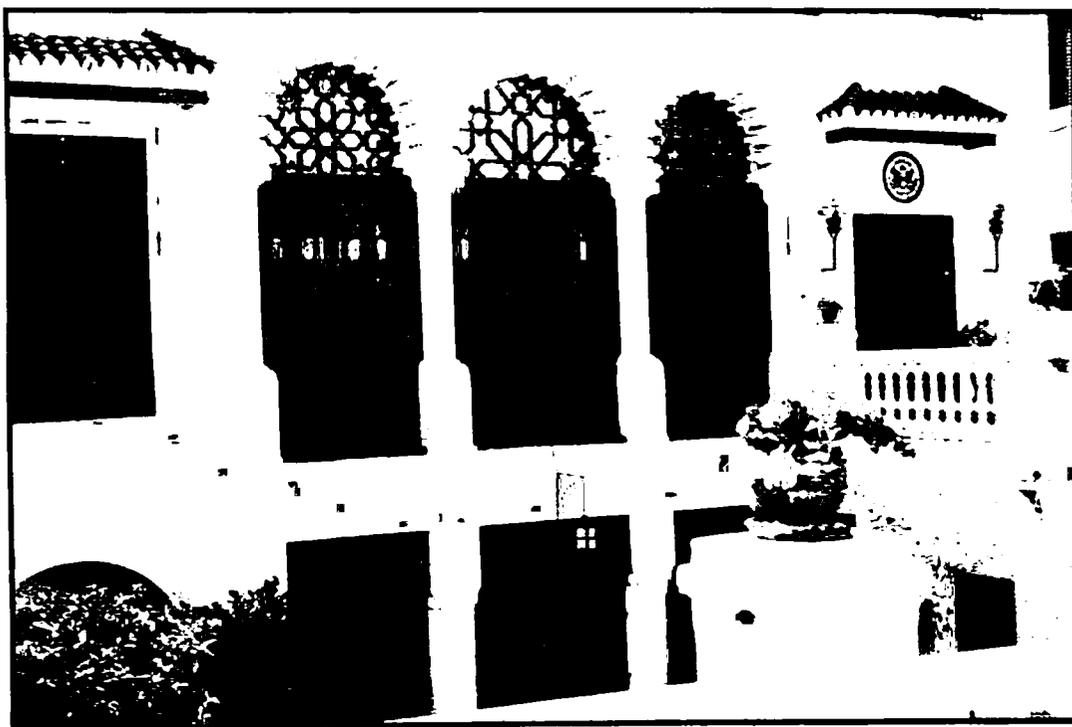

COVER FEATURE

Morocco: A Friend and a Moderating Arab Voice

By

Major (P) Tod J. Wilson, USA
Chief, Joint Plans and Training
Morocco-U.S. Liaison Office

Morocco has been a staunch and loyal friend of the United States for over two hundred years. It was one of the first countries to recognize the new American Republic in 1777, shortly after the outbreak of the American Revolution, when it offered free access to its ports to U.S. ships. In 1787, the same year the United States adopted its constitution, Morocco and the United States signed the Treaty of Marrakesh. This "Peace and Friendship" Treaty was the first treaty the United States signed with any Arab, Islamic, or African country. It was renewed for an indefinite period by President Andrew Jackson in 1836 and today constitutes the longest unbroken treaty relationship in the history of the United States.



