



November 18, 2007

Unclassified

Endorsement Memo for Director Dirk Djikerman

From: Dennis B. Hankins, Charge d'Affaires a.i. 

Subject: Fiscal Year 2007 Operational Plan Performance Report for U.S.
Embassy Nouakchott

I am pleased to endorse the Performance Report for our Fiscal Year 2007 Operational Plan.

As indicated in the report, the opportunities for U.S. engagement in Mauritania were greatly expanded following the election of the country's first truly democratic government. Performance against the program targets established for FY 2007 was limited by the delays incumbent in a dramatic change of government and the establishment of that new government's priority; however, U.S. assistance was key in ensuring the success of the historic elections. The transition offers new opportunities as the government embarked in a courageous political campaign to build national unity by addressing the previously taboo issues of slavery and refugee return. At the same time, Mauritania has emerged as a key partner in the global war on terrorism allowing for the dramatic growth of counter-terrorism cooperation with both military and civilian counterparts.

With democratic transition have come heightened public expectations for change. The Government raises at every opportunity the need for a "democratic dividend" without which continued democratic development cannot be assured. The USG began the process of helping the new government meet that demand in FY 2007. As we prepare the FY 2008 Operational Plan, we will outline the greatly expanded opportunities for broad-based cooperation in the years to come.

Mauritania 2007 Performance Report

Operating Unit Performance Summary

The election of Mauritania's first democratically elected government in April 2007 significantly expanded the opportunities for foreign assistance engagement while, at the same time, delaying somewhat implementation of our previous 2007 objectives while we waited for the new government to appoint its leadership and establish its development objectives.

U.S. development support through our support of the National Democratic Institute (NDI's) was key in ensuring the successful legislative elections in November and December 2006 and the two rounds of presidential elections in March 2007 resulting in the inauguration of Mauritania's first democratically elected government in April. NDI's support to the new legislature helped secure passage in August of Mauritania's new anti-slavery law addressing one of the country's most severe human rights problems.

DoD actions through the Mass Information Support Team (MIST) and Humanitarian Assistance Program had a significant impact in support of our Counter-Terrorism strategy by creating a pro-U.S. image through construction of basic infrastructure projects (schools, wells, clinics, and fire stations) and engagement with the new government on mine awareness and good governance campaigns. Food for Progress, Special Self Help (SSH) and Democracy and Human Rights Fund (DHRF) also contributed to basic development, good governance and counter-terrorism efforts.

Relative to our 2007 operational plan, many of our activities were delayed pending development of the new government's development team and priorities. The PL 480 Title II program moved forward with the government formally accrediting our implementing partner, Counter Part International (CPI), in August. With the first shipment of grain scheduled to arrive in December, CPI will begin food monitoring and health activities through FY-2008.

Although NADR-funded programs did not commence in FY-2007, the renewal of our security cooperation programs following the democratic elections have already resulted in counter-terrorism training for over 500 Mauritanian military and police officials under our military-to-military cooperation activities.

IMET funding allowed for Coast Guard training of Mauritanian naval and fisheries officers. The training increased Mauritania's maritime security capabilities just as the country faced new transnational threats of narcotics and alien trafficking.

Program Area Performance \ 1 Peace & Security \ 1.1 Counter-Terrorism

The election of the new democratic government in Mauritania has opened the door for greatly expanded cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism. The U.S. military was particularly fast in responding to these opportunities and has begun a substantial military-to-military training program with all branches of the Mauritanian military and especially with the Mauritanian Camel Corps and newly created counter-terrorist movement. Hundreds of Mauritanian military have received U.S. technical training to build their counter-terrorism capabilities.

USAID signed a bilateral agreement with the new Mauritanian Government, establishing the basis for a USAID/WA-administered Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Partnership activity for Mauritania. The multi-year program includes \$6.94 million in FY 2007 funding and will address politically vulnerable populations in Nema and Nouakchott. USAID will establish a presence in the Embassy and anticipates awarding a contract to an implementing partner(s) in the second quarter of FY2008.

The activities of DoD's Humanitarian Assistance Program and Mass Information Support Team have also expanded with the HAP team completing some \$300,000 in basic infrastructure projects and the MIST team developing programs for mine awareness and good governance. These activities have allowed the Embassy to build a positive image of the United States, particularly in Mauritania's most vulnerable areas.

