



Chinese Security Assistance to Tajikistan

OE Watch Commentary: Chinese security cooperation with Tajikistan has increased over the past several years, including the establishment of a Chinese military facility in Tajikistan’s Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast. However, this has generally not interfered with any security cooperation the Tajik government carries out with Russia, Tajikistan’s most important security cooperation partner. The accompanying excerpted article reports on how the Chinese government recently supplied the Tajik armed forces with medical equipment during the coronavirus pandemic and this assistance provides a brief look at how Chinese-Tajik security cooperation continues to take shape.

The article from *Asia Plus*, a Russian-language news website in Tajikistan, reports that a “military transport plane of the PLA brought humanitarian aid to Dushanbe” on 14 May and that it is “for military medical personnel of the Tajik Ministry of Defense.” The article notes that the aid consisted of “13 pieces of medical equipment, including ventilators.” This assistance comes only a few days after the Chinese government delivered other medical equipment to Tajikistan, including “17 mechanical ventilators, more than 48 thousand medical masks, almost 397 thousand disposable medical masks, 47 thousand surgical masks and personal protective equipment” for civilians. Overall, the medical equipment might not have the same impact as the security assistance from Russia, but it marks another instance of what is becoming a more consistent effort by the Chinese government. **End OE Watch Commentary (Stein)**

“A military transport plane of the PLA brought humanitarian aid to Dushanbe during the night.”

Source: Avaz Yuldashev, “Армия Китая оказала поддержку таджикским военным медикам (The Army of China is providing support to Tajik military medics),” *Asia Plus*, 14 May 2020. <https://asiaplustj.info/ru/news/tajikistan/security/20200514/armiya-kitaya-okazala->

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The Chinese cities of Qingdao and Xiamen earlier provided assistance to Dushanbe. On 10 May, at the Kulma-Karasu border checkpoint, Tajiks received 17 mechanical ventilators, more than 48 thousand medical masks, almost 397 thousand disposable medical masks, 47 thousand surgical masks and personal protective equipment...The total amount of aid was \$479,000...



Historical map of Tajikistan showing the border with China.

Source: CIA World Factbook via Wikimedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China%E2%80%93Tajikistan_border#/media/File:TI-map.gif, Public domain