
COVER FEATURE

Egypt: Linchpin for Regional Peace and Stability and the Office of Military Cooperation's Role

By

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ROAD TO PEACE COMES THROUGH CAIRO

When, in October 1973, President Anwar Sadat directed the Egyptian Armed Forces to assault across the Suez Canal and retake the Sinai Peninsula by breaching the Bar-Lev Line, he took the first step towards peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors. Doing so he also found a way to preserve Egyptian military power by a sustained modernization program funded with substantial U.S. security assistance grant aid.

The historic Camp David talks in 1979 sponsored by President Jimmy Carter ended in a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Since FY 1987, both parties have annually received \$1.3B and \$1.8B respectively in Foreign Military Finance grants. Also, by 1979, the Office of Military Cooperation (OMC), Egypt, was fully established to facilitate the modernization and training of the Egyptian Armed Forces and to coordinate all aspects of military cooperation between Egypt and the United States.

This, however, was not the first instance of an American military effort in Egypt. In 1869 thirty American officers began a ten-year effort helping Khedive Ismail with his military and government in a number of areas. We outline this early U.S.-Egyptian relationship in the next section of this group of articles.

Our purpose in this lead article is to describe the nature of the United States security assistance effort in Egypt and why this effort is fundamental to the peace and stability of the region. We discuss the role of the OMC as a key player on the U.S. Country Team and how we do business with DOD and our customer, the Egyptian Armed Forces.

Also in this issue are companion articles that highlight such security assistance activities as IMET management initiatives, M1A1 tank fielding, naval and aviation programs, and potential follow-on uses of Egypt's military industries.

EGYPT IS A KEY PARTNER FOR REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY

As the United States' key Arab partner in Middle East security efforts, Egypt has played a crucial role and will continue to lead moderate forces toward a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace. Egypt has the largest population of the Arab states and has significant military capability. As the owner of the Suez Canal, Egypt occupies a key geographic location of strategic importance to the United States and coalition partners.

Egypt provides invaluable support to the United States Central Command's peacetime strategy of deterrence respective to those who would threaten U.S. interests and our friends in the region. Active coalition building with the Gulf States, mutual defense cooperation during the Gulf

War and in Somalia, and our access into the region via refueling stops, overflights, and the Suez Canal are examples of Egyptian support to the U.S. military strategy. These actions underscore the strength of the bilateral relationship, as well as the pay-off generated by a sound security assistance program for Egypt.

SECURITY ASSISTANCE BOLSTERS EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES

The Egyptian Armed Forces that crossed the Suez Canal in October 1973 were equipped and trained by the Soviet bloc and followed Soviet military doctrine. However, since 1979 much has changed because the U.S. security assistance program has enabled the Egyptian military to transition from obsolete Soviet equipment to an effective deterrent force equipped with modern U.S. weapons systems. To date over \$20B of grant aid has been obligated to this long-term modernization program. Egyptian goals include: downsizing their outdated Soviet equipped force to a smaller, more efficient, predominantly U.S.-equipped force; dedicating significant amounts of security assistance dollars to the training and sustainment of their modernized force; adapting U.S. training and tactical doctrine for selected force capabilities; and achieving self-sufficiency where feasible in their training base and sustaining capability.



Egyptian Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohamad Attia Halaby and Egyptian officers at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California

Major FMF programs focus on high payoff capabilities which enhance Egypt's self-defense as well as coalition interoperability: F-16 fighter wings; an AH-64 Apache regiment; C-130 transport aircraft; Hawk air defenses combined with E2C early warning aircraft; armored divisions equipped with M60A3 tanks, M113 personnel carriers, and M109 155mm artillery; co-produced M1A1 tanks for additional armor divisions; TOW anti-tank missiles; Knox class frigates with ASW helicopters; route survey vessels and coastal mine hunters.

Beyond its long-term modernization efforts, Egypt is improving its ability for interoperability with the U.S. and coalition military forces. The International Military Education Training (IMET) program of CONUS-based professional military education, as well as in-country training teams for the F-16, M1A1 tank, Apache, Hawk, the English language program, and logistics all contribute to the professional development of the Egyptian armed forces. Interoperability is further enhanced by a robust annual program of U.S.-Egyptian military exercises. The value of all this training was demonstrated by Egypt's two-division corps during the Gulf War and continues with their contribution of brigade and battalion-sized forces to United Nations operations in Somalia and Bosnia.