Progress against the 2007 Operational Plan itself was limited by the transition in government and the need to re-establish program objectives with Mauritanian counterparts. The Coast Guard training of Mauritanian Navy and Fisheries personnel was completed, helping build Mauritanian capabilities just as new transnational threats of alien and narcotics smuggling emerged. ATA training did not take place but will be completed in FY-2008.

Program Element Performance \ 1 Peace & Security \ 1.1 Counter-Terrorism \ 1.1.3 Governments' Capabilities

The U.S. is actively engaged in building the Mauritanian government's capability to combat the terrorist risk posed by Al Q'aida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

As a result of the establishment of the new democratic government as because of the rapid expansion of other counter-terrorism related training and support activities, the \$259,000 in FY-2007 NADR funding has not yet been spent by ATA. ATA will conduct a new assessment mission in February to better determine how these fund should be spent.

Element Indicator Narrative \ 1 Peace & Security \ 1.1 Counter-Terrorism \ 1.1.3 Governments' Capabilities

FY 2007 targets not met due to change of government. ATA will visit in February to refine engagement strategy.

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

The military-to-military relationship substantially increased as a result of Mauritania's democratic transition. Assessment missions were conducted by all U.S. services including the Coast Guard aimed at building Mauritania's ability to better secure its borders from transnational threats of terrorism, narcotics alien smuggling and fisheries poaching. Several hundred members of Mauritania's Camel Corps -- the unit charged with the patrolling of Mauritania's vast northeast -- received military training under U.S. auspices.

The Coast Guard completed IMET-funded boarding and inspection training for Mauritanian naval and fisheries personnel in Nouadhibou in September. The training built national capabilities just as increased narcotics and alien smuggling activities began to challenge Mauritania.

Element Indicator Narrative \ 1 Peace & Security \ 1.3 Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform \ 1.3.6 Defense, Military, and Border Restructuring, Reform and Operations

Democratic elections allowed for substantial engagement with Mauritanian military. In addition to previously planned Coast Guard training, the U.S. provided practical training for Mauritanian military.

Program Area Performance \ 2 Governing Justly & Democratically \ 2.2 Good Governance

The U.S. Government's principal FY2007 impact in Mauritania was the USAID/WA-managed "Governing Justly and Democratically" program implemented by National Democratic Institute (NDI). NDI's resource center offered a neutral venue where parties could network, access resources and participate in NDI-sponsored trainings. NDI helped promote dialogue and trust. NDI also conducted workshops; sponsored townhall meetings that included national NGOs, civil society, elected officials and the central administration; fostered youth participation, and promoted women's political participation during the transition period.

NDI continually provided technical assistance to political parties through a two-track approach: (1) increasing the capacity of political parties to influence the electoral process and (2) helping parties to campaign and participate effectively in the elections, as well as enhance women's involvement in the political process. NDI also trained party poll-watchers to help ensure that elections proceeded freely and fairly. NDI trained more than 350 poll-watcher trainers across the country in October and November 2006. NDI distributed an additional 1,000 copies of its practical guide to further help them prepare their colleagues for the Election Day. During the elections, representatives of each political party were present at each of the voting stations, ensuring the transparency and calmness for which this election was lauded by international observers.

Program Area Performance \ 3 Investing in People \ 3.1 Health

The Mission's primary implementing partner for our PL 480 Title II monetization program in support of health activities, Counterpart Mauritania (CPIM), obtained its Host Country Agreement (HCA) on August 29th, 2007, delaying its first call forward and program start-up for FY07 into FY08. In FY07, efforts have focused on laying the groundwork for immediate and effective program implementation upon acquisition of the HCA. CPIM has secured office space, implemented operational frameworks and consulted with potential MYAP partners.

To date, the Call Forward and Contract of Purchase have been finalized for 9200 tons of hard red winter wheat. ETA for the monetization commodities is late November and sale proceeds will be transferred to CPIM in three installments between November 2007 and January 2008. The Call Forward for direct distribution commodities was placed in August for arrival in late December 2007, with distribution occurring in January and February 2008.

The baseline study was completed in September by a hired consultant and expert in the fields of food security and nutrition. The final report, which will inform the selection of beneficiaries, will result from a consultative process between the GOM, local and international NGOs and other key stakeholders. As the Call Forward is processed, CPIM is proceeding with the recruitment of local staff for its offices throughout the country. Key staff for the Nouakchott office have been hired, including commodity and finance managers; field office staff will be hired in November and December with the first installment of

monetization proceeds arriving in late November.

