

**Lieutenant General Moeller**  
**United States Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authority**  
**Statement for House Committee on Foreign Affairs**  
**Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia**  
**July 12, 2011**

Mister Chairman, Ranking Member Ackerman, and distinguished committee Members, thank you for inviting me here. I am the United States Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authority (USSC) and lead a 145-person joint, coalition and interagency team. The 16 US-DoD personnel assigned to the USSC form the heart of this unique organization and we work with nine international partners of which Canada and the United Kingdom play critical leadership roles. These DOD members are assigned to the State Department and State pays all the bills except for salaries; my boss is the Secretary of State. We live in the region with our headquarters in Jerusalem.

The mission takes a three-pillar approach:

- First, we assist the Palestinian Authority to professionalize their security forces.
- Next, we engage with the Israelis & Palestinians on security initiatives that build trust and confidence.
- Finally, we support other US and international whole-of-government efforts.

Before I get into the details of the program, I would like to remind you that the Government of Israel has 100% transparency into all aspects of US support to the PA Security Forces (PASF) and that the USSC will never advocate or sponsor activities that could threaten Israeli security. Additionally, our program funding is separate from the \$2.994B in direct assistance to the State of Israel that Congress approved for FY 2011.

We use International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INCLE) funding to resource our security assistance efforts, which is the core of what we do. We are in the fourth year of a very successful program to assist the PA in building the security force structure and infrastructure, including the required equipment and training needed to conduct the full range of missions currently allowed under

Israeli/Palestinian security agreements. The program has enabled the PA Security Forces to make significant progress. To date:

- 4,761 Palestinian troopers have graduated from the US-supported Jordanian International Police Training Center (JIPTC) in Jordan. All graduates receive extensive training that develops their professional skills and emphasizes respect for Human Rights and rule of law, as well as the proper use of force.
- The West Bank training initiative focuses on other individual specialty skills as well as leadership and continuation training. Palestinian instructors teach these professional courses and, to date, the PA has graduated 3500 service members from this training.
- We take a holistic approach to our assistance so, in addition to professional training and equipment, we also focus on the support infrastructure to match these force structure improvements. This infrastructure includes Garrison Camps with barracks, dining facilities, classrooms, and training areas required to maintain the security force's professional skills.
- In addition, our assistance has enabled the PA to build Joint Operations Centers that provide a facility for all PA security services to come together for joint planning as well as to command and control their operations. We have also helped the PA construct a National Training Center in Jericho – all projects are on track and on budget.

This year, we will transition the program into the next phase of our campaign plan: Building institutional capacity. This new phase is less resource intensive as we move away from primarily providing the Palestinian security forces with equipment and infrastructure toward an increasingly direct “advise and assist” role.

In this phase, we will help the PASF develop indigenous readiness, training, and logistics programs and the capability to maintain/sustain their force structure readiness and infrastructure. Additionally, the USSC will continue to support other US rule of law programs that assist the Palestinians to improve the performance of the Justice and Corrections Sectors.

Despite recent events including Fatah-Hamas reconciliation efforts, there have been no changes in personnel, no significant changes in security practices on the ground, and, I should emphasize, no change in the chain of command. The current Palestinian Authority government under President Abbas retains sole authority over the PASF. Additionally, the PASF continues to conduct effective security operations and pursue bad actors across the West Bank including members of Hamas; IDF/PASF security coordination is still very strong; and the Government of Israel continues to support our security assistance requests. Of course, we will continue to monitor developments closely.

Meanwhile, the PASF deployed 50 civil defenders including fire fighters and Emergency Medical Technicians to Jordan and they began their training on 19 June. Last week, we received approval from the Government of Israel for the next rotation of the National Security Force Special Battalion that will enable 500 new Palestinian recruits to deploy to Jordan and conduct their basic training in August.

As you know, militaries do not relax a security regime without a trusted, capable partner. In the last year, the Israeli security establishment has dramatically reduced the number of manned checkpoints and cut the number of Combat Brigades assigned to the West Bank. The PASF performance during the May 15 Nakba Day and June 5 Naksa Day demonstrations provide good examples of their growing professionalism and competence.

The PA security forces deployed to troubled areas, provided a visible presence, coordinated very effectively across the different security services, and expertly conducted their assigned missions. As a result, there was very little violence during those periods. Arguably, the West Bank regions under Palestinian control experienced the lowest level of unrest of all the areas that we were watching closely.

In conclusion, we deeply appreciate your continued support for this critical program with a demonstrated record of success. The consensus is that the PASF is becoming a responsive and effective professional force and that we must sustain our security assistance efforts. We understand the challenges and uncertainty ahead but believe that the USSC mission enables regional security and stability, enhances Israeli security, improves the lives of the Palestinian people, and most importantly, supports US national security interests.