

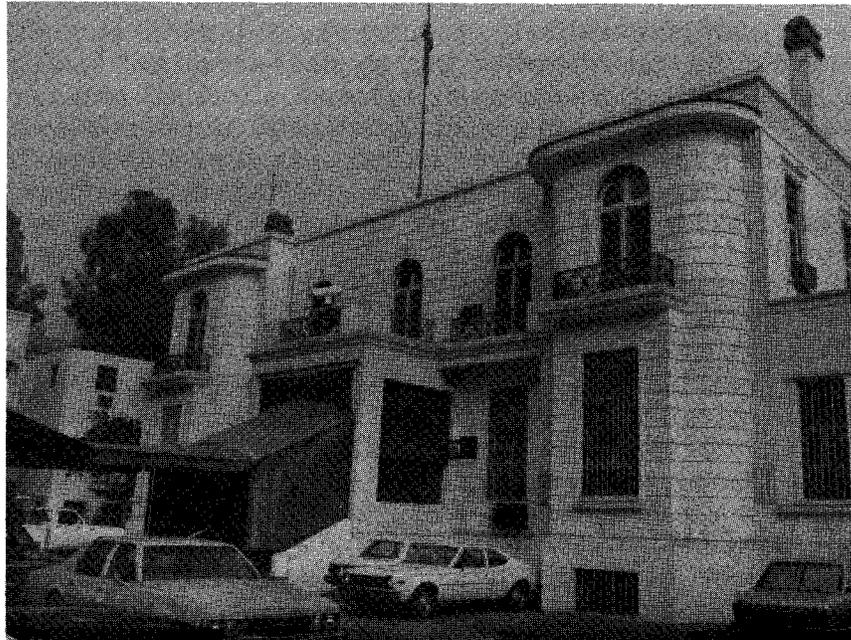
THEME OF THE QUARTER

OFFICE OF MILITARY COOPERATION

CAIRO, EGYPT

DATELINE: CAIRO, EGYPT

Egypt, a land that has excited the imagination throughout the ages, has provided mankind a continual source of fascination with its seemingly endless stream of reminders of the world past. To those of us here with the U.S. Office of Military Cooperation (OMC-Cairo), it appears that even occasional glances at the daily English language newspaper with its reports of new historical finds confirms that, even today, history is a living part of society and an inescapable facet of life in Egypt. Yet, ancient history is only one of the many aspects that makes an assignment to Egypt an exciting and fascinating tour.



CHANCERY TO U.S. EMBASSY, CAIRO

EGYPTIAN HISTORY

Actually the recorded history of Egypt began with the discovery of the earliest recorded date, 4241 BC, on a calendar in the Nile delta, but historians agree that Egypt as a unified country did not exist until almost eight centuries later when Menes I, the first recognized Pharaoh, united upper and lower Egypt under his capital at Memphis. The ancient history of Egypt is so rich in the treasures of early civilization that its story fills volumes and is regrettably beyond the scope of this article. We must skip ahead some 6,000 years to the French, British, "Nasser Era," October 1973 war and the establishment of the Office of U.S. Military Cooperation - Cairo, Egypt, in 1979.

THE FRENCH, BRITISH AND TURKISH ERAS - (1789-1947)

Islamic Rule, which lasted almost twelve hundred years (640-1789 AD), was ended by the arrival of Napoleon. The French had a brief but spectacular reign and passed to the Egyptians an enduring respect for scholarship and scientific study. The French were ousted from Egypt by a combined British/Turkish force and one of the Turkish officers, Muhammad Ali, became the next ruler of Egypt. He brought Egypt quickly into the 19th century by importing technology from Europe, and he was the first Egyptian on record to bring foreign military advisors to Egypt. He was unfortunately succeeded by his son and grandson who were ill suited to govern. It was the latter, Pasha Said, who granted a concession to the French for the building of the Suez Canal. He and his son, Ismail, through their extravagance, literally bankrupted the country. Ismail, trying to get out of debt, sold all of Egypt's shares in the Suez Canal to the British government. Thus began the era of British dominance that was not ended until 1947.

