#### **RELEASE IN FULL**

From:

Mills, Cheryl D < MillsCD@state.gov>

Sent:

Sunday, August 12, 2012 12:02 PM

To:

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Subject:

Fw: Egypt president orders defense minister retirement (AP)

**From**: OpsNewsTicker@state.gov [mailto:OpsNewsTicker@state.gov]

**Sent**: Sunday, August 12, 2012 11:32 AM **To**: NEWS-Egypt; NEWS-Mahogany

Subject: Egypt president orders defense minister retirement (AP)

CAIRO - (AP) A spokesman says Egypt's president has ordered the defense minister and chief of staff to retire and has canceled the military-declared constitutional amendments that gave top generals wide powers.

President Mohammed Morsi also appointed a senior judge, Mahmoud Mekki, as vice president.

The decisions announced Sunday are effective immediately. Spokesman Yasser Ali said in a news conference aired on state TV that Morsi appointed a new defense minister, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

He replaces Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, who headed the military council that ruled Egypt for 17 months after Hosni Mubarak's ouster in February 2011. Tantawi was defense minister for nearly two decades under Mubarak.

The military council's No. 2, Chief of Staff Sami Annan, was also ordered to retire.

NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.

## NEWSTICKERS 1400 EDT 08112012 to 0000 EDT 08122012 (U)

#### AF

Zanzibar confirms it re-flagged 36 Iran ships, to deregister them DAR ES SALAAM (Reuters) - Tanzania said a shipping agent based in Dubai reflagged 36 Iranian oil tankers with the Tanzanian flag without the country's knowledge and approval. Tanzania said it was now in the process of de-registering the vessels after an investigation into the origin of the ships concluded they were originally from Iran.

#### NEA

## Iraq: Gunmen kill seven Shiites in targeted attack

BAGHDAD (AP) - Iraqi officials said gunmen on motorcycles killed seven Shiite Muslims in a targeted sectarian attack in the north of the country.

## Egypt: Five militants accused of training jihadists

EL-ARISH (AP) - Egyptian officials accused five militants of training jihadists in an initial indictment linked to last weekend's attack in the Sinai.

# Qatar grants Egypt \$2 billion loan

CAIRO (AP) - Egypt's official news agency said Qatar granted Egypt a \$2 billion loan to help the country's flagging economy. The announcement was made during the first visit of Qatari Prime Minister al-Thani to Egypt since the ouster of former President Mubarak.

# Eleven killed in Syrian army attack in Damascus area

AMMAN (Reuters) - At least 11 people were killed in fierce fighting in the Damascus suburb of al-Tel when Syrian forces mounted an armored attack to attempt to regain the area from rebels, opposition activists said.