

UNITED STATES AFRICA COMMAND

The First Ten Years



Cover Caption:
U.S. Marines on a dawn patrol, January 2015

Headquarters United States Africa Command
Kelley Barracks
Stuttgart, Germany
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The Muslim Section of the National Necropolis of Amiens (Cemetery Saint-Acheul). Headstones in front are for Senegalese Soldiers of the First World War

Dedication

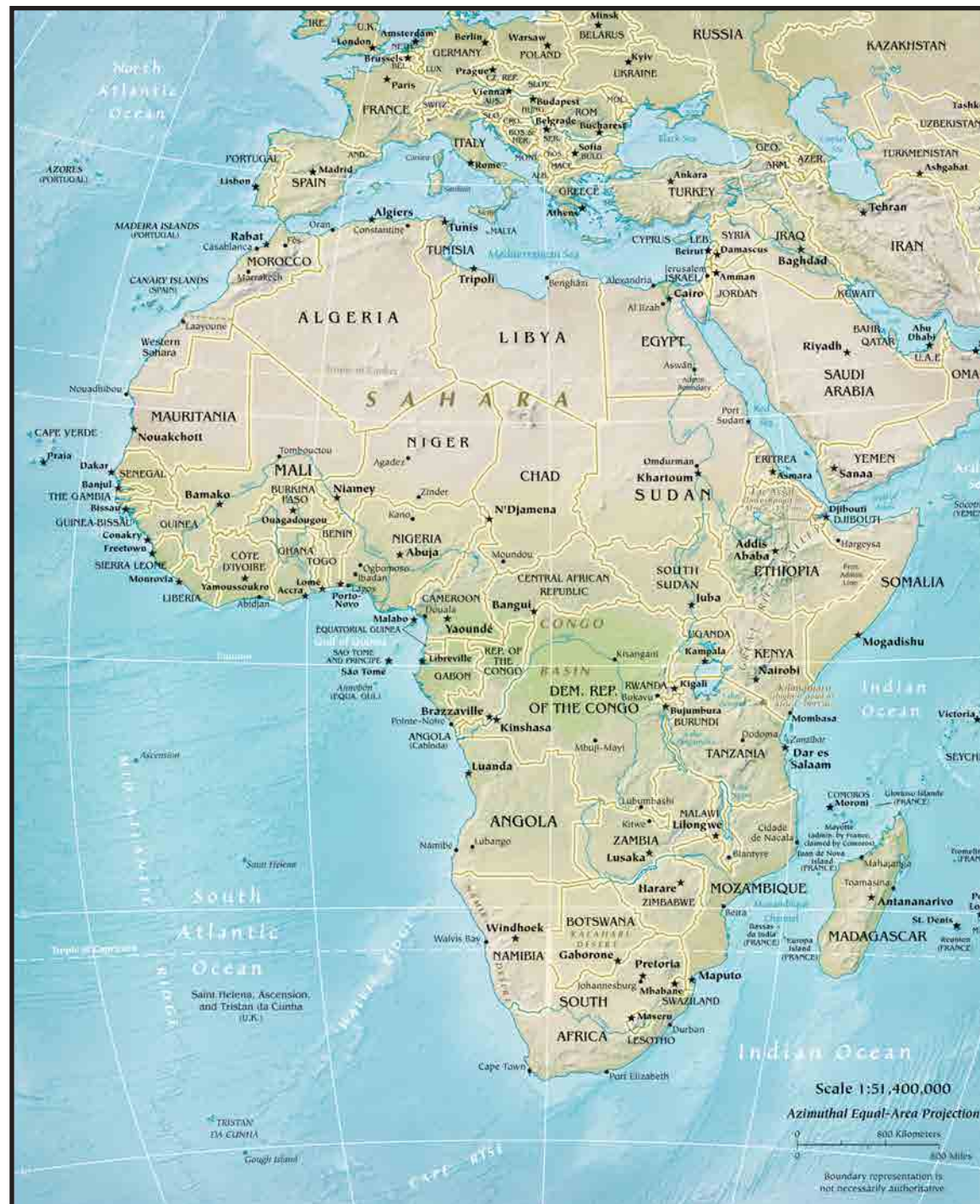
This book is dedicated not only to the American military members and diplomats who have given their lives serving in Africa, but also to those Africans who have served heroically in United Nations and African missions in recent years and made the ultimate sacrifice.



The North Africa American Cemetery and Memorial is where 2,841 United States military casualties are interred in Carthage, Tunisia. Most lost their lives during World War II in North Africa

United States Africa Command The First Ten Years





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Preface

Though circumstances have changed in Africa over the past decade, the role of the U.S. military on the continent has remained largely the same. U.S. interests in Africa are best served by sound nations with effective governments and thriving economies. Military force alone cannot produce these conditions. A core tenet of the command's strategic approach, therefore, is a commitment to the use of the military instrument of power in support of U.S. diplomatic and developmental efforts in Africa.

Many of the photos in this book show U.S. military personnel working with their African counterparts. This is no accident. We use a “by, with, and through” approach. Security operations are executed almost exclusively by African security forces. U.S. Africa Command works with its partners based on the operational needs of those African forces. Our activities can include training, advising, assisting with niche capabilities like logistics or reconnaissance, providing equipment, and improving the institutions of the partnered security force. The strategic objectives of the U.S. and its African partners are achieved through a cooperative relationship. This approach means the U.S. military operates in a supporting role and is only infrequently the principal participant in armed conflict.

As U.S. Africa Command marks its tenth anniversary, I intend for this book to explain and illustrate the wide range of activities of U.S. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and our civilian workforce in Africa over the past decade.

Thomas D. Waldhauser
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commander, U.S. Africa Command





Senegalese Commandos approach the beach during an exercise with U.S. service members in Dakar, Senegal, September 2015



United States Africa Command

The First Ten Years



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A composite image assembled from infrared data acquired by the Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership satellite in April and October 2012, courtesy of National Aeronautics and Space Administration



A C-130 aircraft from the Ohio Air National Guard's 179th Airlift Wing



A Uganda Peoples Defense Force Soldier monitors an MV-22B as it lands at Camp Singo, Uganda, July 2016

A New Command

U.S. Africa Command Headquarters Building,
Stuttgart, Germany



United States Africa Command



Unified Command Map Courtesy of National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, April 2011

Introduction

On February 6, 2007, U.S. President George W. Bush directed the creation of United States Africa Command (AFRICOM). The decision was the culmination of several years of deliberation within the Department of Defense acknowledging the growing strategic importance of Africa. The new command would ensure the Department of Defense harmonized its efforts in Africa with those of U.S. Department of State as well as other U.S. governmental agencies like the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, Justice, and Homeland Security. The U.S. government anticipated that AFRICOM would evolve and look different in the future as it gained better understanding through its work with others. The new command assumed responsibility for U.S. military activities in areas that had been part of three geographical commands previously and now included all of Africa except Egypt. AFRICOM was chartered to conduct sustained security engagement to promote a stable and secure political environment in Africa in support of U.S. foreign policy.

The First Ten Years

2007

Following the decision by President George W. Bush to establish a command to oversee all U.S. military activities in Africa, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) began to organize as a sub-unified command of U.S. European Command. The reduction of U.S. military forces stationed in Europe made space available for a headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. U.S. European, Central, and Pacific Commands (which previously held this responsibility for different parts of the continent) transferred their missions to AFRICOM.

Because of the relationship between security, development, and diplomacy, the designers of the new command included management and staff members from the Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Department of Treasury, and other U.S. government agencies involved in Africa.

2008

On 1 October AFRICOM became a fully fledged command. Service components aligned under AFRICOM (U.S. Army Africa, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa, U.S. Air Forces Europe and Africa, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa, and Special Operations Command Africa) provided the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines to perform missions the new command assigned to them.



Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa, established in 2002, also transferred to AFRICOM and continued its mission to strengthen the operational and institutional capabilities of East African partner nation militaries from a forward operating site in Djibouti.



A U.S. service member assigned to Joint Task Force Horn of Africa celebrates with local children a project to provide clean drinking water to villagers in the Magu region of Tanzania in 2009 (above)

The U.S. government announced the creation of AFRICOM abruptly, and the first leaders of the new command engaged with African officials to allay their concerns. Offices of Security Cooperation increased from 9 to 40. By 2015 the number of Defense Attachés increased to better manage security cooperation programs in Africa.

2009

While Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa began to support international efforts to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia, AFRICOM continued other maritime activities the United States had started before the creation of the new command. U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa facilitated exercises and security cooperation programs designed to improve maritime safety and security in Africa, especially in the Gulf of Guinea.

2010

Through the AFRICOM joint exercise program, U.S. forces continued to train with partner nations to increase the capability of African defense institutions to address regional security challenges. The ACCORD series, for example, focused on countries contributing forces to United Nations and African Union peace support operations, in which African forces increasingly shouldered the burden.

The exercise program evolved under AFRICOM. Events become fewer in number and more regional in focus, and host nations welcomed the participation of an ever-larger number of countries and international organizations. All participants benefited. The ongoing series of Medical Readiness Training Exercises allowed U.S. personnel, for example, to work with African medical professionals in remote areas.

2011

U.S. military personnel deployed to central Africa to serve as advisors to forces of the African Union Regional Task Force, which worked to defeat Joseph Kony and other senior Lord's Resistance Army leaders. The operation continued for several years in order to protect local populations.

The U.S. also intervened to protect civilians in Libya. Because it was established primarily to focus on engagement and security assistance, AFRICOM had few assigned forces to conduct operations in Libya. AFRICOM therefore relied heavily on U.S. European Command and other commands for the necessary resources to carry out a non-combatant evacuation and military operations in cooperation with European allies and other partners.

2012

Following the 2012 attack on a U.S. diplomatic mission in Libya, AFRICOM positioned additional personnel in Europe and Djibouti to respond to future crises. The East African Response Force and Special Purpose



U.S. Marines clean their M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank after Exercise African Lion, Morocco, April 2012 (above)

Marine Air-Ground Task Force – Crisis Response – Africa rehearsed these operations regularly. In times of crisis, elements of these units deployed to Africa to enhance the security of a U.S. Embassy, or if necessary to assist with the departure of citizens and non-emergency staff.

In 2012 AFRICOM also established a Women, Peace, and Security Working Group, which conducted seminars about the importance of recruitment, retention, and training of military women, as well as protecting civilians during peacekeeping operations.

2013

The United States recognized the Federal Government of Somalia in January 2013 and resumed military-to-military engagement with Somali security forces. AFRICOM continued to counter the terrorist threat posed by al-Qa'ida and al-Shabaab through direct military operations as well as by assisting troop contributing countries prepare their forces for deployment to the African Union Mission in Somalia. U.S. military personnel also deployed to support international stabilization missions in Mali.

2014

In the largest contingency operation it has led, AFRICOM assisted USAID in responding to an Ebola outbreak in West Africa. AFRICOM established Joint Force Command – United Assistance to provide logistics and engineering support, as well as to train health care workers. Liberia's



A U.S. Navy Sailor and a military working dog stand guard duty at the Port of Djibouti in July 2014 (above)

military worked effectively with U.S. forces, demonstrating the success of a multi-year program to rebuild the Armed Forces of Liberia. AFRICOM also worked with countries in the region to improve their capacity to respond to future epidemics.

2015

The new programs President Barack Obama had announced in 2014, the Counter-Terrorism Partnerships Fund, African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership, and Security Governance Initiative, ensured AFRICOM had resources available to help partner nations combat terrorism within their borders and to improve their ability to deploy forces in support of United Nations peacekeeping and African Union peace support missions.

The United States also provided defense equipment and services, as well as military education and training, to support the efforts of Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria to defeat Boko Haram through the Lake Chad Basin Commission's Multi-National Joint Task Force. The State Partnership Program also expanded. AFRICOM paired a U.S. National Guard organization with an African country in an enduring relationship designed to improve defense institutions' ability to provide security, respond to disasters, and manage crises.



Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony at the North Africa American Cemetery in Tunisia, May 2016 (above)



U.S. and Ghanaian Soldiers participate in a farewell event during Exercise United Accord in Ghana, May 2017. United Accord (formerly Western Accord) was an annual military exercise to practice skills and improve interoperability between U.S. and Western African forces (above)

2016

In cooperation with the Libyan Government of National Accord, AFRICOM conducted nearly 500 precision airstrikes to help Libyan forces drive Islamic State (Daesh) terrorists from Sirte. The United States remained committed to working with Libya and other partners to counter the evolving threat of violent extremists in North Africa.

In other engagements, AFRICOM continued to facilitate discussions among the United States, several African nations and other interested countries, the African Union, the European Union, and the United Nations on improving logistics at the Africa Logistics Forum in Accra, Ghana.

2017

More than 2,000 military personnel from 24 African and other nations participated in the tenth annual Exercise Flintlock. African special operations forces and Special Operations Command Africa jointly planned and conducted the event, which was designed to strengthen security institutions, promote multilateral sharing of information, and develop interoperability among counter-terrorism partners.

Through its programs and exercises the command in cooperation with its partners continued its mission to disrupt and neutralize transnational threats, protect U.S. personnel and facilities, prevent and mitigate conflict, and build defense capability in order to promote regional stability and prosperity.



A multinational force of free-fall parachutists board a Canadian C-130 in Mao, Chad, February 2015



Marines assigned to India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment show Moroccan Royal Armed Forces artillerymen their howitzer's capabilities during Exercise African Lion in 2015



U.S. Army Soldiers unload a UH-60 Black Hawk transported to Liberia during Operation United Assistance in 2014

Components and Subordinate Units

As a unified combatant command, AFRICOM provided command and control of United States military forces from all the service branches, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. U.S. Africa Command's four service components and two subordinate units were responsible for the success of security cooperation programs and activities.



United States Army Africa



Operating from Vicenza, Italy, U.S. Army Africa (USARAF) conducted sustained security engagement with African land forces to promote security, stability, and peace. USARAF's mission was to strengthen the land force capabilities of African states and regional organizations, support AFRICOM operations, and conduct decisive action in order to establish a secure environment and protect the national security interests of the United States.



U.S. Army Soldiers conduct react-to-contact and cover fire procedures during a live fire exercise at United Accord 2017, Bundase Training Camp, Ghana, May 2017 (above)



A U.S. Army Soldier fires a M249 light machine gun at a small arms training range at Arta, Djibouti, May 2017 (above)

U.S. Army Soldiers install a water purification system in Buchanan, Liberia, during Operation United Assistance in 2015 (right)



Republic of the Congo Soldiers receive advanced tactics instruction in Gabon, June 2016 (above)

United States Marine Corps Forces Africa

Located in Stuttgart, Germany, U.S. Marine Forces Europe and Africa (MARFOREUR/AF) conducted operations, exercises, training, and security cooperation activities throughout the African continent. The primary focus of Marine Forces Africa was engagement, through theater-security cooperation activities, to contribute Marine Corps competencies in support of the AFRICOM mission of building enduring partnerships, bolstering military capacity, and promoting regional stability with our African partners.



U.S. Marine adjusts the shooting stance of a Sailor from Ghana's Rapid Reaction Force during marksmanship training at the Jungle Warfare School, Ghana, February 2015 (above)



U.S. Marines advance toward the dock landing ship USS Comstock (LSD-45) via amphibious assault vehicles (above)



Marines of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit conduct an insertion exercise from a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter in January 2011 (above)



U.S. Marines completing helicopter support team operations in Djibouti in December 2016 (above)



U.S. Marines refuel an M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank (left)

Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force

Crisis Response - Africa



The Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Africa (SPMAGTF-CR-AF), assigned to U.S. Marine Corps Forces Africa and based in Spain, was a key element of U.S. Africa Command's ability to protect U.S. personnel and facilities, especially in northern and western Africa. The Marines of this unit have also assisted in training partner forces in Africa.



