

Kuwait

8. KUWAIT

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Major Changes

- Following the death of the former Emir, HRH Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah was sworn in as the new Emir.
 - The Kuwaiti air force received its first AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopters – out of 16 ordered.
 - The Kuwaiti Land forces received the last batch of Chinese made PLZ-45 Self Propelled artillery.
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General Data

Official Name of the State: State of Kuwait

Head of State: Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah

Prime Minister: Nasser al-Mohammed al-Ahmad al-Sabah

Minister of Defense: Jabar al-Mubarak al-Ahmad al-Sabah

Chief of General Staff: Major General Fahd Ahmad al-Amir

Commander of the Ground Forces: Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-Wasmi

Commander of the Air Force: Vice Marshall Yusef al-Otaibi

Commander of the Navy: Commodore Ahmad Yousuf al-Mualla

Area: 17,820 sq. km. (including 2,590 sq. km. of the Neutral Zone)

Population: 3,200,000

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Demography

Ethnic groups		
• Kuwaitis	1,440,000	45.0%
• Other Arabs	1,120,000	35.0%
• Southeast Asians	288,000	9.0%
• Persians/Iranians	128,000	4.0%
• Others	224,000	7.0%
Religious groups		
• Sunni Muslims	1,440,000	45.0%
• Shi'ite Muslims	1,280,000	40.0%
• Christians, Parsis, Hindus, and others	480,000	15.0%

Economic Data

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
• GDP (current price)	\$ bn	38.1	47.8	59.3	80.8	96.2
• GDP per capita	\$					
• Real GDP growth	%	3.0	16.5	10.5	10.0	10.6
• Consumer price index	%	0.9	1.0	1.3	4.1	3.0
• External debt	\$ bn	13.0	13.2	13.2	17.0	17.9
Balance of payments						
• Exports fob	\$ bn	15.36	21.79	30.09	49.87	55.7
• Imports cif	\$ bn	8.1	9.89	11.66	15.67	16.68
• Current account balance (including services and income)	\$ bn	4.2	9.4	18.2	32.6	44.0
Government expenditure						
• Total expenditure	\$ bn	16.20	18.47	20.91	NA	NA
• Defense expenditure	\$ bn	3.54	3.12	3.5	3.9	3.95
• Real change in defense expenditure	%	8.7	-11.0	12.2	11.4	1.3
• Defense expenditure/GDP	%	9.3	6.5	5.9	4.8	4.1
Population	M	2.4	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.2
Official exchange rate	KD: \$1	0.304	0.299	0.295	0.292	0.290

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

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Foreign Military Cooperation

Type	Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign forces • Joint maneuvers 	As of August 2005 there were 12,000 US troops. Czech Republic (2003), Egypt (2001), France (2004), GCC countries (2001), Germany (2002), Jordan (2001), UK (2005), US (2006)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security agreements 	Belarus (2001), France, GCC countries, Germany (2007), Iran (2002), Italy (2003), NATO (2006), PRC, Russia, South Africa(2002), UK, US

Arms Trade

Arms Procurement and Security Assistance Received

Country	Type	Details
Australia	• Arms transfers	Patrol boats (2003)
Bangladesh	• Military training	Technical training (2004)
Canada	• Military training	Training of coast guard officers (2004)
France	• Arms transfers	Subahi PB's (2006), Dauphin helicopters (2006), upgrading of Aspide SAMs (2007)
Germany	• Arms transfers	Condor APCs (2005)
Jordan	• Military training	Training of Special Forces (2005)
	• Arms transfers	Al-Jawad LAVs (2004)
Norway	• Arms transfers	Tactical communication systems (2003)
PRC	• Arms transfers	155mm PLZ-45 SP artillery (2006)
Syria	• Military training	Trainees abroad (2004)
UK	• Arms transfers	C ⁴ I (2004)- cancelled
US	• Assistance	\$3 million military aid (2007)
	• Arms transfers	AH-64D Apache helicopters (2007), LASS surveillance system (2003), TOW ATGMs (2005), MKV patrol boats (2005)
	• Facilities	Upgrading of 2 air bases and construction of one brigade HQ (2005), maintenance of F/A-18 aircrafts (2007)
	• Military training	Naval personnel (2006)

Arms Sales and Security Assistance Extended

Country	Type	Details
US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance • Facilities 	Annual grant for US force in Kuwait Facilities for US forces

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Defense Production

	M	P	A
Air force equipment			
• Jurnass UAV	✓		

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

Fuchs (Fox) ABC detection vehicle (11), Personal protective equipment, unit decontamination equipment.

No known CW activities. Party to the CWC.