ISRAEL, THE NEW STATE

In 1948 the British ended their mandate in Palestine and the State of Israel was born. Egypt, along with the armies of other Moslem nations, militarily challenged Israel's right to exist. Israel survived and, as a nation, added still another dimension to Mid-east tensions. Conversely, Egypt suffered politically because of its military misfortunes and a rising tide of nationalism. In 1952, a group known as the "Free Officers," lead by Lieutenant Colonel Gamal Abdul Nasser, overthrew the regime of King Farouk in a bloodless coup.

THE NASSER ERA

Nasser became president in November 1954. His goals were to establish Egypt as a totally neutral state and as the leader of the Arab world. He conducted negotiations for arms with the U.S. soon after he came to power; the U.S., however, placed stringent controls on the weapons it was willing to sell. To Nasser these controls were too restrictive and instead turned to Czechoslovakia for weapons. Nasser indicated that he was still willing to accept economic aid from the West. The U.S., however, declined to aid the Aswan High Dam project, an act which influenced other Western countries to do the same. Nasser responded by nationalizing the Suez Canal. Israel shortly thereafter launched an attack across the Sinai toward the Canal, and British and French forces disembarked on the northern end of the Suez to assure that it remained an international waterway, open to all. The U.S. and the Soviet Union intervened, and the crisis ended with the withdrawal of all foreign forces.

SOVIET INFLUENCE

During the ensuing years Egypt strengthened its ties with the Soviet Union by accepting both military and economic aid under circumstances that saw the introduction of thousands of advisors. Nasser also gained a position of prominence with all of the Arab countries. By the fall of 1966, Egypt was in several mutual defense alliances including one with Syria. Syria claimed Israel was mobilizing forces on the Syrian/Israeli border, and it called upon Egypt to honor their alliance. Egypt responded by mobilizing forces on the

Egyptian/Israeli border and blockading Israel's shipping from the Gulf of Aqaba. On 17 May 1967 both Egypt and Syria declared they were ready for war. Israel responded by attacking the allied forces on 5 June and quickly defeated the Egyptian Army during the first three days and other armies during the next three days. Nasser claimed that U.S. and British soldiers were fighting with the Israelis, and he broke diplomatic relations with both countries. As a result of his military misadventure Nasser tendered his resignation to the parliament immediately following the defeat; however, responding to the public's outcry, the parliament refused to accept it.

After the war the Israelis occupied the Sinai, to include the eastern bank of the Suez Canal. As a result of the war, grave economic problems were created for Egypt and she began receiving massive aid from the oil rich Arab countries. Nasser continued to be the great mediator among the Arab states until his death on 28 September 1970.

SADAT

Anwar El Sadat, voted into office after the death of Nasser, was faced with the problem of having an uneasy cease-fire with the Israelis who were still on Egyptian soil. The advanced weaponry earlier promised by the Soviets had not materialized, but the oppressive presence of their military advisors increased. The Egyptian military was becoming more and more resentful of the advisors and applied pressure on their new president to get rid of the Soviets. In July 1972, President Sadat took action and dismissed thousands of advisors, estimated at the time as high as twenty thousand. Sadat later stated that another reason he was prompted to dismiss the Soviets was because he felt the U.S. was in a position to pressure the Israelis into giving up the Sinai. He said that he felt the U.S. would never make this demand on Israel as long as Egypt was, for all practical purposes, in the Soviet camp.