U.S. Marines of SPMAGTF-CR-AF provide instruction to a Senegalese Commando, Toubakouta, Senegal (above)



A U.S. Marine gives hand-and-arm signals to an MV-22B Osprey at Morón Air Base. The SPMAGTF sustains and enhances capabilities for limited crisis response and contingency operations in conjunction with theater security operations (above)



A U.S. Marine Corps AV-8B Harrier receives fuel from a KC-130J Super Hercules off the coast of Africa, December 2016 (left)



U.S. Marine Corps Mortarmen fire a white phosphorous round from Lightweight Mortar System during an exercise, December 2016, at Arta Plage, Djibouti (above)

United States Naval Forces Africa

U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa (NAVAF) supported maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts for U.S. Africa Command. Sailors, Marines, ships and aircraft assigned to NAVAF supported counter-terrorism operations, represented the forward-deployed naval component of AFRICOM, and sought to improve the maritime security capability and capacity of African partners to achieve an enhanced security environment. Air, surface, and subsurface assets combined to deter adversaries and bolster the U.S. military's command and control capabilities to execute operations. Naval Forces Africa led maritime security cooperation programs while also building on the cooperative ties between U.S. and African maritime forces.



Sailors and members of Ghana's maritime forces embarked aboard joint, high-speed vessel USNS Spearhead (T-EPF-1) heave a tending line during boat operations as part of a U.S.-Ghana combined maritime law enforcement operation (above)





U.S. Navy sailors train with Tanzanian personnel (above)



Members of the Ghanaian Navy practice counter-piracy operations in February 2016 (above)

The multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD-7) as it participates in Exercise African Lion in the Atlantic Ocean in 2012 (left)



A U.S. Navy F/A-18 pilot trains at the Gordia Bombing Range, Djibouti, in December 2007 (above)

United States Air Forces Africa



An F-16 Fighting Falcon flies away from a KC-135 Stratotanker after a refueling mid-flight, December 2016 (left)

An F-16 receives fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker while flying in Exercise African Lion May 2015 (right)



U.S. Air Forces Africa (AFAFRICA) conducted sustained security engagement and operations to promote air safety, security, and development in Africa. Combined with U.S. Air Forces in Europe, AFAFRICA directed air operations for U.S. Africa Command and conducted regular engagements to increase security cooperation by improving the air power, proficiency, and readiness of African partner nations. AFAFRICA led air training programs, principally African Partnership Flight, to build capability and capacity of African air forces to conduct search and rescue, disaster response, humanitarian assistance, and various other missions.



U.S. Air Force Pararescuemen conduct personnel recovery and medical evacuation training to support CJTF-HOA in East Africa (above)



U.S. military aircraft are displayed at the African Aerospace and Defense Expo at Waterkloof Air Force Base, South Africa, September 2016 (above)



A U.S. Air Force Combat Controller Team clears a C-130 to land during airfield operations at night (center)



Air Chiefs attending the 2017 African Air Chiefs Symposium pose for a group photo in Kasane, Botswana, in May 2017. A representative from the African Union was also in attendance (right)

Special Operations Command Africa

Special Operations Command Africa (SOCAFRICA), a key component of a global team of national and international partners, conducted persistent, networked, and distributed special operations in direct support of AFRICOM to promote regional stability and prosperity in Africa. SOCAFRICA's core task of deterring and defeating transnational threats entailed activities such as countering violent extremism, strengthening the defense capabilities of African states and regional organizations, and protecting U.S. interests in Africa.



A U.S. Army Soldier trains with Senegalese military personnel during Exercise Flintlock 2016 in Thies, Senegal



A U.S. Marine speaks to Uganda Peoples Defense Force Soldiers at Peace Support Operations Training Center Singo in Kakola, Uganda, June 2013 (left)



A training jump over Germany (above)

SOCAFRICA was the Theater Special Operations Command for Africa, a sub-component of U.S. Special Operations Command. The unit included Special Operations personnel from each of the military services. For example, U.S. Army Special Forces, who wear their iconic Green Berets, specialized in training and advising partner military forces.

Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa



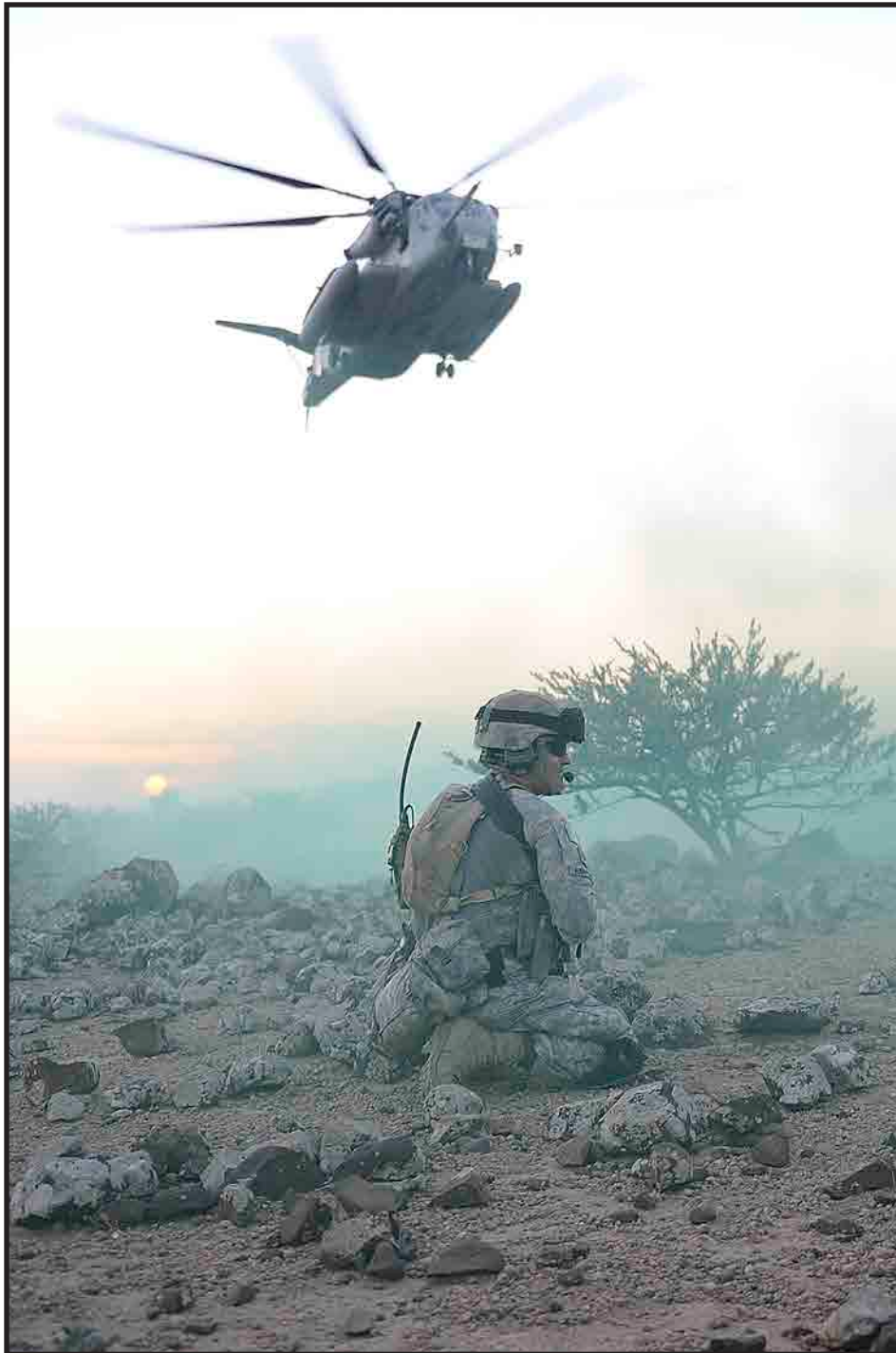
U.S. Sailors present school supplies to students at the Nioumamilima Primary School during a dedication ceremony in Comoros, November 2009 (above)

CJTF-HOA was the U.S. Africa Command organization that conducted operations in the Horn of Africa region to enhance partner nation capacity, promote regional security and stability, dissuade conflict, and protect United States and coalition interests. CJTF-HOA was critical to AFRICOM's efforts to build partner capacity in East Africa to counter violent extremists and address other regional security challenges.



A Health Station worker instructs Ethiopians on the use of mosquito bed nets, March 2012. A CJTF-HOA Civil Affairs Team distributed more than 18,000 insecticide-treated bed nets in Samaro and Debaka Debobesa, Ethiopia, as part of an effort to reduce malaria infections (right)





CH-53 Sea Stallion, Djibouti, October 2010 (above)



A U.S. Marine signals to a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter to ascend during a December 2016 exercise in Djibouti (above)

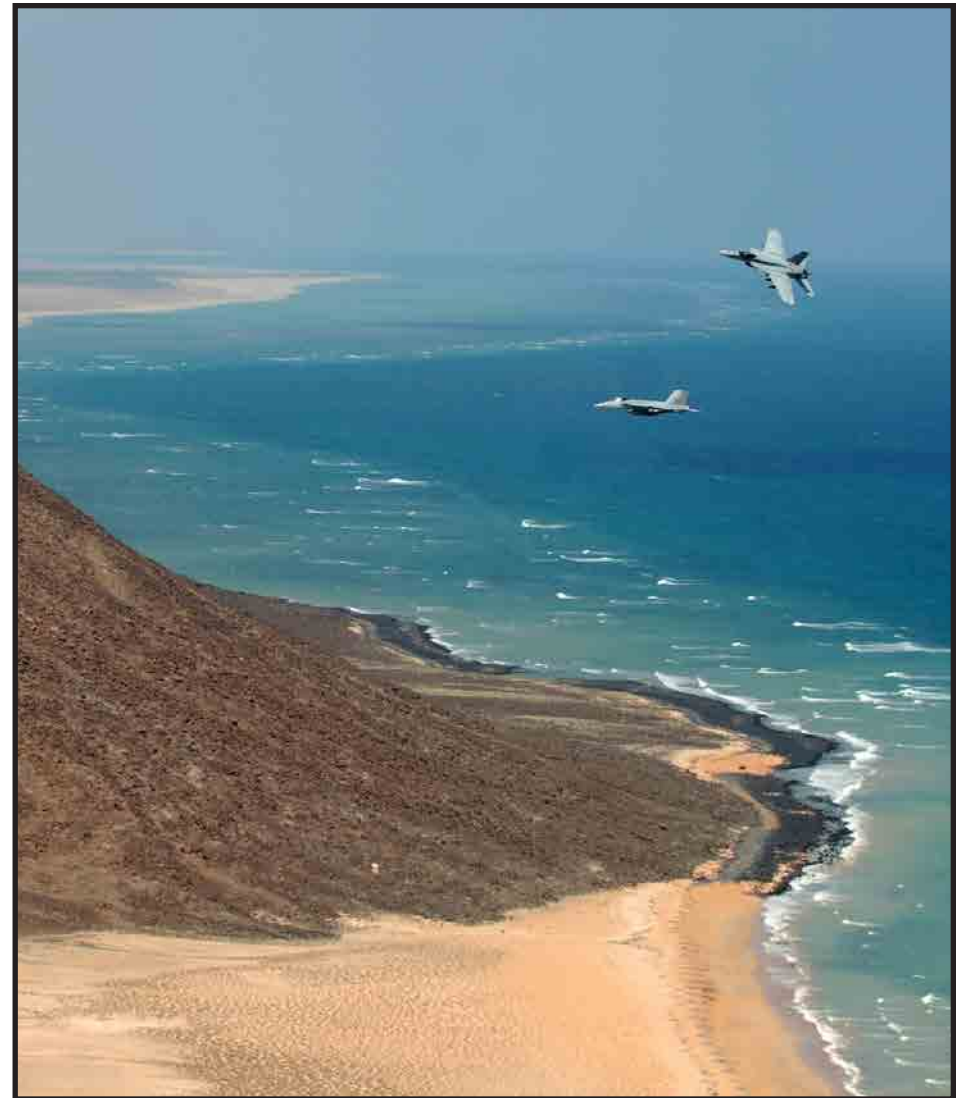
Established in 2002 in what was then the U.S. Central Command area of operations, CJTF-HOA transferred to AFRICOM in 2008 and remained headquartered at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti.



A CH-53E Super Stallion, deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, kicks up a cloud of dried salt and sand as it lands beside Lake Assal, Djibouti, October 2009 (above)



A U.S. Army Soldier assigned to CJTF-HOA stands in formation with the students of the Counter Terrorism Course on June 2009 at Camp Kasenyi, Uganda (above)



U.S. Navy F/A-18 aircraft train at the Gordia Bombing Range off the coast of Djibouti in December 2007 (above)



Pararescuemen are hoisted up to an HH-60 Pavehawk during training in Djibouti in March 2017 (above)



An SH-60 Sea Hawk helicopter evacuated simulated casualties during a personnel recovery exercise, Grand Bara Desert, Djibouti, July 2012 (above)

Personnel Recovery units and the East African Response Force were on alert at Camp Lemonnier in order to protect U.S. and partner military, diplomatic and civilian personnel, and facilities in the region. Counter-piracy units, which included aircraft of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force and other partner nation forces, were also based in Djibouti to reduce the threat to shipping off the coast of Somalia.



A U.S. Air Force Rescue, Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape specialist instructs members of the Seychelles Air Force and Seychelles Coast Guard on the care and use of survival items contained in an emergency life raft kit (above)



U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Anthony Kurta, Commander, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, discusses coalition counter-piracy efforts in the Gulf of Aden with Vice Admiral Tohru Izumi, Commander in Chief, Self-Defense Fleet, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force during a meeting at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti (left)

U.S. military personnel welcome recently arrived Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force members at a ceremony at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, June 2009 (below)



A U.S. Army Soldier instructs a course on counter-improvised explosive device recovery to Japanese ground Self-Defense Force members at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, November 2012 (above)



Pilots from the 449th Air Expeditionary Group approach an airfield, May 2017, during a U.S. Air Forces Africa mission in support of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa

East Africa Response Force

The East African Response Force (EARF) gave Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa the ability to respond to crises in that region. “The EARF is a rifle infantry company that is on standby to deploy rapidly in response to a crisis in a permissive environment,” explained Captain Bryan Hotchkiss, EARF Company commander, in 2016. The unit deployed to Djibouti from the Regionally Aligned Force, a U.S. Army initiative to provide commands like AFRICOM with forces ready to deploy from the United States for missions overseas. Though it comprised primarily Army Soldiers, the U.S. Navy provided Explosive Ordnance Disposal capabilities and the U.S. Air Force contributed air support and rapid transport for the EARF.

