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## **US Military Aid to Israel**

On August 7th, the U.S. *Congressional Research Service* published *Report RL33222, U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel*.

Its main conclusions, summarised at the beginning of the report, are as follows:

"Israel is the largest cumulative recipient of U.S. foreign assistance since World War II. To date, the United States has provided Israel \$142.3 billion (current, or noninflation-adjusted, dollars) in bilateral assistance and missile defense funding. Almost all U.S. bilateral aid to Israel is in the form of military assistance, although from 1971 to 2007 Israel also received significant economic assistance.

In 2016, the U.S. and Israeli governments signed a new 10-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on military aid, covering FY2019 to FY2028. Under the terms of the MOU, the United States pledges to provide \$38 billion in military aid (\$33 billion in Foreign Military Financing grants plus \$5 billion in missile defense appropriations) to Israel. This MOU replaced a previous \$30 billion 10-year agreement, which ran through FY2018.

Israel is the first international operator of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the Department of Defense's fifth-generation stealth aircraft, considered to be the most technologically advanced fighter jet ever made. To date, Israel has purchased 50 F-35s in three separate contracts."

For financial year 2020 the Trump Administration has requested \$3.3 billion in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for Israel and \$500 million in missile defence aid to mark the second year of the MOU.

P.L. 116-6, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019*, provides the following for Israel:

\$3.3 billion in Foreign Military Financing (FMF), of which \$815.3 million is for off-shore procurement

P.L. 115-245, the *Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019*, provides the following for Israel:

\$500 million in missile defense, of which \$70 million is for *Iron Dome*, \$187 million for *David's Sling*, \$80 million for *Arrow 3*, and \$163 million for *Arrow 2*.

Israel has developed its *Arrow 3* system in collaboration with U.S. aircraft maker Boeing. *Arrow 3* interceptors are designed to hit long-range missiles outside the earth's atmosphere, at an altitude that would 'safely' destroy any nuclear warheads.

They are the latest and most technologically advanced component of Israel's so-called 'multi-layered defence system' that includes the *Iron Dome*, *David's Sling* and *Arrow 2* systems, which were designed to defend against short and mid-range rockets. *Arrow 3* was first deployed in 2017.

On July 28th, 2019 the Israeli and U.S. military conducted tests of *Arrow 3* missiles in Alaska. The tests were conducted at the Pacific Spaceport Complex in Kodiak, Alaska by the Israel Missile Defense Organization of the Directorate of Defense Research and Development and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency.

Israel has previously conducted a series of *Arrow 3* tests over the Mediterranean.

The full report, *U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel*, can be found [here](#).