



## **Support Egypt's Foreign Military Financing Program to Protect U.S. Interests in the Middle East**

**Recommendation:** The Aerospace Industries Association of America urges Congress to support the Administration's FY08 Foreign Military Financing (FMF) request for Egypt to reinforce America's decades-old commitment to our strategic partnership with the largest country in the Arab world.

- The U.S.-Egyptian defense partnership offers many benefits to the United States. For example, Egypt hosts the biannual "Bright Star" military exercises with U.S. forces, maintains a field hospital at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, and shares valuable information with the U.S. intelligence community in the war on terrorism.
- Since the Camp David Accords of 1979, Egypt has provided the United States with rights to transit the Suez Canal and conduct overflights of Egyptian airspace, thus enabling the U.S. to support operations in the region and sustain a robust presence in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- With Egyptian airspace, sea lane, and security support, the United States:
  - ✓ conducted the successful air strikes that destroyed Saddam Hussein's defenses during Operation Desert Storm;
  - ✓ delivered the first wave of ground forces for Operations Desert Storm and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan;
  - ✓ deployed the Fourth Army Division in the opening days of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and
  - ✓ completed over 800 U.S. Navy ship passages through the Suez Canal and tens of thousands of military overflights since September 11, 2001.
- The vast majority of Egypt's FMF returns to the United States in the form of product and service contracts, and more than three-quarters of this assistance involve field support and systems upgrades rather than new procurements.
- **Bottom Line:** U.S.-Egyptian security cooperation, anchored by the FMF program, supports our common national security interests in a critical region of the world.