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AFRICA DEFENSE FORUM

Joining Forces

African Security Partnerships Yield Results

PLUS A Conversation With Somalia's Chief of Defence Forces

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14

features

8 Peacekeeping in Africa: A Profile
Africa leads in missions and participation.

14 Saving the Sahel
A new fighting force seeks to secure the region against jihadists and illicit trafficking.

20 Complex Missions, New Solutions
Multilateral interventions carry enormous promise and challenges.

28 A Continental Conference
At the African Land Forces Summit, commanders share stories and build partnerships.

34 Seize the Moment
A conversation with Somalia's chief of Defence Forces.

38 A Mission Finds Its Voice
The African Union Mission in Somalia has refined its message to counter al-Shabaab.

44 Not Just a Number
Women bring value to peacekeeping missions, but participation hurdles remain.

50 Training Centers Expand to Meet 21st Century Challenges
Public and private interests team up to build a new kind of training facility in Cape Verde.

departments

4 Viewpoint

5 African Perspective

6 Africa Today

26 African Heartbeat

56 Culture & Sports

58 World Outlook

60 Defense & Security

62 Paths of Hope

64 Growth & Progress

66 Flashback

67 Where Am I?



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26



ON THE COVER:

This photo collage shows Soldiers serving in peacekeeping missions across the continent. Using new strategies, African peacekeepers are working to end conflicts and protect civilians.

Photo credits beginning in the upper left and moving clockwise: EPA, MONUSCO, AMISOM, MINUSMA, MINUSCA

Two oft-repeated Swahili proverbs state, “One finger alone cannot kill a louse,” and “One pole cannot support a house.” The meaning is clear: Tasks both small and large require cooperation.

Security is no different. The threats facing the African continent are complex and interconnected. Terror groups hop across borders, internal disputes send refugees fleeing by the thousands and natural disasters can fan across a region. Combating these threats requires innovation. Multilateral interventions must take new forms and include a variety of partners. African security leaders are showing that they’re up to the challenge.

One example is the G5 Sahel Joint Force, a new alliance among five West and Central African countries. The 5,000-person force was designed to take on traffickers and terrorists. Its members have agreed to share intelligence and have expressed willingness to partner with outside actors, including the African Union, European Union, United Nations and the United States. In another intervention organized by the Economic Community of West African States, a 7,000-person force helped avoid a crisis in The Gambia. The proactive military intervention there ensured a democratic and peaceful transfer of power after an election.

These types of multilateral arrangements are never simple. They require planning and political commitment. Difficult issues of logistics, command and control, intelligence sharing, and the right of pursuit across borders can cause friction between partners. Missions typically go through an extended period of difficulty before making gains. But the benefits far outweigh the costs.

Multilateral missions, especially those led by African stakeholders, have proven to be some of the most responsive and effective means of preserving peace. Recent history shows that a willingness to discard old rivalries and try new alliances will pay dividends. By learning from past efforts, African security leaders can replicate success. Sharing the burden of security means all can share the benefits of peace.

U.S. Africa Command Staff



Members of a Nigerian formed police unit deployed with the now-ended United Nations Mission in Liberia board a plane in Harbel, Liberia. UNITED NATIONS



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Gen. Abayomi Gabriel Olonisakin,
Nigerian chief of defense staff,
gave the keynote speech
at the African Land
Forces Summit on April
19, 2018, in Abuja,
Nigeria. His remarks
have been edited to fit
this format.

Unity is Strength

We are aware of the various collaborative initiatives and concerted efforts that have been put in place, not only to ensure a secure Africa, but to attain global security. These collaborative efforts justify the theme of the summit: Unity is Strength.



Drawing from the theme, I am aware that countries in Africa have independently, or in

collaboration, made efforts to eliminate threats such as terrorism, insurgency, piracy, proliferation of small arms and economic crises.

I hope that the deliberation during the summit has offered opportunities to learn from the shortcomings, successes and strategies employed to neutralize or defeat threats of terrorism and violent extremist organizations.

The Armed Forces of Nigeria have been at the forefront of combating insurgency, terrorism, violent extremism and arms proliferation, as well as piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. The Nigerian Army-led counterinsurgency operation against Boko Haram has recorded tremendous success. Boko Haram insurgents are no longer holding territory in Nigeria. The group has been rendered incapable of launching organized attacks. It is my humble view that there are a lot of lessons to be learned from the Nigerian experience.

I, therefore, implore all stakeholders at this summit to learn from the strategies the Nigerian Army has adopted to combat terrorism. The success in the fight against Boko Haram could not have been achieved without effective collaboration between the Lake Chad Basin countries. Collaboration in the areas of training, exercises, operations and intelligence sharing

are imperative for us to achieve results in safeguarding the entire continent.

I am of the belief that the meaningful and effective collaboration within the subregion, the region and the continent will be the catalyst required to galvanize our partners to provide us with the support needed to secure Africa.

Summits like this ensure that as individual and collective countries we come together to analyze our security mechanisms, make projections and set objectives with a view to seeking measures to address lapses and attain goals.

I believe that the African Land Forces Summit 2018 was able to achieve that. It is my view that the alliances formed, the knowledge gained and the experiences shared at this summit will better position us to tackle violent extremist organizations and other threats. I have no doubt that this summit has forged new bonds and consolidated existing relationships.



Military commanders from across the continent stand during the playing of the Nigerian national anthem at the African Land Forces Summit in Abuja, Nigeria.

U.S. ARMY AFRICA

These, I believe, have put us in a better position to appreciate our differences and find meeting points on different issues.

Nigeria will continue to support Africa and global peace whenever it is called upon. We will also ensure that all our actions are guided by best practices, international law and the laws of our operating environment. We also call on the United States, U.S. Army Africa and other partners to always consider Nigeria as a dependable ally when the need arises. I call on the leadership of African land forces to continuously interface and collaborate with each other to address the security challenges confronting Africa.

FOR CLEAN DRINKING WATER IN KENYA, JUST ADD SUNSHINE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

On a sunny afternoon in Western Kenya, Eunice Shigali filled a 10-liter jerry can with water, then unfolded it like a suitcase and placed it in the sun.

After a few hours, a green smiley face appeared on the side of the black container,

telling her the water was clean and hot and ready to cook ugali, a staple dish made of maize flour.

"I used to light a fire to boil water for drinking, washing and cooking," the 48-year-old mother of three told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Now I save time because when I put water in the sun, I can carry on with my other chores."

About 2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water, according to the United Nations. About two-fifths of Kenya's 46 million people rely on unclean water sources, such as ponds, shallow wells and rivers, particularly in rural areas and slums, says charity Water.org.

Shigali's jerry can is made by Solvatten, a Stockholm-based social enterprise that has worked since 2007 to boost access to clean water by selling its invention to governments, charities and businesses.

The jerry can takes two to four hours to heat water to

75 degrees Celsius in the sun. When the can is opened, clear panels expose the water to the sun's ultraviolet rays. The heat and light kill bacteria. A fabric filter stops larger particles from getting in when the can is filled.

The jerry can helps her use less firewood and charcoal, which saves money and trees. Shigali received her jerry can in 2010 from the charity Soroptimist International, which now sells them to women across Kenya through 11 clubs, for 1,000 shillings (\$10) each.

"We are working on ensuring that women are able to proudly have access to safe drinking water and be able to save a lot on fuel with just having to worry about the sunshine," said Dolphine Anyango, Soroptimist's Kenya program director.

The jerry cans also have been offered as an incentive for mothers to visit clinics and vaccinate their children, said Solvatten spokesman David Wadstrom, adding that the company aims to have 1 million people using them by 2020.

"You have to believe that there is a better life on the horizon for the most vulnerable people," he said. "It's really about not leaving people behind. Everybody should have access to clean, safe water at home."



THERAPY DOGS

Heal Traumatized Survivors of LRA War

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

Francis Okello wanted to kill himself after he was blinded at the age of 12 by an unexploded bomb while digging in his family garden in northern Uganda.

"I would have nightmares," said Okello, who lives in an area that has been scarred by two decades of conflict between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels and Ugandan forces. "Life became worthless because I was stigmatized."

Hope returned to Okello's life when he bonded with a dog called Tiger at his boarding school. At the time he felt ashamed of having to wake people up to guide him to the toilet at night.

"I hated burdening people for help," the 29-year-old father of two said. "I got close to Tiger, who would help me walk to the toilet."

The value of therapy animals for mental health problems is well-documented but is rare in East Africa, where many people fear dogs because they usually are kept as guards.

Okello later trained as a community psychologist and set up the Comfort Dog Project in 2015. It has helped more than 300 people traumatized by the rebellion, which was marked by the kidnapping of children for use as fighters and sex slaves.

Uganda's Health Ministry estimates that seven out of 10 people in northern Uganda are traumatized by the war in which tens of thousands were killed and 2 million were uprooted from their homes. The LRA was ejected from the area in 2005.

Filda Akumu, 35, whose family was massacred by LRA rebels, battled trauma after escaping rebel captivity. "When I witnessed my father and my two brothers being hacked to death, I never thought I would heal again — until now," said Akumu, who also volunteers with the project.

Thousands of former abductees suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and suicidal thoughts. Dogs can comfort people who have mental health problems and distract them from upsetting thoughts.

Okello gets many of his dogs from The Big Fix, northern Uganda's only veterinary hospital.

"I mainly use stray dogs because they face tough conditions," Okello said. "When these dogs bond with our patients, they form a companionship that heals both parties."

STUDENTS SOAR AT CÔTE D'IVOIRE'S DRONE ACADEMY

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

A pioneering "drone academy" in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, set up by the Ivoirian Electricity Co. (CIE) plans to revolutionize infrastructure inspections and reduce costs.

CIE will train about 20 young pilots to inspect its high-voltage lines, which stretch more than 25,000 kilometers across the country.

"We have a lot of problems with vegetation; we need to clear it all the time, and it's difficult because it's all across the whole country," said pilot Benjamin Mathon, who is in charge of CIE's drone and youth training program.

Dirt tracks that are impassable after heavy rain, widespread areas of tropical vegetation and a patchy road network make access to electricity pylons difficult in a country that covers 322,000 square kilometers.

After overflying an area with a drone equipped with cameras and thermal and laser sensors, "we use artificial intelligence programs, which analyze the images for any defects — a rusty bolt on a pylon, a damaged cable," Mathon said. "The drone allows us to analyze a large number of lines in a short space of time, across great distances."

Students learn how to fly drones, how to assemble and repair them, and are trained to analyze images, data, geolocalization and mapping.

Previously, all inspections were done by helicopter or by teams on the ground. A helicopter costs more than \$600,000, with each one-hour flight costing nearly \$1,500. A drone costs between \$2,000 and \$125,000 to buy, its upkeep is simple and flight costs are negligible.

The company hopes to reduce the average length of power outages for its 1.3 million customers in Côte d'Ivoire. It also hopes to do the same for customers in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali and Togo.

The drone academy is open to any business in West Africa that could benefit from the technology, said Paul Ginies, director of the Centre for Electrical Professions, CIE's training division.

"I'm sure that young Africans are going to grab hold of this and surprise us by developing applications which we have not thought of. It's their generation," he said.



PEACEKEEPING IN AFRICA: A PROFILE

Africa Leads in Missions and Participation

ADF STAFF

African nations distinguish themselves in United Nations and African Union peacekeeping missions on the continent and worldwide. The continent also is home to half — **seven of 14** — of all active U.N. missions.

In March 2018, there were **91,058** people serving in 14 peacekeeping missions and eight special political missions. Of that total, **10,679** served as police officers, **79,063** served as troops or staff officers, and **1,316** were U.N. military experts on mission (UNMEM).

Nations on the African continent contribute the lion's share of security personnel to United Nations peacekeeping missions operating in Africa and worldwide. Consider these statistics:

- As of March 31, 2018, **38 out of 54** African nations — more than **70 percent** — were providing Soldiers, police officers, experts on mission and staff officers to 14 peacekeeping and some of the U.N.'s smaller political missions worldwide.
- African personnel contributions total **44,845**, representing **49 percent** of the U.N.'s global peacekeeping security personnel.
- Worldwide, African nations provide nearly **48 percent** of the **77,145** troops serving in U.N. missions, and **64 percent** of the police officers serving.
- African countries supply about **33 percent** of all military experts on mission and **42 percent** of staff officers worldwide.