Biological weapons

No known BW activities. Party to the BWC.

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Armed Forces

Order-of-Battle

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
General data					
• Personnel (regular)	15,500	15,500	15,500	15,500	15,500
Ground Forces					
• Number of brigades	7	7	7	7	7
• Tanks	318 (483)	318 (483)	293 (483)	293 (483)	293 (483)
• APCs/AFVs	~530 (797)	~538 (805)	~690* (920)	~690 (920)	~690 (920)
• Artillery	100 (155)	100 (155)	127 (155)	127 (155)	147 (177)
Air Force					
• Combat aircraft	39 (58)	39 (58)	39 (58)	39 (58)	39 (58)
• Transport aircraft	5	5	5	5	5
• Helicopters	25(30)	25(30)	25(30)	33(38)	33(38)
Air Defense Forces					
• Heavy SAM batteries	12	12	12	14	14
Navy					
• Combat vessels	10	10	10	10	10
• Patrol craft	77	77	77	77	86

* Due to change in estimate.

Personnel

	Regular	Reserves	Total
Ground Forces	11,000	24,000	35,000
Air Force	2,500		2,500
Navy	2,000		2,000
Total	15,500	24,000	39,500
Paramilitary			
• National Guard	5,000		5,000
• Civil Defense	2,000		2,000

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Ground Forces

Formations

	Independent brigades / groups	Independent battalions
Armored	3	
Mechanized	2	
Artillery	1	
Border Defense	1	
Royal Guard	1	
Commando		1
Total	8	1

Tanks

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
MBTs				
High quality				
• M1A2 Abrams	218	218	1994	
• M-84	200	75	1990	
Subtotal	418	293		
Medium and low quality				
• Chieftain	45	0	1977	
• Vickers Mk 1	20	0	1970	
Subtotal	65	0		
Total	483	293		

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APCs/AFVs					
Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes	
APCs					
• M-113	230	60	1981	8 M-901 ITV	
• Fahd	60	+	1994		
• M577	40	40	1995	Artillery command post vehicle	
Subtotal	330	~100			
IFVs					
• Pandur	60	60	1998	Various models; With National Guard	
• BMP-3	120	120	1995		
• BMP-2	76	76	1988		
• Desert Warrior	254	254	1994		
Subtotal	510	510			
Reconnaissance					
• Pandur LCT 90mm	10	10			
Light armored vehicles					
• Panhard VBL	20	20	1997	With National Guard	
• Shorland S600	22	22	1998	With National Guard	
• TM170	21	21	1994	National Guard	
• Condor 2	8	8		National Guard	
Subtotal	71	71			
Total	920	690			
Future procurement					
• Al-Jawad		+			

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Artillery

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Self-propelled guns and howitzers				
• 155mm PLZ-45	75	75	2000	
• 155mm M109 A2/A3	23	23	1986	
• 155mm AMX-13 F-3	18	0		In storage, offered for sale
• 155mm GCT AuF-1	12	0	1992	In storage, offered for sale
Subtotal	130	100		
Mortars, under 160mm				
• 120mm RTF-1	~15	~15		
• 107mm	6	6		
Subtotal	~20	~20		
Rockets				
• 300mm Smerch (BM9A52-2)	27	27	1995	
Total	177	147		

Logistics and Engineering Equipment

AARDVARK Mk.3 flail, M88 ARVs (14)

Anti-Tank Missiles

Model	Launchers	Missiles	Since	Notes
• AT-4 Spigot	+	80	1994	
• AT-5 Spandrel	+	240	1994	
• AT-10 Bastion	+	600	1995	
• BGM-71A/B TOW	82	+	1977	
• BGM-71F (TOW 2B)		728		
• M-901 ITV	8	+		
• M-47 Dragon	+	+		
Future procurements				
• TOW-2A/B	436			

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Air Force

Order-of-Battle

Category	Quantity	In service	Notes
• Combat	58	39	
• Transport	5	5	
• Helicopters	38	33	

Combat Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Advanced multi-role				
• F/A-18C/D	39	39	1992	Fewer pilots than aircraft
Multi-role				
• Mirage F-1B/C	19	0	1976	Not in service
Total	58	39		

Transport Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
• Boeing 737-200	1	1		
• C-130-30 Hercules/L-100-30	3	3	1971	
• DC-9	1	1	1976	
Total	5	5		
Future procurement				
• C-130J	2			

Training and Liaison Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Jet trainers				
• BAC-167	8	0	1969	
• Hawk	11	11	1985	
Subtotal	20	11		
Piston/Turbo-prop				
• S-312 (Shorts Tucano)	18	8	1995	
Total	38	19		

