What does the Security Assistance Monitor Data include?

The Security Assistance Monitor data includes four separate databases that allow you to find and explore detailed information on international foreign aid (both economic and security aid) and arms sales transferred to foreign countries by the U.S. government.

1) Security Aid – U.S. training and equipment provided to a given foreign security sector, including the military, police, and ministries associated with the control of the security forces

2) Economic Aid – U.S. development and humanitarian aid provided in an attempt to foster sustainable, broad-based economic progress and sociopolitical stability or immediate alleviation of humanitarian emergencies.

3) Arms Sales – U.S. military equipment and services sold to a foreign country

4) Trainees – U.S. military training provided by the United States to foreign military forces

Recognizing the importance of having comprehensive and proposed data on key U.S. security aid programs, the Security Assistance Monitor created the U.S. military and police aid database to help researchers, media, civil society, and policy makers monitor and analyze U.S. security aid. Importantly, this database includes data on over 30 separate U.S. security aid funding accounts or programs, including many funded by the Defense Department. The database also includes proposed U.S. security aid spending. In addition, we've created three other databases on U.S. economic aid, U.S. trainings of foreign militaries, and U.S. arms sales to assist users in their analysis of U.S. security assistance.

How often are the databases updated?

Each database is updated as quickly as possible whenever new reports are acquired. Some typical times for updates:

1) The president’s budget request typically comes out at the beginning of February for the following fiscal year’s budget.

2) The end of each fiscal year usually results in numerous reports on arms sales

3) Congressional action either towards the end of each fiscal or calendar year leading to congressional appropriations for foreign aid

A small number of exclusions apply to sensitive information, based on the key principles of the UK’s Freedom of Information Act.