UNMISS peacekeepers provide security during a U.N. official's visit to a camp for the internally displaced in Bentiu, South Sudan, in June 2017. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The numbers are even more impressive when looking just at African peacekeeping missions:

AFRICAN COUNTRIES PROVIDE MORE THAN

56% OF THE TOTAL SECURITY PERSONNEL for the Seven Peacekeeping Missions on the Continent

ETHIOPIA **99%** SUPPLIES

of All Security Personnel Serving in Abyei, the Disputed Border Region Between Sudan and South Sudan

Ethiopia Leads all Countries Globally IN THE NUMBER OF TROOPS

— **8,119** —

AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SECURITY PERSONNEL

— **8,331** —

IT SUPPLIES TO U.N. PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

SENEGAL LEADS THE WORLD IN SUPPLYING POLICE OFFICERS TO GLOBAL PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS WITH **1,241**

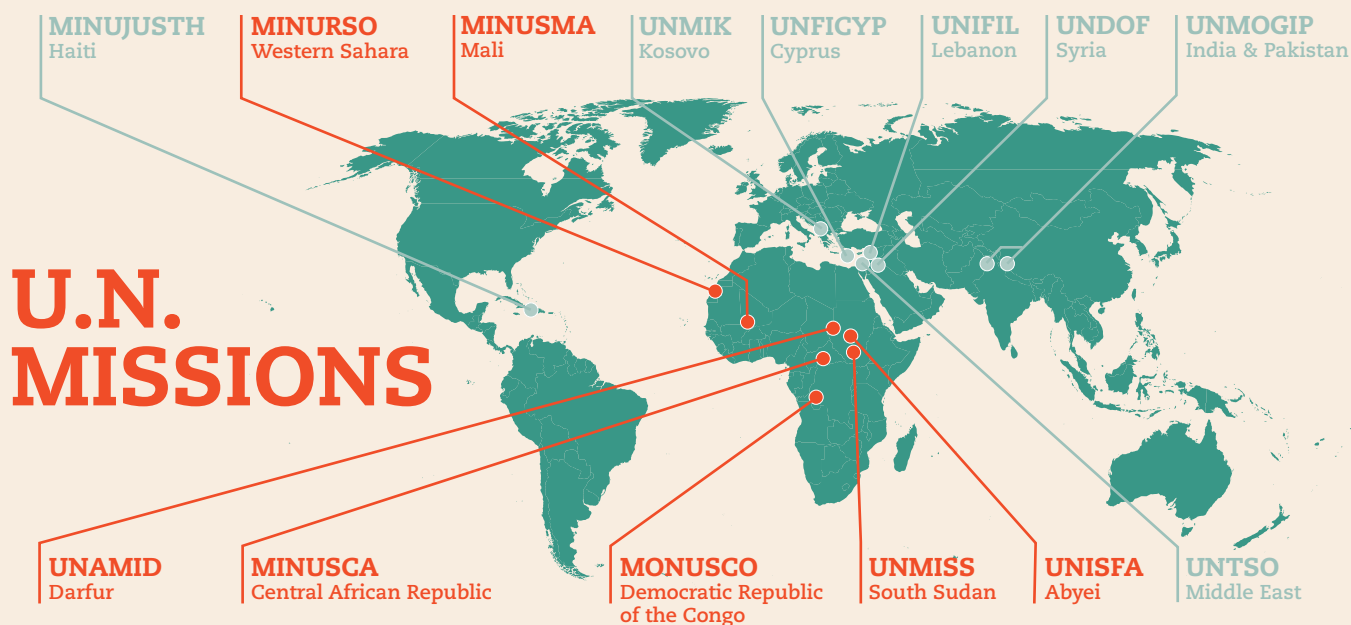
AFRICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO U.N. MISSIONS

African countries are at the forefront of any list of personnel contributions. Nations from the continent occupy **17 of the top 25** spots for the total number of personnel contributed from countries worldwide. Personnel contributions range from the world leader, Ethiopia, at 8,331, to Algeria and Cape Verde, at one each. Each total includes troops, police officers, experts on mission and staff officers:

8,331	Ethiopia	1,430	Togo
6,548	Rwanda	1,217	South Africa
3,154	Egypt	1,128	Cameroon
2,677	Tanzania	1,078	Niger
2,642	Ghana	1,065	Zambia
2,454	Senegal	1,047	Mauritania
2,135	Burkina Faso	947	Guinea
1,601	Morocco	944	Malawi
1,472	Chad		

AFRICAN POLICE CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

1,241	Senegal	70	Niger
1,073	Rwanda	69	Guinea
760	Egypt	69	Tanzania
474	Togo	61	Mali
395	Burkina Faso	61	Namibia
367	Cameroon	44	Ethiopia
353	Ghana	34	The Gambia
277	Mauritania	31	Chad
221	Nigeria	26	Uganda
199	Benin	24	Kenya
192	Tunisia	17	Madagascar
173	Djibouti	15	South Africa
141	Republic of the Congo	15	Central African Republic
100	Côte d'Ivoire	4	Democratic Republic of the Congo
96	Zambia	1	Burundi
87	Sierra Leone	1	Cape Verde
83	Zimbabwe		
81	Malawi		



DEFINITIONS

When looking at peacekeeping personnel, it's important to know what each group does. United Nations peacekeeping personnel can be divided into six primary categories:

CONTINGENT TROOPS

United Nations member states contribute formed military units that correspond to formations such as companies, brigades or battalions. Each is a contingent.

MILITARY EXPERTS ON MISSION

These include observers, liaison officers and advisors. These positions typically serve part time and perform quasi-diplomatic functions.

POLICE

U.N. police build and support or, in some cases, substitute for host-state police services to prevent and detect crime, protect life and property, and maintain public order and safety.

STAFF OFFICERS

These officers draft military orders; situation reports; correspondence; planning procedures; and U.N. procedures, rules and regulations.

CIVILIANS

Civilians promote and protect human rights, strengthen the rule of law, foster political and reconciliation processes, promote mine awareness, and serve as public information officers. They also support finance, logistics, communications technology, human resources and administration.

U.N. VOLUNTEERS

They provide administrative, logistical, technical and medical expertise to various missions to assist in peacebuilding, humanitarian work, elections and emergency health needs, among other things.

MONUSCO

The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

This mission's roots are in events after the Rwandan genocide of the 1990s, when Rwandan Hutus flooded the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), eventually sparking a rebellion that took control of the country from President Mobutu Sese Seko. Soon after, a rebellion supported by Rwanda and Uganda started in the Kivu regions, leading to the creation of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) in 1999 to oversee a cease-fire. MONUC remained after the 2006 elections and was renamed MONUSCO on July 1, 2010.

MONUSCO's purpose is to protect civilians and consolidate peace in the DRC. According to the U.N., the mission has been authorized to use "all necessary means" to protect civilians, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders who are "under imminent threat of physical violence" and to support the DRC government as it stabilizes and consolidates peace.



20,654 Total Personnel

15,425 Contingent Troops

258 Experts on Mission

1,357 Police

179 Staff Officers

35% African Personnel

Other

3,112 Civilians

323 U.N. Volunteers

145 Total Fatalities

A MONUSCO peacekeeper talks to internally displaced people at a camp near Kalemie in the DRC. MONUSCO

DEPLOYED TOTALS AS OF MARCH 2018; CIVILIAN DATA AS OF AUGUST 2017; U.N. VOLUNTEER DATA AS OF JANUARY 2018

MINUSMA The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

In early 2012, a Tuareg movement, aligned with armed Islamic extremist groups, attacked government forces in Mali's north. Soon after, a military coup accelerated the collapse, leading rebels to capture the cities of Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu and to proclaim an independent state. The Economic Community of West African States formed the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA) in late 2012, which gave way to MINUSMA several months later. MINUSMA was established on April 25, 2013, to help

transitional authorities stabilize the country. The mission also ensures security, protects civilians, supports national political dialogue and reconciliation, helps re-establish state authority, rebuilds the security sector, and promotes and protects human rights in Mali.



A MINUSMA peacekeeper plays with a boy during a patrol in Bara, a village 85 kilometers from Gao in northeastern Mali. HARANDANE DICKO/UNITED NATIONS

15,156 Total Personnel

11,443 Contingent Troops

34 Experts on Mission

1,734 Police

433 Staff Officers

69% African Personnel

Other

1,351 Civilians

161 U.N. Volunteers

166 Total Fatalities

MINUSCA United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

In December 2012, the mainly Muslim Séléka rebels launched attacks and eventually seized the capital, Bangui, forcing President François Bozizé to flee. The conflict took on sectarian overtones as the mainly Christian anti-Balaka clashed with Muslims in and around Bangui. MINUSCA's top priority is protecting civilians. It also supports the government transition process; creates space for humanitarian assistance; promotes and protects human rights; supports justice and the rule of law; and promotes disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation. MINUSCA subsumed the U.N. Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic. In September 2014, the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic transferred authority to MINUSCA.



MINUSCA peacekeepers escort 100 students to their exams in Bangui, Central African Republic. MINUSCA

14,094 Total Personnel

10,284 Contingent Troops

126 Experts on Mission

2,049 Police

261 Staff Officers

71% African Personnel

Other

1,143 Civilians

231 U.N. Volunteers

60 Total Fatalities

UNAMID African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

UNAMID was established on July 31, 2007, and is charged with protecting civilians and securing the delivery of humanitarian aid. It replaced an earlier mission, the African Union Mission in Sudan, and is distinctive in that it is a joint effort of the U.N. and the AU. Land and grazing rights have resulted in years of tension in Darfur. In 2003, rebel groups the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement attacked government targets, accusing Khartoum of favoring Arabs over blacks. Sudanese military forces and militias known as the Janjaweed, which means "devils on horseback," killed and displaced Darfuri civilians. Hundreds of thousands have died, and millions have been displaced. The mission also monitors the borders of Chad and the Central African Republic.



Sudanese military forces and militias known as the Janjaweed, which means "devils on horseback," killed and displaced Darfuri civilians. Hundreds of thousands have died, and millions have been displaced. The mission also monitors the borders of Chad and the Central African Republic.

15,321 Total Personnel

9,402 Contingent Troops

130 Experts on Mission

2,557 Police

238 Staff Officers

63% African Personnel

Other

2,873 Civilians

121 U.N. Volunteers

261 Total Fatalities

UNAMID and the Sudanese government signed a memorandum of understanding on January 28, 2018, for the mission to open a temporary operating base in Golo. KONE MOUROULAYE/UNAMID

DEPLOYED TOTALS AS OF MARCH 2018; CIVILIAN DATA AS OF AUGUST 2017; U.N. VOLUNTEER DATA AS OF JANUARY 2018

UNMISS United Nations Mission in South Sudan

After South Sudan's independence in 2011, the U.N. Security Council determined that the situation there continued to threaten regional peace and security. UNMISS is charged with consolidating peace and security and helping to establish conditions for development. After a crisis broke out in December 2013, the Security Council in May 2014 reprioritized the UNMISS mandate to protect civilians, monitor human rights, and support the delivery of humanitarian assistance and implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement.



UNMISS peacekeepers meet women and children during a patrol near Bentiu, South Sudan. REUTERS

17,965 Total Personnel

13,218 Contingent Troops
174 Experts on Mission
1,591 Police
384 Staff Officers
39% African Personnel

Other

2,207 Civilians
391 U.N. Volunteers

55 Total Fatalities

UNISFA United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

UNISFA was established in June 2011 in response to violence, escalating tensions and population displacement in oil-rich Abyei, a small disputed border region between Sudan and South Sudan. When South Sudan obtained independence, the governments in Juba and Khartoum failed to resolve the status of Abyei. It is claimed by the Ngok-Dinka people, who raise livestock there. The Misseriya, northern Arabs who migrate into Abyei each year seeking water and pasture for their cattle, also claim it. The operation monitors the border and helps protect humanitarian aid deliveries. It can use force to protect civilians and humanitarian workers. UNISFA came after Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement agreed to demilitarize Abyei and let Ethiopian troops monitor the area.



A United Nations police officer from Zimbabwe talks to civilians in the Abyei area. UNISFA

4,765 Total Personnel

4,286 Contingent Troops
89 Experts on Mission
37 Police
110 Staff Officers
99% African Personnel

Other

211 Civilians
32 U.N. Volunteers

28 Total Fatalities

MINURSO United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

MINURSO was established in April 1991 in accordance with settlement proposals accepted in August 1988 by Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO). The plan provides for a transitional period in which a referendum would be prepared, giving the people of Western Sahara a choice between independence and integration with Morocco. In 2016, the U.N. Security Council called on parties to work toward more substantive negotiations.

