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**THE SECRET EMPIRE**  
 The U.S. military in the 21st century



Global hot spots: **THE ISRAEL FILES**

Military power Political issues Sources of instability Other resources

**MILITARY POWER**

**Military branches:**

- Army, 134,000
- Navy, 9,000
- Air Force 32,000 troops
- Reserves, 430,000

**Primary military equipment**

**Ground forces:** 3,800 tanks, including U.S.-built M1A1a, M-60A3a, and native Merkaavas; 1,500 large artillery pieces.  
**Sea power:** Four diesel submarines, three missile corvettes and a fleet of about a dozen fast missile patrol boats.  
**Air power:** About 2,000 combat aircraft, mostly U.S. F-16 and F-15 variants, plus 25 nuclear capable F-15Es; about 80 older F-4 Phantoms.

**Strategic Israel**

**MSNBC Interactive**

- Israel's secret arsenal

**Military expenditures:** \$8.7 billion, fiscal year 1999  
**Military expenditures, percent of gross domestic product:** 9.4 percent, fiscal year 1999

## Military manpower

**Age of service:** 18

**Military manpower, availability:** Males age 15-49, 1,499,186; females age 15-49, 1,462,063; 2000 estimate.

**Military manpower, fit for service:** Males age 15-49, 1,226,903; females age 15-49, 1,192,319; 2000 estimate.

**Military manpower, reaching military age annually:** Males, 50,348; females, 47,996; 2000 estimate.

**Military exercises and activities with the United States:** The Juniper and Noble exercise series, directed by the U.S. European Command involve joint training and operations, including Juniper Cobra; Juniper Falconry; Juniper Hawk; Juniper Stallion; Noble Shirley; Noble Stallion; and Noble Suzanne. Noble Shirley is a biennial U.S.-Israel defense exercise involving U.S. Marine Corps amphibious deployments. Israeli F-15s participated in Red Flag Exercise 99-1 at Nellis AFB, Nevada. Reliant Mermaid (January 1998) was a combined U.S.-Israeli-Turkish search and rescue exercise in international waters. U.S. arms sales programs with Israel have included Peace Echo, Peace Fox, Peace Jack, Peace Marble, and Peace Patch.

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## POLITICAL ISSUES

**Government Officials:** Read information from the [CIA website](#).

**Intelligence establishments:** Mossad, Shin Bet, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Internal Security. Internal security is the responsibility of the General Security Service, also known as Shin Bet, or Shabak, which is under the authority of the prime minister's office. The police are under the authority of the Minister of Internal Security.

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## SOURCES OF INSTABILITY

**Boundary and other disputes:**

- Many Arab states continue to regard Israel as an illegal entity.
- West Bank and Gaza Strip are Israeli-occupied with current status subject to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement. The permanent status of borders is to be determined through further negotiation.
- Golan Heights was seized by Israel from Syria in 1973.
- Small area of Lebanese border remains in the dispute.

**Human rights:** From 2001 U.S. State Department report "The Government generally respects the human rights of its citizens. However, there continued to be problems with respect to its treatment of Arab citizens. Historically, Israel's main human rights problems have arisen from its actions in response to the terrorist threat and its policies and practices in the occupied territories. Hostility from states in the region has exacerbated these problems. The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), Hizballah, Islamic Jihad in Palestine, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PLFP), among others, all committed acts of terrorism in Israel during the year. Nearly 2,000 terror attacks, including suicide bombings, drive-by shootings, mortar and grenade attacks, and stabbings took place during the year in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel proper. Also during the year, more than 200 Israelis were killed and over 1,500 injured, a sharp increase over the previous year, when 22 Israelis were killed and 244 injured in terrorist incidents.....A landmark decision by the High Court of Justice in September 1999 prohibited the use of a variety of other abusive practices, including violent shaking, painful shackling in contorted positions, sleep deprivation for extended periods of time, and prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures; however, during the year, human rights organizations, including B'tselem, Human Rights Watch (HRW), and the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI), and the Mandela Institute for Political Prisoners reported that there was an increase in the number of allegations that security forces tortured detainees, including using methods prohibited in the High Court decision. There also were numerous allegations that police officers beat detainees. The Government states that the security forces have complied with the High Court's decision and that the Attorney General's office investigates any allegations of mistreatment. Detention and prison conditions for Palestinian security detainees held in Israel were poor and did not meet international standards regarding the provision of sufficient living space, food, and access to medical care."

**Human Rights:** Read the full [2001 U.S. State Department Report](#)

**Major environmental issues:** Limited arable land and natural fresh water resources pose serious constraints; air pollution from industrial and vehicle emissions; groundwater pollution from industrial and domestic waste, chemical fertilizers, and pesticides.

**The Palestinian uprising:**

**Illicit drugs:** Increasing concern about cocaine and heroin abuse; drugs arrive in country from Lebanon and increasingly Jordan. Influx of Russian immigrants has turned Israel into a minor transshipment point.

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## OTHER RESOURCES

- [INTERNET](#) [Country Study \(Library of Congress\)](#)
- [INTERNET](#) [Israel Defense Force \(IDF\)](#)
- [INTERNET](#) [United Nations Truce Supervision Organization \(UNTSO\)](#)
- [INTERNET](#) [The Multinational Force and Observers \(MFO\)](#)
- [INTERNET](#) [International Relations and Security Network \(Switzerland\) - Israel](#)
- [INTERNET](#) [Israeli Nuclear Forces \(FAS\)](#)
- [INTERNET](#) [Jane's Defence Resource Search - Israel](#)



**Sources:** Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense, International Institute of Strategic Studies, Department of State, Department of Energy, Library of Congress, United Nations, World Bank

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