More than 20 personnel were successfully evacuated from U.S. Embassy Juba, January 2014 (below)



Marines and Sailors help U.S. citizens into a KC-130J Hercules airplane in Juba, South Sudan, during an evacuation of personnel from the U.S. Embassy, January 2014 (above)



A U.S. Soldier fires an M249 light machine gun at a training range at Arta, Djibouti, May 2017 (above)

A CH-47 Chinook transports Soldiers of the EARF while training at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, October 2016 (below)



Operating Locations

The United States maintained a limited and dispersed presence in Africa to support peacekeeping and counter terrorism operations and to facilitate its response to a crisis. The United States had two forward operating sites: Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, and Ascension Island. Other enduring locations were called cooperative security locations, which U.S. forces used periodically, typically for missions such as security cooperation and building partner nation capacity. These locations could support forces responding to a crisis for a short time. By contrast, non-enduring contingency locations supported other temporary operations such as the deployment of personnel to Cameroon as part of counter-Boko Haram operations in 2015.



General Thomas Waldhauser, AFRICOM Commander, and Eunice Reddick, U.S. Ambassador to Niger, meet in 2016 with Nigerien civic leaders in Agadez, where the U.S. was helping Niger improve an air base

A U.S. Army Soldier waits as members of the Uganda Peoples Defense Force plot and identify terrain features during training in Kasenyi, Uganda, April 2008 (right)



U.S. Africa Command used a cooperative security location in Dakar, Senegal, to move equipment and supplies to West Africa during the Ebola epidemic in 2014 (above)



A U.S. Army Soldier discusses physical security with Gabonese Security Forces in Libreville, Gabon, June 2016, during Exercise Central Accord (above)



U.S. Marines wait to be called to the firing line for a night-fire exercise, Arta Beach, Djibouti, July 2015



Guided-Missile Cruiser USS Normandy (CG-60) receives assistance from a tugboat as it enters the harbor of Cape Town, South Africa, August 2007



U.S. Army Soldiers are greeted by Uganda Peoples Defense Force leadership upon arrival to Camp Singo, Uganda, for training in July 2016

Engagement

Military and diplomatic engagements were essential to the United States' military strategy in Africa. Although the U.S. military had worked with African nations through American embassies and the U.S. European, Central, and Pacific Commands prior to 2008, the creation of a new Command for Africa was controversial. The first AFRICOM Commander, General William E. "Kip" Ward, traveled widely in Africa to explain the purpose of the new organization and allay concerns. Subsequent Commanders and senior officials of AFRICOM continued to meet with senior African political and military leaders to discuss U.S. military activities. The number of Defense Attachés and Offices of Security Cooperation working at United States embassies in Africa increased in order to better align security assistance with U.S. diplomatic and African goals.

AFRICOM worked closely with American diplomats and development officials to ensure military, diplomatic, and development programs worked in harmony toward U.S. national goals. It is also important to note that the response forces assigned to U.S. Africa Command to protect United States personnel and facilities allowed the United States to maintain a diplomatic presence in countries experiencing violence and instability.

Diplomatic Engagement



U.S. Ambassador to Somalia, Stephen Schwartz, sits with President of Somalia Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed before beginning a discussion with both Somali and U.S. military and government representatives at Mogadishu International Airport, April 2017 (above)



Ambassador Susan Elliott, Civilian Deputy to the Commander, U.S. European Command, and former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright meet with Foreign Service Officers assigned to U.S. Africa Command and U.S. European Command during a visit to Stuttgart in 2017 (above)

Senior leader engagement with African partners and senior policy discussions were essential to U.S. Africa Command's core mission to build African partner capacity and strengthen partnerships between the United States, military, diplomats, and development officials. These meetings and conferences, along with security assistance programs and exercises, sought to enable African partners to better provide their own security, counter illicit trafficking and violent extremists, respond to crisis, and contribute to peace operations.



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry addresses U.S. service members assigned to U.S. Africa Command at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, in May 2015 (above)



AFRICOM Commander General Thomas Waldhauser and Peter Bodde, U.S. Ambassador to Libya, meet with Fayeze al-Sarraj, the Prime Minister of Libya's Government of National Accord, in May 2017. AFRICOM supported this first visit to Libya by a U.S. Ambassador since 2014 (left and below)



AFRICOM Commander General Carter Ham meets with the Armed Forces of Liberia in January 2012. The Armed Forces of Liberia, rebuilt with assistance from the U.S. and a United Nations peacekeeping mission, helped stop the Ebola epidemic in 2014 (above)



AFRICOM Commander General David Rodriguez escorts Zambian Defense Minister Geoffrey Bwalya Mwambahonor on his visit to AFRICOM headquarters, June 2013 (above)

Conferences

AFRICOM invited experts from the United States, its allies, and African partners to conferences throughout the year to discuss ways to improve safety and security on the African continent. Topics covered all areas of the command's mission, and the conferences enhanced cooperation among nations and organizations in Africa.



More than 225 attendees from various organizations participated in the first ever U.S. Africa Command Chiefs of Defense (CHoD) conference in April 2017 in Stuttgart, Germany (left)



The November 2017 Africa Senior Enlisted Leader Conference, hosted by AFRICOM, brought together leaders from the U.S. and Africa to discuss shared challenges and opportunities, Grainau, Germany (above)



Participants of the U.S. Naval War College's African Regional Alumni Symposium in 2015 ask questions during a panel discussion. The event, held in Rhode Island and sponsored by AFRICOM, strengthened maritime cooperation (left)



Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs during the Africa Strategic Dialogue hosted by AFRICOM in Stuttgart, Germany, 2014 (right)



An Air Chief briefs during the 2017 African Air Chiefs Symposium in Kasane, Botswana, May 2017 (above and top)



Legal professionals from 20 African countries attended a colloquium to lay a foundation for preventing and responding to sexual violence during peace operations, Sanremo, Italy, March 2016 (above)



U.S. Africa Command hosted more than 100 senior leaders from the Departments of State and Defense as well as the U.S. Agency for International Development to develop a unified approach to U.S. foreign policy objectives during the Africa Strategic Dialogue (above)

Military-to-Military Engagement

The core of AFRICOM's security cooperation activities was military-to-military (mil-to-mil) engagements to assist partners in training their security forces to conduct operations effectively while respecting human rights and the rule of law. These engagements involved U.S. military members from all the component services and special operations forces. The National Guard State Partnership Program was particularly effective at developing persistent relationships between U.S. and partner forces.



U.S. and Cameroon Army Soldiers practice infantry squad tactics during Exercise Central Accord 2014 (above)



South African naval officers tour the USS Arleigh Burke (DDG-51) when the ship visited Durban for a series of engagements with the South African Navy in July 2009 (above)



U.S. Marines observe Senegalese Commando boat teams after giving them classes on boat commands and tactics in Senegal, August 2013 (above)



U.S. Air Force Airmen demonstrate how to carry a patient on and off a C-130J Super Hercules, September 2016, during African Partnership Flight in Accra, Ghana (above)

National Guard State Partnership Program

The State Partnership Program paired a U.S. State's National Guard with a country in Africa in an enduring relationship designed to improve the host nation's defense institutions in security, disaster response, crisis management, and inter-agency cooperation. This program started in Europe after the Cold War but has been particularly successful in U.S. Africa Command's military to military engagement. Because National Guard members typically remain assigned to their units for longer than in the active duty forces, they can establish enduring relationships with African partner militaries.



Texas Army National Guard Soldiers meet with Malawi Defense Forces Brigadier General Peter Andrew Namathanga and his staff at Lilongwe Military Airfield, Malawi, May 2013 (above)



A Michigan National Guard Soldier observes an Armed Forces of Liberia Soldier compete in a exercise near Edward Binyah Kesselly Military Barracks, Liberia, August 2013 (above)



A Rwandan Defense Force Soldier aids a comrade simulating an injury during a combat medic course in 2011 (above)

The program has grown to include 13 partnerships in Africa:

California and Nigeria

New York and South Africa

North Carolina and Botswana

North Dakota with Ghana, Togo and Benin

Michigan and Liberia

Utah and Morocco

Vermont and Senegal

Wyoming and Tunisia

Kentucky and Djibouti

Massachusetts and Kenya

Indiana and Niger



A U.S. Army Combat Medic assists while two Rwandan Defense Force Soldiers practice the proper technique for a two-man carry (above)



Major General Courtney P. Carr, the Adjutant General of Indiana, and Lieutenant General Seyni Garba, Chief of Defense of Niger Armed Forces sign a partnership agreement in Niamey, Niger, January 2017 (above)

African Partnership Flight

U.S. Air Forces Africa conducted the African Partnership Flight series of engagements to strengthen regional partnerships by improving the proficiency and readiness of key mission areas through a collaborative learning environment. Course topics included building expeditionary air bases, command and control, airfield operations, aerial patient movement, and the logistical support and defense of air bases.



U.S. Air Force Airmen meet with Airmen from Chad following African Partnership Flight opening ceremony September 2016 (above)



U.S. Air Force personnel worked with African partners to care for more than 1,250 patients over 3 days during African Partnership Flight in June 2016 at Lokusero, Kenya (above)



U.S. Air Force Airmen greet African air leaders as they arrive at African Partnership Flight in Dakar, Senegal, in June 2014 (above)



An Airman from the Mauritanian Air Force speaks with an Airman from the Togo Air Force next to a C-130 aircraft in 2014 (above)

Africa Partnership Station

Africa Partnership Station was U.S. Naval Forces Africa's program for developing maritime professionals and increasing maritime domain awareness, response capabilities, and infrastructure. Since October 2007, U.S. Naval Forces Africa has worked with international partners to improve African nations' ability to maintain maritime security within their territorial waters and exclusive economic zones.

Angola's Fuzileiros Operações Especiais Marines prepare to clear buildings after disembarking during training in 2015 in Lobito, Angola (right)



U.S., British, and Spanish Marines, working alongside Angolan military personnel, conduct small boat operations in the port of Luanda, Angola, March 2015 (above)

The Africa Partnership Station East Commander hosted a press conference for the Kenyan media in January 2010 (right)

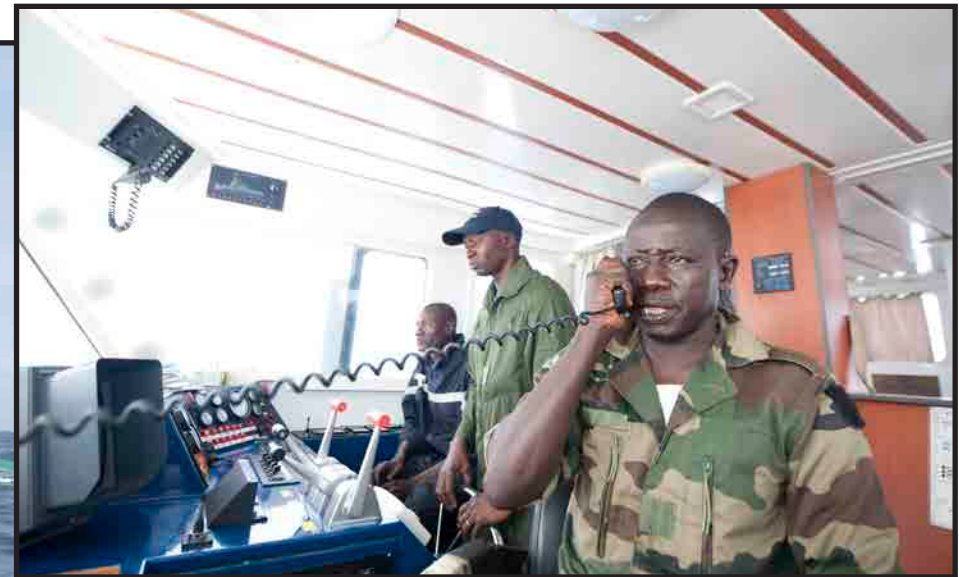


Africa Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership

The Africa Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership was the operational phase of Africa Partnership Station. U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, and African maritime forces patrolled together to intercept vessels that may have been involved in illicit activity. The effort enabled African partner nations to build maritime security capacity through actively enforcing the host nation's laws. Of particular interest was the trafficking of people, weapons, and narcotics, as well as stopping piracy, oil theft, and illegal fishing.



U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement detachment members assist Senegalese navy personnel to board a fishing vessel as part of Africa Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership (above)



The Captain of a Senegalese Navy patrol boat coordinates via radio to escort two fishing vessels back to port due to fisheries violations, Dakar, Senegal, July 2011 (above)

Non-Commissioned Officer Development

A critical aspect of the United States armed forces is the professional skill and dedicated leadership of its Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs). Non-Commissioned Officer training cultivates trust between the United States and partner nation forces and strengthens the ability of African military forces to provide security at home while supporting peacekeeping operations.

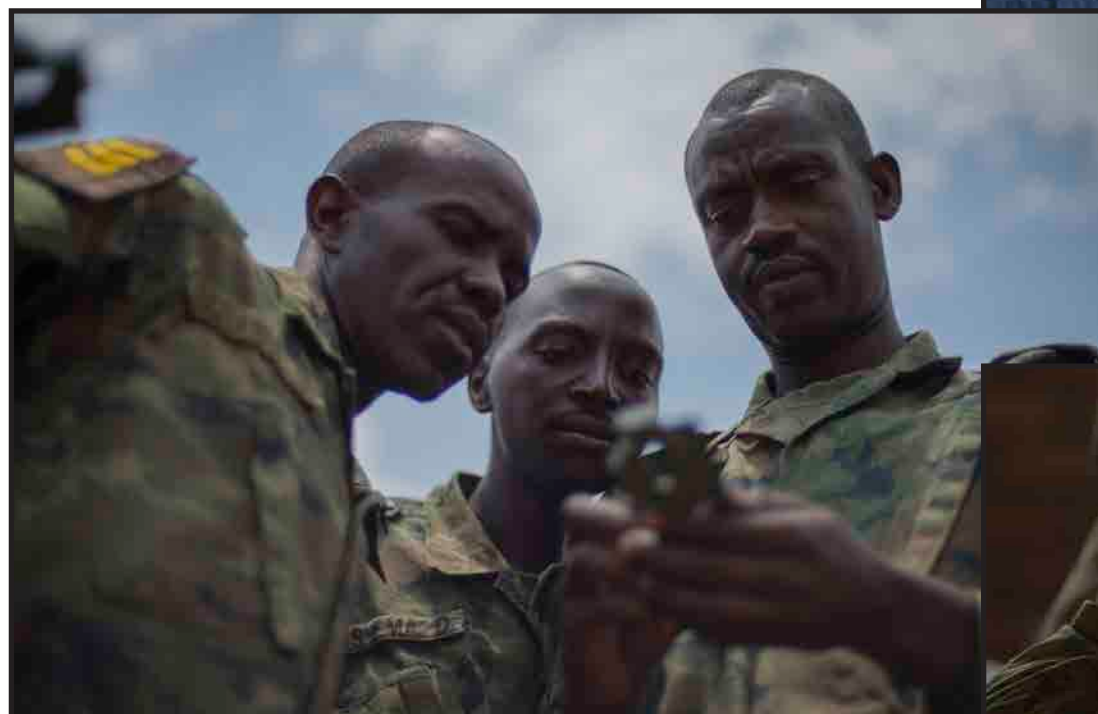


A U.S. Army NCO with the Texas National Guard discusses self-development methods with Comorian Army of National Development NCOs during a five-day seminar in Comoros in June 2012

For example, in 2016 personnel from Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa spent 10 days at the Rwandan Military Academy to help Rwandan instructors improve the leadership skills of new NCOs. Training focused on developing the skills and confidence to build unit cohesion and succeed in military operations. AFRICOM hosted a Senior NCO conference in 2017 to build upon the success of the Chiefs of Defense Conference it hosted earlier that year.



