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**Second FY 2016 Report to Congress on
U.S. Assistance for Palestinian Security Forces
and
Benchmarks for Palestinian Security Assistance Funds**

Section 7041(j)(4) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriation Act, 2016 (Div. K, P.L. 114-113) (SFOAA) applies the reporting requirement of section 1404 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-252) to funds made available by the SFOAA, including a description of modifications, if any, to the security strategy of the Palestinian Authority (PA). Section 1404 requires the Secretary of State to report to Congress no later than 90 days after enactment and 180 days thereafter concerning U.S. assistance to the Palestinian security forces, including an assessment of U.S.-provided training and performance of forces after training has been completed, a description of the assistance that has been pledged and provided to Palestinian security forces by other donors, and a description of the PA's security strategy. Section 7039(c)(2) of the SFOAA provides that funds may not be made available for security assistance for the West Bank and Gaza until the Secretary of State reports to Congress on the benchmarks that have been established for security assistance for the West Bank and Gaza and reports on the extent of Palestinian compliance with such benchmarks. This second report for FY 2016 satisfies the requirement under section 1404 of P.L. 110-252, as applied by section 7041(j)(4) of the SFOAA, to submit a second report 180 days after the first report is due. This report also updates the information on benchmarks for security assistance for the West Bank and Gaza.

Despite ongoing political uncertainty, fiscal challenges, and sporadic violence between Palestinians and Israelis, the PA continues to increase the capacity and professionalism of PA Security Forces (PASF) in the West Bank. The following progress has been made during the reporting period (March – August) for each of the original goals as described in the January 2008 Benchmarks Report for Palestinian Security Assistance Funds.

Develop well-trained instructor cadres and enhance security capabilities through training programs and seminars, including ongoing instructor development courses in the West Bank and Jordan.

The United States Security Coordinator (USSC) and the Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) continued to assist the PASF in developing the systems, tools, and personnel necessary to

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Lahiguera,
Senior Reviewer**

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sustain and maintain the security gains achieved in the West Bank since 2008. Refresher training and advanced training continued for select personnel from the National Security Forces, Presidential Guard, and the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP). Since 2008, a total of 18,029 PASF personnel have trained at the Jordan International Police Training Center (JIPTC). The Department of State restarted training at JIPTC in March after a four month suspension following a November 2015 shooting by a member of the Jordanian security services that killed five contractors, including two U.S. citizens. The Government of Jordan implemented security improvements to the facility in response.

During the reporting period, 75 Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD) personnel completed management and fire protection training at the King Abdullah Academy of Civil Protection in Jordan. The United States facilitated a two-week tour for eight PCD Area Commanders of the operations of the Tucson Fire Department. In support of basic fire protection operations, INL also provided 200 sets of personal protective equipment to the PCD, will fund seven PCD officers to attend the U.S. National Fire Training Academy, and is working with the PCD and the PA Ministry of Finance and Planning Project Implementation Unit (PIU) on replacing the fire station in Jericho.

INL continued to provide training for Correction and Rehabilitation Centers Department (CRCDD) staff at the INL-funded International Correctional Management Training Center (ICMTC) in Colorado, including a five-week basic corrections academy instructor development course and a three-week special response team (SRT) course. Additionally, INL escorted two CRCDD directors to attend Mock Prison Riot scenarios held in West Virginia, sponsored by the U.S. National Institute of Corrections and the U.S. Department of Justice.

INL delivered 13 crime scene kits and other crime scene investigation (CSI) equipment as part of INL's effort to improve the Palestinian justice system and move away from a confession-based investigation process. In addition, INL continues to provide evidence storage and CSI training in the use of this equipment. INL also donated equipment to the PCP cybercrime unit. This equipment, along with INL refurbishment of the unit's space, assistance with standard operating procedures (SOPs), and training personnel, has allowed the cybercrime unit to operate at a significantly increased level. INL has also begun training Palestinian prosecutors on the use of electronic and digital evidence in criminal prosecutions.

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Conduct vetting for all trainees and unit commanders, exclude those not qualified to participate in training for physical and educational reasons, provide all relevant information to the U.S. government in a timely fashion to allow vetting for security reasons, and exclude those who are not eligible on security grounds.

The U.S. government continues to vet all Palestinian personnel who receive assistance through the Security Assistance Program for the West Bank, using a systematic vetting procedure that screens for human rights and terrorism-related violations in accordance with Leahy and Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) vetting requirements.