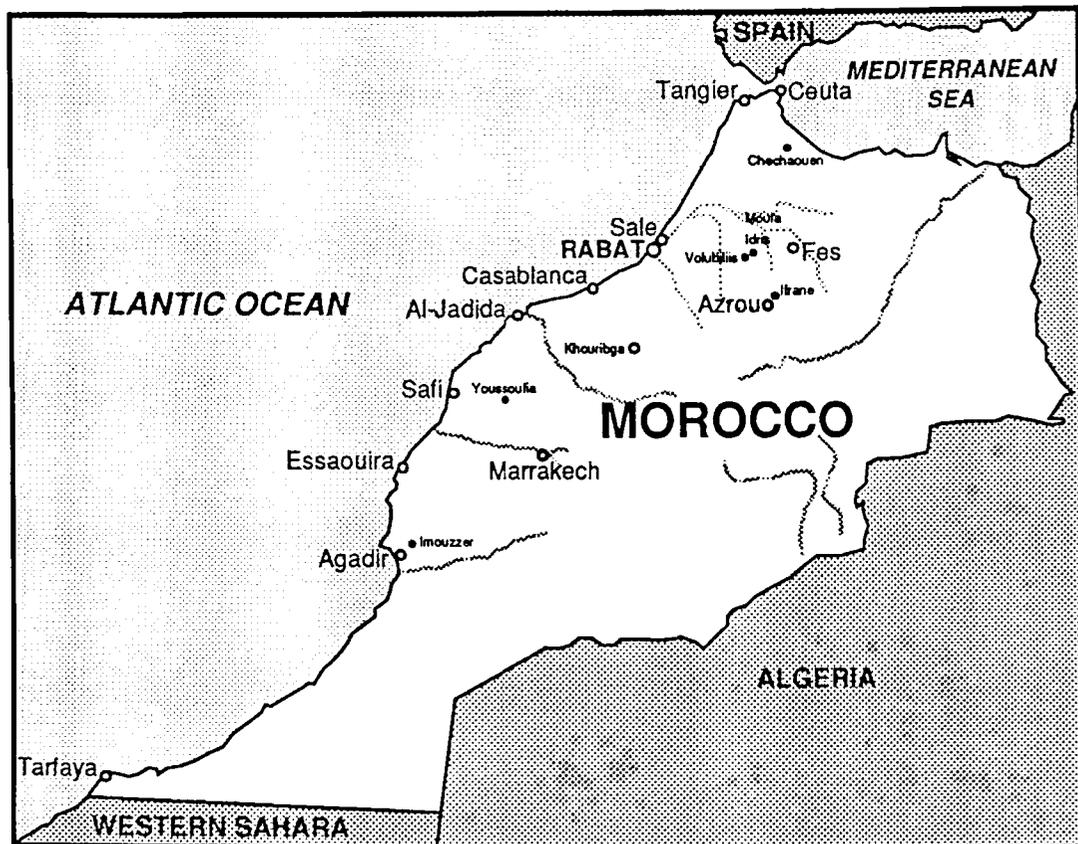
LEGATION BUILDING, TANGIER, MOROCCO

The American Legation building, presented to the United States in 1821 by Sultan Suliman, is the oldest continually occupied diplomatic property of the United States. It was refurbished in 1976 for the bicentennial of the United States and is presently a historical art museum. In 1981 the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of Interior, and in 1983 became the first and only piece of property on foreign soil to be named a U.S. National Historic Landmark. Why and how did this mutual friendship develop and sustain itself throughout the past two centuries, and what is the nature of this friendship today?

POLITICAL AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

Although the United States' early diplomatic overtures to Morocco were somewhat uncoordinated, the strategic location of Morocco was recognized early on by our fledgling nation. In 1783 the American commissioners in Paris, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay, wrote to Congress urging that action be taken toward negotiating a treaty with Morocco. They wrote, "Our trade to the Mediterranean will not be inconsiderable, and the friendship of Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli may become very interesting in case the Russians should succeed in their endeavors to navigate freely into it by Constantinople." In fact, because of Morocco's strategic location on both the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, world powers have always been interested in the southern pillar of the Straits of Gibraltar.

MOROCCO



In approximately 1100 B.C., the Phoenicians developed trading posts in Morocco, followed in the 1st Century A.D. by the Romans. Occupations in the 5th and 6th centuries by the Vandals, Visigoths, and the Byzantine empire were all short lived and left a divided Morocco, known as the *Al Maghreb Aqsa* ("The Farthest West") ripe for Arab invasions during the late 7th and early 8th centuries. During the next six centuries, Morocco withered under a series of invasions by rival Islamic sects and dynasties, both from the East and South. After the final fall of Andalusia (the last Arab entity remaining in Spain from the Cordova caliphate) in 1492, Morocco fought off continuous invasions from Portugal, Spain, and England through the 17th century. Further encroachment into Morocco was held in check until the 20th century by Europe's reliance on power politics during that epoch.

Even though the early recognition of Morocco's potential importance by the young government of the United States led to the Treaty of Marrakesh in 1787 and the establishment of a consulate in Tangier in 1791, for the next 150 years Morocco and the United States remained on the periphery of each other's national interests. There have also been many ups and downs in the U.S.-Morocco bilateral relationship. For instance, at the beginning of the nineteenth century during the American war with Tripoli (present day Libya), America and Morocco approached hostilities on several occasions, but the good-will developed between the two nations in the preceding 15 years prevented any serious rift in relations. In 1861, the United States helped to finance and construct a lighthouse on Cape Spartel, and in 1865 was one of ten signatories of an international convention (the first international convention signed by the United States) granting neutrality to the Straits of Gibraltar lighthouse under the provision that the ten naval powers/signatory nations would maintain and supervise its operation. Meanwhile, during the American Civil War, the government of Morocco blocked diplomatic attempts by the Confederacy to solicit support for its commercial and war efforts. Later in the century and into the early twentieth century, the United States came to the aid of Morocco at the Madrid Conference of 1880 and the Algeciras Conference of 1906 endorsing the international guarantees of Morocco's independence and territorial integrity, and insisting on the recognition of all agreements ensuring equal access to all nations of Morocco's trade. Yet, a few years later when the country was divided into Spanish and French protectorates in 1912, the U.S. did nothing to interfere with the European powers.

It was not until World War II and the Allied invasion of German-occupied Morocco in 1942 that many Americans had ever heard of the country. However, far more important than the discovery of Morocco by thousands of U.S. soldiers was the introduction of American ideals and support for Moroccan independence shown to Moroccans by these same soldiers, even though there was little constructive U.S. government support toward this end. Although Presidents Truman and Eisenhower supported the concept of Moroccan independence, they were both much more concerned with the emergence of the Cold War and the necessity for maintaining a good relationship with France which had reasserted its political control in the region. In 1951, the U.S. signed an agreement with the French to establish four U.S. Strategic Air Command bases in Morocco. The U.S. strongly supported Morocco's independence which came in 1956, but the bases agreement between the U.S. and France remained a sore point between the U.S. and Morocco until a 1959 agreement between the two countries led to the evacuation of the four bases in the early sixties and several smaller communications sites in the late seventies.