470 Total Personnel

19 Contingent Troops
199 Experts on Mission
1 Police
8 Staff Officers
22% African Personnel

Other

227 Civilians
16 U.N. Volunteers

16 Total Fatalities

DEPLOYED TOTALS AS OF MARCH 2018; CIVILIAN DATA AS OF AUGUST 2017; U.N. VOLUNTEER DATA AS OF JANUARY 2018

AMISOM The African Union Mission in Somalia

AMISOM began in Somalia in 2007 to protect a transitional government that arose out of the chaos that had bedeviled the country since the 1990s. The AU mission, which was approved by the U.N., began with troops from Uganda and soon expanded to include more than **22,000** personnel, including troops from Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Uganda. Sierra Leone later withdrew its troops.

Police-contributing countries have changed over the years, but recent contributors are Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 2372 indicated that maximum personnel would be reduced to **21,626** by the start of 2018. Uniformed personnel are to drop to **20,626** by October 30, 2018. The pace could accelerate, depending on the capacity of Somali security forces.

AMISOM's purpose is to provide security and reduce the threat of insurgent group al-Shabaab. The goal is to mentor Somali security forces and police officers and eventually hand over security duties to these forces.

The mission has been a dangerous one, because troops often have directly engaged al-Shabaab militants. However, accurate mission fatality figures are not available because contributing countries do not report the numbers.



Djiboutian troops serving in AMISOM rescue flood victims in Beletweyne, Somalia, in April 2018. AMISOM





A Malian Soldier patrols near the borders of Burkina Faso and Niger as part of Operation Hawbi in November 2017.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Saving the Sahel

A NEW FIGHTING FORCE SEEKS TO SECURE THE REGION AGAINST JIHADISTS AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

ADF STAFF

Thick, black smoke spewed into the sky above the city of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in March 2018, evidence that radical jihadists again had attacked the bustling capital in Africa's western Sahel region.

The two-pronged attack targeted the French Embassy and Burkina Faso's military headquarters. The assault killed eight Burkinabe Soldiers and eight assailants. Eighty other people were injured. It was the third extremist attack in the city in just more than two years.

Security Minister Clément Sawadogo told journalists that the attack appeared to have targeted

senior Army officials and might have sought to "decapitate" Burkinabe military leadership. It would have been successful, he said, except that the meeting was moved to a new location at the last minute.

This was not the first such incident in Burkina Faso. An August 2017 attack killed nearly 20 people and injured as many more when gunmen on motorcycles fired on a Turkish restaurant. In January 2016, members of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb killed at least two dozen people at a hotel and coffee shop on the same busy street, according to *The Washington Post*.

Unlike Mali, its neighbor to the north, Burkina Faso is not home to a United Nations peacekeeping mission or the site of a multinational military action to displace an insurgency. However, the nation is just the latest example underscoring the dangers that lurk in the Sahel, a transitional geographic region that separates the Sahara to the north from humid savannas in the south. The Sahel stretches from Senegal eastward nearly 4,000 kilometers through Eritrea to the Red Sea.

After attacks in Burkina Faso, continuing unrest in Mali and an armed Islamist insurgency in Nigeria that has spread to Cameroon, Chad and Niger, five countries have decided to take action to secure their borders and protect their people.

Already, the Sahel region is packed with forces trying to stave off insurgencies and unrest. The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was established in 2013 to restore order after a 2012 coup preceded a Tuareg uprising in the north. French forces launched Operation Serval in early 2013 to beat back Islamist advances in northern Mali. Chad marched 2,000 of its own troops into Mali to join the fight.

G5 member Niger must be mindful of the Malian border to its west, Boko Haram incursions in its southeast Diffa region, and trafficking through its north into a chaotic Libya. Niger — with Benin, Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria — is part of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) that is battling Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin.

Finally, France remains in the region through Operation Barkhane, a 4,000-strong force that evolved out of Serval in 2014 and is based in Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali.

Into this mix the G5 Sahel Joint Force (or the Force Conjointe du G5 Sahel as it is known) unites Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger in a fighting force that will join the effort to bring security to the troubled region. The task ahead will

be complex. In short, the G5 Sahel Joint Force will be one of many military efforts in a region with many disparate problems caused by an array of different groups.

THE G5 SAHEL

The G5 Sahel began in 2014 to foster economic cooperation and security among its five member nations. Three years later, the alliance decided to launch its joint security force to address growing concerns of drug trafficking, human trafficking and terrorism. The African Union and the United Nations Security Council endorsed the Sahel force, which expects to be “at the forefront of transnational security efforts in the Sahel for the near future,” according to “The G5 Sahel Joint Force Gains Traction,” a February 9, 2018, article for the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS).

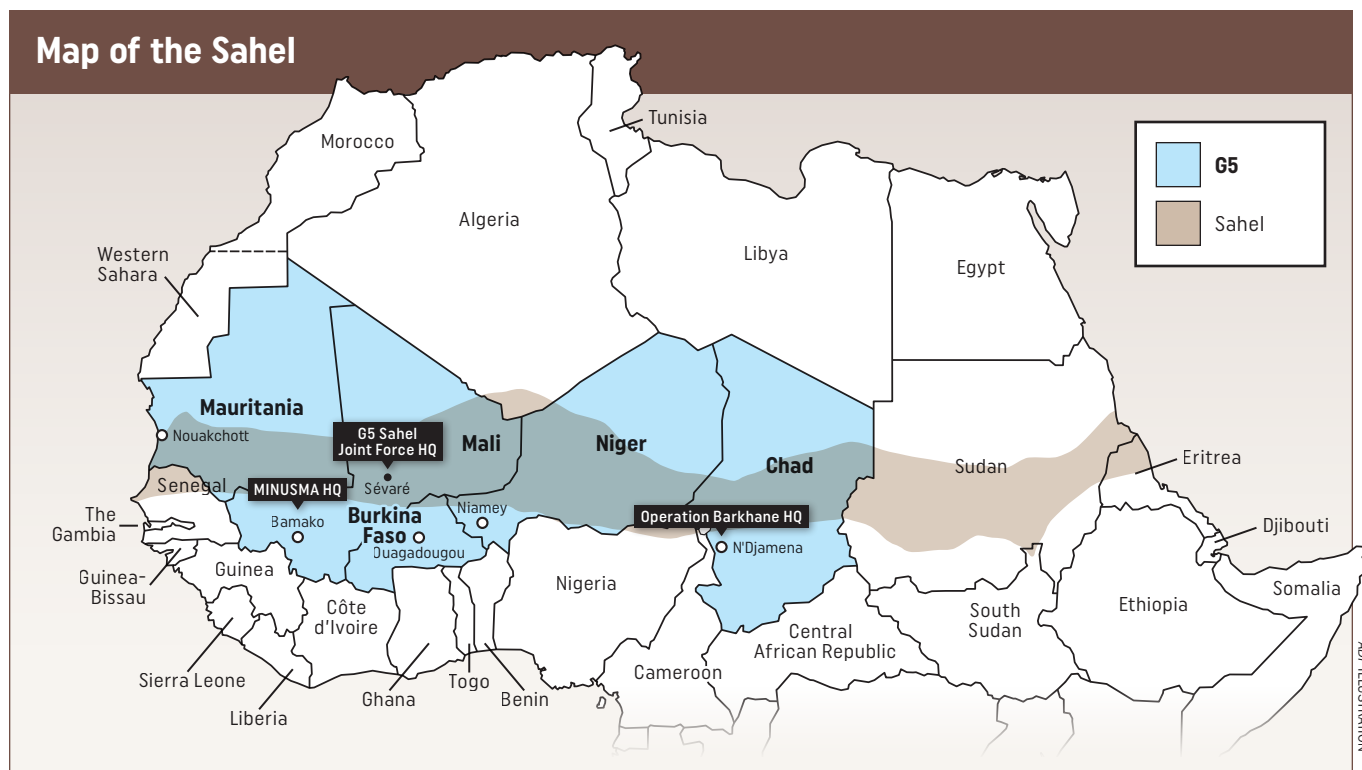
The force’s concept of operations has four pillars, according to the ACSS paper. It will seek to:

- Combat terrorism and drug trafficking.
- Help restore state authority and return displaced persons and refugees.
- Ease the provision of humanitarian operations and aid delivery to those who need it.
- Help carry out development strategies in the G5 Sahel region.



A Nigerien Soldier near Diffa guards the border with Nigeria. REUTERS

Map of the Sahel



Source: International Crisis Group

COUNTRY	TOTAL ARMED FORCES	DEPLOYED TO U.N. OR OTHER MULTINATIONAL OPERATIONS	COMMITMENT TO THE G5 SAHEL FORCE
Burkina Faso	9,000 (including 3,500 gendarmes)	2,900 to U.N.	550 Soldiers and 100 police/gendarmes
Chad	30,000	1,250 to U.N., plus 1,250 in MNJTF	550 Soldiers and 100 police/gendarmes
Mali	14,700	40 to U.N.	1,100 Soldiers and 200 gendarmes
Mauritania	16,000	900 to U.N.	550 Soldiers and 100 police/gendarmes
Niger	6,000	1,200 to U.N., plus 1,000 in MNJTF	1,100 Soldiers and 200 gendarmes

Source: Africa Center for Strategic Studies

The force will consist of up to 5,000 mostly military troops from the five member states. That total will include seven battalions of 550 Soldiers each: one battalion each from Burkina Faso, Chad and Mauritania, and two each from Mali and Niger. Mali and Niger also will provide 200 gendarmes each, while the other three countries offer 100 police or gendarmes each, the ACSS paper states. Troops will be spread across three sectors: the Western, which is Mali and Mauritania; Central, which is Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger; and Eastern, which is Chad and Niger. The force headquarters is in Sévaré, Mali, and secondary command posts are planned for each sector.

The Western Sector will be headquartered in Nbeikit, Mauritania, and will be commanded by

Col. Salem Vall Ould Isselmou of Mauritania. It was unclear in April 2018 where the remaining sectors' headquarters would be set up.

The G5 Sahel Joint Force is expected to focus its efforts on border zones, Reuters reported. One zone will cover the border of Mali and Niger, and another will oversee the border of Mali and Mauritania. The third will address problems in the tri-border area where Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger meet.

It was in part of this three-country border area, known as the Liptako-Gourma region, that the G5 Sahel Joint Force undertook its first operation between October 27 and November 10, 2017, according to Jane's 360. The operation, called Hawbi, which means "black cow," reportedly included



350 Soldiers from Burkina Faso and 200 each from Mali and Niger in an area that has seen an upsurge in militant violence. French troops assisted with armored vehicles and explosives specialists.

“The operation ... aims to achieve an area of control in this region of three borders to fight against armed groups and trafficking, in order to allow the return of a level of security favorable to the tranquility of the populations,” the G5 Sahel said in a prepared statement.

On January 14, 2018, the joint force embarked on its second operation, called Pagnali, which means “thunder” in the Fula language. The operation centered on the border of Burkina Faso and Mali. Force Commander Gen. Didier Dacko of Mali told French radio station RFI that the operation involved one battalion each from the two countries operating in an area of about 8,000 square meters south of Boulikessi, Mali, and Nassoumbou, Burkina Faso.

“Allow me to say, bluntly, that with the Pagnali operation, the joint force of the G5 Sahel countries asserts itself as a Sahelian force that knows the field, having a capacity of adaptation and a good coordination with the national armies,” Dacko said.

Coordination will be essential as the G5 Sahel Joint Force continues its work.

Malian Soldiers take part in Operation Hawbi in central Mali, near the borders with Burkina Faso and Niger, in November 2017.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

COORDINATING EFFORTS

The Sahel in general, and G5 Sahel nations in particular, are teeming with internal and external security threats. The situation in Mali is especially thorny. MINUSMA has been operating there since 2013 amid a complex array of armed militant groups.

Jama’a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin’ (JNIM), which means “Group for the Support Islam and Muslims,” is a militant jihadist organization. It formed when Ansar al-Dine, the Macina Liberation Front, Al-Mourabitoun and the Saharan branch of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb merged in March 2017. All four groups had been active for years in Mali. JNIM now is the official branch of al-Qaida in Mali.

Other groups, such as the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa, also have been active in Mali.

With the presence of MINUSMA and France’s Operation Barkhane, one concern is that the G5 Sahel Force may contribute to a “security traffic jam” in Mali and beyond. Chad and Niger are



Peacekeepers from Burkina Faso patrol Mali in an armored vehicle as part of MINUSMA in February 2018. Burkina Faso has forces dedicated to MINUSMA and the G5 Sahel Joint Force. UNITED NATIONS



People enter the G5 Sahel Joint Force's new military headquarters in Sévaré, Mali, in October 2017. REUTERS

among the nations participating in the MNJTF to eliminate Boko Haram. Although the MNJTF's mandate is sharply drawn, its proximity to the G5 Sahel Force's activities "suggests the need for operational coordination" with the MNJTF, especially in Chad and Niger, according to the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute.