The first ever Africa Senior Enlisted Leader Conference was hosted by AFRICOM in Grainau, Germany, November 2017. The conference brought together Senior Enlisted Leaders from more than 20 African nations and the U.S. to discuss shared challenges and opportunities (above)



Rwanda Defense Force NCOs practice land navigation portion during leadership training in 2016 (above)



A Rwanda Defense Force NCO takes notes during a leadership course in September 2016, at the Rwanda Military Academy (above)

Logistics Engagement

U.S. Africa Command worked simultaneously to improve its ability to support United States personnel deployed in Africa and to help its partners successfully conduct peacekeeping operations. The under-developed infrastructure in a continent the size of Africa meant AFRICOM worked closely with international, United States government interagency, and African partners to support operations. To build partner capacity, AFRICOM engaged in particular with the African Union, supporting its bi-monthly African Logistics Council and annual African Logistics Forum to develop African solutions to logistical challenges.



U.S. Marines load and secure ammunition for transport, April 2013. Logisticians move personnel, vehicles, and equipment to sustain deployed forces



Opening Ceremony for Logistics Support Team Africa ribbon cutting (above)

The logistics enterprise united the efforts of a team formed across government and non-government organizations, leading to success in Operation United Assistance in 2014.



Construction of an Intermediate Staging Base in Dakar, Senegal, to support the Ebola response in 2014 (above)

Military Intelligence

U.S. Africa Command offered intelligence training programs to African partners to improve their ability to effectively employ forces and protect their civilian populations and borders. Since 2008 the Military Intelligence Basic Officer Course has trained junior officers in the basic skills necessary to operate on a military intelligence staff. Topics included analysis, staff organization, and how to share information in a multinational environment. The Military Intelligence Non-Commissioned Officer Course built on these skills to promote collaboration methods and partnerships within the region's military intelligence community. Begun in Grafenwoehr, Germany, the first course graduated 25 Non-Commissioned Officers from six partner nations. The course was offered in Africa in 2012, when another 23 students graduated in Dakar, Senegal.



Students from six African partner nations work together to analyze simulated intelligence information in Senegal in 2012



A U.S. Army Soldier interprets in French for a group of Cameroon Airborne Soldiers as they plan future air drops in 2013 (left)



Women graduates of an AFRICOM sponsored intelligence training class gather for a group photo, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, November 2016 (above)

Chaplain Engagement

U.S. Africa Command Chaplains assisted in training and preparing partner nation Chaplains to support their military service members. Routine engagements encompassed spiritual leadership and development, deployment support, and strengthening Chaplain mutual assistance services.



U.S. Navy Commander Abuhena Saifulislam, Deputy Command Chaplain for AFRICOM, speaks to Muslim civilian employees during the Friday sermon at Mariama Bint Imran Mosque in Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, January 2017 (above)



U.S. Army Chaplains from AFRICOM, along with Colonel Jean Paul Keela, Chief of Democratic Republic of the Congo Chaplains, visit with students in Kinshasa in 2012 (above)



Chaplains from U.S. Africa Command work with Zambian Army and Air Force Chaplain Teams at the Nanking Army Battle Training Center near Lusaka, Zambia, March 2017 (above)

U.S. Army Sergeant Major Chantel Sena-Diaz, AFRICOM Senior Enlisted Advisor for Religious Affairs, addresses senior Non-Commissioned Officers representing 13 nations in attendance at the Malawi Sergeants Major Course in June 2017. She focused on NCOs serving as the backbone and guardians of professional military forces (above)

Women, Peace, and Security



AFRICOM formally established a Women, Peace, and Security Working Group in 2012 as a result of United Nations Security Resolution 1325 and an Executive Order by President Barack Obama. The goal was to encourage partner countries' national security leadership to incorporate a gender perspective in their planning and activities while supporting African partners efforts to integrate women into their defense forces as the U.S. military was doing.



Special Operations Command Africa-sponsored Women's Leadership Forum (above and top left)



Women's Leadership Forum during Exercise Flintlock, N'Djamena, Chad, March 2017

AFRICOM was a leader in the United States military on implementing the U.S. strategy on Women, Peace, and Security. Seminars in 2014 and 2015 incorporated concepts of gender, such as recruitment, retention, training of women in the military, and protecting civilian populations during peacekeeping operations. AFRICOM incorporated scenarios aimed at countering conflict-related sexual violence into the training and exercises it sponsored.



Soldiers from the U.S., Netherlands, and Burkina Faso shared their military experiences with young adults



Opening ceremony of the fifth Gender Protection in Peace Operations Course and International Womens Day at the Center of Excellence for Stability-Police Units in Vicenza, Italy, March 2017 (above)



African Women Medical Civic Action Program (above)

Addressing gender based violence during peacekeeping operations was the focus for a 2016 colloquium. The Deputy Chief of Legal Services for the Uganda People's Defense Forces, Colonel Godard Busingye, proposed the topic and served as the course director. Nearly 40 military legal professionals and commanders from 20 African countries built a foundation for responding to sexual violence allegations that occurred during peacekeeping operations.



Women's Leadership Forum 2017 (above)



Nigerien Soldiers attend a counter IED class



"Helicopter Minesweeping" by Gene Klebe



Ambassador J. Anthony Holmes, Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Activities, visits a young patient who just had reconstructive surgery for a cleft palate performed by the volunteer staff AFRICOM sponsored at a local hospital in Gambia in 2011 (above)



A U.S. Marine instructs a Tanzanian Park Ranger on marksmanship techniques at the Selous Game Reserve in Matambwe, Tanzania, in 2015 (left)

Security Cooperation

The core mission of U.S. Africa Command remained to help African nations and regional organizations build capable and professional militaries that respect human rights, adhere to the rule of law, and contribute more effectively to stability in Africa. The primary tools for implementing this strategy were military-to-military engagements, security cooperation programs, exercises, and operations. AFRICOM employed more than 20 distinct U.S. government programs totaling over 500 million dollars annually to support U.S. policy goals. Most of these programs required both military and diplomatic approval, so AFRICOM worked closely with the U.S. Embassy in each country through defense attachés, offices of security cooperation, and with the country receiving the assistance.

Support to Peacekeeping Operations

In 2015 there were sixteen United Nations peacekeeping operations worldwide. The nine in Africa accounted for 80 percent of the United Nation's peacekeeping budget. The African Union sponsored additional peace support operations in Somalia, Central Africa, and the Lake Chad Basin. The personnel deployed to these operations were increasingly African, and U.S. Africa Command joined other international partners in working to ensure these soldiers were trained and equipped to do their duty in these very challenging missions.



A U.S. Army Soldier congratulates a Kenyan Soldier on a demonstration at the Amani Peace Operations Training Village, International Peace Support Training Centre, Djibouti, August 2012. The training improved the practical skills necessary for the peacekeeping environment



A U.S. Army Soldier discusses training equipment with a Tanzanian People's Defense Forces Soldier at the Kunduchi Peacekeeping Training Center in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, July 2016 (above)



A Burundian Soldier waits to take off in a C-17 Globemaster at Bujumbura Airport, Burundi, December 2013. The U.S. military transported Burundian Soldiers, food, and supplies to the Central African Republic to participate in peacekeeping operations (above)

African Union Mission in Somalia

U.S. Africa Command and the United States government supported the Government of Somalia, the people of Somalia, and the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) in their efforts to improve governance, development, and security. U.S. Central Command established Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa in 2002 to combat al-Qaeda and improve stability in East Africa. (AFRICOM assumed this responsibility in 2008.) The United States provided training and equipment to countries participating in the African Union mission against al-Shabaab starting in 2007. As security improved, the United States recognized the Federal Government of Somalia in January 2013 and established military-to-military ties with Somalia. AFRICOM worked with Somalia and its international partners to prepare for the transition of security responsibilities from AMISOM to the Somali National Security Forces.



Ugandan Soldiers receiving advanced marksmanship training by U.S. Marines for Somali Operations

A member of the Somali Police Force prepares to fire during range training with the Italian Carabinieri in Djibouti, October 2016 (right)



U.S. Army Soldiers discuss techniques with AMISOM and Somali National Army Public Information Officers during a workshop in Mogadishu, Somalia, March 2017 (left)



Leaders of the Somali National Army gather with international military and civilian officials for the Somali National Army Symposium in Mogadishu, January 2017. More than 60 participants attended from numerous countries, including representatives from international organizations such as the United Nations, European Union Training Mission, and the African Union Mission in Somalia (left)



Uganda People's Defense Force Soldiers detonate explosives during a breaching exercise at Camp Singo, December 2015, as they prepare for an AMISOM deployment (right)

U.S. Army Soldiers instruct an Information Operations Course to show Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) personnel how to use a tactical transmitter system in Jinja, Uganda, September 2015. The course was designed to help the UPDF disseminate information to civilians and violent extremist organizations to reduce the need for force (right)



Somali National Army Soldiers conduct convoy operations training with the U.S. Army, Mogadishu, Somalia, May 2017. The logistics course focused on various aspects of moving personnel, equipment, and supplies (left)

Operation Observant Compass

The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) under Joseph Kony was a destabilizing force in Central Africa for many years. U.S. military efforts in the region were part of a comprehensive U.S. government strategy to protect civilians, provide humanitarian assistance, and encourage LRA defections. U.S. Special Forces deployed from 2011 to 2017 to advise and assist the African Union Regional Task Force (AU-RTF) to defeat the LRA.



The capacity of AU-RTF forces from Uganda, South Sudan, Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of the Congo increased with the cooperation of U.S. military units (above and left)



Uganda People's Defense Forces return from a mission against the Lord's Resistance Army

In March 2017 the Observant Compass mission concluded after a sustained effort by United States and African militaries who substantially reduced the Lord's Resistance Army threat to regional stability and diminished its capacity to harm the local civilian population.

Counter-Boko Haram

On the night of April 14, 2014, 276 female students were kidnapped from the Government Secondary School in the town of Chibok, Borno State, Nigeria. Boko Haram claimed responsibility. Some of the girls managed to escape. Approximately 80 United States Armed Forces personnel deployed to nearby Chad as part of the U.S. effort to locate and support the safe return of the remainder of those kidnapped. The United States also provided training to Nigerian and neighboring countries forces fighting Boko Haram.



A U.S. Special Forces Soldier instructs and observes Soldiers from Niger, May 2014, during a training mission in support of counter-Boko Haram efforts (above)



A squad of Malian Soldiers brace for the arrival of a U.S. Air Force CV-22 Osprey during an infiltration and extraction exercise supporting Flintlock in Bamako, Mali, November 2008 (above)

The United States also assisted those affected by Boko Haram's violence through ongoing humanitarian aid and victim support services. After 2015 the United States joined the international community in supporting the African Union's Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF)'s operations against Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin. U.S. Africa Command provided military training, intelligence, logistical support, and equipment to African partners.



Former First Lady Michelle Obama declared her support for recovering kidnapped Chibok girls in 2014 on the First Lady of the United States Twitter account (above)

General David Rodriguez greets General Abayomi Olonisakin, Nigeria Chief of Defense Staff, as he arrives for a meeting with senior AFRICOM leaders in Stuttgart, Germany, February 2016 (below)



Planners meet in Douala, Cameroon, in 2016 to discuss exercise scenarios to enable Lake Chad Basin Commission nations to support the MNJTF's counter-Boko Haram operations (right)

Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance

Funded and managed by the U.S. Department of State, the Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) initiative provided training and equipment necessary for African Soldiers to participate effectively in multinational peace support operations. Contractors provided most of the training, but AFRICOM provided small military training teams at the request of the U.S. Department of State.



Kentucky Army National Guard Soldiers assisted the ACOTA mission at Singo Peace Support Operations Training Center, Uganda, to help train the Uganda People's Defense Forces (above)



In ACOTA courses, officers practiced solving challenges they might face while deployed in a peacekeeping operation (above)



A U.S. Army Soldier mentors students from Uganda, Kenya, and Burundi on planning for humanitarian assistance operations during a command post exercise in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2017 (above)

ACOTA training ranged from convoy escort procedures to refugee management and command and control of small and large units. Equipment included mine detectors, field medical equipment, uniforms, and water purification devices.



Members of the Rwandan Defense Force, ACOTA, and Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa, pose for a group photo during training, April 2012, Gako, Rwanda (above)

Africa Deployment Assistance Partnership Team

Funded by the Department of State, the Africa Deployment Assistance Partnership Team (ADAPT) improved the ability of African militaries to support mission logistics requirements. ADAPT worked with existing organizations, such as the United Nations and African Standby Forces, and complemented other endeavors, such as African Partnership Flight and Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA). This training resulted in more effective deployments to critical peacekeeping missions, including the African Union Mission in Somalia, the UN Mission in South Sudan, and the UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire.



Burundian Soldiers, during ADAPT logistics training, load ammunition for transport (above)



Assessing logistics capacity, efficiency, and safety during an ADAPT training exercise (above)



Ugandan Soldiers and ADAPT logistics experts with a Ugandan C-130 during training, Uganda

Counter-IED Training

United States Africa Command taught African military partners how to improve their ability to protect themselves from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and unexploded ordnance. This training was crucial to reduce casualties in difficult peace support operations like the African Union Mission in Somalia.



A simulated roadside bomb during counter-improvised explosive device and explosive ordnance disposal training



Kenya Defense Forces Soldiers prepare demolition charges with the assistance of U.S. Navy Sailors in 2016 (above and center)

A Djiboutian Armed Forces officer briefs his troops for a patrol in a counter-IED exercise with the U.S. Army and Navy in 2015 (left)

Foreign Military Sales

The United States provided military equipment to select countries through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program. The Department of State funded the program, and the United States Defense Security Cooperation Agency managed the sale of defense equipment and services. Additionally, some African countries received equipment through the African Coastal and Border Security Program and the Excess Defense Articles Program, which improved partner military forces' capabilities in regional security missions. Foreign Military Financing provided loans to partner nations to purchase U.S. weapons, equipment, defense services, and military training.



U.S. Marines lift off from Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, in a UH-60 Blackhawk, February 2017



The C-130 is a rugged aircraft capable of transporting personnel and material within an operational theater. Though smaller, less expensive, aircraft are also effective in Africa, it is difficult to match the cargo capacity and short takeoff space of the C-130 (left)

Military aid programs in Africa have increased over the last decade. For example, in 2015 Kenya received 48.2 million dollars for counter-terrorism missions. Trucks supplied for the Senegalese military forces were instrumental for peacekeeping unit deployments to operations in Darfur, Sudan.



An M1A1 Abrams tank fires a round from its 120mm main gun during a training mission as part of Exercise African Lion in Morocco, May 2011. The Royal Moroccan Armed Forces purchased more than 200 M1A1 Abrams (above)

International Military Education and Training



Officers of African and other militaries observe a military demonstration at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as part of the Army Chief of Staff's Fellows Program. The 2013 Fellows came from Chile, Vietnam, Botswana, Albania, Oman, and Mexico (above)

The International Military Education and Training (IMET) Program provided funds for African military personnel to attend United States military training programs. Students learned about United States military organizations and procedures and the manner in which they function under civilian control. Increasing the number of African students in IMET was one of U.S. Africa Command's first accomplishments.