Create a centralized policy planning unit under an empowered Interior Ministry (MOI) to: conduct strategic planning, e.g., on security force reform and restructuring; draft regulations and orders for the MOI's promulgation; and serve as the national-level security staff of senior PA leadership and security establishment.

INL and USSC continue to provide technical advice to the MOI to enable better management, development, and support of the PASF. This assistance focuses at the technical level on building the capacity of the MOI's directorates and commissions, which have responsibility for the planning and provision of training, logistics, human resource planning, resource management, and information technology across all the security services. INL is carrying out strategic planning capacity building with the MOI's Strategic Planning and Development Unit (SPDU) by assisting the SPDU to execute the tasks comprising the Implementation Plan for the Security Sector Strategic Plan (SSSP) 2014 - 2016. The SPDU completed its review of the SSSP in June, which included an assessment of the security sector's success in achieving its goals and objectives in addition to identifying the challenges and lessons learned in implementing the plan. The SPDU began work on drafting the new 2017 - 2022 strategy in July.

Establish tracking and monitoring mechanisms for all U.S. government funded equipment purchases to ensure material accountability and effective use of resources; cooperate fully with U.S. government contracted auditing firms to ensure use of project monies is in strict accordance with U.S.-PA agreements.

During the reporting period, INL continued to conduct regular end use monitoring (EUM) visits to PASF facilities across the West Bank. INL has

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continued to expand and refine the EUM program which tracks equipment and similar donations made to the PA. The EUM databases provide current tracking of the location and use of such equipment to confirm its use as intended. INL has also worked with the PA to clarify and implement transparent disposal procedures for equipment.

USSC is working with the PA to expand the use of a separate logistics database across the security services with the long-term aim of eventually using the Epsilon-P command and administrative software suite as the backbone to enable sharing of information across services and the MOI. USSC is also developing logistics SOPs and conducting training to build logistics capacity.

Expand and upgrade training centers to ensure the MOI and the PASF can provide career lifecycle training programs for new recruits, mid-level officers, non-commissioned officers, and senior commanders.

USSC and INL continued development of the Central Training Institute (CTI) in Jericho. The Consul General and U.S. Security Coordinator Lieutenant General Rudesheim participated in the CTI Phase II cornerstone-laying ceremony on July 21. Construction for Phase II includes building a "Tin City" for security simulation exercises, a headquarters building, Civil Defense training and administration buildings, two classroom buildings, two accommodations buildings, an obstacle course, and a vehicle maintenance center. CTI trained 328 PASF personnel, and with U.S. assistance, there are now 40 qualified PASF instructors at CTI. Since the start of the program in 2009, the joint Senior Leaders Course (for PASF colonels and brigadiers) has graduated 403 students. The Intermediate Leaders Course (for captains and majors) graduated 776 students, and the Junior Leaders Course (for lieutenants) graduated 350 students. In March, the first course of the nine-month Palestinian Officers Academy started with a class of 55 junior officers. The United States sends approximately 15 students per year to training and professional development courses at U.S. institutions. To date, 250 PASF leaders participated in professional development programs at home and abroad.

The design phase continued for the new INL-funded CRCD training facility that will be constructed within the Palestinian College for Police Sciences in Jericho. An INL corrections subject matter specialist continues to mentor and assist the CRCD training division as well as schedule training activities at the INL-funded ICMTC.

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Incorporate training curricula developed under U.S. government direction into the Palestinian training program.

Since 2008, INL and USSC have developed and revised extensive curricula for use in the PASF training program at JIPTC. As CTI expands its operations, USSC is working with PASF counterparts to develop curricula for use in the West Bank. These efforts will establish the foundation for further development of indigenous training capabilities.

USSC began to transition teaching responsibility for its Leadership Enhancement and Development Course, a two-week course attended by Palestinian company commanders focused on training leadership skills at the small-unit level, to PASF instructors. PASF instructors currently assist in the delivery of the course and gave two lectures in the last iteration.

Increase PASF capabilities to enforce law and order and combat terror in the West Bank.

A heightened level of violence in the West Bank and Jerusalem that began in October 2015 abated significantly as of early April. However, sporadic incidents of violence between the two sides continued. Against this backdrop, the PASF continued to provide stability in the roughly 18 percent of the West Bank over which they have security responsibility. Moreover, security coordination continued between the PASF and their Israeli security counterparts. Israel's security officials acknowledge the PASF's key role in thwarting Palestinian attacks against Israelis and preventing the security situation in the West Bank from deteriorating.