"Given that some of the same security partners are involved in each of these missions, efforts in clarifying their respective roles and reconciling mandates is central to the overall counterterrorism and stabilization effort," the ACSS paper states.

The G5 Sahel Force already is working with France's Operation Barkhane, and it will be important to define areas of cooperation while respecting missions' different mandates, said Col.-Maj. Léon Traoré, chief of Army staff for Burkina Faso. The new force also can enhance the efforts of participating nations without supplanting those efforts.

"The idea is to mutualize our forces and our efforts, to combine our capacities by sharing intelligence and to pool the way we do things so we can reach a shared goal," Traoré told *ADF*. "I think the philosophy that supports the G5 is that. It is: Unity makes strength. Shared effort to do what we can together to combat what has become a common enemy."

Andrew Lebovich, a visiting fellow with the European Council on Foreign Relations, wrote in

March 2018 that the G5 Sahel Force's security efforts and progress also must be balanced with efforts to improve governance and justice while protecting local civilians, who can be endangered or displaced by fighting. G5 operations such as Operation Pagnali have driven refugees into areas of Mali already suffering from crime, communal differences and food insecurity.

Stifling militant recruitment has been a challenge in Mali, and it underscores Lebovich's point about improving governance. The appeal of militant groups is obvious, Boubacar Hassane, a U.N. military observer in Sévaré told Bloomberg news service.

"It's because of poverty," Hassane said. "A guy without a job can't get a wife. Imagine, there's nothing out there for him and then the jihadists offer him money. They pay well — sometimes even \$200 a day. No other job will ever pay that much."

The ACSS paper states that economic development is part of the effort's concept of operations. That, more than anything,

will help blunt the appeal of jihadist recruitment and propaganda, especially when coupled with security forces that uphold the highest standards of professionalism and respect for human rights.

G5 Sahel Force Deputy Commander Yaya Sere of Burkina Faso agrees. He told Bloomberg that military forces can't do the job alone. "The key," he said, "is development." □

"The idea is to mutualize our forces and our efforts, to combine our capacities by sharing intelligence and to pool the way we do things so we can reach a shared goal."

— Col.-Maj. Léon Traoré, chief of Army staff for Burkina Faso



REUTERS

The background of the entire page is a warm, brown-to-gold gradient. On the left side, there are black silhouettes of military equipment, including what appears to be a mounted machine gun or anti-aircraft gun pointing upwards. At the bottom, there are more silhouettes, possibly of a vehicle or another piece of equipment.

COMPLEX MISSIONS, *New* Solutions

ADF STAFF

MULTILATERAL INTERVENTIONS CARRY ENORMOUS
PROMISE AND CHALLENGES

In early 2017, The Gambia was hurtling toward a crisis. Its longtime president, Yahya Jammeh, had lost the presidential election but refused to accept the results and leave office. His opponent, Adama Barrow, fled the country fearing for his life, prompting his supporters to take to the streets in protest. But on the way to a violent clash, something unusual happened: Five countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) banded together and sent a 7,000-person force to the border of the country.

Jammeh was given an ultimatum: Depart or face the consequences. “By land, sea and air, Gambia is surrounded,” Marcel de Souza of ECOWAS said at the time. “If at noon [Jammeh] doesn’t accept to leave Gambia, the troops will intervene militarily to remove him by force.”

That show of solidarity, combined with diplomatic pressure, persuaded Jammeh to board a plane for Equatorial Guinea, where he lives in exile. It was a rare display of muscular multilateralism that avoided a crisis. A report published by the International Peace Institute asked whether it was “A New African Model for Coercion?”

All over the continent there is a push for proactive, multilateral military interventions. In Lesotho, after the assassination of an Army commander, seven nations from the Southern African Development Commission deployed a standby force to ensure stability. In the Lake Chad Basin, five countries have joined to create the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) under the aegis of the Lake Chad Basin Commission to defeat Boko Haram. And, in the Sahel, five countries have formed the G5 Sahel Joint Force to stomp out terror groups operating there.

The efforts represent a break from past failures when crises were left to fester and countries allowed to implode before an international mission was approved.

“I think the issue of being proactive, we can see that. It’s a change,” said Gen. Prince Johnson III, commander of the Armed Forces of Liberia. “We’re not there yet; we’re still working on the issue of lift capacity and logistics, but I can see a change. A new dimension of Africans taking responsibility for our own continent.”

How can African security professionals ensure mission success? Recent missions offer lessons of the factors that can spell success or disaster for a multilateral intervention.

THE COMMAND AND CONTROL CHALLENGE

Command and control (C2) is never easy. Defined as the military management of personnel and

resources, it has been called both an art and a science. C2 is particularly complex in the multilateral arena. One mission might include troop-contributing countries (TCCs), regional organizations, bilateral partners and nongovernmental organizations. All want their voices heard.

Maj. Gen. Sam Kavuma of the Ugandan People’s Defence Force spent one year as commander of Sector 1 in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Kavuma said being a military commander has four essential steps: plan, give orders, facilitate and demand results.

C2 in the multilateral environment is not so straightforward. There is, he said, a “gap” or a “hiccup” between the force commander and the contingent commanders. “The gap in some of the missions is: You find that a commander may give orders but he does not facilitate because he does not have the facilities at his disposal,” Kavuma said. “We find that the contingents entirely rely on their home countries to give them support.”

Kavuma gave the example of a force commander from one country outlining a campaign plan. The contingent commander from a second country will respond, “OK, now provide me with the equipment I need to execute the plan.” If the force commander can’t accomplish that, what good are his orders? “It causes some friction,” Kavuma said.

Part of the difficulty stems from the fact that some African-led missions rely on the United Nations and other partners to provide logistical support such as food and fuel. The force commander does not have full control over those partners, and it erodes his authority. “It is unwise to separate control over logistical functions from the operational commander,” Kavuma said.

Another challenge of C2 in the multilateral setting is that, even when countries are under a unified command, they often must call back to their home countries for approval to take part in certain aspects of a mission. Other times, countries commit ground troops to a mission but keep air or naval assets under domestic control.

As commander of the MNJTF, Maj. Gen. Lucky Irabor of Nigeria has worked hard to overcome C2 challenges. He said every operational plan he makes is ratified by chiefs of defense staff from troop-contributing countries. Although they give input, he has never had a country refuse to participate.

The MNJTF is strengthened by the fact that participating countries all face the same terror threat on their soil and are determined to fight it. “Trust exists among the countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission,” he said. “There is a common political understanding of what the issues are and what we stand to gain by coming together.”



Senegalese Soldiers patrol The Gambia to ensure stability after the departure of ex-President Yahya Jammeh.

Irabor also credited the fact that all countries have agreed to robust rules of engagement, a comprehensive concept of operations and standard operating procedure that guide the MNJTF actions. He said the primary C2 challenges for the MNJTF countries have been interoperability and language barriers.

Irabor hopes the MNJTF can be a model of overcoming C2 hurdles in multilateralism. “Our world remains a world of interdependence and, I think, for the foreseeable future it’s going to remain so,” he said. “We need to do everything possible to enhance the capacity of African forces to contain challenges. It is not a choice, but an imperative.”



AFF/GETTY IMAGES

LOGISTICS, THE ACHILLES HEEL

A barrier that prevents some multilateral missions from getting off the ground is strategic lift. For example, the 2012 West African-led effort to intervene in the crisis in Mali was delayed, in part, by a lack of airlift capacity. Countries willing to send troops to Mali were unable to move them to the front lines.

Often, African-led peace support operations have relied on foreign partners or contractors to transport troops and equipment.

EPA

“Strategic lift and logistics is the Achilles heel,” said Dr. Monde Muyangwa, director of the Wilson Center’s Africa Program. “More needs to be done by Africa to fix this, to own this ... you cannot have command and control if you don’t own the logistics piece.”

The African Union has a plan to improve this. Outlined as part of its Maputo Plan of Action, the AU is setting up a Continental Movement Coordination Center that would provide for the sharing of lift capacity among member states and reimbursement to states that provide the service. The AU has conducted strategic lift assessments of various Regional Economic Communities and has identified gaps that need to be filled by 2020.

The AU also is working on improving its logistics capabilities. It has opened a Continental Logistics Base in Douala, Cameroon, and plans to stock it with \$100 million worth of donated equipment. Much of that equipment will be prepositioned at regional logistics bases around the continent to provide “startup kits” that can be quickly deployed in the event of an emergency. The AU plans to hold a logistics exercise in 2018.

In summarizing these efforts, retired Brig. Gen. Robert Kabage, AU senior monitoring and evaluation officer, acknowledged that past AU interventions have faced logistics and strategic lift shortfalls. Future interventions must be proactive and willing to partner with all countries or organizations that have an ability to assist. The complexity of the crises facing the continent demand this openness, he said.

“The response to violent situations on the continent remains severely constrained by limited strategic lift capabilities to include air, sea and land capabilities,” he said. “The African Union can only bring its comparative advantage and can only do so much. There is need for other partners to come on board.”

NEW ALLIANCES, DIFFERENT MOTIVATIONS

Crises can bring countries together, sometimes even healing old divides. In recent years, new coalitions born out of necessity have responded faster and more effectively than the older peacekeeping model of a U.N. mission or a predetermined standby force.

South African researcher Cedric de Coning has spent much of his career looking for an African model for peace operations. He outlined a new formula for interventions that he refers to as the

“We need to do everything possible to enhance the capacity of African forces to contain challenges. It is not a choice, but an imperative.”

— Maj. Gen. Lucky Irabor, MNJTF commander



Senegalese Soldiers serving in the ECOWAS intervention in The Gambia arrive in Banjul to secure the return of elected President Adama Barrow. AFP/GETTY IMAGES



“just-in-time” model. The principle is that each crisis is different and requires a unique coalition of countries to address it. This coalition should be based on which countries have the national interest to intervene and which countries have the means to do so.

For instance, if a crisis arises in an East African country, a coalition may develop including bordering countries that fear instability in the region, countries with economic interests inside the country, and countries with highly trained troops and available aircraft, whether they are in the region or beyond.

In The Gambia, the coalition was led by Senegal, a neighboring country that feared instability could cascade across the region. In the Lake Chad Basin, the four primary TCCs all have been affected by Boko Haram attacks and, therefore, are determined to eliminate the threat.

“We talk about, basically, a coalition of the willing with the countries that really have a stake in resolving this conflict, because only those countries will be willing to send people to die at a high cost to themselves in terms of blood and treasure,” de Coning said. “That’s why I think the standing model will never work. It is highly unlikely that that kind of predesigned standing brigade will ever meet the specific requirements of the case at hand.”

The U.N. model of peacekeeping has historically been based on the principles of consent, impartiality and a minimum use of force, de Coning noted. African-led peace operations, including those under the umbrella of the African Union, do not have those restrictions. As such, African regional organizations

and the AU have been the first to deploy to Darfur, Somalia and the Central African Republic, before the U.N. was ready to do so.

But a coalition of the willing brings other baggage with it. An analysis of AMISOM by Paul Williams of The George Washington University found that the six TCCs agreed to send troops for distinct reasons, including an immediate security threat on their borders, reimbursement from international partners, and a desire to bolster their reputation on the world stage.

African nations are still working to find the right balance in putting together these coalitions, but if any lesson was learned from The Gambia it is that rapid deployment can save lives. Brig. Gen. Mamat O. Cham, commander of the Gambian National Army, credits this ECOWAS rapid response with avoiding a crisis. “You don’t wait until problems arise,” he said. “If there is a mechanism within the AU, whereby the political leaders, when they sense there is an issue with a member country, they will alert themselves to the situation and make appropriate decisions for a proactive intervention.”

The process, Cham said, is still being refined and national sovereignty must be respected, but Africa cannot go back to the old ways of non-intervention. “Hopefully we will adopt the [policy] whereby, collectively, we will look at each other’s security,” Cham said. “And, where we sense that it is outside the reach of the country, then a proactive measure is taken to prevent some sort of catastrophe before it develops.” □



A WAVE OF HOPE

IN DRC'S CRISIS



Children play at a makeshift orphanage for those abandoned or separated from their families, in Beni, Democratic Republic of the Congo. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ADF STAFF

In the troubled Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), violence and displacement have become familiar, especially in the east. Local militias and fighters from neighboring countries have exploited the chaos for years now.

Among those dangerous groups is the Allied Democratic Forces, a Ugandan-based group that has operated in the DRC since the 1990s. In a series of massacres since 2014 — most by hatchet and machete — the group has killed nearly 1,000 people, Reuters reported. In December 2017, the Allied Democratic Forces killed 15 Tanzanian peacekeepers.

