

15. SAUDI ARABIA

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Major Changes

- The RSAF ordered 72 new Typhoon combat aircraft from the UK. The planes are to be delivered beginning 2008.
 - The RSAF will upgrade 84 of its aging Tornado IDS attack aircraft to the GR-4 standard. Concurrently it will phase out its obsolete F-5 aircraft.
 - The Saudi Arabian National Guard launched a major upgrade program including the procurement of numerous armored combat vehicles.
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General Data

Official Name of the State: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Head of State: King Abdallah ibn Abd al-Aziz al-Saud

Prime Minister: King Abdallah ibn Abd al-Aziz al-Saud

First Deputy Prime Minister and Heir Apparent: Crown Prince Sultan ibn Abd al-Aziz al-Saud

Defense and Aviation Minister: Crown Prince Sultan ibn Abd al-Aziz al-Saud

Chief of General Staff: General Salih ibn Ali al-Muhaya

Commander of the Ground Forces: Lieutenant General Husein al-Qubeel

Commander of the National Guard: Crown Prince Abdallah ibn Abd al-Aziz al-Saud

Commander of the Air Force: Lieutenant General Abd al-Rahman ibn Fahd al-Faisal

Commander of the Navy: Vice Admiral Fahd ibn Abdallah

Area: 2,331,000 sq. km.

Population: 25,000,000

Demography

Ethnic groups		
• Arabs	22,850,000	91.4%
• Afro-Arabs	1,250,000	5.0%
• Others	900,000	3.6%
Religious groups		
• Sunni Muslims	23,025,000	92.1%
• Shi'ite Muslims	1,250,000	5.0%
• Others (mainly Christians)	725,000	2.9%
Nationality		
• Saudis	18,175,000	72.7%
• Others	6,825,000	27.3%

Saudi Arabia

Economic Data

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
• GDP (current prices)	\$ bn	188.6	214.6	250.3	309.2	347.4
• GDP per capita	\$	8,308	9,210	10,430	12,570	13,731
• Real GDP growth	%	0.1	7.7	5.3	6.5	4.2
• Consumer price index	%	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.4	2.3
• External debt	\$ bn	29.5	31.3	34.9	41.6	46.6
Balance of payments						
• Exports fob	\$ bn	72.5	93.3	126.0	174.6	207.8
• Imports fob	\$ bn	-29.6	-33.9	-41.1	-51.3	-64.2
• Current account balance	\$ bn	11.9	28.1	51.9	87.1	103.3
Government expenditure						
• Total expenditure	\$ bn	60	66.66	NA	NA	NA
• Defense expenditure	\$ bn	18.5	18.7	20.9	25.4	29.6
• Real change in defense expenditure	%	-12.1	1.1	11.7	21.5	16.5
• Defense expenditure/GDP	%	9.8	8.7	8.3	8.2	8.5
Population	m	22.7	23.3	24.0	24.6	25.3
Official exchange rate	SR:1\$	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75

Sources: EIU Quarterly Report, EIU Country Profile, IMF International Financial Statistical Yearbook, SIPRI Yearbook

Foreign Military Cooperation

Type	Details
• Foreign forces	GCC "Peninsula Shield" rapid deployment force (currently only skeleton presence of other countries' forces is present: ; some 8,000 Instructors and technicians from Pakistan; UK (25) (2004); 280 US troops (as of September 2006).
• Joint maneuvers	Egypt (2004), France, GCC countries (2004), Jordan (2001), Pakistan (2006), UK, US (2001), Yemen (2005)
• Security cooperation	France (2006), PRC (2006)