Nigerian Navy Lieutenant Commander Andy Zidon, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Ted Huebner, and Kuwaiti Navy Commander Mohammad Alarei engage in conversation while attending the U.S. Naval War College in 2015 (above)

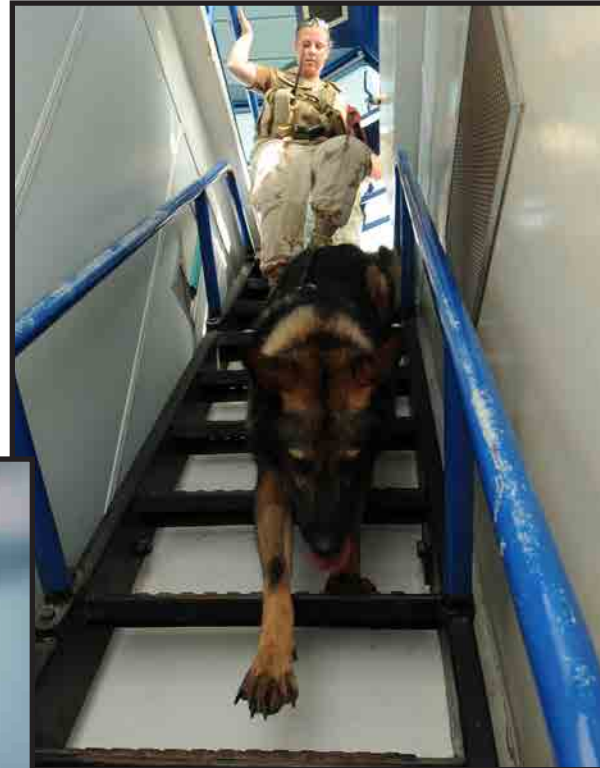
“Near the end of my command in 2010, approximately 900 military and civilian students from 44 African countries received education and training through the IMET program in the United States,” General William “Kip” Ward explained. “Many of these graduates filled key positions in their respective militaries and governments. The enduring relationships fostered through IMET deepen United States partnerships with these nations and foster the promotion of an active civil society in developing nations.”



Participants of the African Alumni Symposium pose for a group photo at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, March 2017. The symposium facilitates dialogue and relationships that improve interoperability among African regional and international security forces

Counter-Narcotics

United States Africa Command's Counter-narcotics and Law Enforcement Assistance provided about \$20 million in annual aid to African partner nations to improve their capacity to combat narcotics trafficking. Ordinarily the U.S. Department of Defense is restricted to military-to-military engagements, but in counter-narcotics initiatives, special legislation allows the United States military to partner with civilian law enforcement agencies. AFRICOM worked with African Ministries and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, and U.S. Coast Guard to ensure no duplication of effort.



A U.S. Navy Petty Officer and her Military Working Dog descend a flight of stairs during a sweep of a tug boat, April 2009, Port of Djibouti (above)



A Maritime Interdiction Operations team in Côte d'Ivoire conducts a board, search and seizure drill during exercise Obangame Express, March 2017, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (center and left)

Counter-Illicit Trafficking

Wildlife trafficking was a multi-billion dollar criminal enterprise. The involvement of organized crime and violent extremist networks in these crimes promoted corruption, destabilized economies and communities that depend on wildlife, and contributed to the spread of disease. In 2013 President Barack Obama ordered the United States to meet this challenge at home and to assist foreign governments. United States military efforts against drug trafficking organizations have been effective for countering wildlife trafficking networks. In 2015 AFRICOM provided patrol and border security training to Cameroon, Benin, Ghana, and Togo. The command also trained units that combat wildlife trafficking in Gabon and Chad.



A member of the Eastern African Standby Force boards a Djiboutian patrol boat as part of a counter illicit trafficking scenario during Cutlass Express in 2012 (above)



U.S. Marines train Gabonese Armed Forces personnel and Agency for National Parks Agents on weapons handling and marksmanship during a counter-illicit trafficking course at Camp Mokekou, Gabon, June 2017 (above and right)



Medical Engagement



Mahija Abdallah, Dispensary mother-and-child health-care specialist, gathers information from a Tanzanian woman during a Medical Civil Action Program at Mtimbwani, Tanzania, January 2012



Nurses of the Dire Dawa Arts Medical College distribute medications during a MEDCAP in 2010. Medications were given to more than 900 children in seven villages in the Shinile Zone (Woreda) of Dire Dawa, Ethiopia (above)

AFRICOM's Medical Civil Action Program (MEDCAP) enhanced United States and partner nation health care capacity and reduced the threat of disease through collaboration with local medical professionals, leaders, and interagency partners. Training exercises in Africa such as Medical Readiness and Training Exercises (MEDRETE) and MEDFLAG reinforced the cooperation between defense forces.



Kinshasa residents wait in line to receive medical and dental care at the Humanitarian Civic Action site in September 2010 (above)



A dispensary medical attendant gives medication to a Tanzanian woman during a Medical Civil Action Program, January 2012 (above)



A U.S. Army Physician checks a patient during a combined medical and dental civil assistance project as part of exercise MEDFLAG in Hhohho Village, Swaziland, August 2009. Nearly 500 patients were treated during the two-day visit (above)



A Civil Affairs Medic examines a baby with an upper respiratory infection in a village near Tadjourah, Djibouti, December 2016 (left)



A Ugandan woman waits at Pajimo Clinic for her granddaughter to be treated for a skin infection (above left). U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers and U.S. Navy Dentists worked side-by-side with Ugandan and Tanzanian providers to treat over 700 local residents per day, issuing eyeglasses, extracting teeth, and providing medications for malaria, other parasites, and skin infections, October 2009 (above)

A U.S. Air National Guard Dental Technician provides dental care at Malwelwe Village, Botswana, August 2012 (right)



A Senegalese Armed Forces nurse gives medical charting booklets to patients outside a clinic in Thies, Senegal, July 2012 (above)



Chadian Army General Djetodjide Tetimian performs a hemiarthroplasty procedure on a patient with a fractured hip, during MEDRETE in Chad, April 2015 (left)



A U.S. Army Civil Affairs Medic coaches caretakers of the non-governmental organization SOS Village D'Enfants on first aid techniques in Tadjoura, Djibouti, January 2017



U.S. Army Medical personnel examine patients during a MEDFLAG mission, Hhohho Village, Swaziland, August 2009 (above and top left)

AIDS Prevention and Testing Center funded by Humanitarian Assistance (above)

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) was the United States response to the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. U.S. Africa Command supported African militaries in establishing programs to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS among military personnel.



A nurse with the non-governmental organization Population Services International (PSI), draws blood from a Rwanda Army Soldier at the Kanombe Military Hospital in Kigali, Rwanda, January 2009 (above)



A U.S. Army medical specialist and World Vision Project Coordinator Ndisha Joseph educate women and children about preventive health in Mtimbwani, Tanzania, January 2012. The briefing covered topics such as HIV/AIDS, malaria prevention, and prenatal nutrition (above)

Pandemic Response Program



Kenya National Government Pandemic Disaster Response Tabletop Exercise, August 2010 (above)

In 2008 U.S. Africa Command and the U.S. Agency for International Development established a Pandemic Response Program to help African militaries plan to contain influenza pandemics. International travel and trade and limited healthcare systems increased the high risk of a pandemic influenza disaster in Africa.



Members of a national communications cell collaborate on responding to a potential disaster during the Kenya National Government Pandemic Disaster Response tabletop exercise in 2010 (above)

Pandemic response training and exercise programs focused on writing and exercising military plans, developing rapid response teams, training military personnel in patient treatment and quarantine operations, and developing public outreach programs. These skills proved essential during a large Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014.



U.S. Air Force Airmen packaged and delivered a modular medical treatment center for health care workers in Liberia. The U.S. relief effort also built Ebola treatment facilities for Liberian patients (above)



Students in the Ebola Treatment Unit Course led by the U.S. military diagnose a patient for symptoms of the Ebola virus during scenario training in Monrovia, Liberia in November 2014 (above)

African Partner Outbreak Alliance

Formed in response to the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the African Partner Outbreak Response Alliance provided a forum for discussion on the ways for partners to best prepare for future infectious disease epidemics. “Disease knows no boundaries,” said U.S. Army Colonel George Appenzeller, the command surgeon for U.S. Africa Command. “Planning for these epidemics is critical for the safety and stability of our West African partners.” Improving the capacity of African partners to contain future outbreaks would reduce the need for another large international response.



U.S. and Alliance medical staff continually increase their experience, knowledge, and skills to maintain readiness, Accra, Ghana, 2017



A Togolese villager is treated for malaria, 2012

AFRICOM helped to organize, facilitate, and fund the Alliance in partnership with the United States Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center. AFRICOM's support of the Alliance was part of a broader effort by the command to build the medical capacity of partner nation militaries in Africa.

West Africa Disaster Preparedness Initiative



AFRICOM Ghana Pandemic response Program Conference Group



Villagers gather around the newly renovated Masaika Health Clinic in the Pangani District of Tanzania during a dedication ceremony, October 2009. The clinic provides outpatient service to a community of more than 1,800 people and (left)

Led by regional organizations with support from AFRICOM, the West Africa Disaster Preparedness Initiative consisted of training sessions and discussions on disaster preparedness built upon lessons learned during the international response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Representatives from 17 African partner nations marked the start of the West Africa Disaster Preparedness Initiative and the opening of a national emergency operations center in Accra, Ghana, in 2015.



Tent raising at Medical Workshop, Lilongwe, Malawi, 2010 (above)

Veterinary Civil Action Program

Understanding that livestock provide the means to survival of nomadic people, the Veterinary Civil Action Program (VETCAP) deployed veterinary personnel to treat animals in Africa. In 2010, for example, the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa brought a Civil Affairs battalion to Djibouti that offered veterinary training to local community health workers, improving their ability to care for livestock.



U.S. Soldiers mentor veterinary students from Makerere University as they collaborate to treat a cow's tumor at Moroto, Uganda, in 2010 (above)

A boy carries his dog to veterinary staff for medication during a VETCAP held at an internally displaced persons camp located in Koch Angako, Uganda, in January 2008 (below)





Local villagers in Uganda restrain a large cow, allowing a U.S. Army Soldier and a local Kagamongole veterinarian to examine the sick animal during a veterinary civic action project June 2011 (above)



U.S. Army veterinarians, local villagers, and veterinary students administer vaccines during a veterinary civic action project in June 2011, in collaboration with the Ugandan Government and the U.S. Embassy in Uganda. More than 30,000 animals were treated in the Karomoja region (above)



A Civil Affairs Liaison with the U.S. Agency for International Development plays games with children from the Chebelley Primary School in Djibouti, March 2009. The school received 1,050 books and 11 bookcases through Project Handclasp, a U.S. military program coordinating delivery of humanitarian and educational materials



A U.S. Marine CH-53E helicopter approaches an Air Force C-130 for refueling above Grand Bara, Djibouti, April 2009



MV-22 Ospreys approach a landing zone in Tifnit, Morocco during a U.S. military demonstration in April 2014 (left)



Marines make their way to retrieve purified ocean water from a tactical water purification system. Support operations are an integral part of sustaining joint training during Exercise African Lion in Morocco (above)



Extraction by helicopter during Exercise African Lion 2012 (above)

Joint Exercise Program

Through United States Africa Command-sponsored exercises, United States military forces improved interoperability with African and European partner forces. The training validated that security cooperation programs had improved the effectiveness of African military forces. The exercises were divided into series. The Accord series, for example, prepared forces for peacekeeping operations. The number of exercises declined, but the number of participants increased. By 2016 participants included 41 African nations, 22 non-African nations, and 8 international and regional organizations. Exercises increasingly tested decision-making at the operational level rather than simply tactical proficiency.



U.S. Marines roll down a dirt road in their M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank during a day of training at Exercise African Lion, Cap Draa, Morocco, April 2012. The annual exercise is designed to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's military tactics, techniques, and procedures

African Lion

The United States and Morocco sponsored the African Lion training exercise annually. Participants from Europe and Africa trained together on command-and-control techniques, combat tactics, peacekeeping, and humanitarian assistance operations. The exercise has improved the interoperability and mutual understanding of North African and United States military forces.



U.S. Army Soldiers transport military vehicles and equipment to Cap Draa, Morocco during Exercise African Lion in May 2011 (above)



U.S. Marines demonstrate a fire team combat drill to Royal Moroccan Armed Forces soldiers during Exercise African Lion in May 2015 (above)

A landing craft of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit lands on the Moroccan beach of Cap Draa after departing the assault ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD-7) during Exercise African Lion in 2012 (right)



Royal Moroccan Air Force and U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons fly in formation during Exercise African Lion after refueling in May 2015 (above)

Western Accord



African Soldiers participating in Exercise Western Accord practice movement to contact in July 2012. U.S. service members, primarily Reservists from the U.S. Marines, Army, Navy, and Air Force, also participated (above)

Western Accord, later named United Accord, was an annual event designed to increase the ability of African forces for peace support operations under the African Union or United Nations. The exercise involved primarily the armed forces of United States, European, and Western African countries. Notably, because of an Ebola epidemic in the region in 2014 and 2015, the Netherlands hosted the exercise in 2015 and replicated mission command for the United Nation's Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.



A contingent of U.S., Senegalese, Burkinabe, Gambian, Guinean, and French Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen from Exercise Western Accord watch a demonstration, Thies, Senegal, July 2012 (right)



Members of the Ghanaian Army don riot control gear during nonlethal training June 2013, in Accra, Ghana, as part of Exercise Western Accord (left)



A U.S. Marine and a Ghanaian Soldier provide security for their area of operations during Exercise Western Accord, June 2014, near Camp Thies, Senegal (above)



Soldiers from Burkina Faso, Senegal, and the U.S. train together during Exercise Western Accord in June 2014 (above)

Central Accord



U.S. Army Soldiers carry ammunition crates across a river during training at the French Army Jungle Warfare School in Gabon during Exercise Central Accord in 2016

United States Africa Command designed Exercise Central Accord, later called Exercise Unified Focus, to foster partnerships, increase interoperability and build the capacity of the participating African, United States, and European forces. The Multi-National Joint Task Force in the Lake Chad Basin was an example of the regional missions for which the Accord series prepared forces. In addition to tactical training, participants were expected to complete academic preparation to enhance their knowledge in coordinating responses to crises as a part of a multinational staff. Exercises were a key element in military-to-military activities and demonstrated the strong relationship between the United States and African partners.



U.S. Army Paratroopers jump from a C-17 Globemaster during Exercise Central Accord in 2016 (above)



A group of Cameroon Airborne Soldiers compare notes about what they have learned during Central Accord in Douala, Cameroon, in February 2013 (above)



A Cameroon Airborne paratrooper gathers his parachute as fellow jumpers descend during airborne operations as part of Central Accord in Cameroon in March 2014 (above)

Eastern Accord

Justified Accord exercise was a continuation of the previous Eastern Accord exercise series, which itself originated with the 1998 exercise series Natural Fire. “Like Natural Fire and Eastern Accord, Justified Accord is an annual combined joint exercise focused on bringing together United States and African partners, Western allies and international organizations to promote interoperability through collaboration of peacekeeping operations in the East Africa region,” said Brigadier General Jon Jensen, U.S. Army Africa Deputy Commander.



Eastern Accord participants and trainers complete a simulation in the joint operations center prior to the command post exercise, July 2016, at the Tanzanian Peacekeeping Training Centre, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (above)



Participants of the annual multilateral Exercise Justified Accord display the diversity of those committed to peace and security in the East Africa region in 2017 (above)

Participants gathered to increase interoperability through academic classes and discussion-based practical exercises focused on a collective ability to establish and maintain peace in East Africa. Like the other Accord series of exercises, the event assessed participants' abilities to conduct peacekeeping operations while building regional partnerships. The African Union Mission in Somalia was a focus of the exercise.