The ensuing joint military operation by the DRC and Uganda against the group is expected to exacerbate an already-disastrous displacement crisis. About 4.3 million people have been internally displaced in the DRC, prompting the United Nations to equate the humanitarian emergency with those in Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

The offensive against the Allied Democratic Forces is likely to force nearly 200,000 from their homes in Beni territory, while displacing another 173,000 in nearby Lubero territory, both in North Kivu province.

Children are perhaps the most at risk. UN News reported in January 2018 that more than 800,000 children had been forced to flee their homes by violence in the eastern provinces of Tanganyika and South Kivu alone — 62 percent of the total displaced in those regions.

“Children in the eastern DRC continue to suffer devastating consequences as waves of violence destabilize the region,” said Tajudeen Oyewale of UNICEF in the DRC. “Hundreds of thousands of children in the region no longer have access to health care and education, while many have suffered atrocities at the hands of combatants.”

As part of its emergency response program in Tanganyika and South Kivu, UNICEF is immunizing children against measles; treating and preventing cholera; battling malnourishment; and protecting, treating and supporting children affected by violence.

Other examples of hope can be seen in the DRC. UN News reported that many families are welcoming the displaced into their homes. Orphanages have sprung up in Beni and elsewhere to care for children who lost their parents or who have become separated from them.

U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock summed up the response of many DRC citizens in March 2018: “They have so little, yet they welcome their brothers and sisters from within and outside the country into their homes when those people are displaced by violence.”



A CONTINENTAL CONFERENCE

AT THE AFRICAN LAND FORCES SUMMIT,
COMMANDERS SHARE STORIES, BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

ADF STAFF
PHOTOS BY U.S. ARMY AFRICA

On day two of the African Land Forces Summit (ALFS) in Abuja, Nigeria, moderator Dr. Monde Muyangwa asked for a bit of indulgence from the Army commanders in attendance. She wanted to tell the story of an 11-year-old girl growing up in Zambia. The girl stood on the roadside and watched trucks roll by filled with the bodies of war victims. The girl saw her aunt cradle the remains of her children after the family's home was bombed.

That girl, she said, spent much of the rest of her life fearing the armed forces. That girl, she said, was her.

An honor guard stands outside the African Land Forces Summit in Abuja, Nigeria.



"For 20 years I sat there unable to get over that and do anything with the military," she told the crowd. "I wanted nothing to do with the military."

Her story had a particular significance for the assembled commanders from 40 African countries. It was a reminder that the highest duty of the armed forces is to protect civilians. It also was a reminder that militaries around the world need to do better in this regard.

"When the damage has been done, bridging that trust with the people requires a lot of work on your parts," Muyangwa said. "We recognize the important role that you play, we recognize that you wield the tools of violence on behalf of the state to protect the civilians. For me, this issue of protecting the civilians is central to your mission."

These types of frank, open conversations filled the four-day summit, the largest annual gathering of senior military leaders on the African continent. Co-sponsored by U.S. Army Africa and the Nigerian Army, the summit's theme was "Unity is strength," and it offered a rare venue for military leaders to speak freely about their successes, challenges and shortcomings. It was a place to forge new alliances and strengthen old ones.

Lt. Gen. Tukur Yusuf Buratai of Nigeria, chief of Army staff and co-host of the event, told his fellow officers that the collaboration in the room would have "ripple effects across the globe." "I want to emphasize that our collective action and inaction will have an impact," Buratai said. Presenters took the mission to heart. Lt. Gen. Robert Kibochi, commander of the Kenya Army, outlined the ways that the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) seeks to win the trust of civilians by providing security for humanitarian aid, offering safe corridors for people fleeing conflict, and reaching out to traditional clan leaders. AMISOM also is teaching troops cultural practices and training on matters such as the code of conduct. "The overall success of any mission of this nature must be centered on the population, and the isolation of the population from the insurgents is critically important," Kibochi said.

Buratai gave an update on Nigeria's efforts to defeat the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast. He conceded that the military was hampered early by accusations of heavy-handed tactics and violence against civilians. He outlined Nigeria's work to rectify this through civil-military operations, the creation of a human rights desk, and by setting up a hotline, 193, that civilians can call with complaints or concerns. Today, he said, all allegations of human rights abuses are investigated and, if proven true, offenders are court-martialed.

"Civilians are more accepting; they are very much more appreciative of the military's efforts in the northeast," Buratai said. "Our efforts are ensuring that human rights are complied with, and this is enshrined in our various rules of engagement."

The event included a military demonstration in which members of Nigeria's special forces showed off skills honed in the battle against Boko Haram. In a simulated attack, a mobile strike team, which included commandos rappelling from helicopters and on motorcycles, rescued hostages trapped inside a compound.

The Nigerian Army, Buratai said, has developed new tactics to counter Boko Haram's asymmetric methods. The mobile strike teams, introduced in 2017, can be deployed rapidly to reinforce a location or to pursue fleeing terrorists. "In a nutshell, the mobile brigade concept, which has been employed along with other Nigerian Army doctrines, tactics, techniques and procedures, has contributed significantly to the successes achieved in our counterinsurgency operations in the northeast," he said.

Above all, ALFS was about the exchange of ideas. The summit held moderated breakout sessions in which commanders spoke about issues of common concern and exchanged



Lt. Gen. Tukur Yusuf Buratai,
Nigeria's chief of Army staff

best practices. “It started off fast and seemed to gain momentum throughout the week,” Brig. Gen. Eugene J. LeBoeuf, commander of U.S. Army Africa, said of the robust discussion.

In the end, multiple participants expressed a sense of unity and optimism. “Africa as a continent is faced with a lot of challenges, but Africa as a continent is not poor,” said Maj. Gen. Sam Kavuma of Uganda. “We have the resources to address these challenges; what is missing is a collective effort in finding solutions.”

THE GAMBIA: A NEW ERA

It was the first chance for Brig. Gen. Mamat O. Cham, commander of the Gambian National Army, to attend ALFS since being named to the position in January 2017. That year, after a disputed election, the country saw its first democratic transition of power in more than 22 years.

During the postelection crisis, there was some pressure on the military to intervene, Cham said, but it steadfastly stayed out of the political process. Whispers of a coup d’etat never became anything more serious. The transition was bloodless. “The senior leaders at that time came together and realized there was no cause for fighting to perpetuate a dictatorship,” Cham said.

Now, the Gambian National Army is going through security sector reform, trying to reduce its numbers and inculcate professionalism in training. Cham took the opportunity at ALFS to speak to his colleagues from countries like Liberia and Sierra Leone that have experienced similar rebuilding periods. “We can learn from their experience how to move from a crisis to a democratic setting with the proper reforms and structures in place for a professional military force,” he said.

Cham also was heartened in his conversations with fellow commanders to hear that professionalism is here to stay on the continent. “The era of military rule in Africa is over,” he said, “and anybody who comes to the armed forces should come with the mindset to serve the people and not to lord it over them.”

Above all, he drew lessons from examples of the best militaries in which Soldiers from cadets to generals are trained to believe that being part of the armed forces is much bigger than oneself. Cham is trying to instill that same ethos in The Gambia. “Over the year or so that we have been in



Members of Nigerian special forces rappel from an AgustaWestland 109 helicopter during a demonstration at the General Ao Azazi Barracks outside Abuja.



Brig. Gen. Mamat O. Cham, commander of the Gambian National Army



place, we have tried to drive the message home," he said. "The governance of the armed forces is important. You come to the profession to serve and not to usurp power."

LIBERIA: FROM WARRING FACTIONS TO PEACEKEEPERS

For Maj. Gen. Prince Johnson III of Liberia, the fact that his country was at the summit at all was cause for celebration. After more than a decade of civil war, the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) has been rebuilt and is now working to change its image in the eyes of the public.

"If you look at Liberia, where we come from, after 15 years of civil war, a military that was considered a warring faction, a military that was dissolved because of the role they played in the civil war," said Johnson, the AFL chief of staff. "And then we started a new military that I'm part of. ... We got the people to take away that perception."

Part of that new perception has come recently. After taking over security responsibilities in the country from the United Nations, the AFL provided security during a free and fair election in 2017. In recent years the nation has also sent peacekeepers to Mali, something that would have been unimaginable during Liberia's civil war.

"Coming from a warring faction, now to be a peacekeeper. That's a sense of pride," Johnson said.

At ALFS, Johnson said he was most interested to speak with other commanders about the concept of human security and examining what role the military should play in providing basic necessities like water and health care to the population, especially people living in rural areas. During the country's Ebola outbreak, the AFL Engineer Battalion worked with foreign partners to build 17 medical treatment centers.

"Our own people back home now see us as a force for good, a force that is providing those basic necessities," Johnson said.



Maj. Gen. Prince Johnson III,
chief of Army staff, Liberia



Nigerian special forces snipers participate in a military demonstration at the General Ao Azazi Barracks outside Abuja.

Members of a Nigerian Mobile Strike Team are introduced after a demonstration during the African Land Forces Summit outside Abuja.

BURKINA FASO: REINFORCING A BUDDING ALLIANCE

In the Sahel, building alliances is an urgent priority. The region is facing a threat from multiple extremist groups, including Ansaroul Islam and radicalized ISIS fighters returning from the Middle East.

Col.-Maj. Léon Traoré, the chief of Army staff in Burkina Faso, played a role in the planning of the new G5 Sahel Joint Force alliance that includes five Sahelian countries. Although the G5 force is not fully operational, Burkina Faso now has troops deployed along its borders with Mali and Niger and is working closely with those two countries.

“It doesn’t have to supplant our national efforts — it will complement our national efforts,” Traoré said of the G5 force. “And in this sense, I think that it will permit all the countries of the G5 Sahel to reinforce their cooperation — to see what we can do well alone and what we can do better together to improve our capacity for response.”

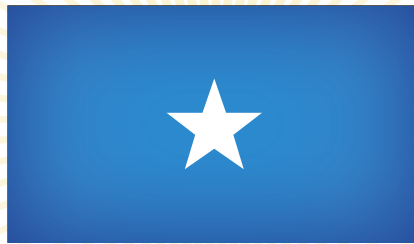
Although he has attended formal meetings of the regional defense chiefs, ALFS offered a more relaxed setting for Traoré to build a relationship with his neighboring countries. “I have met the chief of the army staff of Benin, of Mali, of Niger. We are neighboring countries, but it’s not often that we have the chance to meet,” Traoré said. “This forum is an opportunity to see each other, speak more directly about what concerns us and, in a larger manner, it’s about listening and drawing lessons from the experiences of other countries.”

Traoré said he appreciated the opportunity to hear from military officers from other countries and learn how they are battling extremism. “We appreciated hearing the experience of Nigeria in the fight against Boko Haram, because we have a group in our country linked, a bit, to Boko Haram,” he said. “We also saw the experience in the Horn of Africa battling al-Shabaab. I think that we will really take something away from this meeting.” □



Col.-Maj. Léon Traoré, chief of Army staff, Burkina Faso

SEIZE the Moment



Maj. Gen. Abdiweli Jama Gorod was named Somalia's chief of Defence Forces (CDF) in 2017. He sat down with ADF at the African Land Forces Summit 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria, to discuss his career, his efforts to rebuild the Somali National Army (SNA) and his belief that the time is finally right to defeat extremism in the country. The interview was translated from Somali and has been edited to fit this format.

ADF: Can you share a bit about your career path?

MAJ. GEN. GOROD: I joined the military in 1975 as part of the Somali National Air Force. I was trained as a pilot, a transport pilot. Since then I have worked in different sectors in the Somali National Army and different areas of the government. I have been around both politics and the military. I was not seeking or was not eager to hold a higher office, but my experience and my expertise have allowed me to go back and help the country. This is my opportunity to serve the nation as the chief of defense. It is also the first time a former Air Force officer became CDF in the history of Somalia.

ADF: The Somali National Army is being rebuilt from the ground up. Can you describe that process and where it stands now?

MAJ. GEN. GOROD: The SNA is going through stages to be built back up. It is not completely built. Now, we are going through some difficult challenges; probably our biggest challenge is to have military bases and barracks where officers are stationed. We don't have that, and we don't have the resources. We're not equipped. We are looking for partners and also donors to help invest in the SNA. We are eager to help the SNA develop through partnerships with different countries. We want to use this help to have our own standing Army made up of Somalis.

ADF: Somalia has received training from multiple sources. What has been the most helpful, and how has that training translated onto the battlefield in terms of readiness?

MAJ. GEN. GOROD: All the foreign partners that have trained us — including Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the European Union Training Mission, the U.S. and the United Kingdom — all this is helpful for the Somali Army. But when it comes to battle and going to war, the only team that really goes to war is the special forces, and they were U.S.-trained. They are actually having good results. They are called Danab in Somali, which means "lightning".

