In May 2006, attacks allegedly conducted by Islamic militants, and possibly militants affiliated with IMU, killed six people at Kyrgyz and Tajik border crossings and seized weapons from the posts. Tajikistan participates in multilateral efforts to reign in terrorism as a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

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

---

Owing to the armed conflict and ongoing abuses committed by pro-government forces, in July 1993, Tajikistan was added to the list of proscribed destinations for U.S. defense articles and services under section 126.1 of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). Between fiscal year 1990 (FY 90) and FY 01, Tajikistan received no International Military Education and Training (IMET), Foreign

Military Financing (FMF), or Excess Defense Articles (EDA), and concluded no Direct Commercial Sales (DCS) or Foreign Military Sales (FMS) with the United States.

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

---

Following Sept. 11, 2001, Tajikistan was one of six countries that had U.S. sanctions against it immediately removed in the aftermath of the attacks, in order to facilitate cooperation in the global war on terror.<sup>1</sup> According to the 2006 State Department Terrorism report, Tajikistan has contributed resources “almost unconditionally” to U.S. operations in Afghanistan, providing overflight and landing rights as well as use of Tajik military bases. As Tajikistan borders Afghanistan to the north and has taken control of the Tajik-Afghan border from Russia, peace and stability in Afghanistan are beneficial to Tajikistan. Because of this cooperation, and because of its own domestic struggles to eradicate terrorist networks, the U.S. State Department considers Tajikistan to be a “front-line state” in the “war on terrorism.”

Although the levels of assistance granted to Tajikistan since FY 02 are relatively low when compared to the other countries examined in this series, the increase is troubling. Tajikistan’s government is described as “authoritarian” in the 2006 State Department human rights report, and the FY 08 congressional budget justification reported “recent democracy backsliding,” in Tajikistan, indicated by the flawed 2006 presidential elections. In recent years, Rahmonov has consolidated his own power at the expense of the country’s democratic institutions, but military assistance continues to flow to Tajikistan.

While Tajikistan received no military assistance from the United States prior to Sept. 11, once sanctions were lifted, Tajikistan was appropriated \$3.7 million in FMF and \$259,000 in IMET in the FY 02 emergency budget supplemental. However, Tajikistan did not become a regular recipient of FMF until joining NATO’s Partnership for Peace program in 2002, through which the United States provides the majority of its FMF funding to former Soviet states. In the five years since Sept. 11, Tajikistan has received over \$8 million in military assistance, and is slated to receive \$1.8 million more over the next two fiscal years. U.S. arms sales to Tajikistan in the five years since Sept. 11 have totaled just over \$6 million and have consisted largely of communications equipment and other, non-lethal supplies. Over \$3 million more in arms sales is projected for FY 07 and FY 08.

The United States has also provided Tajikistan with several sources of counterterrorism training and funding. Tajikistan is a beneficiary of the Regional Defense Counterterrorism Fellowship Program (CTFP) and received \$200,000 in FY 05, \$175,000 in FY 06, and will receive an additional \$125,000 in FY 07. Since FY 05, Tajikistan has received funding to expand its counterterrorism capabilities, through the Foreign Operations budget’s Anti-Terrorism Assistance program (NADR-ATA), which is part of the Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining, and Related Activities account. Tajikistan received roughly \$1 million from this account in FY 06 and is slated to receive \$2 million in FY 08.

---

<sup>1</sup> The other countries are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, India, Pakistan, and Serbia and Montenegro.

<b>U.S. Military Assistance and Sales to Tajikistan, FY 90 - FY 08</b>					
	<b>IMET</b>	<b>FMF</b>	<b>DCS</b>	<b>FMS</b>	<b>EDA</b>
<b>1990</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	n/a
<b>1991</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	n/a
<b>1992</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	n/a
<b>1993</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>1994</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>1995</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>1996</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>1997</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>1998</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>1999</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>2000</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>2001</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>1990-2001</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>1997-2001</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>2002</b>	\$259,000	\$3,700,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>2003</b>	\$339,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,159,000	\$0
<b>2004</b>	\$348,000	\$1,995,000	\$0	\$390,000	\$0
<b>2005</b>	\$348,000	\$496,000	\$221,000	\$1,762,000	\$0
<b>2006</b>	\$348,000	\$495,000	\$582,000	\$2,009,000	\$0
<b>2002-2006</b>	\$1,642,000	\$6,686,000	\$803,000	\$5,320,000	\$0
<b>2007</b>	\$370,000	\$250,000	\$1,098,000	\$750,000	\$0
<b>2008</b>	\$565,000	\$675,000	\$1,440,000	\$50,000	n/a

## Sources

---

- U.S. Department of State, “Tajikistan,” 2006 Country Reports on Human Rights, March 6, 2007. Available at: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78843.htm>.
- U.S. Department of State, “Tajikistan,” Background Notes, January 2007. Available at: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5775.htm>.
- U.S. Department of State, “Europe and Eurasia Overview,” 2006 Country Reports on Terrorism, April 7, 2007. Available at: <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2006/82732.htm>.
- U.S. Department of State, Congressional Budget Justification for Foreign Operations, FY 02-08.
- Defense Security Cooperation Agency, DSCA Facts Book, FY 99-05.
- U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, “The World Fact Book,” 2007.
- UN Department for Disarmament Affairs, “United National Register of Conventional Arms.”
- Connie Veillette and Susan B. Epstein, “State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs: FY 2008 Appropriations,” Congressional Research Service, June 13, 2007.