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ENDORSEMENT MEMO FOR ACTING DIRECTOR OF U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE HENRIETTA FORE

FROM: Charge' d'Affaires Brian Bachman

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2008 Operational Plan [and Performance Report on Fiscal Year 2007] for U.S. Embassy Banjul

U.S. Embassy Lome received \$120,000 for FY 2007 under the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program. The funding was used to strengthen the Gambian military's respect for individuals' civic and human rights, and acceptance of civilian authority through training seminars for a combined audience of military officers, government civilians, and civil society representatives. The funding also enabled one field-grade officer to go to the United States for seven months of professional training. These two programs reinforced the rule of law in The Gambia and encouraged professionalism in the Gambian military. Close engagement with the Gambian military also encourages continued impressive participation in regional peacekeeping and stability operations.

The civil-military relations seminar in 2007 was unique in the Gambian experience, and was highly praised by all participants. It produced a genuine breakthrough in relations between the military and civil society, and generated a good deal of positive press. Independent reports indicate that military respect for the human rights of civilians has improved noticeably in the last year. Gambian military officers trained in the United States have also become advocates within the Gambian government for participation in regional peacekeeping and stability operations. Currently, fully a tenth of The Gambia's military is deployed with the UNAMID in Darfur, and The Gambia is considering sending more troops.

We wish to reinforce the progress made in 2007 with FY2008 IMET funding, which should be roughly the same amount as this year. We hope to hold another civil-military relations seminar and send at least one officer to the United States for professional training. In this way, we hope to continue to influence the incoming generation of Gambian military officers and reinforce their transition into a force for democracy and stability both within The Gambia and in the region.

Drafted: BBACHMAN

Cleared: LTC RCLEMONS

# **Gambia 2007 Performance Report**

## **Operating Unit Performance Summary**

The U.S. provides very little bilateral assistance to The Gambia, and Gambian eligibility for the Millennium Challenge Account was suspended in June 2006 due to declining indicators in the area of human rights, particularly freedom of expression and freedom of the press. Nonetheless, The Gambia remains a democracy, and recent elections have been characterized as flawed, but generally reflecting the will of the people. The government, despite its flaws, is generally popular, and praised for its ability to maintain peace and security, as well as significant, if not equitably distributed, economic growth. As more time passes since the March 2006 abortive coup attempt, it is hoped that the human rights situation will gradually improve, and progress can be made to strengthen weak democratic institutions. International Military Education and Training (IMET) program funds were used to strengthen the Gambian military's respect for civilian authority and the rule of law through training seminars between civilians and the military and through professional training in the United States. This training reinforced civil control of the armed forces, and encouraged continued productive participation in regional stability and peacekeeping operations.

### **Program Area Performance \ 1 Peace & Security \ 1.3 Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform**

The Gambia, although it has enjoyed relative stability since current President Jammeh came to power in 1994, is still trying to consolidate democracy, and has taken some backward steps in recent years. Jammeh's strong reaction to a March 2006 coup attempt reveals the fragility of democracy in The Gambia, and the potential for a move to more authoritarian rule. The Gambian military is trying to make a transition to a more professional military, respectful of civilian authority and of human rights. Some progress has been made in that regard. Our program is devoted to increasing professionalism and reinforcing civilian authority over the military. This year's seminar on civil-military relations was the first of its kind here, and produced genuine progress. It was lauded by both civilian and military participants, and received excellent and highly favorable press coverage. We hope to offer another similar seminar in the near future to consolidate the gains made in understanding. Our continued use of IMET funds to send officers to the U.S. for study has enabled us to have influence over the thinking of virtually the entire Gambian officer corps, which has in turn become an advocate for successful engagement in regional peacekeeping and stability operations.

### **Program Element Performance \ 1 Peace & Security \ 1.3 Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform \ 1.3.6 Defense, Military, and Border Restructuring, Reform and Operations**

U.S. support in security sector reform continues to be successful. In FY07, one officer attended professional training in the US during which he spent seven months immersed in an apolitical, professional academic environment of U.S. career military officers or members of the Senior Executive Service. A further 63 officers were trained on border security by the Center for Civil Military Studies during a seminar in Banjul. Three decades of security sector reform via International Military Exchange Training (IMET) have helped produce a more apolitical and professional security service. While these security services have guaranteed the security of The Gambia's borders, their more salient contribution has been the high level of human

security. The rate of banditry continues to be low and violent crime is very rare. IMET is one of the few positive influences on professionalism within the Gambian Armed Forces and it has produced a cadre of officers who respect the rule of law. More recently, The Gambia has started to contribute to stability operations elsewhere in Africa. The Gambia provides 175 soldiers (approximately 10% of their army) to peace support operations in Darfur. IMET graduates are effective proponents for Gambian support of regional peace keeping.

# 1 Peace & Security - Gambia

1.3 Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform\1.3.6  
Defense, Military, and Border Restructuring, Reform and

**Number of host country military personnel trained  
to maintain territorial integrity**

2006 *	FY 2007 Target	FY 2007 Actual	2008 Original Target	2008 Revised Target
3	42	64	6	3

1.3 Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform\1.3.6  
Defense, Military, and Border Restructuring, Reform and

**Number of US trained personnel at national  
leadership levels**

2006 *	FY 2007 Target	FY 2007 Actual	2008 Original Target	2008 Revised Target
3	42	64	6	3

1.3 Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform\1.3.6  
Defense, Military, and Border Restructuring, Reform and

**Percent of US recommended military training need  
met during the year**

2006 *	FY 2007 Target	FY 2007 Actual	2008 Original Target	2008 Revised Target
90	90	90	90	100

1 chars

1.3.6 Defense, Military, and Border Restructuring, Reform and Operations narrative (no more than 1500 characters)