Arms Trade

Arms Procurement and Security Assistance Received

Country	Type	Details
Egypt	• Military training	Instructors in country (2005)
France	• Arms transfers	Upgrading SAMs (2005), al-Riyadh missile frigates (2005), C4I system (2004 - postponed), 155mm Caesar guns (2006), A330 MRTT tanker aircraft (2007)
Jordan	• Military training	Training of naval personnel (2004)
Norway	• Arms transfers	Black Iris RVs (2004)
Pakistan	• Arms transfers	Tactical communication systems (2005)
PRC	• Arms transfers	Super Mashak aircraft (2004), al-Khalid MBTs (2004)
Russia	• Military training	Instructors and technicians (2004)
Sweden	• Military training	Foreign advisers/instructors/serving personnel for CSS-2 missiles (unconfirmed)
UK	• Arms transfers	Armored trucks (2004)
US	• Arms transfers	Communication systems (2004)
	• Arms transfers	Typhoon aircraft (2006), Upgrading of Tornado aircrafts (2006)
	• Maintenance aid	Technical assistance and maintenance (2006)
	• Arms transfers	AIM-9M/9X and AIM-120 AAMs (2006), upgrading of Hawk air defense batteries (2004), C ⁴ I naval system (2004), avionics for aircraft (2005), S-70 Blackhawk helicopters (2006), LAV APCs (2006), upgrading of M1A2 MBTs (2006), upgrading of AH-64 helicopters (2006)
	• Maintenance aid	Technical assistance and maintenance (2006)
	• Military training	Foreign advisers, trainees in the USA

Arms Sales and Security Assistance Extended

Country	Type	Details
Brazil	• Arms transfers	F-5 aircrafts (2006)
US	• Facilities	HQ at Riyadh, facilities for combat aircraft at Taif and Dhahran air bases

Defense Production

	M	P	A
Army equipment			
• al-Fahd 8x8 APC	✓		
• Small arms ammunition	✓		
Air Force equipment			
• Some accessories and components for foreign-made aircraft, flares and chaff		✓	
Electronics			
• Radio transceivers			✓
• parts for EW equipment			✓
• Radar subsystems		✓	✓
• Components of aircraft radars			✓
• Hand-held thermal imager/binocular		✓	

Note: M - manufacture (indigenously developed)
P - production under license
A - assembly

Strategic Assets

NBC Capabilities

Nuclear capability

No known nuclear activity. Party to the NPT.

Chemical weapons and protective equipment

No known CW activities.

Personal protective equipment, decontamination units, US-made CAM chemical detection systems; Fuchs (Fox) NBC detection vehicles.

Party to the CWC.

Biological weapons

No known BW activities. Party to the BWC.

Ballistic Missiles

Model	Launchers	Missiles	Since	Notes
• CSS-2	8-12	30-50	1988	Number of launchers unconfirmed

Space Assets

Model	Type	Notes
Satellites		
• Arabsat 1/2/3	Communication	Civilian
• Saudi Comsat 1/2	Communication	Commercial; 12 kg. each.
• Saudi Sat 1A/1B/1C/2	Remote sensing and space research	2 (10 kg. each) were launched in September 2000 by a Russian military rocket, and are orbiting 650 km above earth. The third satellite was launched in December 2002. Saudi Sat 2 (30kg.) was launched in June 2004.
Ground Stations		
• SCRS	Imagery	Receiving SPOT, Landsat and NOAA
Future procurement		
• Badr-6	Communication	Three New-generation satellites during 2008-2010.
• Stratsat	Communication	4 satellites planned to be Arabsat's Fifth generation from 2010 onward.

Armed Forces**Order-of-Battle**

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
General data					
• Personnel (regular)	171,500	171,500	171,500	171,500	171,500
• SSM launchers	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12
Ground Forces					
• Number of brigades	20	20	20	20	20
• Tanks	750 (1,015)	750 (1,015)	750 (1,015)	750 (1,015)	750 (1,015)
• APCs/AFVs	~4,630 (~5,430)	~4,630 (~5,430)	~4,430 (~5,230)	~4,430 (~5,230)	~4,430 (~5,230)
• Artillery (incl. MRLs)	~410 (~780)	~410 (~780)	~410 (~780)	~410 (~780)	~410 (~780)
Air Force					
• Combat aircraft	289* (~344)	286 (~340)	256* (~340)	253 (~320)	253 (~320)
• Transport aircraft	42 (55)	42 (55)	38 (51)	57 (59)*	57 (59)
• Helicopters	214 (216)	214	228	228	228
Air Defense Forces					
• Heavy SAM batteries	25	25	25	25	25
• Medium SAM batteries	21	21	21	21	21
Navy					
• Combat vessels	27	27	27	27	27
• Patrol craft	68	68	68	68	68

* Due to change in estimate.