Today, Morocco offers the United States much more than a friendly country which happens to be strategically located. While Morocco's independence from the French protectorate is only relatively recent, the Kingdom of Morocco has been ruled by the *Alaouite* dynasty for close to 1400 years. Its present ruler, King Hassan II, is recognized by most Arab governments as an able head of state and a legitimate religious figure who is a descendant of the Prophet. As one of the leaders of the moderate Arab states, he has been in the forefront seeking a reasonable solution to ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. In 1982, the King chaired the Arab summit in Fez and was instrumental in uniting support for the Fez Plan which called for the return of territory captured by Israel and the dismantling of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, but provided implicit recognition of the state of Israel. The King also led a delegation of seven Arab states to the U.S. to explain the proposals. King Hassan supported Egyptian President Sadat's direct diplomatic initiative towards Israel, and although Morocco joined the other Arab countries in ostracizing Egypt over the Camp David Accords, Morocco maintained very cordial unofficial relations with Egypt during its hiatus. In fact, it was King Hassan who chaired the Organization of the Islamic Conference in 1984 which readmitted Egypt to the conference over the objections of the radical Arab states. Further, the King also chaired the recent (May 1989) Extraordinary Arab League Summit that permitted Egypt to rejoin the Arab League. Morocco is officially opposed to terrorism, and in 1985 the King chaired the Extraordinary Arab League Summit meeting which refuted international terrorism. As further evidence of King Hassan's moderate views, he was

among the few Arab leaders who did not condemn the United States for its retaliatory strike at Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986. Although his moderation has drawn occasional condemnation from some Arab sources, he remains a dependable and influential friend in a volatile region of the world.

King Hassan's long term goals seem to be the strengthening of Morocco's influence in both the Arab World and Africa while maintaining the nation's close relationship with Europe and the United States. He has steered Morocco's foreign policy toward the principle of nonalignment, but most definitely favors closer economic and political ties with the West. Morocco is well respected by other African states and has come to the aid or interceded on the behalf of many of the Sub-Saharan states during various crises. An example of his success in these endeavors is his recent spearheading of the formation of the Maghreb Arab Union (UMA), an economic and political union of the North African states of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia. This recent success, although not fully tested by time, is an amazing accomplishment considering that the major issue in regional politics has been the reintegration by Morocco of the Western Sahara, an issue that has ramifications and consequences for all of the Maghreb states except possibly Tunisia.

The Western Sahara, relinquished by Spain in 1976, was initially claimed by both Mauritania and Morocco. Eventually, Morocco and Mauritania agreed to divide the Western Sahara. However, after several years of desert fighting against the Western Saharan movement for independence known as the *Polisario*, Mauritania withdrew its claim to its portion of the Western Sahara, thereby allowing Morocco to lay claim to the entire Western Sahara. Morocco has continued to wage a costly but successful and nationally popular war against the *Polisario*, effectively separating the small force of *Polisario* fighters from the general Western Saharan population. However, in order to accomplish this task, at enormous expense the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces have constructed a sand berm over 1,000 miles long protected by strong points and backed up by mobile armored reaction forces along its entire length. An estimated 80 percent of the Royal Moroccan Army is deployed to the Western Sahara which is reported to cost over two million dollars a day to support.

The conflict over the Western Sahara has complicated U.S. relations with all the states in the region. The United States has consistently supported an end to the war through negotiation between all the concerned parties that would lead to a cease-fire and an eventual referendum of the inhabitants of the Western Sahara as to its future status. While the United States recognizes Morocco's administrative control over the Western Sahara, it does not endorse Morocco's claim of sovereignty over the area. From 1976 to 1978, Moroccan use of U.S.-supplied arms and equipment in the Western Sahara brought official U.S. protests and a partial arms embargo. Congressional criticism further exacerbated our relations with Morocco. However, when the *Polisario* launched small scale attacks into Morocco proper in 1979, President Carter made a determination that permitted the sale of arms "that could find use in the Western Sahara." Following this Presidential determination, U.S. arms sales to Morocco have been approved to help maintain the military balance in the region and to counter the increasing sophistication of weapons that have been finding their way into the hands of the *Polisario*. Although it appears that there has been some progress towards finding a peaceful resolution to the war, there will continue to be a significant requirement for U.S. security assistance to Morocco for some time to come. Except for the purchase of M48A5 tanks, TOW anti-tank missile systems, and additional F-5 fighters, the largest portion of U.S. security assistance has been used to sustain the operational readiness of U.S.-origin equipment. As this equipment starts to succumb to age and continues to operate in the harsh desert environment of the Western Sahara, the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces will have to replace and modernize its materiel.



AMERICAN EMBASSY, RABAT, MOROCCO

MOROCCO-U.S. LIAISON OFFICE (MUSLO)

Shortly after being inaugurated in 1789, George Washington wrote to Mohammed III, the Sultan of Morocco, and expressed his gratitude for the Sultan's friendship by saying, "in our territories there are no mines of gold or silver, and this young nation . . . has not, as yet, had the time to acquire riches by agriculture and commerce. But our soil is bountiful and our people are industrious and we have reason to flatter ourselves that we shall gradually become useful to our friends."