The bottom line is that the U.S. security assistance effort makes it possible for Egypt to focus its national resources on internal development while at the same time developing a willing, trained, and ready military force that can defend Egypt and cooperate closely with the U.S. and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in regional defense or with the UN in peacekeeping operations.



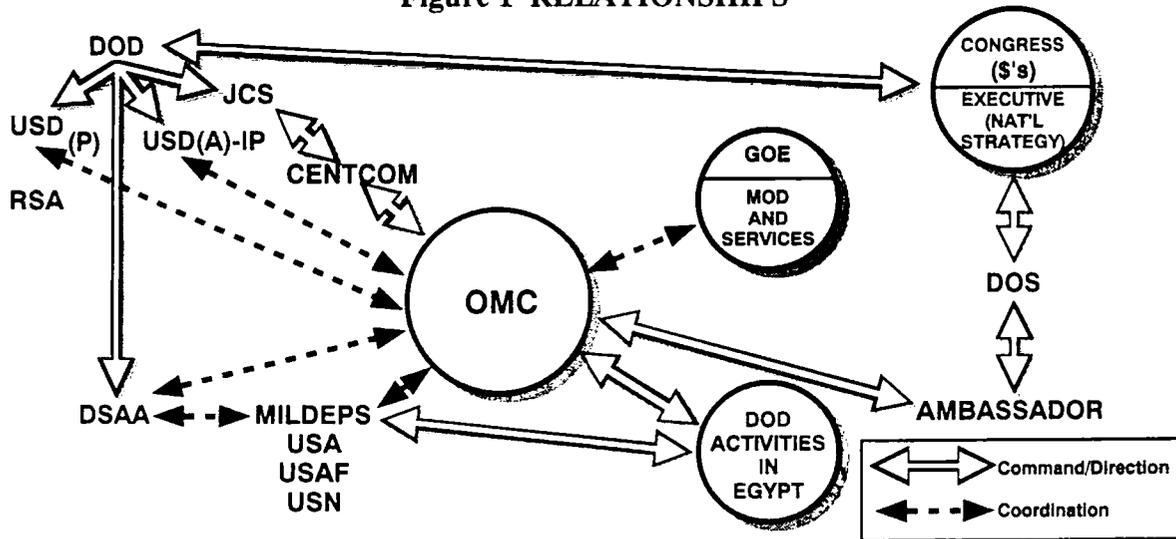
U.S. General Frederick M. Franks, Jr., USA, TRADOC Commander and Egyptian Armed Forces Chief of Staff, and Lieutenant General Mohamad Attia Halaby

OMC, EGYPT: CENTCOM'S AND OSD'S PLAYER ON THE COUNTRY TEAM

The OMC enjoys full status as a key player on the Ambassador's Country Team and directs the entire range of security assistance and defense cooperation efforts in Egypt. As a matter of policy, the Ambassador as Chief of Mission, has delegated the oversight and direction of security assistance activities to the Chief of OMC. There are many players in the security assistance

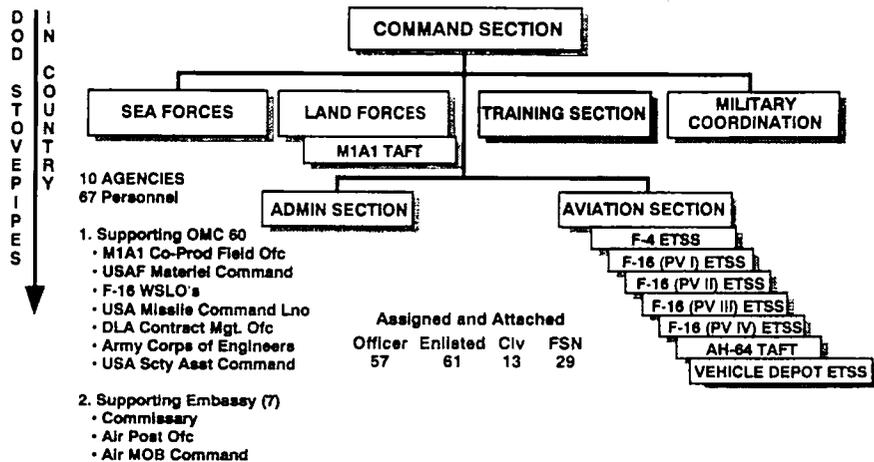
business resulting therefore in fairly complex lines of command and coordination as well as lines of resource programming and flow (Figure 1).