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Helicopters

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Attack				
• AH-64D Apache	6	6	2007	Being delivered
• SA-342K Gazelle	16	13	1974	
Subtotal	22	19		
Medium transport				
• SA-330 Puma	7	5	1975	
• AS-365A Dolphin	2	2	2005	With police aviation wing
Subtotal	9	7		
Light transport				
• EC-135	2	2	2001	With police aviation wing
Naval combat				
• AS-332 Super Puma	5	5	1985	
Total	38	33		
Future procurement				
• AH-64D Apache	16			Being delivered

Advanced Armament

Air-to-air-missiles

AIM-9M Sidewinder, AIM-7F Sparrow (200), AIM 120C AMRAAM (80)

Air-to-ground-missiles

AGM-65G Maverick (300), AGM-84 Harpoon (40), AS-11, AS-12, HOT, AGM-114 Hellfire (300)

Bombs

Paveway II laser-guided

Note: Numbers in parentheses refer to the number of missiles purchased, not to current inventory levels.

Air Force Infrastructure

Aircraft shelters

In airfields; for combat aircraft; under reconstruction

Military airfields : 3

Al-Ahmadi, al-Jahra (Ali al-Salam), Kuwait International Airport

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Air Defense Forces

Surface-to-Air Missiles

Model	Batteries	Launchers	Since	Notes
Heavy missiles				
• MIM-104 Patriot PAC-3	2		2003	
• MIM-23B Improved HAWK	6		1977	
• Aspide 2000	6		2005	Part of Skyguard AD
Total	14			
Shoulder-launched missiles				
• FIM-92A Stinger		+		
• Starburst		48	1997	Approx. 250 missiles
Total		~50		

Note: The Kuwaiti Air Defense also relies on two US Army Patriot batteries.

Other Air Defense Systems

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Air defense systems (missiles, radars and guns)				
• Skyguard AD system (Egyptian Amoun)	6	6		Each battery with 2x Aspide 2000 launchers, 2x Oerlikon 35mm
Short-range guns				
• 40mm Bofors L-70/L-60	+	+		Unconfirmed
• 35mm Oerlikon-Buhrle 2x35 GDF-002	+	+		Part of Skyguard AD
• 23mm ZSU 23x4 SP (Gun Dish)	+	+		
• 20mm Oerlikon GAI	+	+		
Radars				
• AN/FPS-117 (Seek Igloo)	1	1		
• AN/TPS-32	1	1		
• Tiger (TRS-2100)	1	1		
• TRS 22XX	+	+		

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Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
• AD command and control unit (ADGE)	1	1		
Aerostat with airborne radars				
• LASS	1	1		
Future procurements				
• LASS	1			Mounted with AN/TPS-63 and AR-900 intelligence system

Navy

Combat Vessels

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
MFPBs			
• Istiklal (FPB-57)	1	58.1/410	4xExocet MM40 SSMs 1x76mm gun 2x40mm guns mines
• Sanbouk (TNC-45)	1	44.9/255	4xExocet MM40 SSMs 1x76mm gun 2x40mm guns
• Um- Almaradim (P-37 BRL)	8	42/245	4xSea Skua SSMs 1x40mm gun 1x20mm gun
Total	10		

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Patrol Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• Inttisar (OPV-310)	4	31.5/150	1x22mm gun 1x12.7mm MG
• Manta	0	14/10	3x12.7mm MGs 12 non operational
• Shaheed (FPB 100K)	3	33.3/104	1x20mm gun 2x12.7mm MGs
• Subahi	10	35/104	1x20mm gun 2x12.7mm MGs Coast Guard
• Kassir Inshore Patrol crafts (Ausrtal)	3	21.6m	
• Victory team (P-46)	16	14/ 8.5	2x12.7mm MGs
• Inshore Patrol crafts	50	10-12m	33 Al-Sha'ali class, and 17 Cougar class inshore PBs carrying 12.7mm MGs
Total	86		
Future procurements			
• MK V-C	12	24.7/54	27mm guns 16 troops

Landing Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• al-Tahaddy LCU	2	43/215	80 tons
• Saffar LCU	1	33/420	
• LCU	1	49/300	
Total	4		

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Auxiliary Vessels

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• Dorrar (Support ship)	1	55.4/545	2x12.7mm MGs

Naval Infrastructure

Naval bases (including Coast Guard): 6
Kuwait City (Shuwaikh), al-Qulaya (Ras al-Qalaya), Umm al-Hainam, al-Bida, Verba, al-Harian

Command and Control systems

Coastal defense system comprising of cameras and other sensors

Ship maintenance and repair facilities:

A 190-meter floating dock at Kuwait City, repair capacity 35,000 dwt