After dismissing the Soviets, Sadat felt that he must do something to end the impasse between Egypt and Israel. Egypt launched a surprise attack across the Suez at 1405 hours on the eve of Yom Kippur, 6 October 1973. At the same time the Syrians launched an attack in the Golan Heights. The Egyptian forces overwhelmed the surprised Israeli canal forces and drove them back approximately six miles. After another ten days of severe fighting the Egyptians had expanded their advantage another three miles. On 17 October in a counter move, one Israeli division was able to break through the line between the flanks of the Egyptian 2nd and 3rd Armies. The Israelis continued to advance and cut the road between Cairo and Suez on the western side of the canal before the UN ceasefire on 24 October 1973. Later, in negotiations, the Israelis agreed to withdraw to a line approximately ten to twelve miles east of the Suez Canal while the Egyptians occupied a five mile wide strip east of the canal, thus restoring its sovereignty over the vital waterway. Both forces by agreement would be limited in size, and a UN Emergency Force would occupy the buffer zone between the forces.

Later the Israelis agreed to move another 20 miles east, the result of hard negotiations that were mediated by the U.S., represented by then Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger. As a historical reality, Israel has existed for 25 years in the midst of hostile neighbors that had repeatedly refused to recognize her right to existence. Egypt, on the other hand,

had suffered military setbacks by Israel on three separate occasions during this period. Although the War of 1973 could not be classified as a defeat for Egypt, she had been sorely hurt.

RENEWAL OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT

President Sadat, fully realizing the economic plight of his country and the tremendous costs of three inconclusive wars, decided to seek a peaceful solution to the Mid-east crisis. He was also aware of the large amount of aid given to Israel by the U.S. during these wars. Despite this fact, he reestablished diplomatic ties with the U.S. in February 1974.

The basic U.S. philosophy for the Middle East peace effort was to offer aid to the countries concerned so that each would feel that it was militarily secure and thus could negotiate from a position of relative strength. Kissinger, in a statement on 7 June 1974 to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in support of the Foreign Assistance Program, spelled out the amount of aid the Administration intended to offer. Israel was to receive \$350 million for the purchase of military equipment, and Jordan would get \$207 million for security and economic assistance. Egypt would receive \$250 million in economic assistance only. The U.S., however, did deliver 20 C-130 transports to Egypt in December 1976.

Kissinger also testified that Egypt had made a dramatic change in her foreign policy and had decided on negotiation rather than confrontation as a means of settling her dispute with Israel. Israel, however, remained on Egyptian soil. The U.S. rigorously negotiated over the next three years, but Israel was reluctant to leave the Sinai. Finally, President Sadat took the initiative and on 9 November 1977 before the opening session of the Peoples Assembly in Cairo, and with Yassar Arafat the PLO leader in attendance, casually announced that he would go to Jerusalem if it would mean a lasting peace. On 20 November 1977 Sadat made his dramatic trip to Jerusalem. The repercussions from the Arab world, as Sadat must have known, were going to be severe. Economic aid from the oil rich Arabs was halted as a war weary Egypt was left with only her new Western benefactors. The U.S., despite the fact that it had not been able to draw both countries to the elusive final peace table, offered Egypt a small amount of military support. In 1978, a small International Military Education and Training (IMET) program was established, and in the same year the U.S. offered to sell Egypt some F-5E fighters. At the same time the U.S. was meeting Israel's demand for F-16 fighters and additional F-15 fighters to join those previously purchased.

Sadat asked for arms support parity and, when the U.S. demurred, talks with Israel broke down again. Finally in August 1978, the then Secretary of State Cyrus Vance personally delivered a hand written invitation from President Carter to President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin. The invitation was for the three of them to sit together in isolation at the presidential retreat, Camp David, to examine the demands of each side and to negotiate a peace. On 4 September 1978, the three leaders met at the Camp and did not emerge again until 17 September. At the end of the conference, Egypt and Israel had agreed to negotiate a peace treaty within three months; however, that did not occur. The signing did not take place until 10 March 1979 and was signed only after President Carter had personally flown to Jerusalem. The U.S. had made promises to both sides, one of which was to sell Egypt

F-4 fighters in lieu of the F5s initially offered. The letter of offer and acceptance (LOA) for the F-4s was signed on 22 August 1979.

