



District of Columbia National Guard

Proven, Vigilant, Ready

UTAH National Guard - Morocco State Partnership Program

Morocco Perspective Challenges and Benefits

10 March 2020



Strategic Overview

- **Stable constitutional monarchy/Strategic political decisions**
 - Assure the monarchy's survival against regional and internal turmoil
 - Gain international support for Morocco's position on Western Sahara
 - Establish beneficial trade and investment relations
- **Markets a bright image of the country**
 - Religious tolerance/relatively secular
 - Friendly nation to Western powers
 - Reforms/Economic growth/Relative political stability
- **Maintains a centrist stance**
 - International strategic flexibility/Support from multiple partners
 - Strategically/operationally aligned with U.S. security objectives
 - Not always in agreement with its foreign policy
- **Values partnerships with the U.S.**
 - Proud to be the first country to recognize the U.S. in 1777
 - Longest unbroken Treaty of Amity since 1786 (John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were the signatories for U.S.)
 - Free Trade Agreement in 2004
 - U.S. partner in counter-terrorism, designated a major non-NATO ally in 2004
 - Partnership with Utah National Guard since 2003





SPP Broader Strategic Benefits

- **Reform and regionalization**

- Fresh thinking/Unique perspective to regional debates on U.S. policy priorities
- Strong bilateral relations/Move quickly in implementing reform
- Benefits exported to the region

- **Internal and regional security**

- Share best practices/Templates/Assessments/Monitoring
- Impact critical areas (Law Enforcement, Rule of Law, Intelligence)
- Promote shared U.S.-Morocco interests/Regional stability

- **Strategic alignment /Cultural values**

- Key messages and measures/Energize strategic relationships
- Highlight cultural similarities and common values
- Influence decision-makers/U.S. support on key political issues

- **Morocco's role in Africa/Regional Economics**

- Geo-economics benefits of furthering U.S. interests in Africa
- Security engagements and training/UN missions
- Support from African countries on key political issues





SPP Focused Benefits

- **Counter-terrorism: Enhance Morocco's vital role in MENA's security environment**
 - Upgrade their counter-terrorism efforts internally and regionally
 - Holistic strategy/economic development/counter radicalization programs
 - SPP can impact bigger areas (trafficking, illegal immigration, intelligence-sharing, and financial controls)
 - Regional leadership and influence/Major partner for regional stabilization (Libya, sub-Saharan Africa)
- **Enhanced security cooperation with the U.S.:**
 - Open and implemented – 84 cases/\$3.99 billion
 - DoS approved deal for \$4.8 billion (25 F-16C/D Block 72 fighters, upgrade to existing fleet of 23 F-16s to the more advanced F-16V Block 52 + configuration)
 - EDA: One of the most active EDA countries, unit specialized in EDA
- **Hosts regional engagements and exercises**
 - Go to country for hosting AFRICAN LION Exercise
 - Interoperability and readiness
 - Increased familiarity on both sides (structures, capabilities, processes, people)



Some Challenges...

Programmatic, Cooperation and Country Dynamics Issues

- **SPP's impact is greater when linked to other programs**
 - Mil-mil
 - Mil-civ
 - Civ-civ
- **SPP's doesn't meet all the needs of the partner-country**
 - Risk to fall in a steady state
 - Lower expectations/understand the limitations
 - May lead to erosion of trust over the years
- **Partnership doesn't always translate in political support**
 - Focus on military interests
 - Not enough leverage to overcome nagging diplomatic challenges (Western Sahara)
- **Sustainability/Organizational issues**
 - Visible gap between officers and Non-commissioned officers
 - Power concentration in the capital and in headquarters
 - Prioritization of security issues over organizational and personnel issues
 - Abuse of power, hazing, nepotism
 - Gender integration issues (females mostly in admin and social services)

Questions?



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