### THE ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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**Abstract:** to understand the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan O'zbekiston Respublikasi Qurolli Kuchlari, Ўзбекистон Республикаси Куролли Кучлари), is the name of the unified armed forces of Uzbekistan, consisting of the Ground Force and the Air and Air Defence forces under the defence ministry. Paramilitary units include the National Guard, a Frontier Service and a River Force. It is reported to be the largest and the strongest in Central Asia.

Key words: armed forces, tanks, rocket artilerry, national guard.

Situated at the crossroads of Asia, the Republic of Uzbekistan boasts a formidable military force that plays a crucial role in regional stability and security. With a rich history dating back centuries, Uzbekistan's armed forces have evolved to meet the challenges of the modern era while safeguarding the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Historical Background:



Uzbekistan's military heritage traces its roots to the ancient civilizations that once thrived in the region, including the Persian, Greek, and Mongol empires. However, it was during the Soviet era that modern military infrastructure began to take shape, with Uzbekistan becoming a key component of the Soviet Union's defense strategy. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Uzbekistan emerged as an independent republic, prompting the establishment of its own armed forces. Over the years, the Uzbek military has undergone significant reforms and modernization efforts to adapt to changing geopolitical dynamics and emerging security threats. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, is the name of the unified armed forces of Uzbekistan, consisting of a Ground force, Air and Air Defense forces, National guard and a Frontier service. They are reported to be the largest in Central Asia. According to the 1992 Law on Defense, Uzbekistan's military is for defensive purposes only. Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, used to be the headquarters of the Soviet Turkestan Military District and on 20 February 1992, the new Ministry of Defence Affairs took over the offices which had been formerly occupied by the district headquarters staff. On 2 July 1992 a Presidential Decree established a Ministry of Defence to supersede the Ministry of Defence Affairs. Over the succeeding years, Uzbekistan replaced Russian officers with ethnic Uzbeks and restructured the military to focus on targets like civil unrest, drug trafficking, and Hizb-ut-Tahrir. Uzbekistan and Russia signed a mutual defence pact in 2005, that will also result in closer military cooperation. This marked a stark contrast to a few years earlier, when the US appeared to be Uzbekistan's favoured foreign friend, and relations with Russia were cooler. 'The country [has] also began professionalizing its military, an effort that has only limited success and erratic government support. But even in Uzbekistan, these changes represent merely a modest beginning and most of the benefits are concentrated in a few elite, higher readiness formations rather than uniformly applied to the entire force. The Uzbek military is woefully inadequate, but it is far superior to its neighbours. The government maintains a command

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and staff college for the military in Tashkent, based on the former Soviet TVOKU higher command college.

Structure and Organization:

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan consist of the Army, Air and Air Defense Forces, and the National Guard, each with its specialized units and capabilities. Under the Ministry of Defense, these branches work cohesively to ensure the nation's defense readiness and operational effectiveness. The Uzbek Army serves as the backbone of the country's defense infrastructure, comprising ground forces equipped with advanced weaponry and trained personnel. The Air and Air Defense Forces are responsible for protecting Uzbekistan's airspace and maintaining aerial superiority, utilizing modern aircraft and anti-aircraft systems. Additionally, the National Guard plays a vital role in maintaining internal security, combating terrorism, and supporting law enforcement agencies during times of crisis. With a focus on rapid response and counterinsurgency operations, the National Guard remains a crucial component of Uzbekistan's overall defense strategy.

Modernization and Technological Advancements:

In recent years, Uzbekistan has made significant strides in modernizing its armed forces through strategic investments in defense technology and equipment. Collaborations with international partners have facilitated the acquisition of advanced military hardware and the implementation of cutting-edge training programs. From upgrading armored vehicles to procuring state-of-the-art aircraft and missile defense systems, Uzbekistan continues to enhance its military capabilities to meet evolving security challenges. Additionally, ongoing efforts to improve cybersecurity and intelligence gathering capabilities underscore the nation's commitment to staying ahead of emerging threats in the digital domain.

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Regional Cooperation and International Partnerships:

Recognizing the importance of regional cooperation in maintaining stability and security, Uzbekistan actively engages in joint military exercises and partnerships with neighboring countries and international organizations. Through initiatives such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and bilateral defense agreements, Uzbekistan fosters dialogue and collaboration on shared security concerns. Furthermore, participation in peacekeeping missions under the auspices of the United Nations demonstrates Uzbekistan's commitment to global peace and security. By contributing troops and resources to multinational efforts, the country solidifies its position as a responsible member of the international community. The army includes five military districts, the Northwest at Nukus, the Southwest Special Military District at Karshi, the Central Military District at Dzhizak, and the Eastern Military District at Ferghana. In 2001, the Tashkent garrison was transformed into the Tashkent Military District. The headquarters of the military districts and their areas of responsibility are confirmed. The subordinate brigades listed in the table below have been attributed to the various military districts either because they are located in the same city as the military district headquarters or are clearly within the military districts' area of responsibility - that is, the 37th Motor Rifle Brigade at Andijan. There are four motor rifle brigades whose designations are not known, and the 17th Air Assault Brigade at Fergana, the former Soviet Airborne Forces' 387th Airborne Training Regiment. Motorized brigades are located around Bukhara, Samarqand, Termez, Nukus, and Andijan.

Current equipment . In September 2004, the (then) Royal Welsh Regiment (now 3rd Bn The Royal Welsh) of the British Army participated with the Uzbek Army Peacekeeping Battalion in "Exercise Timurlane Express" in the Farish Mountain Training Area. [citation needed] This was a 3-week NATO sponsored Partnership for Peace training exercise. Reportedly, Uzbek armed forces' small arms include the AK-47, AK-74, Dragunov sniper rifle, Makarov PM pistol, and PK. Heavier equipment includes: Tanks[citation needed]

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T-72 - 70

T-64 - 100

T-62 - 170

T-54/55-80

Infantry Fighting Vehicles [citation needed]

BMP-1 - 180

BMP-2 - 172

Armoured Personnel Carriers [citation needed]

### Conclusion

The Army of the Republic of Uzbekistan stands as a testament to the nation's commitment to safeguarding its sovereignty and promoting regional stability. Through strategic investments in modernization, collaboration with international partners, and a dedicated focus on training and readiness, Uzbekistan's armed forces continue to evolve as a formidable force in Central Asia and beyond. The Army of the Republic of Uzbekistan represents not only a formidable force within Central Asia but also a symbol of the nation's commitment to ensuring its sovereignty and promoting regional stability. Through ongoing modernization efforts, strategic partnerships, and a steadfast dedication to training and readiness, Uzbekistan's armed forces are well-positioned to tackle emerging security challenges with resilience and determination. As a key player in the region's security landscape, Uzbekistan's military continues to uphold its role as a guarantor of peace and stability, both at home and abroad.

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