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Personnel

	Regular	Reserves	Total
Ground Forces	75,000		75,000
Air Force	20,000		20,000
Air Defense	4,000		4,000
Navy	13,500		13,500
National Guard	57,000	20,000	77,000
Royal Guard	2,000		2,000
Total	171,500	20,000	191,500
Paramilitary			
• Mujahidun (affiliated with National Guard)		30,000	30,000
• Rapid Deployment Force	50,000		50,000
• Coast Guard	4,500		4,500
• Frontier Corps	10,500		10,500

Ground Forces

Formations

	Independent brigades / groups	Independent battalions
Armored (Ground Forces)	4	
Mechanized (5 Ground Forces, 3 National Guard)	8	
Infantry (Royal Guard)	1	
Infantry (National Guard)	6	19
Marines		2
Airborne/ Special Forces (Ground Forces)	1	
Total	20	21

Note: Saudi ground forces comprise 10 brigades (5 mechanized, 4 armored, 1 airborne/infantry), plus one Royal Guard brigade; the National Guard has 9 brigades (3 mechanized, 6 infantry)

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Tanks

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
MBTs				
High quality				
• M1A2 Abrams	315	200	1993	To be upgraded, 115 in storage
Medium and low quality				
• M60 A3	400	400	1985	
• AMX-30	300	150	1975	
Subtotal	700	550		
Total	1,015	750		
Future procurement				
• M1A2S Abrams	58			Upgrading of existing M1A2
• Al-Khalid	+			Under negotiation

APCs/AFVs

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
APCs				
• Piranha APC	420	420	2000	Of which 34 are ENGs and 67 ARVs
• M113 A1/A2	1,600	1,600	1976/1981	
• AMX-10/AMX-10P	500	500	1975	Of which 90 are carrying ATGMs
• BMR-600	140	140	1985	With marines
• M-3 (Panhard)	150	150		
Subtotal	~2,800	~2,800		
IFVs				
• Piranha IFV	570	570	1992	Of which 73 are 120mm TDA and 111 are ITVs
• M-2/M-3 Bradley	400	400		
• V-150 Commando	980	290	1977	690 in storage
• AML-60/90	350	~225	1969	
Subtotal	2,300	~1,500		
Reconnaissance				
• Piranha LAV-AG	130	130		
Total	~5,230	~4,430		
Future procurement				
• Piranha LAV	724			For the National Guard

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Artillery					
Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes	
Self-propelled guns and howitzers					
• 155mm M109 A2	280	110			
• 155mm GCT	51	51	1980		
Subtotal	331	161			
Towed guns and howitzers					
• 155mm M-198	90	60	1982		
• 155mm M-114	50	50	1980		
• 155mm FH-70	72	0			
• 105mm M102/ M101	100	0	1975		
Subtotal	312	110			
Mortars, under 160mm					
• 120mm TDA SP	73	73	2000	On Piranha	
• 107mm M-30	+	+	1981		
MRLs					
• Astros II	60	60		180mm SS-40 or 127mm SS-30	
Artillery/mortar-locating radars					
• AN/TPQ-37	+	+			
Total	~780	~410			
Future procurement					
• 155mm Caesar	76				

Logistics and Engineering Equipment

M-123 Viper minefield crossing system, Aardvark Mk 3 flail, M-69 A1 bridging tanks, bridging equipment, AFV transporters (600), Piranha ARVs (67), Piranha ENG (34)

Anti-Tank Missiles

Model	Launchers	Missiles	Since	Notes
• Piranha ITV	111	+	2001	Listed also under APCs
• AMX-10P SP	90	+	1982	Listed also under APCs; carrying HOT
• VCC-1 SP	200	+		Carrying TOW
• BGM-71C Improved TOW/BGM-71D TOW II	750	+	1988	
• M-47 Dragon	1,000	+	1977	
Total	2,150	+		

Air Force

Order-of-Battle

Category	Quantity	In service	Notes
• Combat	~320	253	
• Transport	59	57	
• Helicopters	228	228	

