

US Central Command officer visits Lebanon, announces new funding

Contributed by Daily Star staff
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BEIRUT: Major General Robert R. Allardice, director of strategy, plans and policy for the US military's Central Command visited Lebanon July 13 through July 15, a statement issued by the US Embassy said Tuesday. Bill Grant, the embassy's deputy chief of mission, and Allardice met with the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) command officers during the visit. Allardice and Grant also announced that the US government has increased its support to the LAF by \$32.5 million.

"The overall goal of US military assistance to Lebanon is to strengthen the LAF and increase its capacity to defend Lebanon's borders," the embassy statement claimed.

The statement added that the United States was committed to building the capabilities of the LAF "and it will continue to support the government of Lebanon and the LAF as they continue their efforts to safeguard the peace, unity and sovereignty of Lebanon."

"With this new funding allocation, total US support for the LAF since 2006 exceeds \$410 million," the embassy statement said. - The Daily Star

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