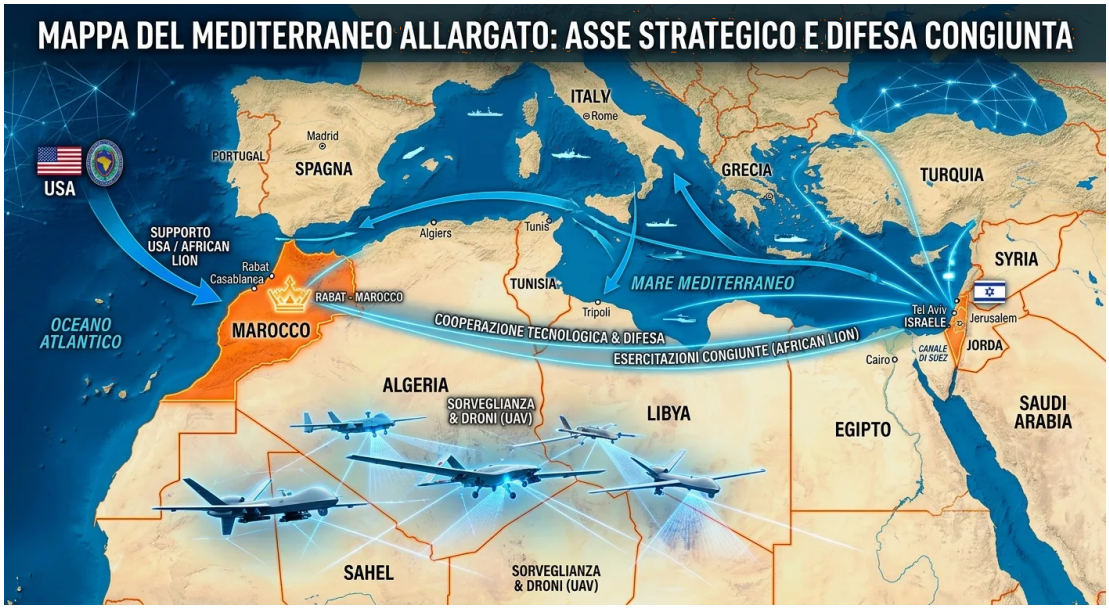


Defense and technology: the Israel-Morocco axis aims to reshape North Africa's industrial balance

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The security architecture of the wider Mediterranean and North Africa is undergoing a profound transformation. At the heart of this realignment is the strategic convergence of the United States, European allies, and new regional partners, with **Israel** assuming an increasingly active and structural role in the area's geopolitical and industrial projection.

Recent high-level official visits to Rabat — led by Israeli Defense Ministry Director General Amir Baram and sealed by the opening of a permanent office for the Moroccan-Israeli military attaché — represent not merely another step in diplomatic normalization, but the establishment of a genuine pillar of military, technological, and industrial cooperation.

A strategic axis between Rabat, Washington, and Tel Aviv

Cooperation between Israel and Morocco, which has intensified considerably since 2020, is now focused on long-term objectives:

- **Joint industrial development:** As highlighted by local media, the agreement is not limited to supplying advanced equipment, but seeks to develop national defense production capabilities, embedding Western and allied technological expertise on the southern shore of the Mediterranean.
- **Strategic depth and deterrence:** For Israel, consolidating ties with friendly countries means expanding its ability to positively influence regional balances and support its industrial and economic sector. For Morocco, it represents a qualitative leap in the modernization of the Forze Armate Reali (FAR).

This momentum is part of a broader framework shaped by the projection of **USAFRICOM** and, in particular, the major joint exercise **African Lion**. Considered the largest military exercise on the African continent — with Morocco serving as the main hub alongside other regional allies —, African Lion provides the operational readiness and multi-domain interoperability (land, air, maritime, and cyber) essential to the stability of the North African and sub-Saharan theater.

The "Southern Flank" and the responsibilities of Europe and Italy

For Italy and the entire European Union, North Africa and the wider Mediterranean constitute a vital space for national security.
Historical and strategic analyses, such as those reflected in the operational traditions and commitment of the elite units of our Armed Forces, remind us that stability is not defended solely at continental borders, but through an active presence and sustained military cooperation along the southern axes.
Leveraging this network of partnerships — combining Israel's technological and industrial drive, the United States' strategic power-projection capability, and the geopolitical footprint of Italy and its European partners — offers the West an indispensable opportunity:

1. **Containing instability:** Systematically countering illicit trafficking, the terrorist threat, and uncontrolled migration crises through strong military partnerships and joint training.
2. **Preventing power vacuums:** In a region where rival powers (such as Russia in Libya and the Sahel, or the economic penetration of other global actors) seek to erode the Western presence, cohesion among traditional allies and new partners represents the strongest geopolitical deterrent.

3. **Integrating security chains:** Bringing together rapid power-projection capabilities, technological innovation, and industrial cooperation to ensure that the broader Mediterranean remains an area of free transit, trade, and Euro-Atlantic stability.

The challenge of the next decade will be decided here: in the ability of the West and its allies to act as a cohesive system, transforming diplomatic convergence into a robust shared security architecture.