OFFICE OF MILITARY COOPERATION (OMC)-CAIRO IS ESTABLISHED

OMC-Cairo was manned with its first permanent party of six personnel beginning in August 1979. Since then much has come to pass in Egypt. Egypt has signed a number of LOAs with the U.S. to buy F-16 fighters, M-60A3 tanks, M-113 armored personnel carriers, and the I-HAWK air defense system.



M60

President Sadat's promising role as a peace maker in the Middle East was tragically cut short when he was assassinated on 6 October 1981 by a dissident religious group, as he watched a military parade displaying both Russian equipment and the new equipment purchased from the U.S. Hosni Mubarak, who had been the Vice President, and once the Commander of the Egyptian Air Force, was rapidly elected President. Sadat's era of surprise diplomacy had come to an end, and the world mourned the loss of a great man of peace.

Egypt's importance within the region and its special relationship with the United States are key to establishing a lasting regional peace. U.S. security assistance in Egypt ranks as the second largest such program in the world. OMC-Cairo plays an important role in the implementation of this program.

OMC-CAIRO - THE ORGANIZATION

Since the Camp David peace talks in 1979, OMC-Cairo, located in the U.S. Embassy compound in downtown Cairo, has grown from six military and

two civilians to an organization that is authorized 46 personnel in the Headquarters (Figure 1, next page), plus various Technical Assistance Field Team (TAFT) personnel and civilian contractors. Its mission is "to manage all security assistance programs as well as all military activities in Egypt with the exception of those projects handled by the Defense Attache's Office and the U.S. element of the Multi-National Peace Keeping Force in the Sinai."

From 1979 to present the U.S., has extended to Egypt \$4.3 billion in Foreign Military Sales (FMS) credits and granted \$6.5 million in the International Military Education and Training Program (IMETP) which has provided training for approximately 2,000 Egyptian students in the United States as well as providing Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) for in-country training. OMC functions independently from other Embassy offices but under the Ambassador's auspices.

OMC is currently subordinate to the United States European Command (USEUCOM) for security assistance matters and to the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) for all other military affairs such as exercises and joint operations.

