

**Comment from NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan regarding Egypt
March 31, 2015**

“The United States has had a decades-long strategic relationship with Egypt. Since the August 2013 Egyptian government crackdown, we have made clear our commitment to simultaneously pursuing our security interests and our support for meaningful Egyptian political reform. Following the events of August 2013, President Obama ordered a comprehensive review of our security assistance to Egypt.

Throughout this process, the President’s national security team carefully examined our military assistance relationship with Egypt to determine what types of support make most sense – for the United States and for Egypt – under present conditions in Egypt and the region. Now that the process has been completed, the Administration will use the flexibility provided by Congress in legislation this fiscal year to provide additional military assistance to Egypt. The Administration will not make the so-called “democracy certification” in that legislation.

The following decisions were made:

- In the interest of U.S. national security, President Obama has directed the release of 12 F-16 aircraft, 20 Harpoon missiles, and up to 125 M1A1 Abrams tank kits that have been held from delivery.
- The President has directed the continued request of an annual \$1.3 billion in military assistance – specifically, foreign military financing (FMF) – for Egypt. With this level of funding, Egypt will remain the second largest recipient of U.S. FMF funds worldwide.
- At the same time, the President has decided to modernize the U.S.-Egypt military assistance relationship. First, beginning in fiscal year 2018, we will discontinue Egypt’s use of cash flow financing (CFF) – the financial mechanism that enables Egypt to purchase equipment on credit. By ending CFF, we will have more flexibility to, in coordination with Egypt, tailor our military assistance as conditions and needs on the ground change.
- Second, beginning in Fiscal Year 2018, we will channel our FMF funds toward the acquisition and sustainment of new equipment in four categories – counterterrorism, border security, maritime security, and Sinai security – and for sustainment for weapons systems already in Egypt’s arsenal. In this way, we will ensure that U.S. funding is being used to promote shared objectives in the region, including a secure and stable Egypt and the defeat of terrorist organizations.

These measures put our assistance programs more in line with current core U.S. priorities. They will also create a U.S.-Egyptian military assistance relationship that is better positioned to address the security challenges of the 21st century, including the growth of an ISIL-affiliated group in Egypt that has launched devastating attacks on Egyptian soldiers and civilians in the Sinai, and to advance the military assistance relationship in support of U.S. national security interests.

We will continue to engage with Egypt frankly and directly on its political trajectory and to raise human rights and political reform issues at the highest levels.”