

Russia Ships \$200M in Military Arms to Ally Armenia

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Russia has reportedly delivered \$200 million worth of weapons to Armenia as part of a loan deal Moscow extended to help Yerevan build up its military capabilities.

Moscow [granted](#) Armenia a \$200 million credit in 2015 to buy Russian weapons and modernize its armed forces. The country's new prime minister, Nikol Pashinyan, who took office following peaceful anti-corruption protests this spring, has since promised to [continue](#) pursuing friendly relations with Russia.

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Under the agreement, Armenia purchased missile launchers, surface-to-air missile systems and ground-based radio reconnaissance technology, the state-run TASS news agency [said](#).

“The arms provided under the \$200 million contract are advanced and modern, and are not even in service yet in Russia,” the Armenpress news agency [quoted](#) Armenia’s Defense Minister David Tonoyan as saying Sunday.

In addition sniper rifles, guided missiles and grenade launchers, Russia’s RBC business portal [reported](#) in 2016 that Moscow was due to send Armenia BM-30 multiple launch rocket systems.

Armenia hosts a Russian military base near its second-largest city of Gyumri and is heavily reliant on Moscow’s support in its regional dispute with Azerbaijan.

On Sunday, Armenia’s defense ministry [denied reports](#) that Yerevan would reconsider the status of Russia’s base in the country after an incident in which the Russian military held firing exercises without warning local residents.

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