

US Signs Deal to Give Israel Four Refueling Planes Needed to Bomb Iran

The tanker planes won't be delivered until 2025, Israel is purchasing them from Boeing with funds provided by US military aid

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The Pentagon [signed a contract with Boeing](#) on Thursday to supply Israel with four KC-46 refueling planes that are needed for potential Israeli strikes on Iran, although the aircraft won't be delivered until at least 2025.

The deal is worth \$927 million, and Israel is purchasing the planes from Boeing with money from the \$3.8 billion in military aid it receives from the US each year. Of that amount, Israel [receives \\$3.3 billion in Foreign Military Financing](#), a State Department program that gives foreign governments money to purchase US-made military equipment.

Israel has the option to order four more KC-46s in the future. The deal has been in the works for a long time, and Israel has [previously asked the US](#) if it could accelerate the delivery of the planes, but the US has denied the request. The US military would need to give up its spot in line to receive KC-46s in order for Israel to receive the planes earlier.

Israel currently relies on aging tankers for mid-air refueling, which aren't expected to be capable of supporting attacks on Iran. According to the *Times of Israel*, Israeli jets would need to travel about 1,200 miles to strike targets in Iran, which would require either the KC-46s or stopping in a Gulf country to refuel.

Over the past year, Israel’s military has been focused on making preparations to bomb Iran. Israeli warplanes [recently simulated](#) launching large-scale attacks on Iran over the Mediterranean Sea.

The signing of the contract comes as the US and Iran are engaged in EU-mediated negotiations to revive the Iran nuclear deal, which Israel is strongly against. Israeli officials

have stepped up their efforts to sabotage the agreement and [are calling for the US to prepare a military option.](#)

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