A U.S. Army Soldier guides participants as they find solutions to exercise scenarios at the Peace Support Training Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, March 2017 (above)



A U.S. Army Medical Team trainer reviews last minute plans for a command post exercise, July 2016, at the Tanzanian Peacekeeping Training Centre, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (left)

Southern Accord

Southern Accord was an annual AFRICOM-sponsored, combined exercise, led by U.S. Army Africa, that brought together U.S. military personnel with counterparts from partner African militaries. In 2014 the exercise included several days of instruction from the United Nations Integrated Training Service and U.S. Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute and simulated the deployment of a peacekeeping force in a realistic, challenging scenario. The exercise was named United Accord in 2017.



Military police with the Zambian Defense Force train with U.S. Army Military Police during Southern Accord in Lusaka, Zambia, August 2015. The annual exercise provides U.S. military, other United Nations partners, and the Zambian Defense Force an opportunity to train together as a peacekeeping force (above)

Military Police from the U.S. Army and the Zambian Defense Force fend off protesters during a simulated riot during a Southern Accord exercise, Lusaka, Zambia, August 2015 (above)



U.S. Army Soldier simulates a rescue of a wounded member of the Zambian Defense Force during Exercise Southern Accord, Zambia (above)



A Soldier with the Zambian Defense Force radios his command post after receiving contact from simulated adversaries during Exercise Southern Accord 2015 near Lusaka, Zambia, August 2015 (above)



Service members representing various Southern African Development Community states conduct the military component plan for a U.N. Peacekeeping Operation scenario at the Malawi Armed Forces College in Salima, Malawi, August 2016 (left)

Cutlass Express

The Express Series, led by United States Naval Forces Africa, were maritime security force exercises. Maritime interdiction and counter-piracy operations off the East coast of Africa were the focus of Cutlass Express.

While Exercise Obangame Express emphasized operation centers in West and Central Africa, maritime interdiction operations, and information sharing in the Gulf of Guinea, Phoenix Express and Saharan Express exercised maritime interdiction off the Mediterranean and Northwest African coasts.



Port Louis, Mauritius: Comoros Sailors board the French Navy vessel Le Malin during an Exercise Cutlass Express visit, board, search, and seizure training scenario, February 2017 (above)



The Djibouti navy and coast guard boarding vessel returns to port after completing the visit, board, search, and seizure exercise scenario during Exercise Cutlass Express in Djibouti, February 2015 (above)



Uganda People's Defence Force members board a target vessel during Exercise Cutlass Express in the Gulf of Tadjoura, Djibouti, November 2013 (above)



A U.S. Coast Guardsman teaches mission planning to Ugandan Marines during Exercise Cutlass Express in Djibouti, February 2017 (above)

Obangame Express

Exercise Obangame Express provided African, European, South American, and United States maritime forces the opportunity to work together, share information, and refine procedures to assist Gulf of Guinea nations to monitor and enforce their territorial waters and exclusive economic zones. Training scenarios mirrored past piracy incidents and challenged operations centers and vessels to detect and prosecute illegal activity.



Ivorian Sailors conduct a simulated visit, board, search, and seizure scenario aboard the Royal Moroccan Navy Ship Hassan II during Exercise Obangame Express, Cote d'Ivoire, March 2017 (above)



Ivory Coast boarding team members establish perimeter security aboard the German Navy vessel FGS Brandenburg (F215) during an illegal fishing training scenario as part of Obangame Express 2015 (above)



Cameroonian navy personnel attend classes on maritime operations as part of Exercise Obangame/Saharan Express, Douala, Cameroon, March 2016 (above)



A Ghanaian Navy Officer monitors seaborne activities from the maritime operations center in Accra, Ghana, during Exercise Obangame Express, March 2014. The center coordinated all scenario-based activities of the exercise, including combating illegal fishing, illegal trafficking, and piracy (left)

Saharan Express

Saharan Express, conducted by United States Naval Forces Africa, was a recurring maritime exercise designed to improve cooperation among West African nations and increase their maritime safety and security in the coastal waters of Senegal, Cabo Verde, and Mauritania. Participants assessed and improved law enforcement capacity by focusing on maritime interdiction operations, boarding, search, and seizure techniques, and standard operating procedures.



A U.S. Navy Sailor translates directions to Cameroon Sailors aboard USNS Spearhead (T-EPF 1) for a boarding drill during Obangame/Saharan Express, Gulf of Guinea, March 2016 (above)



Ghanaian Navy Sailors record and chart ship locations in the Tema Maritime Operations Center for Exercise Obangame/Saharan Express, Ghana, March 2016 (above)



A U.S. Navy Corpsman conducts medical training with Gambian and Liberian Sailors aboard a Spanish Guardia Civil vessel, Rio Seguro (M31), during Exercise Saharan Express, Dakar, Senegal, March 2013 (left)



Cameroonain and Nigerian Special Forces Groups collaborate for operations during Obangame/Saharan Express, Idenau, Cameroon, March 2016 (above)



Liberian Sailors depart the Mauritanian Navy Patrol Ship, Limam Elhadrami (P60), aboard a British Royal Navy rigid-hull inflatable boat, after successfully conducting a boarding drill during Exercise Saharan Express, Dakar, Senegal, March 2013 (above)

Phoenix Express

Phoenix Express, sponsored by United States Africa Command and conducted by U.S. Naval Forces Africa, assessed and improved maritime law enforcement capacity and shaped Security Force Assistance efforts. Conducted in the western Mediterranean Sea, Phoenix Express included personnel from Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt, with their forces leading the planning and execution of training. Scenarios included interdicting illicit activity, running a combined maritime operations center, and operating a surface-action group.



U.S. Coast Guard personnel work with the Senegalese Navy as part of a maritime security exercise off the west and central coasts of Africa. Senegalese Sailors participated in joint boarding and training exercises with U.S. Coast Guardsmen in 2009 (above)



A U.S. Coast Guard Cutter patrols alongside a Senegalese naval vessel during Africa Partnership Station in August 2009 (above)



An Algerian boarding team interdicts a vessel during Exercise Phoenix Express, El Aouana, Algeria, May 2016 (above)



U.S. Sailors patrol the Gulf of Tadjoura, Djibouti, during Exercise Phoenix Express in September 2011 (above and top right)

Flintlock

This Special Operations Forces exercise was designed to foster regional cooperation to enable African partners to stabilize regions in North and West Africa, reducing sanctuary and support for violent extremist organizations. African special operations forces and Special Operations Command Africa jointly planned and executed the annual exercise.



A Burkinabe Soldier participates in squad movement drills at Camp Zagre, Burkina Faso, February, 2017 (above)



Burkina Faso Soldiers utilize smoke cover during assault training (above)



Maritime Training, 2017 (above)



Women's Leadership Forum (above)



A U.S. Army Special Operations Soldier scans for the C-130 aircraft during a static line jump and airdrop in N'Djamena, Chad, March, 2017 (above)

More than 2,000 military personnel from 24 African and Western nations participated in the tenth annual iteration of the exercise in 2017 across seven African host nations. Countering the threat of violent extremist organizations demanded proficiency, coordination, and enhanced interoperability.



A Nigerien Soldier provides security for his squad during Exercise Flintlock (above)



Belgian Special Operations Forces demonstrate their vehicle capabilities (above)



A Soldier of Morocco's Royal Armed Forces transmits intelligence reports, March 2017, Tifnit, Morocco (above)

Special Operations Command Africa annually exercised and assessed U.S. and African special operations forces, capabilities, and capacity to conduct counterterrorism operations. Like Exercise Flintlock, Silent Warrior provided an advanced training setting to develop U.S. and African special operations forces' interoperability.



Nigerien Soldiers shoot targets under illumination mortar rounds as part of Exercise Flintlock in Diffa, Niger, March 2017. Skills learned during the exercise are used in the multinational fight against violent extremist organizations (above)

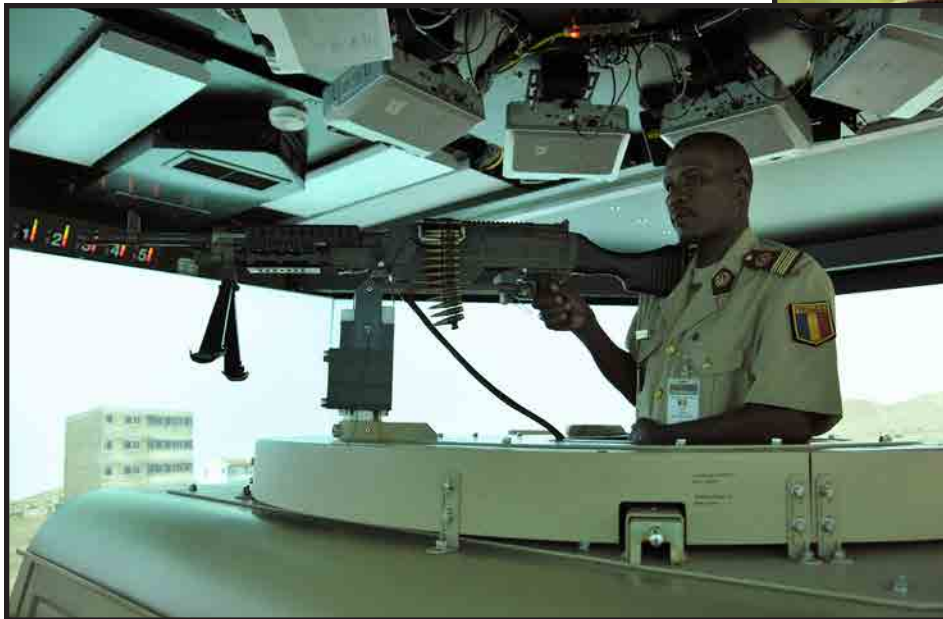
Burkina Faso Soldiers demonstrate stopping a suspect vehicle (above)

Silent Warrior

Silent Warrior was a forum to facilitate information sharing and discussion among United States and African special operation forces leaders. During the first week, participants focused on understanding the capabilities each brings to a combined plan. In the second week, U.S. special operations commanders led regional breakout sessions to understand the challenges facing African militaries.



Kenyan Soldier fires blanks during Exercise Silent Warrior in 2014 (above)



A Chadian Soldier examines a vehicle simulator during Exercise Silent Warrior in Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, June 2014 (above)

U.S. Army Brigadier General Donald Bolduc, Special Operations Command Africa Commander, stated in 2016: “Our job over the course of these two weeks is to study the problem in depth, determine root causes, and devise comprehensive, cooperative strategies to enable African states to work together.”



A U.S. Special Operations Forces member and 3rd Battallion d'Intervention Rapide Soldiers demonstrate passing hallways and intersections during close-quarter battle training at Exercise Silent Warrior in Cameroon in January 2013 (above)

Africa Endeavor

United States Africa Command sponsored Exercise Africa Endeavor annually to improve interoperability and information sharing among African nations, particularly for African Union and United Nations-mandated peace support and disaster-response missions. Since 2006, more than 2,000 communications specialists from 40 countries, six African regional organizations, and six partner nations have participated in Africa Endeavor events.



Military personnel from more than 40 nations gather at the Zambian Army Headquarters, August 2013, for the opening ceremony of Africa Endeavor (above)



Communications specialists share information and procedures, during a training exercise in Gabon in October 2009 (above)



Military personnel representing 38 African nations participate in a scenario-driven exercise portion of Africa Endeavor, Lusaka, Zambia, August 2013 (above)



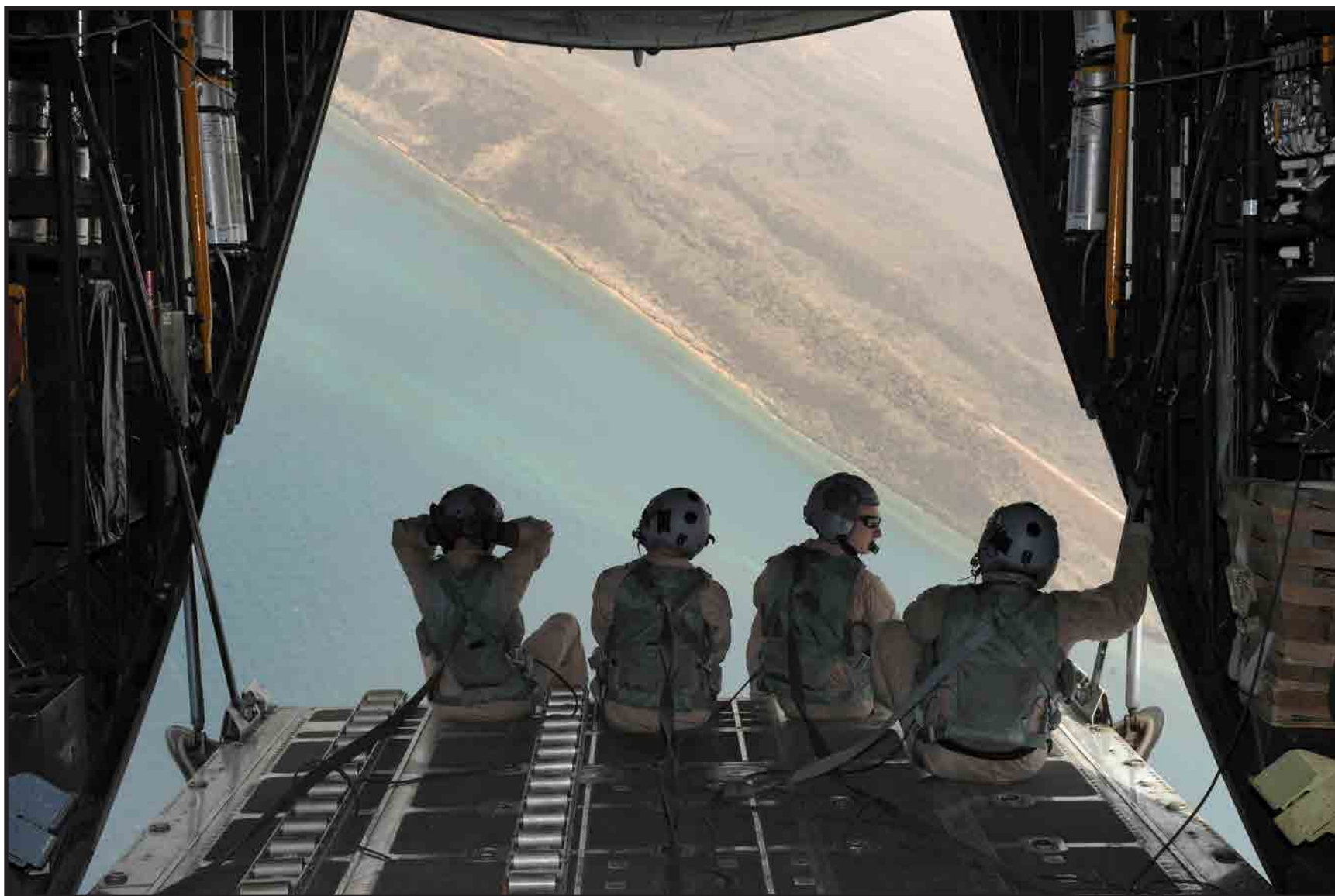
Military personnel from several nations share procedures and information, leading to greater interoperability between African nations in August 2013, at an air force base in Lusaka, Zambia (above)



A Burkinabe health official provides medication to a village elder during a Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) conducted near Gorom-Gorom, Burkina Faso



A U.S. Marine Corps pilot looks toward the runway of Tan Tan Airfield, Morocco, while landing a C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft in support of Exercise African Lion, April 2012



Loadmasters from the 81st Expeditionary Rescue Squadron observe off the back of an C-130 over the Gulf of Tadjoura, Djibouti, during a personnel recovery exercise, July 2012

Contingency Operations

A fundamental part of the mission of United States Africa Command was to respond to crises. In the first decade of the command's history, it conducted contingency operations in Africa to protect civilians and defeat terrorist threats in Libya, support African Union operations in Somalia, Central Africa, and the Lake Chad Basin, and responded to the largest Ebola outbreak in recorded history. An enduring task was to protect United States embassies and citizens in the region.