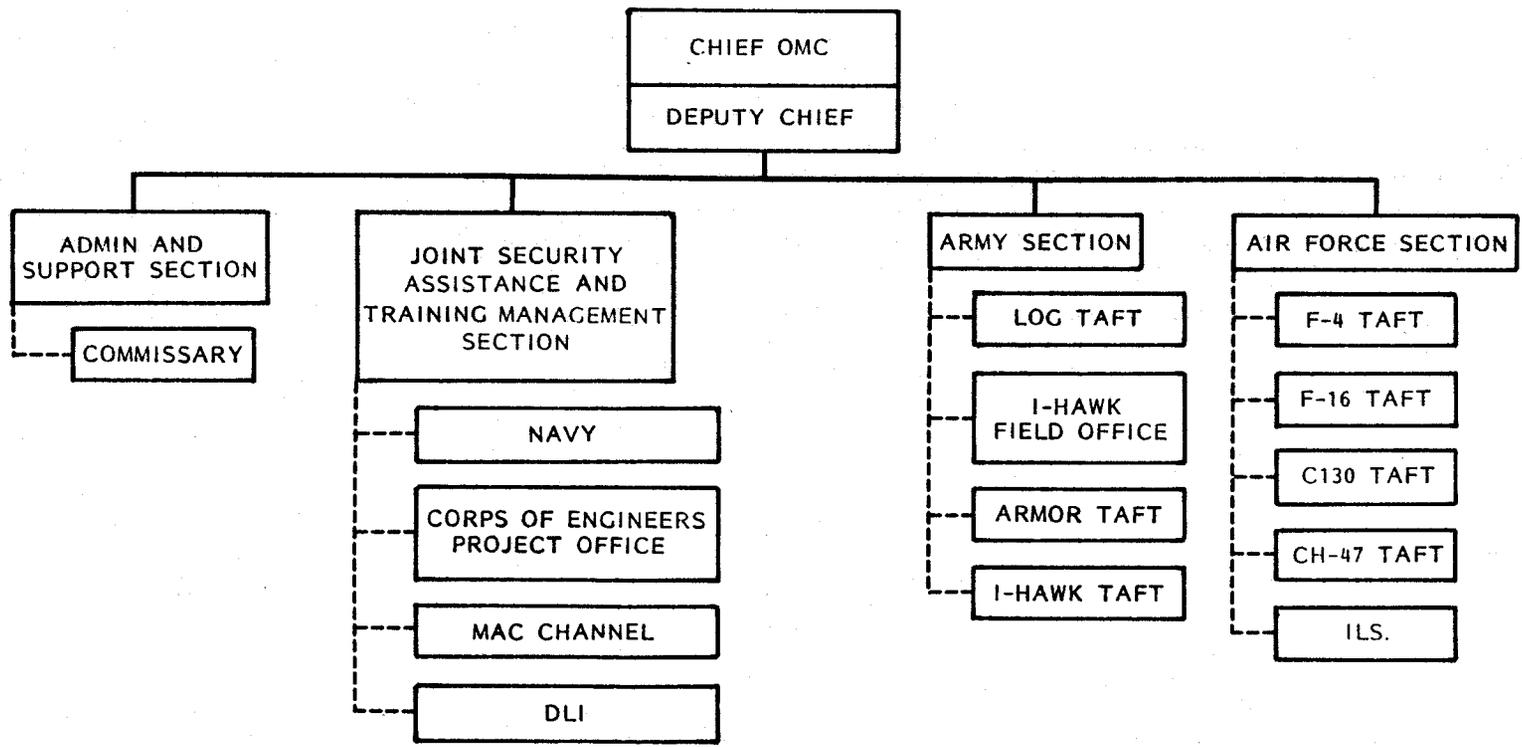
On 1 October 1983, however, USCENTCOM is programmed to assume the security assistance responsibilities for this region. USEUCOM agencies will continue to provide some personnel and logistic support. CENTCOM and EUCOM are establishing agreements for such support.

The Chief of OMC is an integral part of the Embassy country team and, as such, serves as the senior Department of Defense representative in Egypt and the military advisor to the Ambassador. The Deputy Chief of OMC is also the Chief of the Joint Security Assistance and Training Management Section. The Joint Section, as it is commonly referred to, is responsible for Egyptian/U.S. Military Defense Production Assistance (DPAP), coproduction and rebuild programs. It is also responsible for coordinating and planning all



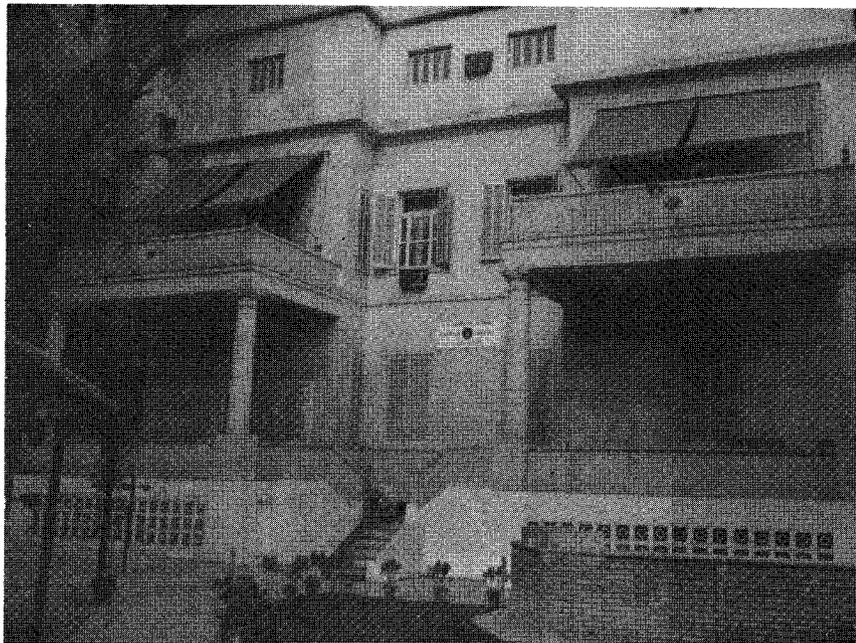
Zahrer Building containing Consular and Embassy offices including OMC which occupies all of the fifth floor. Entry is from within the Embassy grounds.