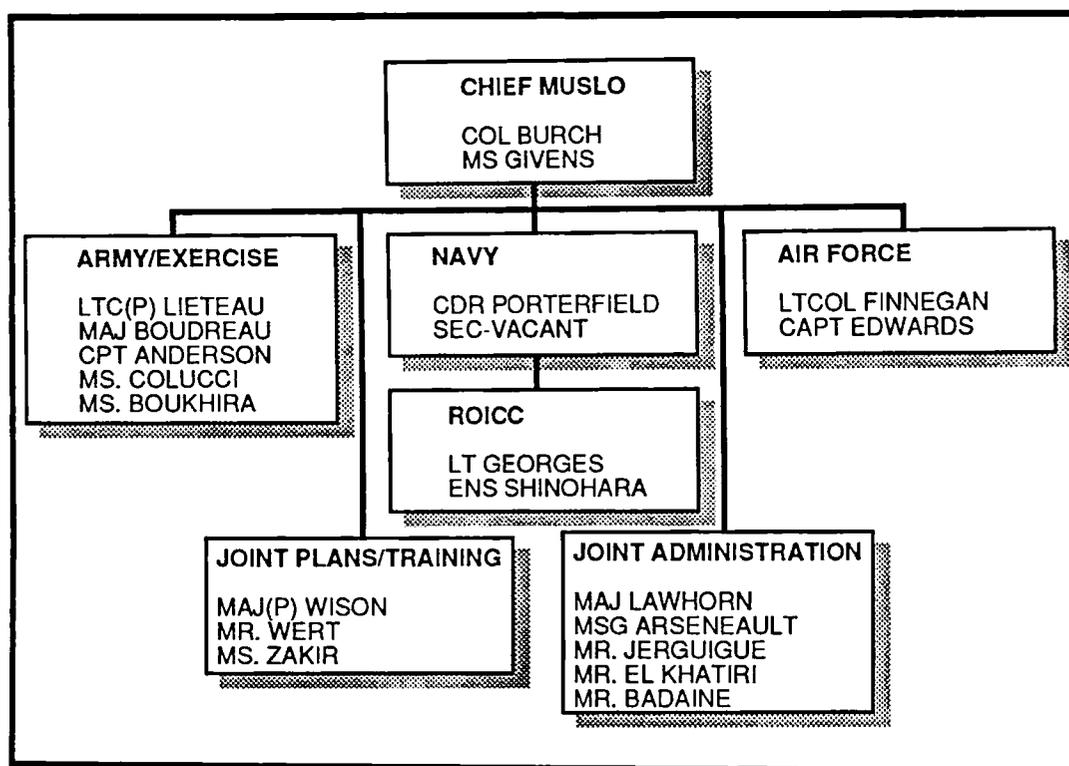
After passing through the stages of growing pains and becoming a world power, the United States has indeed become useful to its friend, Morocco. Since 1950, the U.S. government has provided Morocco with almost \$1 billion of bilateral military aid and over \$1.5 billion in direct economic assistance, as well as indirect assistance provided by U.S.-supported agencies such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. U.S. economic assistance programs emphasize agricultural development, as well as energy, technical training, health and population control, and family assistance. Accompanying this assistance are approximately 150 Peace Corps volunteers working in the fields of animal husbandry, forestry, rural water supply, rural health and sanitation, and English language training. Of course, the MUSLO, which was established in 1962 to oversee the U.S. government's security assistance program in Morocco, is the American Embassy focal point for U.S. military aid.

The MUSLO is organized generally along the lines of many security assistance organizations, with an Army, Navy, and Air Force Section, a Joint Plans and Training Section, and an Administrative Section. There are eight security assistance officers and one non-commissioned officer, three full-time secretary/translators, and four foreign service nationals (FSNs). In addition, there is a U.S. Army foreign area officer trainee who also oversees the United States European Command (USEUCOM) exercise program. He is augmented by a temporary secretary/translator and a temporary duty Air Force officer prior to major exercises. There are also

two U.S. Navy officers attached to oversee military construction (Resident Officer in Charge of Construction-ROICC).

The position of Chief MUSLO rotates between an Army and an Air Force Colonel every two years. The officer holding this position directs the efforts of the Security Assistance Organization and is responsible for planning and implementing all U.S. security assistance activities in Morocco. As the U.S. Defense Representative in Morocco, the Chief MUSLO is responsible for advising the Ambassador as to the best way to achieve the goals of the United States insofar as they pertain to the U.S. military efforts in Morocco, as well as assisting USCINCEUR in the implementation of his programs and initiatives within the parameters of the Embassy's broader objectives. Also, as the U.S. Defense Representative, Chief MUSLO is responsible for effecting and coordinating contacts between Department of Defense agencies and the Moroccan armed forces/government.