U.S. Soldiers engage their targets during a Live Fire Exercise at Bundase Training Camp, Ghana, May 2017

Operation Odyssey Dawn

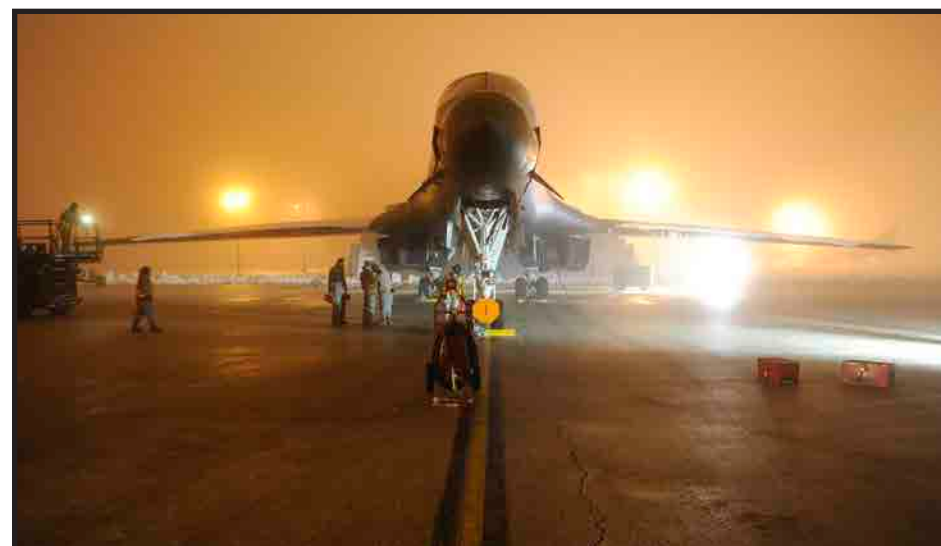
United States military forces conducted operations in 2011 to enforce United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973, which authorized all necessary means to protect civilians in Libya under threat of attack by Qadhafi regime forces. Joint Task Force Odyssey Dawn, commanded by Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III, was the U.S. Africa Command task force established to provide operational and tactical control of the U.S. portion of the international effort.



The U.S. 6th Fleet flagship USS Mount Whitney (LCC/JCC 20) is underway past Mount Etna supporting Joint Task Force Odyssey Dawn, March 2011 (above)



A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III lands at Aviano Air Base, Italy, in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn, March 2011 (above)



U.S. Air Force Airmen prepare a B-1B Lancer to support Operation Odyssey Dawn, March 2011. Their work was made especially difficult by severe winter weather at their base in South Dakota (above)



U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons return to Aviano Air Base, Italy, after supporting Operation Odyssey Dawn in March 2011

Operation Juniper Micron

United States Africa Command supported French counter-terror operations in Mali and the Trans-Sahel starting in 2013 and supported United Nations peacekeeping operations in Mali. Aerial refueling, reconnaissance, and logistics support enabled French aircraft to target terrorist groups who had links to al-Qaeda. The United States also assisted partner nations in the global effort to combat terrorism and protect citizens through the Trans-Sahara Counter Terrorism Partnership and other programs.



A French Mirage 2000 pilot prepares to link up with a KC-135R Stratotanker attached to the 351st Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron over Mali in May 2013 (above)



A French Rafale rolls left after refueling from a Stratotanker March 2013 over Africa (above)



A French Rafale aircraft maneuver for refueling during Operation Juniper Micron over Mali, April 2013

Protection of U.S. Personnel and Facilities

The protection of United States personnel and facilities was an enduring mission of U.S. Africa Command since its inception. Following the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi in 2012, however, U.S. Africa Command added two units trained to reinforce the security of United States diplomatic facilities during times of crisis. The East Africa Response Force and Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response Africa supplemented the command's small Crisis Response Force.



U.S. Marines load into an MV-22B before departing from the USS Essex in the Indian Ocean in July 2015. The Marines supported President Barack Obama's visit to Kenya (above)



In July 2016, the U.S. Air Force transported U.S. military personnel to Juba, South Sudan, in order to reinforce security at the U.S. Embassy. U.S. military personnel board a C-130 at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti (above)

While most U.S. military forces in Africa were based at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, U.S. Africa Command maintained contingency locations in Africa to provide options in the event of crisis and to enable partner capacity building. This access allowed U.S. forces to assist during crises such as those in Libya, Central African Republic, and South Sudan during AFRICOM's first ten years. The limited and dispersed U.S. presence in Africa made intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, as well as mobility, medical support, and personnel recovery capabilities especially important to the command's mission.



U.S. Army Soldiers with the EARF provide AFRICOM the capability to respond to crises in East Africa (above)



An MV-22B Osprey of the SPMAGTF deploys security during a rapid-response demonstration to multinational observers, Tifnit, Morocco, April 2014 (above)



U.S. Marines with the SPMAGTF load onto an MV-22B Osprey, in Accra, Ghana, March 2015. The Marines drilled to rapidly embark on the aircraft and secure a landing zone (above)

Operation United Assistance

In 2014 the United States government responded to the most severe Ebola virus disease epidemic in recorded history in West Africa. The U.S. Agency for International Development coordinated the overall response through its Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. The United States military contributed its unique capacity for logistics, engineering, and training to the overall United States government and international effort in an operation called United Assistance, which was the largest contingency operation in AFRICOM's short history. Joint Forces Command United Assistance (JFC-UA) led the United States military support to the relief effort in Liberia.



Riggers attach a sling load to a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during an airlift operation, Roberts International Airport, December 2014. The mission was to airlift incinerators to a new Ebola treatment facility built in support of Operation United Assistance



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia, Deborah Malac, U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, and Bill Berger, USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team Lead, inspect the Ebola response in 2014 (above)

A biochemist with the 1st Area Medical Laboratory breaks down equipment at the Ebola testing lab in Zwedru, Liberia, February 2015. Soldiers tested blood samples for the Ebola virus (below)



The U.S. military delivered supplies directly to Roberts International Airport in Monrovia, Liberia (above)

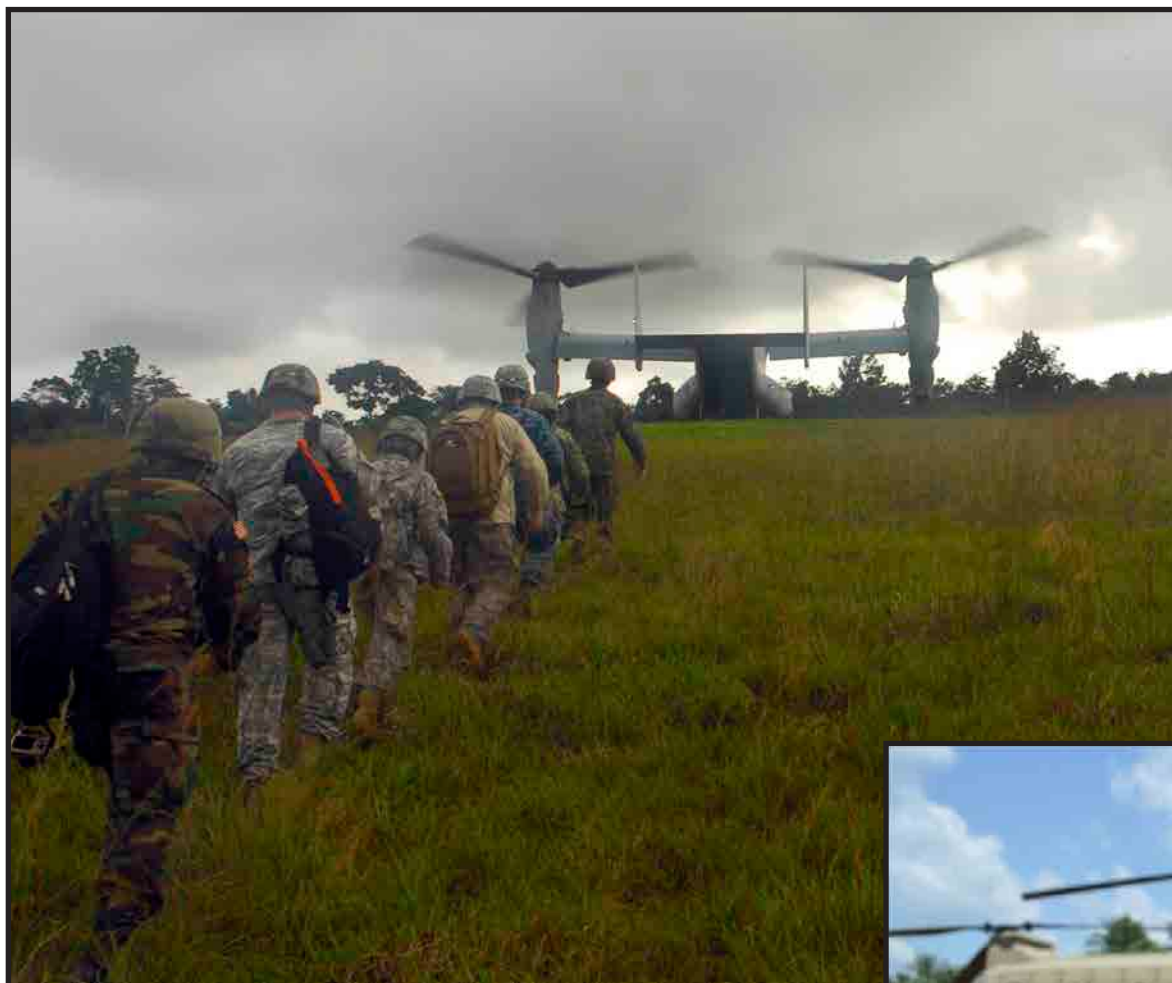


U.S. Marine Forces Africa MV-22s transported UN inspection teams to an Ebola aid station (above)



During a visit to enhance relations is Major General Williams, U.S. Army Africa Commanding General, and Brigadier General Daniel Dee Ziankahn, Chief of Staff Armed Forces of Liberia, Vicenza, Italy, April 2016 (above)

Major General Darryl Williams and his headquarters staff from U.S. Army Africa opened the theater and led JFC-UA from September until October, when Major General Gary Volesky, Commander of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), deployed with elements from his division and other units from the United States. The ability of U.S. Army Africa to arrive quickly in Liberia accelerated the United States government response.



U.S. Marine Forces Africa MV-22s provided intra-theater airlift (above)

Working with the Armed Forces of Liberia and local contractors, United States military engineers constructed Ebola treatment facilities and stocked them with medical supplies. Mobile teams trained medical workers for the new facilities. The United States also built a field hospital in Monrovia to treat health care workers who had contracted Ebola. Diagnostic laboratories helped local officials quickly identify Ebola victims and others who may have contacted them. These efforts assisted Liberia to stop the epidemic.



Members from the Liberian National Police provide crowd control while U.S. Soldiers deliver supplies to an Ebola Treatment Unit in Ganta, Liberia in December 2014 (above)



Although AFRICOM led the U.S. military response, the command also relied on other U.S. military organizations such as Defense Logistics Agency, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, U.S. Transportation Command, and U.S. European Command who played critical roles. AFRICOM had trained the Armed Forces of Liberia since 2010, and this relationship enhanced the cooperation between the two countries during the Ebola response.

U.S. Army and Armed Forces of Liberia engineers worked together to build Ebola treatment facilities (above and right)



As the number of new Ebola cases diminished, Joint Forces Command United Assistance transitioned its responsibilities to other agencies and international partners. Although the 101st Airborne Division cased its colors on 27 February 2015, a small force remained in Liberia to reassure the international community of the United States military's ability to respond to a renewed outbreak. After Operation United Assistance formally ended in June 2015, AFRICOM continued its work to improve the capacity of African partners to respond to future infectious disease outbreaks.

123d Contingency Response Group offloads relief supplies at a staging base in Senegal (below and right)

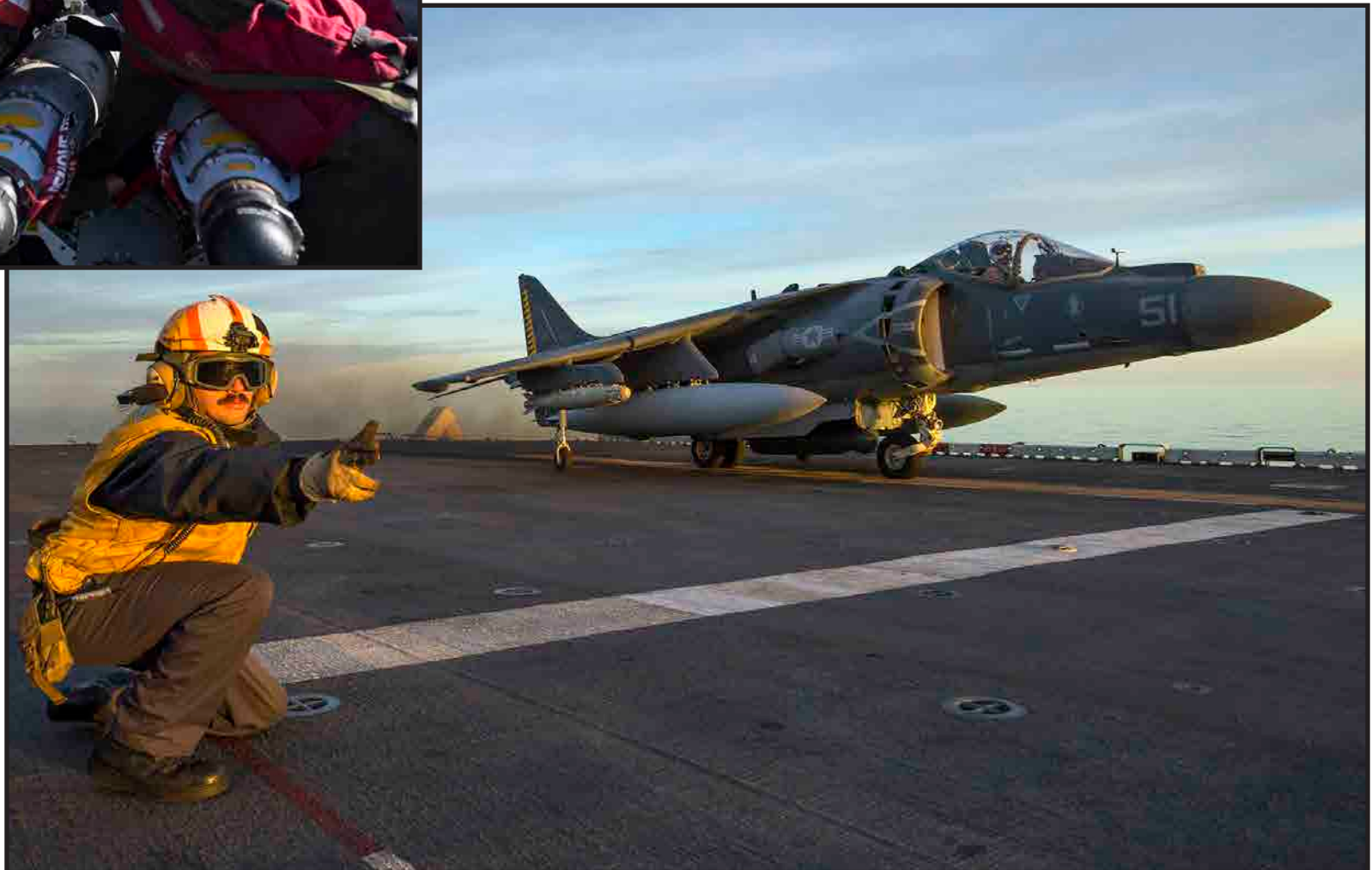


Operation Odyssey Lightning

In support of the Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA), AFRICOM conducted Operation Odyssey Lightning, which enabled GNA-aligned forces to drive Daesh out of its stronghold in Sirte by conducting almost 500 precision airstrikes against vehicle borne improvised explosive devices, heavy guns, tanks, command-and-control centers, and fighting positions.



