

President Macri Gives Go-Ahead to US Military Installations in Argentina

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According to a report, the plans also include negotiations over another military base on the border with Paraguay and Brazil.

A military delegation sent by Argentine President Mauricio Macri on Wednesday signed an agreement on military cooperation with the United States, which entails the establishment of a U.S. military base in Ushuaia, the southernmost tip of the South American nation.

Ushuaia is the capital of Tierra del Fuego, whose boundaries extend to Antarctica. The Argentine government has justified the installation by saying “scientific work” will be performed there.



U.S. President Barack Obama meets with Argentina President Mauricio Macri during his March 2016 visit. | Photo: EFE

Earlier this week, Vice Defense Minister Angel Tello began a five-day visit to the U.S. aimed at reestablishing bilateral defense relations between the two countries after a freeze in military ties in recent years.

Among the plans reportedly being discussed is the negotiation of another military base in

Argentina's Misiones Province, located in the northeastern corner of the country at the border between Paraguay and Brazil.

Bilateral ties between Argentina and the U.S. had been tense in recent years as the leftist governments of presidents Cristina Fernández and Nestor Kirchner reoriented foreign policy away from the U.S. and toward Latin America in the name of fighting imperialism and strengthening regional integration.

But Macri came to office last year based in part on a promise to rekindle relations with the U.S. while giving the cold shoulder to allies of Argentina's left-wing Kirchner governments, such as Venezuela. The president has said he wants a "pragmatic and intelligent" relationship with Washington.

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