MOROCCO-UNITED STATES LIAISON OFFICE (MUSLO)



Each of the Service sections is headed by a Lieutenant Colonel or Commander. Section chiefs are responsible for the coordination of programs with their respective military departments security assistance component headquarters and the corresponding Moroccan military service. Both the Army and Air Force sections have logistics officers who assist the section chief with case management, Moroccan-U.S. logistics system interface problems, and the supervision of various mobile training teams. The Army logistics officer also supervises a technical assistance field team in Casablanca at the Royal Moroccan Army (RMA) supply depot. The Navy section chief supervises ROICC officers and acts as the liaison between various U.S. military construction and logistics agencies and the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces in matters of U.S.-Moroccan military cooperation. The Army section chief is likewise responsible for in-country assistance and liaison between the Moroccan Armed Forces and USEUCOM for joint and combined exercise planning, coordination, and execution.

The Joint Plans and Training Section is headed by a U.S. Army major who is responsible for the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program, coordination of all multi-service reports and actions (such as the U.S.-Morocco Joint Military Commission, Annual Integrated Assessment of Security Assistance, and oversight of the Moroccan Armed Forces' annual service allocation of FMS funds), non-Service oriented VIP visits, and the MUSLO political-military interface with various other Embassy agencies. The section chief supervises the English Language Training Detachment (LTD) consisting of a GS-11 from the Defense Language Institute English Language Center (DLIELC) and a foreign service national (FSN) training assistant. The LTD, in effect manages the three Moroccan Services' English language training (ELT) programs which consist of 13 ELT sites and over 65 Moroccan instructors who teach approximately 1600 intensive and non-intensive students per year. The FSN training assistant prepares all IMET related messages, orders and correspondence, processes international military students' (IMS) forms, visas, and documents, and conducts the general portion of the deployment briefing for all Moroccan IMSs.

The Joint Administrative Section is headed by a U.S. Air Force major and performs all of the administrative functions required to operate as a separate military unit hundreds of miles from its headquarters. The section chief, assisted by a U.S. Army master sergeant, is responsible for supporting MUSLO in the areas of personnel management, supply, budget, maintenance, property inventory, and Foreign Affairs Administrative Support (FAAS) management. He also coordinates and prepares most of the standard SAO recurring reports, to include quarterly assessment reports, and planning and budgetary reports. An FSN will take over most of the budgeting and some of the administrative duties of the Administration NCO after the upcoming departure of the present NCO. The section chief also supervises two FSN drivers.

The organization, as outlined above, facilitates direct coordination between MUSLO service chiefs and the various services of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces (FAR). This arrangement was necessitated following a coup attempt which failed; subsequently in 1972, the posts of Minister of Defense, Chief of Staff, and Deputy Chief of Staff were abolished. The Ministry of Defense was then transformed into the National Defense Administration (ADN), which deals exclusively with finances, budget, and procurement, while the King, as FAR Commander, has total operational control of the Armed Forces. This lack of centralization at the working levels is burdensome, but several mechanisms have been established to ensure a coherent interface between MUSLO and the Moroccan Armed Forces.

Each Moroccan military service, in conjunction with its own budget development, prepares a Five-Year Plan for utilization of estimated security assistance funding levels. These plans focus on U.S.-origin equipment sustainment requirements, ammunition needs, and desired acquisitions for force development and/or modernization. Each service's budget request, submitted through ADN, is approved by the King. After the Government of Morocco is informed of the level of U.S. security assistance funds appropriated by the U.S. Congress, each Service reprioritizes and resubmits its Five-Year Plan requirements. Upon further approval of the King, ADN allocates a portion of U.S. Foreign Military Financing Program (FMFP) funds to each of the services. The MUSLO service section chiefs coordinate and process letters of request (LOR) and letters of offer and acceptance (LOA) within the parameters of ADN's allocation. The Chief of Joint Plans, MUSLO, acts as an honest broker to ensure that each service stays within their allocations by monitoring all LORs and LOAs. As operational concerns and outside factors change these priorities, the MUSLO service chiefs and the Chief of Joint Plans work together to assist ADN and the Moroccan armed forces involved to de-obligate FMFP funds as necessary and reprioritize service programs.

In addition, each year the Moroccan Services' Five-Year Plans are reviewed by the members of the Security Assistance Committee of the U.S.-Morocco Joint Military Commission (JMC). The Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs generally chairs the U.S. side

of the JMC, while the Secretary General of ADN chairs the Moroccan side. If necessary, action items are identified to help solve problems associated with the ongoing security assistance programs or for the development of proposed programs. While Moroccan Chief of Staff-level decisions are not made at the JMC, the commission provides a forum that places the key Moroccan players, to include the heads of each Service and ADN, in a working situation, head-to-head with U.S. security assistance decision makers.

SECURITY ASSISTANCE

The U.S. Government has provided an extensive quantity of military equipment and services to Morocco through FMS credit purchases and the Military Assistance Program (MAP). The major end items are M48A5 tanks, M113 armored personnel carriers, F-5 fighters, C-130 transport aircraft, 155mm howitzers, TOW anti-tank missile systems, 20mm Vulcan air defense weapons, Chaparral air defense missile systems, and shipboard electronics. The majority of these end items were financed by FMS credit and third country funds, and were delivered in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Since FY 1983, the security assistance funding levels have shrunk from \$100 million to less than \$35 million in FMS credits in FY 1986, rebounding to a mix of \$52 million in MAP grants and FMS credits in FY 1988, and \$52 million in FMS grants in FY 1989. An additional \$1 million to \$1.5 million has been provided annually for the International Military Education and Training Program.