Members of the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit load ordnance on and launch an AV-8B Harrier II on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD-1) (above and right)



The operation concluded on December 19, 2016, following an announcement from the Libyan government that all of Sirte had been liberated. The United States remained committed to working with the GNA, the Libyan people, and partners in the region to counter the evolving threat of Daesh and other violent extremist organizations.



U.S. Marines and Sailors launch an AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter from the flight deck of the USS Wasp (LHD-1) on September 2016 (above)



An air strike destroys a Daesh vehicle August 2016 (center)



Cockpit view as an AV-8B Harrier II is about to launch from the USS Wasp (LHD-1) during Operation Odyssey Lightning (left)



A KC-135R Stratotanker from the 100th Air Refueling Wing refuels a B-2 of the 509th Bomb Wing en route to Libya

In conjunction with the GNA, the United States military conducted precision airstrikes in January 2017 that destroyed two Daesh camps southwest of Sirte. These strikes degraded Daesh's ability to stage attacks against Libyan forces and civilians working to stabilize the city, and demonstrated American resolve in countering the threat posed by Daesh to Libya, the United States, and its allies.



Two B-2 Spirit bombers returned to Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, after striking targets near Sirte, Libya



The Guided-Missile Destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64) fires rounds to illuminate the shoreline of Sirte, Libya, during Operation Odyssey Lightning



Air Crew members conduct final inspections on a SP-MAGTF MV-22B Osprey prior to departure





Chadian Soldiers raise the flags of partner nations participating in Flintlock 17



"Barnstable County LST" by Gene Klebe

Acknowledgments

There are known and unknown contributors to the creation of this book. A full list of the known would surely take as much space as the book itself. We, regretfully, cannot begin to list them all, but we wish to thank everyone for all their efforts. Several individuals were crucial to completion of the book and we would like to mention them in particular. Gunnery Sergeant Elizabeth Inglese, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Office of Marine Corps Communications; Ms. Brianna Knowles; Ms. Joan Thomas, Fine Arts Curator, National Museum of the Marine Corps.

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All of the photographs and graphics presented are released United States military photographs or courtesy of contributors. Our gratitude for the imagery created by U.S. military and civilian photographers is immeasurable. The visual documentation of Africa Command's activities has been vital to preserving its history and sustaining its legacy.

Special thanks go to Dr. Joseph Mason, Command Historian for AFRICOM, and Gunnery Sergeant Brian Knowles, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Deputy Command Historian, for their hard work and determination to push this project to completion.



A Joint Terminal Attack Controller talks with the pilot of an HC-130J Combat King II during an exercise at Grand Bara, Djibouti, in 2015

Commanders



General William E. "Kip" Ward,
U.S. Army
October 2007 - March 2011



General Carter F. Ham,
U.S. Army
March 2011 - April 2013



General David M. Rodriguez,
U.S. Army
April 2013 - July 2016



General Thomas D. Waldhauser,
U.S. Marine Corps
July 2016 -

Deputy to the Commander for Military Operations



Vice Admiral
Robert T. Moeller,
U.S. Navy
October 2007 - April 2010



Vice Admiral
Charles J. Leidig, Jr,
U.S. Navy
April 2010 - June 2013



Lieutenant General
Steven A. Hummer,
U.S. Marine Corps
June 2013 - June 2015



Vice Admiral
Michael T. Franken,
U.S. Navy
June 2015 - August 2017



Lieutenant General
James C. Vechery,
U.S. Air Force
August 2017 -

Command Senior Enlisted Leaders



Command Sergeant Major
Mark S. Ripka,
U.S. Army
November 2007 - March 2011



Chief Master Sergeant
Jack Johnson, Sr.,
U.S. Air Force
March 2011 - July 2013



Command Sergeant Major
Darrin J. Bohn,
U.S. Army
July 2013 - July 2016



Chief Master Sergeant
Ramon Colon-Lopez,
U.S. Air Force
September 2016 -

Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Engagement

Previously known as Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Activities from 2007-2011.



Ambassador Mary Carlin Yates
October 2007 - September 2009



Ambassador J. Anthony Holmes
September 2009 - September 2012



Ambassador Christopher W. Dell
September 2012 - October 2013

Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Engagement



Ambassador Phillip Carter III
December 2013 - September 2015



Ambassador Donald W. Koran
September 2015 - January 2016



Ambassador
Alexander M. Laskaris
January 2016 -

Headquarters Chief of Staff



Major General
Michael A. Snodgrass,
U.S. Air Force
October 2007 - October 2010



Major General
Richard J. Sherlock Jr.,
U.S. Army
October 2010 - June 2011



Major General
H. D. "Jake" Polumbo Jr.,
U.S. Air Force
July 2011 - March 2012

Headquarters Chief of Staff



Major General
O. G. Mannon,
U.S. Air Force
May 2012 - January 2014



Major General
Michael J. Kingsley,
U.S. Air Force
February 2014 - June 2016



Major General
Roger L. Cloutier Jr.,
U.S. Army
June 2016 - July 2018



Major General
Todd B. McCaffrey,
U.S. Army
July 2018 -



A Burundian Soldier sets up security during a combined arms exercise, Bujumbura, Burundi, June 2012. U.S. Marines and Sailors from SPMAGTF helped prepare the Burundian unit for deployment to the African Union Mission in Somalia

The True Size of Africa

A small contribution in the fight against rampant *Immappancy*, by Kai Krause

Graphic layout for visualization only (some countries are cut and rotated)
But the conclusions are very accurate: refer to table below for exact data

COUNTRY	AREA x 1000 km ²
China	9.597
USA	9.629
India	3.287
Mexico	1.964
Peru	1.285
France	633
Spain	506
Papua New Guinea	462
Sweden	441
Japan	378
Germany	357
Norway	324
Italy	301
New Zealand	270
United Kingdom	243
Nepal	147
Bangladesh	144
Greece	132
TOTAL	30.102
AFRICA	30.221

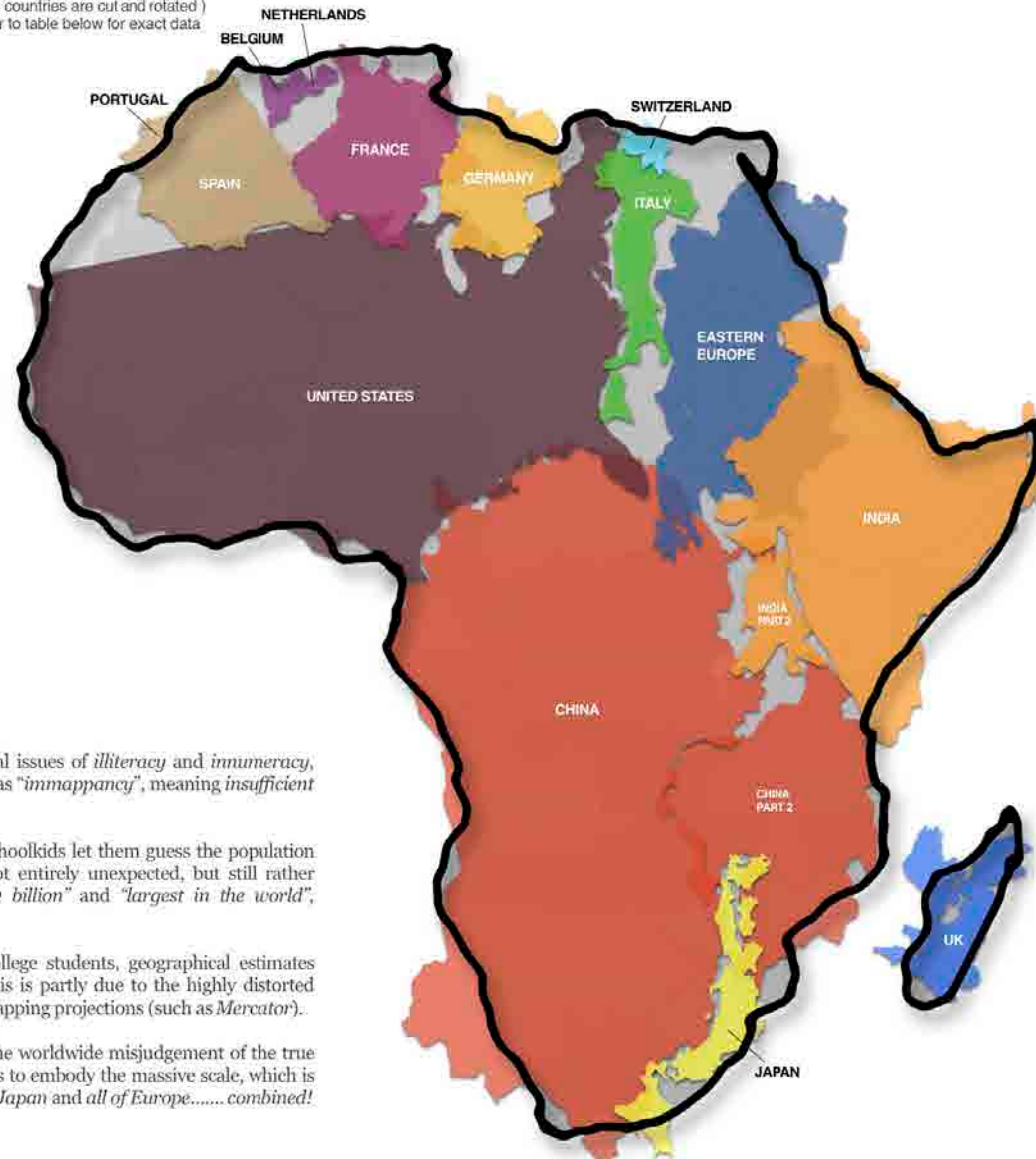
In addition to the well known social issues of *illiteracy* and *innumeracy*, there also should be such a concept as *"immappancy"*, meaning *insufficient geographical knowledge*.

A survey with random American schoolkids let them guess the population and land area of their country. Not entirely unexpected, but still rather unsettling, the majority chose *"1-2 billion"* and *"largest in the world"*, respectively.

Even with Asian and European college students, geographical estimates were often off by factors of 2-3. This is partly due to the highly distorted nature of the predominantly used mapping projections (such as *Mercator*).

A particularly extreme example is the worldwide misjudgement of the true size of *Africa*. This single image tries to embody the massive scale, which is larger than the *USA*, *China*, *India*, *Japan* and *all of Europe*.....combined!

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Top 100 Countries

Area in square kilometers, Percentage of World Total
Sources: Britannica, Wikipedia, Almanac 2010

	AREA km ²	%	
1	Russia	17,098,242	11.50
2	Canada	9,984,670	6.70
3	China	9,598,361	6.40
4	United States	9,629,091	6.40
5	Brazil	8,514,877	5.70
6	Australia	7,692,024	5.30
7	India	3,287,263	2.30
8	Argentina	2,780,400	2.00
9	Kazakhstan	2,724,900	1.80
10	Sudan	2,505,813	1.70
11	Algeria	2,381,741	1.60
12	Congo	2,344,858	1.60
13	Greenland	2,166,086	1.50
14	Saudi Arabia	2,149,890	1.40
15	Mexico	1,964,379	1.30
16	Indonesia	1,860,360	1.30
17	Libya	1,759,540	1.20
18	Iran	1,628,750	1.10
19	Mongolia	1,564,100	1.10
20	Peru	1,285,218	0.88
21	Chad	1,284,000	0.86
22	Niger	1,267,000	0.85
23	Angola	1,246,700	0.85
24	Mail	1,240,192	0.83
25	South Africa	1,221,037	0.82
26	Colombia	1,141,748	0.76
27	Ethiopia	1,104,300	0.74
28	Bolivia	1,098,581	0.74
29	Mauritania	1,026,520	0.69
30	Egypt	1,002,000	0.67
31	Tanzania	945,087	0.63
32	Nigeria	923,768	0.62
33	Venezuela	912,050	0.61
34	Namibia	824,118	0.56
35	Mozambique	801,590	0.54
36	Pakistan	796,095	0.53
37	Turkey	783,562	0.53
38	Chile	756,102	0.51
39	Zambia	752,812	0.51
40	Myanmar	678,578	0.45
41	Afghanistan	652,090	0.44
42	Somalia	637,657	0.43
43	France	632,834	0.43
44	C. African Rep.	622,084	0.42
45	Ukraine	603,500	0.41
46	Madagascar	587,041	0.39
47	Botswana	582,000	0.39
48	Kenya	580,367	0.39
49	Yemen	527,965	0.35
50	Thailand	513,120	0.34
51	Spain	505,992	0.34
52	Turkmenistan	486,100	0.33
53	Cameroon	475,442	0.32
54	Papua New Guinea	462,840	0.31
55	Uzbekistan	447,400	0.30
56	Morocco	446,550	0.30
57	Sweden	441,370	0.30
58	Iraq	438,317	0.29
59	Paraguay	406,769	0.27
60	Zimbabwe	390,787	0.26
61	Japan	377,930	0.25
62	Germany	357,114	0.24
63	Rep. of Congo	342,000	0.23
64	Finland	338,149	0.23
65	Vietnam	331,212	0.22
66	Malaysia	330,803	0.22
67	Norway	323,802	0.22
68	Côte d'Ivoire	322,463	0.22
69	Poland	313,685	0.21
70	Oman	308,500	0.21
71	Italy	301,336	0.20
72	Philippines	300,000	0.20
73	Burkina Faso	274,222	0.18
74	New Zealand	270,467	0.18
75	Gabon	267,666	0.18
76	Western Sahara	266,000	0.18
77	Ecuador	256,369	0.18
78	Guinea	245,857	0.17
79	United Kingdom	242,900	0.16
80	Uganda	241,036	0.16
81	Ghana	238,539	0.16
82	Romania	238,391	0.16
83	Laos	236,800	0.16
84	Guyana	214,969	0.14
85	Belarus	207,600	0.14
86	Kyrgyzstan	199,851	0.13
87	Senegal	186,722	0.13
88	Syria	185,180	0.12
89	Cambodia	181,035	0.12
90	Uruguay	176,215	0.12
91	Suriname	163,820	0.11
92	Tunisia	163,610	0.11
93	Nepal	147,181	0.10
94	Bangladesh	143,898	0.10
95	Tajikistan	143,100	0.10
96	Greece	131,557	0.09
97	Nicaragua	130,373	0.09
98	North Korea	120,538	0.08
99	Malawi	118,484	0.08
100	Eritrea	117,600	0.08
TOP 100 TOTAL		132,632,524	89.34



United States



Europe



India



Japan



China

Back Cover:
Sunset in Serengeti National Park, Tanzania, November 2013