FIGURE 1
OMC, CAIRO



joint exercises and operations involving U.S. Forces in Egypt. The OMC legal advisor is a member of the Joint Section and provides OMC with a myriad of legal assistance and support. In addition to the Joint, Army, and Air Force Sections, OMC also has an Administrative Section that is responsible for the administration, personnel management, morale and welfare, budget/fiscal, logistics, housing, and transportation for OMC members. The Administration Section provides the official interface between OMC and the administrative offices of the Embassy and oversees the Commissary.

The training management branch of Joint Section is responsible for the IMET program for all CONUS training associated with Foreign Military Sales (FMS) cases. The training management branch is also responsible for in-country management of the ten member U.S. Defense Language Institute's Language Training Detachment (DLI/LTD) based at the Egyptian Defense Language Institute in a northern suburb of Cairo.



MARINE HOUSE LOCATED IN BACK OF THE ZHRER BUILDING

The Navy branch is also part of the Joint Section. Action is underway to form a separate Navy section in OMC. In the past the Navy program has been extremely small when compared with Army and Air Force programs; however, the Navy program is rapidly changing. The Egyptian Naval Headquarters is located in Alexandria, approximately 120 miles north of Cairo; about a four hour automobile ride. The physical separation of the Naval Headquarters from the other military departments in Cairo causes some unique challenges for OMC.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with the office of Area Engineer, is located in a suburb south of Cairo. The Engineers are currently involved in observing the clearance of mine fields from the Ras Banas southern peninsula area and have just completed a \$7 million bio-medical research building for the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) located in Cairo.

The Army section has the responsibility for all Army security assistance FMS programs in-country. The programs include the M-60A3 tank, M-113 armored personnel carrier, I-HAWK , logistics center project, TOW Missile and several smaller programs. The Army is also responsible for the management of Army Technical Assistance Field Teams (TAFT), several of which are currently in-country.

The Air Force Section is responsible for all Air Force FMS programs and TAFTs. Major Air Force programs include delivery and support of F-4s, F-16s, C-130 transports and CH-47 Helicopters. The CH-47 program is rather unique in that it is a U.S. Army program managed by the Air Force section in OMC. The Egyptian Air Force is responsible for all piloted aircraft in their Armed Forces. Therefore, to insure a single point of contact for all Egyptian Air Force programs, the Air Force section has management responsibility for the CH-47 program. In addition to a TAFT for each of the equipment and weapon systems programs, the Air Force Section also has an Integrated Logistics Systems TAFT working with the Egyptian Air Force.

Each action officer in OMC interfaces daily with Egyptian officers (usually Brigadier Generals) at the Ministry of Defense level or at Air Defense, Air Force and Navy Headquarters. There is no Army Headquarters per se, in the Egyptian Armed Forces. Rather there are a number of "departments" and "authorities" that function as independent headquarters similar to the Air Defense Command, Air Force and Navy. Armor Department, for example, is commanded by a Major General, and is divided organizationally into branches such as training branch, officers branch, technical branch, etc. There are sixteen departments including Air Defense, Air Force and Navy, and nine authorities reporting directly to the Minister of Defense. OMC interfaces across the board with officers in these organizations. With two exceptions, these departments are commanded by a major general. The Navy and Air Defense Command have three star commanders, the highest rank in the Egyptian armed forces. The Minister of Defense is a Field Marshal. His chief of staff is a Lieutenant General, and is the nominal head of the "Army."

THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

OMC personnel are provided Embassy-leased housing which is located throughout Cairo. The housing is either separate, detached villas or apartments. There is no American housing compound as such with the exception of two apartment buildings recently completed in El Maadi, a southern suburb of Cairo. These two apartment buildings have a fair number of three and four bedroom apartments.

Our children attend Cairo American College, a kindergarten through twelfth grade institution that is located on an 11 acre campus in El Maadi. The school was established in 1945 and has 1240 students and 130 teachers. Sixty percent of the student body are Americans with the rest coming from 50 different countries. The school is accredited by the Middle States Association in the United States. The campus not only provides an excellent academic environment, but also serves as a community center providing recreation, sporting events and social activities.

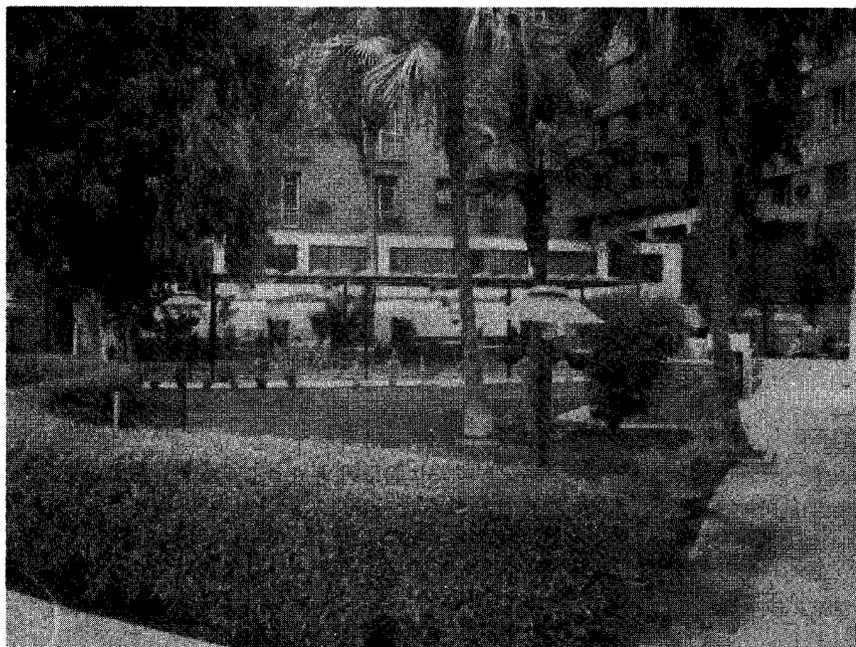
The transportation situation in Cairo is grim at best and impossible at worst. The parking on the Embassy compound in downtown Cairo is extremely

limited. The Embassy provides vans and buses from private residences around the city to work for U.S. employees, for a nominal monthly fee. OMC has a small fleet of official vehicles for members of OMC to conduct OMC business with members of the Egyptian Armed Forces. Because of the extremely heavy and normally congested traffic it is impossible to predict travel time from OMC to the Egyptian military district in northeast Cairo. A trip may take 30 minutes or 3 hours!

The Embassy has a small medical clinic that services the official community. It is staffed with a Regional Medical Officer (RMO) who also has responsibilities in other countries, another medical doctor who services only the Embassy, three nurses and a lab technician. The Embassy also has a contract with a newly opened modern hospital in southern Cairo. For those cases deemed serious enough by the Embassy medical staff, medical evacuation to a U.S. military hospital in Germany is the next course of action.

The U.S. Army Troop Support Agency (Europe) opened a commissary on the Embassy compound in March 1982. This valuable benefit supports the U.S. diplomatic and official civilian community as well as the military community here in Egypt. The commissary is managed by a commissary officer (Army Captain) who has an E-7 operations sergeant, a warehouse NCOIC and a small Egyptian staff.