USSC facilitated a week-long visit to Washington, D.C. for Military Justice Commission (MJC) senior leaders to meet with senior officials from the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Army, and the FBI Office of Professional Responsibility. They discussed a range of topics, including the concept that achieving significant goals requires commitment, perseverance, and sacrifice; the enormous effect that the rule of law has for a society; the need for justice to be a transparent process that values the rights of the accused and an impartial fact finder; the need for a society to police its police; and the importance of training, including leaders providing resources and emphasis. (Note: The MJC does not perform any military function and is more accurately described as the Security Justice Commission.)

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Assistance provided to Palestinian Authority Security Forces by other donors.

International support for the Palestinian security services includes having foreign officers seconded to the USSC staff and through direct bilateral support by foreign donors to the PA. At present, USSC staff includes 16 Canadian officers, four UK officers, two Turkish officers, and five Dutch officers. The Italian Ministry of Defense provided a Carabinieri liaison officer to work with USSC. Other donors pledged and provided the following assistance from March through August (due to the inherent challenges of donor coordination, this report may not cover all bilateral security assistance):

The United Nations Office for Project Services continued to work with the MOI through the MOI Maturity Program, which the UK Department for International Development funds. The program encompasses four work teams: human resources, strategic planning, complaints management, and media/public affairs.

The EU continued to provide training and support to the PCP, primarily through the European Union Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUPOL COPPS) mission. Canada provides personnel to EUPOL COPPS. The EU provides technical teams to assist the PCP as part of a three-year \$10 million program. During the reporting period, the EU continued construction work on a prison in Jenin. In addition, Germany provided assistance for police training.

Canada and the United Kingdom made substantial bilateral contributions to the PASF. Canada is implementing its \$60.5 million assistance program in the priority areas of security, governance, and prosperity. Canada's development priorities continue to focus on initiatives that emphasize sustainable economic growth and humanitarian assistance (with a focus on food security, building resilience, and supporting the livelihoods of vulnerable Palestinians), as well as on justice sector reform. Over the last 10 years, Global Affairs Canada has provided over \$500 million in development assistance to West Bank and Gaza. British efforts focused on developing intellectual capital, leadership training, and smaller projects for the PCD and PCP. The UK also provided leadership and management training in the UK for senior PCD officers.

Support provided by other governments and international organizations includes:

- Italy provided a PASF-wide training program delivered by Carabinieri trainers, focusing on common task training across the services. 380 PASF personnel

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completed the program in 2015. The next courses will be held from September to December.

- In 2016, the Netherlands provided technical support for the USSC and the EUPOL COPPS. It also supported the Human Rights Secretariat (\$1.5 million), reconciliation programs (\$500,000), general security justice reform (\$5.5 million), and Justice Sector Salary assistance (\$4.5 million), besides general development programs on food security and water supply.
- The UN Women and the UN Development Program (UNDP) continue to implement a joint "rule of law" program that works with both PA and independent institutions to develop social protection measures for women and family units. These includes civil society work to provide legal aid to women, raise awareness of legal rights, and work on gender justice issues. UN Women also partnered with the PA Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture and Abuse (TRC) to provide therapy and vocational training for female inmates. Additionally, they support family visits and deliver hygiene items and clothing to incarcerated females.
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provided brochures in Arabic on the newly revised UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Mandela Rules) to the CRCDD administration and Prison Coordination Committee members during the reporting period.

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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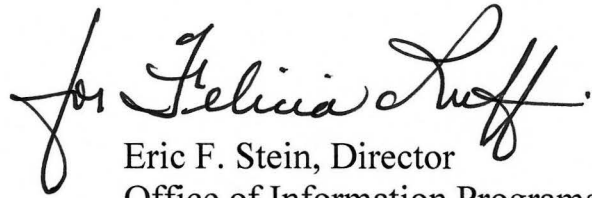
Dear Mr. Aftergood:

In response to your request dated April 21, 2016, under the Freedom of Information Act (Title 5 USC Section 552), we initiated a search of the records of the Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

The search of these records has been completed and has resulted in the retrieval of one document responsive to your request. After reviewing this document, we have determined that it may be released in full. All released material is enclosed.

We have now completed the processing of your case. If you have any questions, you may write to the Office of Information Programs and Services, SA-2, Department of State, Washington, DC 20522-8100, or telephone us at (202) 261-8484. Please be sure to refer to the case number shown above in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric F. Stein". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Eric F. Stein, Director
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures:
As stated.