

PRESS RELEASE



UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN MADRID

Statement from Ambassador James Costos on the Extension of the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force at Moron

I want to thank the people and Government of Spain for continuing to support the mission of the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force at Moron. The Task Force supports stability efforts in a geographic region of concern to both the United States and Spain, and facilitates joint training and increased interoperability between U.S. and Spanish military forces.

The United States has asked the Spanish government to consider allowing the Task Force to remain in Spain on a long-term basis, and to that end, has begun discussions with the Spanish government on an amendment to the Agreement on Defense Cooperation, which governs our bilateral military relationship. While these discussions remain ongoing, we appreciate the extension of the temporary agreement.

The United States is grateful to Spain for hosting the Task Force, as well as other U.S. military personnel at its bases in Moron and Rota. Spain is one of the United States' strongest allies and most reliable partners. As President Obama remarked after last year's meeting with President Rajoy, "Security cooperation between the United States and Spain has never been stronger."

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