The physical aspect of Egypt's weather and terrain have played their part in military operations and politics of the country for well over 7000 years. The weather is very pleasant with the year being divided into two seasons -- winter and summer.



**PATIO AREA IN FRONT OF THE MARINE HOUSE PROVIDES
NICE LOCATION FOR MEALS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

The winter season brings cool temperatures in the 40 to 65 degrees fahrenheit range in Cairo and slightly higher in the south. Winter is also the rainy time of the year in the Delta with an annual rainfall of approximately eight inches in the northern Delta trickling to one inch a year in Cairo and zero further south. The summer brings heat; and temperatures can soar to 115 degrees in southern Egypt, while remaining a pleasant 70 degrees on the coast in Alexandria. The evenings, during the summer months, are always cool and nice.

Egypt's geography is singularly unique and is as pleasant and inviting in many locations as it is harsh and forbidding in others. Egypt is roughly the size of the U.S. southeast with an area of 386,000 square miles. If the country's landscape is identified by its most prominent geological feature one would rapidly come to the conclusion that Egypt is entirely a desert nation since it is part of the Sahara Desert and 96 percent of the country is "bad-lands." That is geologically true -- however, 96 percent of the Egyptian population lives in the abundantly green valleys and delta of the Nile River.

While the Nile is the most important geographical feature in Egypt, the Suez Canal has certainly made a major contribution to Egypt and the world. The Canal was officially opened in 1869 after ten years of labor by thousands of Egyptian workers. In addition to being commercially important, its military aspects can hardly be overlooked. One has only to look at the number of wars and near wars caused by the threat of closing the canal to realize its worldwide significance.

THE CULTURE AND PEOPLE

The Egyptian people are very warm, friendly and outgoing. The population is a total racial mixture of the original Pharaonic people with later Hamitic-Armenoid peoples who later intermarried with Arabs, Turks, and Europeans during different time periods. Egypt is definitely the original human melting pot. Islam is the state religion, and Arabic is the state language. Estimates vary on the percentage of the population that is Moslem, but surely the number is between 80 and 90 percent.

CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA

The two major cities of Egypt are Cairo and Alexandria. Cairo is a bustling metropolis of approximately 13 million people and shares many of the common joys and woes of other major cities in the world. It is overcrowded and chaotic but offers the excitement of good restaurants, major hotels, night clubs, casinos, a lively social life plus the benefit of being a living historical museum. Cairo is made up of a dozen or more different districts with exotic names such as Zamalek, Dokki, Maadi, Giza, and Heliopolis. The Great Pyramid, along with others, is located in Giza, the southwest portion of Cairo, and can be seen from practically anywhere in Cairo if one has enough elevation. Cairo's burgeoning population has overtaxed its public services and is a fact of life. As stated earlier, 96 percent of the Egyptian population lives on four percent of the land and to those of us living and working in Cairo it seems as if the entire population lives in the big city. That fortunately is not true; however, the population density on the arable land is 3500 persons per square mile, giving Egypt one of the highest population densities in the world. A major concern of other worldwide cities that fortunately does

not plague Cairo to the same degree is that of crime. Cairo is still relatively crime free especially when compared to some western cities.

Alexandria, Egypt's second largest city, has a distinctly European flair. Founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC, Alexandria became one of the great Mediterranean cities and remains today the largest foreign trade port of Egypt. The city has extensive sandy beaches that offer a respite from the summer heat to over a million visitors a year. Alexandria is rich in historical artifacts as is all of Egypt; however, Alexandria's artifacts are relatively more modern, comparatively speaking, originating in the Greek and Roman eras.

In summary, the security assistance business in Egypt is exciting, challenging and gratifying. We are participating in a great effort to develop a lasting peace in the Middle East and help bridge an understanding and communications gap between our two nations. On a personal level, we are enriched by the magnificent and ancient Egyptian culture, their warm friendship, the bounties of the Nile and Delta regions, and generally mild weather. What more could you want from an overseas assignment?