Is the DispatcherServlet instantiated via an application context?

In the Web MVC framework, each DispatcherServlet has its own WebApplicationContext, which inherits all the beans already defined in the root WebApplicationContext. The root WebApplicationContext should contain all the infrastructure beans that should be shared between your other contexts and Servlet instances. These inherited beans can be overridden in the servlet-specific scope, and you can define new scope-specific beans local to a given Servlet instance.