With the exception of the expedited delivery of 50 TOW anti-tank missile systems in 1987, the purchase of 100 M48A5 tanks in 1988 (paid mostly with cash), and the expected delivery of 10 F-5 fighters in 1989, the current focus of the U.S. security assistance effort in Morocco has shifted from procurement and is now directed at sustaining and maintaining U.S.-origin equipment in the Moroccan Armed Forces. To that end, this year's \$52 million in FMS grants barely suffices. As Morocco's equipment continues to age under constant use in the harsh environs of the Western Sahara, current levels of U.S. security assistance funding will not be able to keep this equipment operational without significant additional outlays of Moroccan national funds. On the other hand, the shift away from FMS credit to grants will significantly reduce future drains from large FMS loan repayments. Presently, the total Moroccan repayable FMS loan balance is approximately \$495 million. Recent loan rescheduling under Paris Club agreements has moved the preponderance of FMS loan repayments into the 1990s. In 1989 the government of Morocco will repay more than it receives in security assistance, and in 1990 repayments will be about twice the funding level of \$40 million in FMS grants requested by the Bush Administration for Morocco for FY 1990.

Thus, the U.S. security assistance effort has passed through a transitional state. U.S. government budget constraints will prevent significant increases in security assistance funding levels. Although officials of the Moroccan Armed Forces recognize that the mere maintenance of these funding levels is a major recognition of their country's importance to the U.S., they cannot help but conclude that the American contribution becomes less significant each year. The fact that the government of Morocco is repaying more than it receives adds to this perception.

The MUSLO Army Section is currently managing 88 FMS cases valued at \$477 million. Most of these cases are approaching, or are at, supply-complete status and will be closed within a few years. The focus of the MUSLO Army Section's attention during 1989 has been in the area of maintenance enhancement. In February, the U.S. Army M48A5 2nd and 3rd echelon maintenance mobile training team (MTT) departed Morocco after graduating approximately 60 students to support two newly formed tank units associated with a 1988 tank acquisition. Presently, the section is finalizing a \$9.1 million repair-and-return case for engines, transmissions, final drives, and other sub-components of 2-1/2 ton and 5-ton trucks and armored vehicles which will be repaired at U.S. maintenance facilities in Germany. Final coordination is also ongoing for a security assistance survey to analyze the central RMA repair facility in Casablanca for upgrade to

depot-level rebuild and overhaul of the M113 family series of vehicles. The RMA is interested in developing a phased maintenance sustainment program for all its armored vehicles, beginning with the M113A1 and culminating in heavy tracked vehicle (M48A5, M109) overhaul capability. This program will be implemented in stages over a multi-year period. A truck rebuild program has already begun at the austere RMA regional repair facility at Agadir. The Army section has just finished assisting in the development of a case that will provide rebuild kits for a 5-ton truck service life extension program. And, of course, there is always some type of assistance required to coordinate or conduct liaison between U.S. and RMA logistics organizations in the support of approximately \$1 million of spare parts which flow into the RMA supply system each month in conjunction with an annual \$14 million Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA).

The Royal Moroccan Navy (RMN) has been the poor stepchild of the Moroccan Armed Forces since the beginning of the Western Sahara conflict. Until 1988, the RMA and RMAF received virtually all of the U.S. security assistance funds furnished to Morocco as well as the bulk of the Moroccan military budget. Most of the RMN fleet consists of large patrol boats, some of which are missile equipped, with an additional six 50-meter patrol boats acquired from Spain. The RMN has only one corvette, which is Spanish built and is equipped with U.S.-origin electronics, a U.S. Navy MK 46 torpedo system, and a commercially procured Raytheon sonar.

Currently, the RMN has only two active cases, and these both employ FY 1982 funds. However, with a recent allocation of \$3.2 million of security assistance funds, the MUSLO Navy Section has been busy assisting the RMN develop cases for a \$1 million sonar upgrade and a \$250,000 hydrographic equipment acquisition. Additionally, implementation is pending on RMN cases totaling almost \$2 million for equipment repair-and-return, communications repair kits, and spare parts for various RMN U.S.-origin naval systems.

Since security assistance funds have been scarce for the RMN, the MUSLO Navy chief has actively pursued development of the strongest IMET program of the three Moroccan Services. Each year the RMN usually sends an officer to the U.S. Naval Command and Staff College or War College. Also, eight to twelve junior RMN officers normally participate in a one-year program over two fiscal years, which includes Surface Warfare Officers School (SWOS) and specialty training, followed by six months of on-the-job training (OJT) afloat duty with the Sixth Fleet. Last year was the first iteration of a planned yearly program whereby the RMN will send four to six mid-career officers to USN-sponsored senior department head training, followed by specialty training. The MUSLO Navy Section Chief is coordinating a shorter OJT afloat program for department head follow-on training.