ADF: Is there any way to predict how soon the SNA will be ready to take over full responsibility for security in the country?

MAJ. GEN. GOROD: Whatever it takes, we are planning to take over responsibility. No matter what our capability and capacities, we will put our hearts out to get ready for it.



Maj. Gen. Abdiweli
Jama Gorod, Somali
chief of Defence
Forces AMISOM



Maj. Gen. Abdiweli Jama Gorod inspects an honor guard at the African Union Mission in Somalia headquarters in Mogadishu. AMISOM

ADF: How would you describe al-Shabaab's current strength?

MAJ. GEN. GOROD: I don't have an exact figure, but we estimate that they are small in number. They are mobile; they move around. We don't have a strong capability in terms of our own military intelligence service to track exactly where they are. We are looking for partners to help us build our military intelligence. This is our weakness in the Army.

ADF: Has there been any success at cutting off their funding sources?

MAJ. GEN. GOROD: They still do taxation through road-blocks. They rob people in rural areas; they threaten them and charge them high taxes. But the sale of charcoal, which had been a major source of funding, has stopped. This has impacted them financially.

ADF: Al-Shabaab has been notable for its ability to recruit people from Somalia and the East African region, and from North America and Europe. What can be done to counter their rhetoric and discredit their propaganda?



MAJ. GEN. GOROD: The first things you need to ask is, “Who are al-Shabaab? What components are they? Where did they come from? What type of individuals are they?” In my opinion, there are three general types of al-Shabaab members. One is a foreign element; the second one joins because he is power hungry; the third one is there because of incentives, meaning he is there for the money. We are going through counternarratives about how to approach the youth. We are trying to reach out to the youth, telling them to support the government instead of going down this path. But there is a lack of employment, which is a big deal in leading the youth to follow that path. So we have different strategies against al-Shabaab. The power-hungry ones, the president offered them amnesty, to put down their arms, to join the government and not face punishment. The foreign elements, they cannot be reformed. They must be killed or captured.

ADF: How is the SNA working with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)?

MAJ. GEN. GOROD: We are working together with AMISOM. The gaps are being closed; now we run joint operations, including in Bulo Marer in southern Somalia, where we destroyed 70 militia members from al-Shabaab. This was a major success for the SNA and AMISOM working together. But it’s difficult. For a while there has been a lack of coordination of command and control. Every troop-contributing country, when they go on

operations, it doesn’t go directly through the AMISOM sector commander. They send the directive to go on operations all the way back to their home country. So instead of decision-making being done by an AMISOM representative in Somalia, it’s done this way. This delays operations, and it’s not efficient. Every country wants to get approval from its own defense minister.

ADF: What would be your definition of success in terms of really getting the SNA on the right footing?

MAJ. GEN. GOROD: Success is all about international partners. If they invest in the security sector in Somalia, if they invest in the SNA, things will turn around. If that happens, in two years, results will be delivered and we can clear al-Shabaab.

ADF: Putting investment aside for the moment, what would you be happy to see in terms of the quality of the fighting force and the professionalism of the SNA in several years? Where are you focusing your efforts to make improvements?

MAJ. GEN. GOROD: The morale of the population right now is very high, and they support the government. It wasn’t there a few years ago. To win the hearts and minds of the people, it gives you an opportunity to eradicate these violent extremists. Now, we have support from the military and support from the people to the government. The path we are going on, the training programs we have in place, the pace we are going, the future is bright. It’s time to seize the moment. We have invested in our own training programs. They are small, but we will continue to do that. And we are starting to see people come through those training programs and take on leadership roles. □

Somali military officers attend a training program offered by the United Arab Emirates in Mogadishu. REUTERS

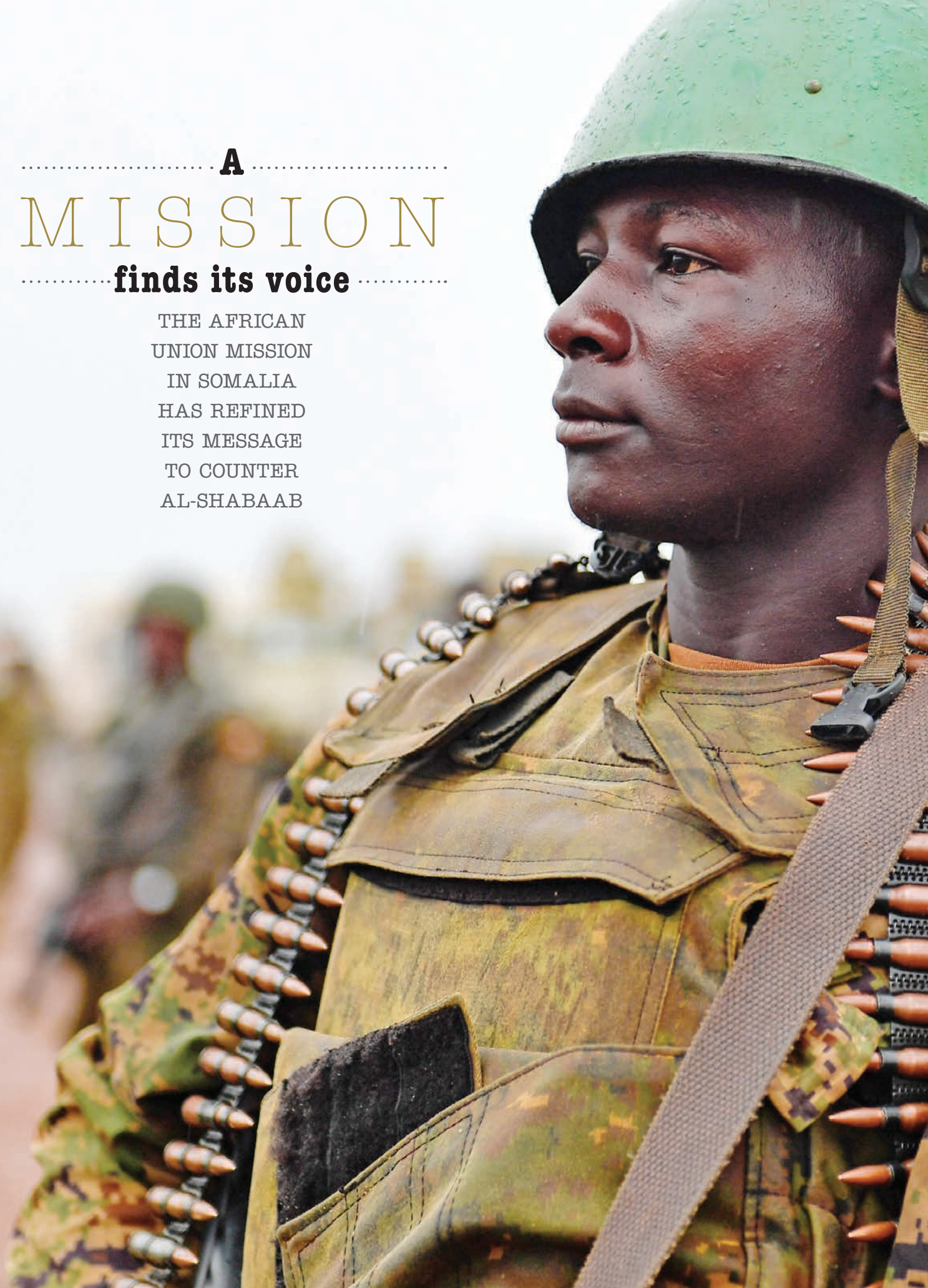


..... **A**

MISSION

..... **finds its voice**

THE AFRICAN
UNION MISSION
IN SOMALIA
HAS REFINED
ITS MESSAGE
TO COUNTER
AL-SHABAAB





ADF STAFF | PHOTOS BY AMISOM

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) sometimes has struggled to get its message out. The mission had several false starts in trying to communicate with Somali civilians, people in the troop-contributing countries and the world in general.

An AMISOM Soldier from Uganda stands guard in the town of Afgooye.

Now, over the course of the mission's 11 years, its communications staff has learned to be flexible and to improvise. In May 2018, the mission began taking stock of itself and what it has accomplished — and invited journalists to participate in the process.

The self-study took about a month, with journalists from Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda — countries contributing troops to the mission — visiting Army bases around Somalia. Lt. Col. Richard Omwega, the mission's spokesman, said he wanted the journalists to see what their countrymen were doing in Somalia.

"We want you to witness what is going on such that it informs your reporting on what these brothers and sisters are paying the price for," he said, according to Uganda's *Daily Monitor*.

AMISOM has been in Somalia since 2007 with a mandate to support the government in restoring peace and stability. Its mission is to build the capacity of Somali security forces and reduce the threats posed by al-Shabaab and other militant groups. The AMISOM mandate is scheduled to conclude in 2021, and the United Nations expects the mission to reduce its size along the way. In December 2017, the mission trimmed staffing by 1,000 and was expected to cut another 1,000 by October 2018, to about 20,600.

The mission has had its share of successes. It has protected two transitional Somali governments and electoral processes that produced new national governments in September 2012 and February 2017.

SKILLED OPPONENTS

Somalia has endured more than two decades of turmoil, and al-Shabaab represents the greatest threat to its stability. The extremist group wants to wreck Somalia's central government and establish its own rule based on its strict interpretation of Islamic law. The group also conducts assaults in Kenya, mostly in the region bordering Somalia, to pressure the Kenyan government to withdraw its troops from Somalia.

Although al-Shabaab has had setbacks in recent months, it is still a dangerous force in Somalia and remains effective at getting its message out. In his 2018 study, "Strategic Communications for Peace Operations: The African Union's Information War Against al-Shabaab," Paul D. Williams of The George Washington University notes that the militants of al-Shabaab "have consistently and sometimes accurately, depicted successive Somali governments as weak, corrupt and illegitimate."

"Al-Shabaab's two most important tools were radio and the Internet," Williams wrote. "It ran a ministry of information that used a network of FM radio stations (and some TV stations) known as al-Andalus and its rebranded media department Al-Kataib Media Foundation and News Channel produced material across multiple platforms in English and Somali, and branched out into Swahili, Norwegian, Swedish and even Urdu."

Hate Speech International says al-Shabaab began its media messages in 2007 with propaganda films aimed mainly at recruiting foreign fighters.

"By 2009, the group had dramatically refined its media campaign and the quality of its audio-visual production, enabling its media apparatus to produce increasingly polished films alongside written, audio/radio, and photographic releases," the investigative group concluded in a 2016 report.

Williams told *ADF* that al-Shabaab remains "a significant media presence" in Somalia. "It produces daily stories in Somali and works through a variety of media interlocutors to disseminate its key messages. It also continues to produce video materials, although seemingly at a reduced rate from a few years ago."

AMISOM, he added, is doing a better job of responding to al-Shabaab propaganda.

"Nowadays, AMISOM produces lots more products than it used to, including short videos, an official mission magazine, and numerous press statements. Its principal focus today should be ensuring AMISOM becomes a trusted source of information, as well as challenging al-Shabaab's strategic communications."

MORE THAN PEACEKEEPERS

Somalia's volatility has meant that, from the start, AMISOM peacekeepers have had to do more than those stationed in other parts of the world. In April and May 2018, AMISOM troops and Somali national security forces evacuated more than 10,000 people caught in raging floods.

Officials say AMISOM has long dealt with high expectations from Somalis and the international community. Cheryl Sim, a former advisor to the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, told the intelligence group Cipher Brief that mission troops have been expected to engage in governing activities, including civic and humanitarian work — tasks that should be the responsibility of the Somali government and its regional governments. The mission, she said, has never been equipped or funded to carry out such work.

"If there is one point that I would make it is that the international community's focus ought to be on Somalia's security forces rather than trying to make AMISOM more effective, especially since it cannot go on indefinitely," she told *ADF*. "Whether AMISOM has an effective communications strategy is beside the point when Somalia's security forces, both military and civilian police, have not been either able or reliable to secure and hold areas vacated by al-Shabaab."

The stability of the country, Sim said, rests firmly in the hands of Somalis. "Some might contend that AMISOM has not had the force enablers it needs to make greater advances, but without Somali forces capable of holding gains on their own, the issue of enablers is moot."

GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

AMISOM has worked to craft messages that explain the mission to civilians. In 2017, the International Refugee



Police officers of Jubaland state participate in a parade in Kismayo.

Rights Initiative published a study, “They Say They’re Not Here to Protect Us. Civilian Perspectives on the African Union Mission in Somalia.” The study was the result of interviews with 64 Somali citizens and showed that many didn’t understand what AMISOM is trying to accomplish.