Figure 1 RELATIONSHIPS



To further achieve unity of effort and unity of command, all security assistance teams (SATs) in Egypt are attached to OMC. With the full support of the Chief of Mission and as directed by USCINCENT, we have executed Memorandums of Agreement with all DoD organizations, or "stovepipes," supporting security assistance activities in Egypt. These MOA enable DoD to speak and act as one. Further, OMC is in the rating chain of in-country agency heads. As depicted in Figure 2 over 200 DoD personnel are on the ground in Egypt executing or supporting security assistance policy in close, daily cooperation with our partner, the Egyptian Armed Forces.

Figure 2
OFFICE OF MILITARY COOPERATION
CAIRO, ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT



While the OMC Chief relies on his tri-service lieutenant colonel and full colonel section chiefs to direct the daily efforts of SATs and "stovepipes," he coordinates DoD efforts at the Ambassador's bi-weekly country team meetings and briefs the Ambassador in depth during monthly "one-on-ones." The OMC-operated C-12 aircraft enables us to get around to all SATs and support sites regularly.

Keeping the security assistance effort tuned up and on target is done by scheduled internal and external program reviews and constant chatter at all levels between OMC, our headquarters, and the staffs at CENTCOM, the U.S. Military Departments and OSD/JCS. Quarterly we report our activities, program status, assessment of Egyptian capability, and OMC's focus for the next quarter by message to CENTCOM with wide distribution to all in the security assistance business.

We also work directly with the Egyptian Armed Forces. Our SATs are in the field at the battalion, brigade, division, and air wing level assisting with fielding, training, maintenance, and logistics. In Cairo we in OMC support their efforts in our daily engagement with the Ministry of Defense (MOD) and the services. We also work closely with our counterparts to shape future Egyptian programs and adequately support the weapon systems already fielded.

The OMC Chief sees the Chief of Staff and the Minister of Defense on a quarterly basis and meets with their staff principals from Training, Operations, and Armament Authorities monthly. Perhaps the most business gets done during the weekly meeting co-chaired by the OMC Deputy and the Chief of Requirements in the Egyptian Armament Authority. OMC's engagement with MOD includes: advice on the preparation of MOD's annual White Paper on Security Assistance; review and endorsement of the Egyptian Five Year Defense Plan which is the MOD's primary programming plan for the \$1.3 annual grant aid; validation of Letters of Request; and, regular visits to exercises, headquarters, units, depots, training centers, schools, and military factories in order to be helpful where we can to the Egyptian Armed Forces' modernization goals.

SECURITY ASSISTANCE - A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION

For the future, security assistance will remain a primary pillar for USCENTCOM's peacetime strategy of deterrence in the Middle East region. Because U.S. grant aid to Egypt is directly linked to the goals of peace and stability in the region, security assistance funding levels for Egypt will remain high until achievement of these goals allows an overall reduction in military aid to both Israel and Egypt. Therefore, OMC - Egypt will be involved here in Cairo for some time to come, supporting Egypt's force modernization and the elements of CENTCOM's strategy: coalition building, military cooperation, and access to the region.



Egyptian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohamad Attia Halaby and U.S. General Joseph P. Hoar, USMC, CINC, U.S. Central Command

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Major General Michael S. Davison, Jr., USA, is the Chief, Office of Military Cooperation, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt. He is a graduate of the Armor Officer Advanced Course, the British Army Staff College, and the National War College. An Armor officer, General Davison has served in Battalion and Brigade Commands, as the Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), and on the Army Staff at The Pentagon. General Davison holds a B.S. degree from the United States Military Academy and a Master of Science degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.