The Royal Moroccan Air Force (RMAF) is currently managing 57 FMS cases valued at \$120 million. However, only 18 cases are active. Additionally, commercial credit cases valued at \$37 million require MUSLO Air Force section monitoring and occasional assistance. The majority of the MUSLO Air Force section effort has been aimed at correcting interface problems between the U.S. automated logistics system and the RMAF's cumbersome manual supply system. Since the 1989 Joint Military Commission meeting, effort has been increased in tracking repair-and-return components from RMAF depot and back by the MUSLO Air Force section in conjunction with the RMAF. A recently completed supply specialist mobile training team deployed by the USAF is compiling its report which is expected to identify several options that the RMAF can use to solve existing problems. A significant improvement may result in a proposed linkage of the RMAF supply depot to the RMA supply depot's International Logistics Communication System and data-phone link to Gentile Air Force Station, Ohio; this option is currently under study by the RMAF. Also being studied is the possible addition of a Freight Forwarder Tracking System. The MUSLO Air Force Section is also assisting the RMAF in the development of an adequate ground support/spare parts case for recently purchased F-5E/F fighters which are being phased out of USAF inventories.



C-130 AT AL-HOCEIMA, MOROCCO

FMS AND INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The primary goal of the IMET program in Morocco has consistently been to foster mutual understanding and an atmosphere of joint military cooperation between the U.S. and Morocco. The IMET program has sent over 850 Moroccan students to the United States since 1963. Since the early 1980's, MUSLO has shifted the emphasis of the IMET program to professional military education (PME) from one of technical training which had been previously required with the introduction of large amounts of equipment in the late 70's. In 1978 Moroccan military students attended two PME courses and 142 technical training courses. However, by 1988 students were in attendance at 46 PME courses and 28 technical training courses. In the last few years Morocco has generally sent an officer to the U.S. Air and Army War Colleges annually, and the Navy War College bi-annually. In addition, each service usually receives at least one Command and Staff College slot. For the company grade officers, the RMA sends ten to twelve officers to the various U.S. Army branch advanced courses such as Infantry, Armor, Artillery, and Engineer; the RMAF schedules six to ten Staff Officer School students, as well as several navigation and air weapons training positions; and of course, there is the previously discussed RMN SWOS/OJT afloat program.

A secondary objective of Morocco's IMET program has been to develop Moroccan self-sufficiency, while supplying necessary low-density specialist training in more sophisticated areas of expertise. A perfect example of this endeavor was a recent deployment of a U.S. M48A5 maintenance MTT which trained 2nd and 3rd echelon mechanics for the formation of two new Armor battalions. This FMS case enabled the RMA to quickly fill maintenance personnel requirements for the two battalions as well as to pick the best of the graduates for the development of a maintenance instructor cadre. On the other hand, for low-density equipment such as 155mm Howitzer, TOW/Dragon missiles, Chaparrals, and calibration, one or two students per year are sent to the U.S. for specialty training, such as fire control or missile repair. Thus, MUSLO has maintained a balanced training program that uses FMS funds for larger training requirements while

using the majority of Morocco's IMET allocation for officer PME and development, yet still providing needed technical training to maintain the appropriate levels of expertise to sustain U.S.-origin equipment.

An integral portion of the Moroccan IMET program is Morocco's large English language training (ELT) program. There are 13 ELT schools/sites in Morocco that are presently in contact with MUSLO. Each year there may be as few as 40 full time language students or as many as 250 at these sites. Non-intensive programs also range widely, from 50 to 350 students per year. In addition, these sites are supported by 10, 20, and 30 position language laboratories. The ELT program supports preparatory training to meet required English comprehension level (ECL) requirements, mandatory ECL requirements in the RMAF for advancement in certain specialties and ranks, non-intensive English language upkeep for mechanics who work on U.S.-origin equipment, and non-intensive ELT at all three Service Academies and the Command and Staff College.

With the lack of centralized tri-service training authority, each service maintains its own ELT program. To assist in the integration and development of the service's proliferating ELT sites, MUSLO has used a Language Training Detachment (LTD) since FY 1988. The LTD consists of one English language specialist who has developed a four-year program for improving the overall ELT management of each Service. This program consists of almost a million dollars to be spent over four years to upgrade old labs, provide badly needed spare parts, replenish ELT books and tapes, and to invigorate ELT instructors through large-scale, short-duration in-service instructor MTTs, and a renewed emphasis of rotating ELT instructors to the Defense Language Institute at Lackland AFB, Texas, for Advanced Instructor Training and management courses. After completion of the improvement program, MUSLO believes that approximately ten percent of the annual Moroccan IMET budget will be required to sustain this important effort.

NON-SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

U.S. and Moroccan government and military cooperation are much broader than normally recognized by either country's citizens. In addition to security assistance, the Moroccan and U.S. governments are involved in many cultural and educational exchanges. Morocco will soon be host to one of the largest and most modern Voice of America transmitters in the world upon completion of ongoing construction at Tangier. In 1987 the Moroccan government agreed to the use of an old abandoned U.S. Strategic Air Command Base at *Ben Guerir* as a transoceanic abort landing (TAL) site for NASA's space shuttle during emergencies. On the military side, Morocco has signed agreements with the U.S. government allowing U.S. forces access and transit rights at several Moroccan Air Force bases. This agreement includes various military construction projects to upgrade and develop facilities for possible contingencies. Also, the Defense Mapping Agency's Joint Mapping Agreement and the Naval Oceanographic Office's Hydrographic Cooperation Agreement programs have been ongoing for several years. And of course, there is the Joint U.S.-Morocco Exercise Program which includes the largest joint exercise in the USEUCOM Mediterranean area—"African Eagle." It is quite natural that the MUSLO is involved with many of these endeavors.