“While most knew that AMISOM is tasked to conduct offensive operations against al-Shabaab and to protect government institutions, other aspects of the mandate were far less known,” the study reported. “This lack of proper understanding of the mandate contributed to severe criticism by some, especially those living in areas with high levels of insecurity.”

The report also showed that some peacekeepers are better than others. Many of those interviewed expressed distrust of some contingents within AMISOM due to past conflicts. But the peacekeeping contingent from Djibouti was much better regarded, “mainly because of their efforts to build community relations and provide services to nearby communities.” Members of the Horn of Africa task force have noted that the Djiboutian contingent is keen on improving its communications skills.

Some of those interviewed complained about abuses committed by peacekeepers themselves. Those abuses could not be verified or documented. The report noted that AMISOM had set up several mechanisms to deal with such abuses, but the alleged victims were not aware that the remedies existed.

The report concluded that AMISOM needed to communicate better: “AMISOM needs to address the

commonly held perception that it is unable to protect civilians and ensure more effective communication with the local population about the mission’s mandate, activities and exit strategy.”

REACHING PEOPLE THROUGH RADIO

Radio has long been the dominant form of media in Africa, and AMISOM has integrated it into its media campaigns. In 2010, AMISOM’s information support team produced *The Misleaders*, a 10-part radio drama aimed at undercutting al-Shabaab by focusing on the tactics it uses to indoctrinate young people and women. Each episode was 30 minutes long. The series was followed by another 10-episode production, *Happy People Can’t Be Controlled*.

The information team also has produced a number of videos, including *Gate of Hope*, *Somalia Back from the Brink*, *AMISOM Hospital*, and *Mayor of Mogadishu*. Unlike the radio dramas, the videos are mostly in English, targeting audiences outside Somalia.

In 2016, AMISOM began training its public information officers to use “Radio in a Box” technology. It’s a portable, affordable broadcasting system that includes a laptop computer, audio mixer, digital audio recorder, media player, microphones, and other equipment to quickly and easily establish a temporary radio station in remote areas or disaster locations. AMISOM officials said the systems would be used to improve communications between the mission and local populations.



“In Somalia, radio is a vital communication tool used to broadcast information with radio ownership possibly exceeding 80 percent,” Col. Daher Aden, acting AMISOM military chief of staff, said during the start of the official training for the systems. “One advantage of this concept is its ability to broadcast vital information immediately to a large audience in the event of a crisis. The military can use the capability to communicate to villagers and elders and share thoughts with the community. This will improve the troops’ ability to interact better with the local populations.”

In April 2018, AMISOM began reviewing its information and communications technology capabilities to improve its effectiveness. The Centre for African Journalists News Africa reported that a team of 39 information and communications executives were conducting a technical and asset review to improve communication systems and secure networks.

“For any peace support operations to function effectively, or any other operation, military command and control depends on a complex communication network of equipment, personnel and communication protocols to relay information among forces,” Maj. Gen. Charles Tai Gituai, AMISOM deputy force commander in charge of operations and planning, told the news service.

FOUR LESSONS

In his 2018 study, Williams lists four critical communications lessons learned by AMISOM:

Deploying a peace operation without the capabilities to wage an effective strategic communications campaign is a major error. Williams said the African Union needs a standing strategic communications capability that it can apply to all future peacekeeping operations. Such a capability would include developing policy and plans. Since there is no one single strategy that works in all situations, the AU capability should include adaptability “in accordance with the needs on the ground.”

Make sure your communications policy message is clear, coherent and workable. State your goals and explain how particular audiences can be reached and influenced. For AMISOM, it was not enough to come up with a clear policy; it had to be implemented by the countries involved in the mission.

Effective strategic communications on a mission often require an exploratory mindset and a willingness to take risks. In the case of AMISOM, communicators needed to evolve quickly on the job. The information team, Williams said, was initially designed to “ensure a strategically focused and decentralized approach to project design.” After 2013, that approach was largely stopped. AMISOM’s information team had to adapt, and “the ability to take risks was crucial.”

Because of the need for expertise in local conflict dynamics, you’re probably going to need a mostly local team to ensure long-term success. With AMISOM, there initially was no local expertise available that was capable of managing a communications mission of such scope and complexity. Over time, the situation improved to the point that the information support team was more than 50 percent local.

Poor communications in missions like AMISOM are often blamed on a lack of money and resources. But Williams told *ADF* that other factors are more important.

“All peace operations need the resources to stand up an effective strategic communications team,” he said. “This needn’t be particularly expensive, but it does need sustained political support from the mission leadership and contributing countries. It also needs to develop a clear and coherent communications strategy for delivering products that support the implementation of its mandated tasks.”

Williams added that reliability remains the critical factor in AMISOM’s communications strategy.

“AMISOM’s communications should target multiple audiences, and the importance of these audiences could vary depending on the task at hand,” he said. “It is a difficult balancing act to ensure that the right kind of messages reach the local population, the host government, the external partners, and the contributing countries and peacekeepers. But for all these audiences, AMISOM’s strategic communications team needs to develop a reputation as a trusted and reliable source of information. Without credibility, no amount of communications products will help the mission.” □



AMISOM peacekeepers pose for a photograph on Women’s Day in March 2018.

Newly deployed Djiboutian troops arrive in Beletweyne to serve in the African Union Mission in Somalia in January 2018.

Not Just a Number

Women Bring Value to Peacekeeping Missions, but Participation Hurdles Remain

ADF STAFF

Cpl. Laker Doris Patricia of the Ugandan People's Defence Force drove a large supply truck every day. She carried everything from bullets to bombs. If she wasn't twisting the truck's huge steering wheel, she was on standby, ready to buckle up and trundle away. And she did it in the center of Somalia, one of the most dangerous places on Earth.

Maj. Gen. Kristin Lund of Norway spent two years as force commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. She was the first woman to command a U.N. peacekeeping mission. In April 2018, she was serving as head of mission and chief of staff for the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization in the Mideast.

Priscilla Makotose of Zimbabwe is police commissioner of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur, bringing with her 30 years of expertise, including police command positions. She was deputy director for administration in the Criminal Investigation Department of Zimbabwe Republic Police and served in the U.N. Mission in Liberia in 2005.

Lt. Col. Hoe Pratt of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces was the officer in charge of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis, and Response Cell in 2016. She is the first woman from Sierra Leone to serve in a peace enforcement mission. As head of the cell, she oversaw the monitoring of civilian casualties associated with the mission and worked to protect Somalis through preventive measures.

All over Africa and beyond, women are successfully prosecuting their duties in multinational peacekeeping missions. In AMISOM, women drive trucks, nurse the



South African peacekeepers patrol in Beni, Democratic Republic of the Congo, to gather information on village security. MONUSCO



wounded back to health, patrol on gunboats, command combat battalions, and more.

The evidence is clear. Women can perform the full range of duties associated with peacekeeping. However, the numbers are disappointing. In AMISOM in 2016, women made up only 586 — less than 3 percent — of the more than 20,000 African troops deployed.

The numbers are not much better in U.N. missions. Based on March 2018 statistics, a mere 3.7 percent of all military peacekeepers serving in seven Africa-based missions are women. Globally, women represent about 4 percent of peacekeeping troops, which includes military experts and staff officers. Women fare a little better when it comes to the police ranks. In Africa-based missions, they make up 10.9 percent of all police officers. Globally, they represent 10.7 percent.

Although their ranks lag in these missions, their importance to them is undisputed.

THE VALUE OF WOMEN

Women have demonstrated that they can fill the same roles as men in military settings. They also can add an important dimension to peacekeeping operations.

“To begin with, women peacekeepers help missions build stronger relationships with communities and gain more access to information than

all-male contingents can deliver,” according to a 2017 article for IPI Global Observatory. “They serve as role models, inspiring women in host countries to enter the security services themselves. Increasing the number of women in U.N. missions is also critical to ending a scourge of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeeping forces that causes tremendous suffering for its victims and diminishes the credibility U.N. peace operations globally.”

When mission personnel enter a country, they are charged with protecting all people, regardless of gender. In some countries, cultural and traditional norms prevent meaningful interaction between male peacekeepers and female civilians. As missions grapple with accusations of sexual misconduct by peacekeepers or armed combatants, the ability to engage effectively with women and children is vital.

Past conflicts more often involved one state at war with another, but that is less likely to be the case today. Most conflicts now involve insurgencies and nonstate actors battling state forces. This complicates responses and has broadened the definition and character of peace operations, wrote Nancy Annan and Serwaa Allotey-Pappoe in “Women and Peace Support Operations in Africa,” a chapter in “Annual Review of Peace Support Operations in Africa: 2016.”

MISSION	TROOPS		MILITARY TOTAL	PERCENT FEMALE TROOPS
	MALE	FEMALE		
Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)	15,277	585	15,862	3.7%
Mali (MINUSMA)	11,589	321	11,910	2.7%
Central African Republic (MINUSCA)	10,332	339	10,671	3.2%
Darfur (UNAMID)	9,401	369	9,770	3.8%
South Sudan (UNMISS)	13,302	474	13,776	3.4%
Abyei (UNISFA)	4,104	381	4,485	8.5%
Western Sahara (MINURSO)	204	22	226	9.7%

Totals are as of March 2018. Source: United Nations

MISSION	POLICE		POLICE TOTAL	PERCENT FEMALE POLICE
	MALE	FEMALE		
Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)	1,187	170	1,357	12.5%
Mali (MINUSMA)	1,609	125	1,734	7.2%
Central African Republic (MINUSCA)	1,885	164	2,049	8%
Darfur (UNAMID)	2,286	271	2,557	10.6%
South Sudan (UNMISS)	1,317	274	1,591	17.2%
Abyei (UNISFA)	25	12	37	32.4%
Western Sahara (MINURSO)	1	0	1	0%

Totals are as of March 2018. Source: United Nations

Training Equips Investigators to Deal With Sexual Misconduct

BY LISA FERDINANDO, DOD NEWS

More than two dozen participants from 11 African nations learned how to hold United Nations peacekeepers accountable for sexual misconduct and other crimes during a course for national investigative officers in Entebbe, Uganda, in January 2018.

The course focused on how peacekeepers should address sexual exploitation and abuse allegations, said Mark Swayne, acting U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense for stability and humanitarian affairs. Oversight will result in greater accountability for people and units responsible for abuses.

“Ultimately, this should lead to a decrease in these incidents, which not only severely harm the people and communities peacekeepers are charged with protecting, but also undermine the credibility of the entire U.N. peacekeeping enterprise,” Swayne said.

The need for such a course is clear. In February 2018, Reuters reported that 40 allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation were made during the last quarter of 2017 against United Nations peacekeeping missions and other efforts and groups. Of those allegations, 15 were associated with peacekeeping missions, and 17 came from U.N. agencies, funds and programs. Partner organizations reported the remaining eight.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric told Reuters that the 40 allegations covered 54 victims, of whom 30 were women and 16 were girls. The ages of eight others were not known. Twelve cases happened in 2017, seven in 2016 and three occurred in 2015 or earlier. The dates of the other cases were not known. As of February 2018, two cases had been substantiated, three were not substantiated and the rest were being investigated.

“Every allegation involving our personnel undermines our values and principles and the sacrifice of those who serve with pride and professionalism in some of the most dangerous places in the world,” Dujarric said.

The U.N. has required that all troop-contributing countries designate at least one national investigative officer per unit since early 2015.

Experts from the U.N.’s Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the U.S. Department of Defense’s Defense Institute of International Legal Studies co-developed and taught the course.

The national investigative officers course teaches investigation basics, the particulars of investigations in a peacekeeping environment, and augments participants’

understanding of national standards and legal requirements for successful justice and accountability in the troop-contributing country’s justice system, said U.S. Air Force Col. Kirk Davies.

“Specifically, the course seeks to build the knowledge, skill and ability of participants so that they can more effectively respond to and investigate possible misconduct of contingent personnel in peacekeeping operations,” he said.

There are plans to offer two programs annually in Africa. Course instructor Barry Harrison, a retired Navy judge advocate, said the effort will make a difference in global operations.



U.S. Air Force Col. Kirk Davies instructs national investigative officers for U.N. peacekeeping operations on how to hold peacekeepers accountable for sexual misconduct and other crimes.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

“The greatest success is to have a role in assisting peacekeeping forces to more effectively and professionally carry out the important mission and vital tasks in highly complex contemporary peacekeeping missions,” he said.

The top challenges were overcoming language barriers and helping participants understand how to apply course information in their own justice systems and processes.

“Watching the participants eagerly interact with course facilitators, subject-matter experts and with each other over the course, and see[ing] them grow in their knowledge and capability was very fulfilling,” Harrison said.