DoD-funded counter-terrorism activities conducted by the Humanitarian Assistance Program directed at building basic infrastructure projects that project a positive U.S. image in fragile populations had a positive health impact through the completion of 2 clinics and 3 water projects during the fiscal year. In addition, the Embassy's Food For Progress Program has completed 167 projects in support of the promotion of good health and food security.

Element Indicator Narrative \ 3 Investing in People \ 3.1 Health \ 3.1.6 Maternal and Child Health

Targets under these indicators were not met due to political instability and delays caused by the transition to democratic governance; the HCFFPA was not signed until August 2007.

Program Area Performance \ 5 Humanitarian Assistance \ 5.3 Migration Management

The newly elected Mauritanian government established as a top political priority the promotion of national unity through the repatriation on Mauritanian refugees in Senegal and Mali. The USG was able to support this unanticipated opportunity through assistance to UNHCR.

In 1989, approximately 75,000 Afro-Mauritanians were deported or sought refuge in neighboring countries after a coup led by members of the Pular tribe led to the execution of high-ranking members of the tribe and violent riots in the capital. During the 1990s, several thousand refugees returned to Mauritania, however, an estimated 30,000 still live in Senegal and Mali.

The 1989 events remain fixed in the memories of Afro-Mauritanians and Moors alike and have led to radicalization on both sides. As the newly-elected government attempts to bridge longstanding ethnic divisions, the successful repatriation of refugees will be critical to their success. However, the GIRM is ill-equipped to deal with the sudden influx of refugees and their demands for salary arrears, compensation for property loss, etc. Perceived inadequate response on the part of the GIRM has the potential to further inflame ethnic tensions.

In light of the situation, the USG through State Department's PRM Bureau has pledged \$500,000 in FY2007 funds against a \$7 million UNHCR appeal, allowing the Commission to move ahead with logistics and planning for repatriation efforts. Additional U.S. funding is anticipated in FY 2008 that will support the repatriation of 24,000 Mauritanian refugees by the end of CY-2008.

Key Issue Performance \ Community Mobilization/Participation

Community Mobilization/Participation

The preliminary results of the baseline show varying levels of community development. Farmers' and community organizations are more common in the Gorgol and Guidimakha than in the Assaba and Hodh regions.

1 Peace & Security - Mauritania

1.1 Counter-Terrorism\1.1.3 Governments' Capabilities

Number of people trained in Anti-terrorism By USG Programs

2006 *	FY 2007 Target	FY 2007 Actual	2008 Original Target	2008 Revised Target	Number of women					Number of men				
					2006 *	FY 2007 Target	FY 2007 Actual	2008 Original Target	2008 Revised Target	2006 *	FY 2007 Target	FY 2007 Actual	2008 Original Target	2008 Revised Target
-	44	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	45

111
chars

1.1.3 Governments' Capabilities narrative (no more than 1500 characters)

FY 2007 targets not met due to change of government. ATA will visit in February to refine engagement strategy.

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
-	30	250+	-	500+

202
chars

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

Democratic elections allowed for substantial engagement with Mauritanian military. In addition to previously planned Coast Guard training, the U.S. provided practical training for Mauritanian military.

3 Investing in People - Mauritania

3.1 Health\3.1.6 Maternal and Child Health

Number of children reached by USG-supported nutrition programs

2006 *	FY 2007 Target	FY 2007 Actual	2008 Original Target	2008 Revised Target
8,804	8,804	-	8,804	8,804

3.1 Health\3.1.6 Maternal and Child Health

Number of deliveries with a skilled birth attendant (SBA) in USG-assisted programs

2006 *	FY 2007 Target	FY 2007 Actual	2008 Original Target	2008 Revised Target
2,420	2,469	-	2,519	2,420

3.1 Health\3.1.6 Maternal and Child Health

Number of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG-supported health area programs

2006 *	FY 2007 Target	FY 2007 Actual	2008 Original Target	2008 Revised Target	number of women					number of men				
					2006 *	FY 2007 Target	FY 2007 Actual	2008 Original Target	2008 Revised Target	2006 *	FY 2007 Target	FY 2007 Actual	2008 Original Target	2008 Revised Target
540	540	-	540	540	-	-	-	-	300	-	-	-	-	240

179
chars

3.1.6 Maternal and Child Health narrative (no more than 1500 characters)

Targets under these indicators were not met due to political instability and delays caused by the transition to democratic governance; the HCFPPA was not signed until August 2007.