



Nine Reasons to Strengthen the US.-Turkish Alliance

- As a secular, Muslim, democratic country at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia and the Balkans, Turkey is in a unique position to advance the national and economic security interests of the United States.
- The United States and Turkey share permanent interests in defeating international terrorist organizations and cultivating democratic reform throughout the Middle East and Central Asia.
- During the last six years, Turkish units twice commanded NATO's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.
- Turkey grants overflight rights to the United States for U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- More than 80 percent of weapons and equipment that support U.S. forces in Iraq have passed through Incirlik Air Base with the approval of the Turkish parliament.
- Turkey is one of 11 U.S. allies around the world that participate in the development of the Joint Strike Fighter.
- In 2005, the United States and Turkey signed a \$1 billion agreement for the upgrade of Ankara's 117-strong fleet of F-16 fighter jets.
- U.S. exports to Turkey, primarily aircraft parts, cotton, and high-technology components, grew by \$1 billion since 2004 to a total of \$5.3 billion in 2006.
- The United States and Turkey participated in the joint construction of the Baku-Tbilisi energy pipeline, which is vital to U.S. energy security interests. The pipeline provides Western markets with a secure and direct source of Caspian Sea oil from the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan.