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Lebanese Army Fact Sheet

- The Army has traditionally been dominated by Maronite Christians. During the 1975-76 civil war it split into Christian and Muslim sections.
- Efforts to give the army a more equal confession balance have been only partially successful since 1977. In 1980 Muslims comprised 58% of the Lebanese Armed Forces -- roughly equal to their national standing -- but Christians constituted 55% of the officers. Moreover units in Christian areas tend to be Christian dominated while the same is true in Muslim areas.
- Moreover, Christian units in Phalangist areas have long tended to be closely aligned with the Phalange. Some fought on its side against Syria in 1978.
- The army has 22,000 men, about 15,000 in combat units including 18 infantry, 5 armor, 5 artillery and 1 air defense battalion. The 1300 man Air Force has only a few operational Hawker Hunter jets and about 32 helicopters.

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