

PRESS RELEASE



UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN MADRID

Statement from Ambassador James Costos on the Ratification of the Third Protocol of Amendment to the U.S. – Spain Agreement on Defense Cooperation

For more than 60 years, the United States and Spain have stood side by side as friends, allies, and partners in the defense of our common values. Today, we are again reminded of the strength of this enduring bond. I want to thank the people and Government of Spain for supporting the long-term basing of the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force at Moron through the ratification of the third protocol of amendment to the Agreement on Defense Cooperation, which governs our cooperation in the defense of our two nations.

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, which in turn strengthens NATO. It protects citizens and facilities of the United States, Spain, and other NATO Allies in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, and is another example of the mutual benefit of our armed services standing shoulder to shoulder, day in and day out, on the same soil.

The United States is grateful to Spain for hosting the Task Force, as well as other U.S. military personnel and their families 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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