In fact, MUSLO's participation in the recent past, when these programs were first getting started, was so extensive that a plan to reorganize the MUSLO between security assistance functions and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) functions was submitted to USEUCOM. MUSLO determined that its various sections together, were dedicating nearly two man-years to O&M projects in the terms of liaison functions, meetings, program management, and administrative support. However, because of the conclusion of most of the intensive projects conducted by the Defense Mapping Agency and within the Hydrographic Cooperation Program, plus the completion of NASA's initial construction and start-up operations (to include a commercial contract for in-country management of NASA support), the MUSLO's O&M functions have been

reduced to less than one man-year for the entire organization. Thus, the reorganization has been postponed. However, increased commitment or new bilateral initiatives may cause a serious review regarding the possible reorganization of the MUSLO to better fit its functions. Currently, major O&M duties fall under the supervision of the chiefs of the Navy and Army sections. The Chief of the Navy section is responsible for military construction and serves as the Embassy point of contact for the Resident Officer in Charge of Construction and other U.S. Agencies involved in construction. He also continues to monitor DMA/Hydrographic programs. The Chief of the Army section supervises the Joint Exercise Program primarily by acting as a liaison between USEUCOM J3 and Moroccan military authorities. The exercise section usually arranges and supports two to three exercise planning conferences per year and is totally involved in coordination and liaison during the various exercises which last between three and six weeks.

QUALITY OF LIFE



ROYAL GOLF-DAR ES SALAM, RABAT, MOROCCO

While there are many instances when MUSLO personnel are required to work long hours, there is sufficient time to enjoy life in Morocco. As a coastal country, Morocco enjoys a temperate climate along the coast and is similar in temperature and terrain to California. This is a perfect climate for the sports-oriented personnel and families of MUSLO. A 45-hole golf course with a world famous Robert Trent Jones designed "Red Course" is on the outskirts of Rabat. Filled with beautiful flowers, trees, flamingos, and an occasional family of monkeys, the Dar Es Salam golf club in Rabat offers a fantastic setting for golf, tennis, and swimming, and is relatively inexpensive by U.S. standards.

For the non-golfer, there are numerous riding stables and tennis clubs sprinkled around the city available at reasonable prices. Although the coastal waters are somewhat hazardous, there are lovely beaches, both on the Mediterranean and Atlantic, and for the real enthusiast, stream fishing, bird hunting, and a fledgling ski industry in the High Atlas mountains.

Rabat itself is a blend of old fortress, native quarters, and new national capitol buildings. Living standards are good, with families assigned moderately large quarters with fenced and bountifully landscaped yards. With a modicum of French language capability one can easily live on the economy at prices commensurate to the U.S. economy. Of course, the Embassy has a cooperative store for hard to find items, like chips, diet sodas, infamous American junk food necessities, and special holiday items. Although Rabat American School, the city's international school, is small, it is an excellent institution that handles pre-school through 12th grade. For American and Moroccan students continuing on to U.S. universities, SAT scores are generally much higher than the average scores in the U.S. All in all it is a posting which makes it easy to catch up on the family life we sometimes miss in the hectic time of rigorous military life.



CHIEF MUSLO'S QUARTERS—VILLA MONTEREY

For the adventurous in MUSLO, the combination of U.S. and Moroccan holidays at the Embassy provide ample opportunities for travelling through this varied and fascinating country. As one travels inland, the traditional perceptions of Morocco start to appear, such as the great walled cities, like Fez, the Roman ruins of Volubilis, and the palmeries surrounding Marrakesh—all within easy reach during a leisurely three-day weekend. A little bit longer period is advised to reach the shifting sands of the Sahara and the fabulous gorges descending the east side of the Atlas mountains and continuing into the desert as thin ribbons of oases and palmeries. MUSLO personnel traditionally take Morale, Welfare, and Recreation trips in the fall and late spring which serve to pass the "old timers" knowledge on to the newer arrivals and help make the MUSLO a close-knit organization.

CONCLUSION

While world attention focuses on East-West relations, disarmament in Europe, and management of the Arab-Israeli conflict, U.S. security assistance efforts must not forget our good friends who somehow seem to be on the periphery of world events. Friends like Morocco play an important role in the stability of other regions, and in the behind-the-scenes negotiations that get little publicity but make significant differences in the outcome of international politics. Security

assistance programs formulated at the highest levels of government must recognize not only the strategic location of countries like Morocco and their stabilizing influence on regional politics, but also their long-standing support of U.S. policy goals. Organizations like MUSLO will continue to implement U.S. security assistance programs to the best of their abilities and prosper in an environment conducive to learning and understanding cultures and people with which we have had little contact in the past. Thus, our friendship and understanding should prosper and foster the continuation of our long-standing mutual respect.

