

US delivers military vehicles to Lebanese Army

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5:00pm: U.S. Embassy: We have delivered to the Lebanese Armed Forces up to this date 397 Humvees. Lebanon is to receive 200 more by year’s end.

BEIRUT: A shipment of US-made military vehicles arrived in Beirut Monday, according to a statement issued by the Lebanese Armed Forces, which said the delivery was part of an aid package "promised by the United States." Army Commander General Jean Kahwaji won a pledge for continued US military support during a 10-day visit to Washington last month. The United States said it would also provide Lebanon with "Raven" unmanned aircrafts to help the army "boost border control and combat terrorism." The US Embassy in Lebanon also issued a statement on Monday to reaffirm Washington's commitment to supporting the Lebanese Army. "The aim of the American aid is to boost the Army's defense capabilities to enable it to better protect Lebanon," it said. - The Daily Star

Lebanon Receives U.S. Military Equipment

The Lebanese army said a shipment of U.S.-made military vehicles arrived in Beirut port on Monday.

In a statement, the military said the vehicles are part of "an overall (military) aid package promised by the United States."

Army Commander Gen. Jean Qahwaji won a pledge for continued U.S. military support during a ten-day visit to Washington last month. The United States said it will also provide Lebanon with "Raven" unmanned aircrafts to help the army "boost border control and combat terrorism."

Coinciding with the shipment's arrival, the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon issued a statement to reaffirm Washington's commitment to support the Lebanese Army.

The statement said that on March 22 U.S. Ambassador Michele Sison attended the graduation ceremony of 30 soldiers after "receiving training by U.S. special operations forces." The military training lasted one month and focused on enhancing skills such as marksmanship. The soldiers were also given courses on becoming trainers themselves.

"The aim of the American aid is to boost the Army's defense capabilities to enable it to better protect Lebanon," the statement said.

Since 2006 the U.S. administration had allocated more than \$140 million dollars in military assistance to the Lebanese military establishment, the embassy added.

Beirut, 23 Mar 09, 17:45

<http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/NewsDesk.nsf/getstory?openform&15A7FB1EEBCE71D5C225758300727AE3>