Combat Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Interceptors				
• F-15 C/D Eagle	79	79	1982	
• Tornado ADV (F Mk 3)	21	21	1989	
Subtotal	100	100		
Advanced multi-role				
• F-15S	69	69	1995	
Multi-role				
• Tornado IDS (GR Mk 1/GR-1A)	84	84	1986	12 of which are reconnaissance To be upgraded to GR4 standard
Obsolete				
• F-5E/F	~ 70	0	1973	Some also listed under reconnaissance
Total	~320	253		
Future procurement				
• Tornado CSP	96			Upgrading program, to begin in 2009
• Typhoon	72			Deliveries to begin 2008

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Transport Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
• C-130E/H Hercules	54	52	1970/1980	Some of which are tankers and some VIP planes
• CN-235	5	5	1987	
Total	59	57		

Training and Liaison Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Jet trainers				
• Hawk Mk65	46	46	1987	Possibly phased out
• BAC-167 Strikemaster	30	0	1968	
Subtotal	76	46		
Piston/Turboprop				
• Pilatus PC-9	50	50	1987	
• BAe Jetstream 31	2	2	1987	
• Cessna 172 G/H/L	12	12	1967	
• Super Mushshak	20	20	2004	
Subtotal	84	84		
Total	160	130		

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Helicopters					
Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes	
Attack					
• Bell 406CS	15	15	1990	In army aviation	
• AH-64A Apache	12	12	1993	In army aviation	
Subtotal	27	27			
Medium transport					
• S-70A Black Hawk	37	37	1990	16 of which are Medevac	
• AS-532 UC	18	18		At least 6 belong to Navy	
• KV-107/KV-107 IIA	18	18	1979		
• AB-412	16	16	2001		
• AB-212	29	29	1977	Number unconfirmed	
• Bell-205	24	24			
Subtotal	142	142			
Light transport					
• AB-206 JetRanger	28	28	1967		
Naval combat					
• AS-365 Dauphin /AS-565MA	24	24	1986	Including 6 in Medevac role	
• AS-532 SC Cougar	6	6	1992		
Subtotal	31	31			
Total	228	228			
Future procurement					
• AH-64D	12			Upgrading of existing helicopters	
• S-70 Black Hawk	48				

Miscellaneous Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Reconnaissance				
• Tornado IDS	12	12	1986	Also listed under Combat Aircraft
• RF-5E	8	8	1973	Also listed under combat aircraft
AEW/AWACS				
• E-3A AWACS	5	5	1986	
• RE-3A	2	2	2004	
Tankers				
• KC-130H		8	1973	Alos listed under transport aircraft
	8			
• KE-3/Boeing 707	6	6	1986	
Target drones				
• TTL BTT-3 Banshee	+	+		
• MQM-74C Chukar II	+	+		
Future procurement				
• Airbus A330 MRTT	2			Under negotiations

Advanced Armament**Air-to-air-missiles**

AIM-7F Sparrow (1,100); AIM-7M (1,000); AIM-9J/P Sidewinder (1,800); AIM-9L/M Sidewinder (1,500); AIM-9S (150), Red Top; Sky Flash (550), AIM-120 AMRAAM (500)

Air-to-ground-missiles

AGM-65A/D/G Maverick (1,805); ALARM (200); AM-39 Exocet; AS-15TT (220); Sea Eagle (350)

Bombs

CBU-86; CBU-87; BL-755 CBU; Paveway III (100); GBU-10/12/15

Future procurement

AIM-9M/9X (150), AIM-120C (50)

Note: Numbers in parentheses refer to quantity of units purchased, not to current inventory levels.

Air Force Infrastructure**Aircraft shelters**

For combat aircraft

Military airfields : 15

Abqaiq, al-Ahsa, Dhahran, Gizan, al-Hufuf, Jidda, Jubail, Khamis Mushayt, al-Kharj, Medina, Riyadh, Sharawra, al-Sulayyil, Tabuk, Taif.

Air Defense Forces**Surface-to-Air Missiles**

Model	Batteries	Launchers	Since	Notes
Heavy missiles				
• MIM-104 Patriot	8		1991	
• MIM-23B Improved HAWK	17		1982	One used for training Being upgraded
Total	25			
Medium missiles				
• Crotale	16			Some are shelter-mounted for fixed sites
• Shahine I/II	5		1981	To be upgraded
Total	21			
Shoulder-launched missiles				
• FIM-92A/C Stinger		400	1984	
• MIM-43A Redeye		500		
• Mistral		900		
Total		1,800		

Other Air Defense Systems

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Air defense systems (missiles, radars and guns)				
• 35mm Skyguard AD system	60	60		
Short-range guns				
• 35mm Oerlikon- Buhle 35x2 GDF	156	156		Included in Skyguard
• 20mm M-163 Vulcan SP	~100	~100		
• 30mm AMX-30 SA	52	18		
Total	~310	~275		
Radars				
• AN/FPS-117 (Seek Igloo)	17	17		To be upgraded
• AN/TPS-43G	28	28		
• AN/TPS-59	+	+		
• AN/TPS-63	35	35		
• Giraffe Agile	1	1		
• AN/TPS-70	+	+		
Command and control system				
• C ³ I Peace Shield System				Currently installed
Aerostat with airborne Radars				
• LASS	+	+		

Navy

Combat Vessels

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
Missile frigates			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> al-Riyadh class (F-3000S) 	3	135/4,500	1xAS-365 helicopter 8xMM40 SSM 2x8 Aster 15 SAMs 1x76mm Rapid gun 2x20mm guns 4x533mm torpedoes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Madina class (F-2000) 	4	115.0/2,000	1xAS-365 helicopter 8xOtomat SSMs 1x8 Crotale Naval SAMs 1x100mm gun 4x40mm guns 4x533mm torpedoes
Subtotal	7		
Missile corvettes			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Badr class (PCG-1 class) 	4	74.7/870	8xHarpoon SSMS 1x76mm gun 2x20mm AA guns 1x20mm Phalanx 6x324mm torpedoes
MFPBs			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al-Siddiq (PGG-1 class) 	9	58.1/425	4xHarpoon SSMS 1x76mm gun 2x20mm AD guns 1x20mm Phalanx
Mine warfare vessels			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addriyah (MSC-322 class minesweeper) 	4	46.6/320	1x20mm AD gun magnetic sweepers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> al-Jouf (Sandown class) 	3	52.7/450	2x30mm guns 2 PAP 104 Mk 5
Subtotal	7		
Total	27		

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Patrol Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• Al-Jubatel (Abeking-Rasmussen)	2	26.2/96	1x20mm gun (with Coast Guard)
• Al-Jouf (Blohm & Voss)	4	38.6/210	2x20mm guns (with Coast Guard)
• Halter type	17	23.8/56	2x25mm guns
• Stan Patrol 2606 Class	6	26.5/55	
• Sea Guard	2	22.5/56	2x20mm guns (with Coast Guard)
• Simonneu Type 51	39	15.8/22	1x20mm gun
Total	68		

Note: Coast Guard has some 500 additional small patrol craft.

Landing Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• Slingsby SAH 2200 hovercraft	3	10.6	2.2 tons or 24 troops with Coast Guard
• 1610 class LCU	4	41.1/375	170 tons or 120 troops
• LCM 6	4	17.1/62	34 tons or 80 troops
• Griffon 8000TD(M)	5	21.1/18.2	16 troops
Total	12		

Auxiliary Vessels

Type	Quantity	Length (m.) / displacement (t.)	Notes / armament
• Tabouk training ship	1	60/585	1x20mm gun
• Royal yacht Abd al-Aziz	1	1,450 dwt	
• Royal yacht al-Yamama	1		
• Royal yacht Pegasus	1		
• Durance class tanker	2	135.0/11,200	4x40mm guns 2 helicopter pads
• Coastal tugs	13		

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Type	Quantity	Length (m.) / displacement (t.)	Notes / armament
• Small tankers	3	28.7/233	

Coastal Defense

Type	Quantity	Notes
• Otomat	4	

Naval Infrastructure

Naval bases (including coast guard): 13

Aziziya (Coast Guard), al-Dammam, al-Haql (Coast Guard), Jidda, Jizan, Jubayl, Makna (Coast Guard), al-Qatif, Ras al-Mishaab, Ras Tanura, al-Sharma, al-Wajh, Yanbu

Ship maintenance and repair facilities

Repair of vessels dependent on foreign experts; 22,000-ton and 62,000-ton floating docks at Dammam; 45,000-ton and 16,000-ton floating docks at Jidda