South African peacekeepers patrol the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as part of MONUSCO. MONUSCO

“As new conflicts emerged, violence against civilians, especially women and girls, escalated with rape and sexual violence increasingly used as a weapon of war,” they wrote. It is because of these conditions, and others, that women’s participation in peacekeeping is vital.

“It’s very often the women peacekeepers who can establish the relationships with local women, children maybe, others, to reassure local communities on what we’re doing,” said Diane Corner, former deputy special representative for the U.N. mission in the Central African Republic, in a 2015 U.N. video. “I think it’s been shown time and again in terms of dealing with specific issues around sexual violence in particular, but possibly other human rights-related issues, that it’s better to have women.”

Women’s abilities and value are well-established. So why aren’t more serving in peacekeeping missions in Africa?

WHERE ARE ALL THE WOMEN?

Any explanation of why there aren’t more women in peacekeeping missions must start with troop-contributing countries. It must involve a number of issues, from political and social biases, to recruitment practices and the perceived role of women in a given society.

Despite these challenges, it is up to troop- and police-contributing countries to make sure that they have an appropriate balance of male and female personnel going to missions in line with United Nations and African Union requirements, Annan and Allotey-Pappoe wrote.

“It’s very often the women peacekeepers who can establish the relationships with local women, children maybe, others, to reassure local communities on what we’re doing.”

~ Diane Corner, former deputy special representative for the U.N. mission in the Central African Republic

When this happens, the results are apparent in the missions themselves.

Dr. Sabrina Karim, assistant professor in the government department at Cornell University, did several years of fieldwork in the recently completed United Nations Mission in Liberia. She observed that Ghana, which participated in the mission, has a high percentage of women in its military, due in part to a recruitment system that is friendly to women and includes leadership opportunities.

“So the argument then is that if you can get more Soldiers from these kinds of contributing countries that are doing something right, then that is going to make for a better overall mission,” she told *ADF*.

Of the seven active U.N. peace missions on the continent, only two have more than 4 percent women serving in military roles. The mission in Western Sahara has 9.7 percent women out of the 226 military personnel serving there. The mission in Abyei at the Sudanese border has 8.5 percent women serving in military roles out of 4,485, supplied almost exclusively by Ethiopia.

Missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, both well-known for incidents of sexual and gender-based violence, have 3.7 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively. Numbers of female police officers are appreciably better, ranging from 7.2 percent in Mali to 32.4 percent in Abyei.

So looking at recruiting is a good first step. But it can’t be just a numbers game. Simply adding more women to a peacekeeping operation will not ensure that their presence is helpful to the mission. Karim said her research shows that often women are not sent to the most dangerous missions or to missions where sexual violence is a problem.

FIRST, A GENDER ANALYSIS

Having more women will mean little to a mission if they are not deployed as part of a comprehensive gender perspective, said Sahana Dharmapuri, director of Our Secure Future: Women Make the Difference, a program of One Earth Future. All missions should perform a gender analysis to see how best to use men and women to achieve mission objectives.

Such an analysis can look at the broadest swath of mission objectives, such as the composition of civilian populations, and more detailed concerns, such as who uses a particular road at certain times. For example, when planning patrol routes for an area, a gender analysis might consider what road should be taken, then look at questions such as: What villages does this road go through? Who uses the road, and when do they use it? Does this road pass by a market? If so, when is the market open? Is it a women’s market?



South African peacekeepers serving in MONUSCO patrol a restive region near Beni, Democratic Republic of the Congo, to gather information about the local security conditions. MONUSCO

Once mission planners have answers to such questions, they can decide the troop composition of their patrols. Although it might seem good to have an all-woman patrol visit the women's market, Dharmapuri said mixed patrols are more effective. For example, having six mixed patrols might allow access to more places and people than one all-female patrol with six women in it.

Militaries do similar analyses all the time: Where should armored divisions deploy? Where are infantry or artillery needed? Adding the gender perspective to the overall analysis helps the mission succeed. "It should be integrated into your whole security picture," Dharmapuri told *ADF*.

Striking the right balance regarding women's service in these missions will require overcoming some misconceptions. In a 2014 article for the Alliance for Peacebuilding, Dharmapuri addresses what she calls "Three Myths About Women in Peacekeeping":

"It's all about women": In fact, it is not. It is about providing security for all people — men, women, boys and girls. Including more women in the peacekeeping force and doing a thorough gender analysis on the front end helps make this possible. Dharmapuri stresses that men and women can adopt a gender perspective when serving in a mission.

United Nations police officers teach Congolese women how to make soap. MONUSCO



"An equal number of female and male Soldiers in peace operations means we have achieved gender equality": Not so. The goal is not necessarily to have equal numbers of men and women, but to have women serving as full participants at all levels of a mission and for men to be actively involved in promoting gender equality. This is especially needed since men hold many key military and political leadership roles.

"It's all about sex": Because of documented instances of sexual violence and abuse in missions, some mistakenly assume that the primary reason to include women is to deter this violence. However, women can do so much more. When conflict breaks out, men usually fight, and women are left to care for others. Mixed-personnel teams can train civilian women on other security matters, such as evacuations during disaster or conflict. Women should be seen as agents of change and stability, not just as victims, Dharmapuri said. "If you have parity, that alone is not going to change the gender bias and social behavior of the system," Dharmapuri said. "The system is all of us. I think that's the key thing that people forget." □

TRAINING CENTERS

EXPAND TO MEET 21ST CENTURY CHALLENGES

PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE
INTERESTS TEAM
UP TO BUILD
A NEW KIND
OF TRAINING
FACILITY IN
CAPE VERDE

ADF STAFF

Cape Verde would seem to be an unlikely location for an international military training center. The 10 islands comprising the nation are 570 kilometers west of the African continent in the North Atlantic Ocean. With a total area of just more than 4,000 square kilometers, Cape Verde is one of the smallest members of the African Union.

But for a variety of reasons, it is seen as the ideal spot for a \$125 million training center dedicated to African security forces. The center, scheduled to open in 2020, is a public-private partnership.

The Orbit Training Center will be able to house 150 students and instructors. With more than 250 hectares of space, it will be open to police, armed forces, customs agents, wildlife rangers, intelligence analysts, military medical specialists, survival instructors, civil protection forces, cyber crime investigators, military telecommunications personnel and information-technology specialists. Although training personnel from African nations is the primary goal, the center also plans to offer services to other countries.



An artist's depiction of the Orbit Training Center in Cape Verde ORBIT TRAINING CENTER

The facility will combine a standard military training center with simulation technologies. It will have modules dedicated to indoor and outdoor shooting; combat shooting; sea, air and land teams training; intelligence analytics; military and secured communications; legal and tactical interception; crowd control; drug enforcement; poaching; and cyber crime.

Orbit officials describe Cape Verde as an “easily accessible location” in an “an ideal host country” that has good governance; an open, transparent administration; and a stable democracy. It has six international airports and is almost equidistant from Brazil, Europe and the United States. The center will bring a new source of revenue to the country and create jobs.

Two private companies are backing the center: Competences and Nibor Enterprises. Competences is a Cape Verdean private company established in 2004, that specializes in providing homeland security and defense solutions. Company officials say it has been involved in “major national security projects” for African governments.

Nibor Enterprises, founded in 2009, is a U.S. and Israeli engineering and general contractor company that specializes in construction management and design. Company officials say that Nibor has carried out 20 contracts for the U.S. Department of Defense worth a total of \$55 million.

Orbit said that Cape Verde’s customs officers, police and Army will have priority access to the center, with the country seeing substantial savings on its military training budget. Revenue will be raised through facility rentals to clients, with some income also coming from international aid to Africa’s defense and security forces.

Orbit joins a growing group of institutions, public and private, that are helping train Africa’s peacekeepers. But the training they offer is not limited to Soldiers, and the courses are not limited to peacekeeping.

GHANA’S CENTER

Ghana has decades of experience in peacekeeping, beginning with a United Nations mission in the 1960s to what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Building on that experience, Ghana opened the **Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC)** in 2004.

The center has a mandate to train “military, police and civilian personnel for multidimensional peacekeeping and peace support operations in the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] region, Africa and beyond.”

The center has conducted more than 400 courses, with students from more than 90 countries. It

the Ghana Armed Forces and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

The center conducts operational-level training for peace support personnel. This training is based on a military task force or brigade structure, and the trainees are military, civilian and police officers.

Center officials say the majority of participants are civilians. “All courses complement each other and serve the broader interest of ECOWAS and its peace support operations, although a strict separation into tactical, operational and strategic may at times be superficial,” the KAIPTC said on its website.

The work of KAIPTC is comple-



The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, Ghana KAIPTC

also has hosted organizations from Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe. It has been designated one of three ECOWAS Training Centres of Excellence, along with **Nigeria’s Defence College** and the **School of Peacekeeping Alioune Blondin Beye** in Mali.

It has established partnerships with an array of international institutions, including the United Nations, the German Agency for International Cooperation, the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation in Sweden, the University of Queensland in Australia, the United States Military Academy at West Point, the University of Bedfordshire in the United Kingdom,

mented by other centers involved in training and developing skills in the theoretical and practical aspects of peace operations. In recent years, the center has placed more emphasis on training peacekeepers in human rights and gender equality.

A ‘CULTURE OF PEACE’

At the end of the 1980s, the international community was involved in numerous peace support operations around the world, with African nations contributing large numbers of ground troops. A turning point came in 1990 when the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group was formed to

U.S. DONATES BOATS TO SENEGAL, CAPE VERDE

ADF STAFF

The United States has donated two 38-foot Defiant-class patrol boats to the Senegalese Navy and five smaller patrol boats to the Cape Verde Maritime Police.

The aluminum Metal Shark 38-foot boats are classified as fast craft, capable of up to 50 knots with their twin inboard engines. They were funded by the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Counternarcotic and Transnational Threats Programs Division.

The Senegal donation included boat repair and maintenance kits, towing vehicles, and a two-week training session on using and maintaining the boats.

"This donation augments Senegal's law enforcement capacity to patrol its exclusive economic zone and adjacent international waters through the provision of an offshore patrol capability, greatly enhancing their ability to counter illicit drug trafficking in the maritime domain," said Ken Diamond, AFRICOM counter-illicit-trafficking program manager.

Another patrol boat is scheduled for delivery to the Senegalese Navy. It will be the sixth of the Defiant class donated to Senegal.

The 38-foot Defiant boats are in service all over the world, including with the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy. They are the boat of choice for many oceangoing fire departments.

AFRICOM donated five 21-foot Relentless class patrol boats to the Cape Verde Maritime Police in December 2017 and has plans to donate 10 more by 2019. The aluminum boats also are built by Metal Shark.

Metal Shark says the boats are popular among law enforcement

agencies that require an easily trailered and quickly deployable first-responder craft.

The boats also came with operations and maintenance training and personal protective equipment, said Chad Godlewski, AFRICOM counter-illicit-trafficking branch chief.

"The boats were given to the Maritime Police

to increase Cape Verde's ability to interdict illicit drug trafficking," he said. "Cape Verde is located at a strategic crossroads between South America, Africa and Europe, and this is a primary transit route for South American cocaine."

For its part, Cape Verde approved a law in April 2018 that created a maritime safety tax to control and manage maritime traffic.

intervene in the civil war in Liberia.

The mission showed a need for more peacekeeping training for African security professionals, and in 1999, France and Côte d'Ivoire created the Zambakro Peacekeeping School in Côte d'Ivoire. The school trained 600 officers from 40 African countries in three years.

Côte d'Ivoire's civil war of 2002 forced the transfer of the school to Mali, with France's continued support. The first Mali site was 60 kilometers northeast of the capital of Bamako, but eventually proved to be too small and too remotely located. The school moved to Bamako and opened its new School of Peacekeeping Alioune Blondin Beye (EMPABB) facility in 2007. Argentina, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States shared the building costs.

From the outset, it was intended as a complementary facility to the KAIPTC in Ghana and provides tactical-level training for peacekeeping operations. The school focuses on the elements required for carrying out the standing tasks and activities of a peacekeeping operation. It is predominantly a military structure at the battalion and company levels, with both police and civilian components.

EMPABB describes itself as a center for strengthening African capabilities to manage peace operations, as well as spreading the "culture of peace." The center has partnered with nongovernmental and international organizations in the way planned for the Cape Verde center.

The EMPABB has trained more than 8,000 people. Each year, it handles an estimated 1,000 civilian, police and military trainees, either directly at the center or outside the country, using traveling teams of instructors.

With its partnerships and international support, the center has equipment and an infrastructure that are unique in Mali. The partnerships include some nongovernmental organizations. The school's board of directors includes representatives from ECOWAS, France, Germany, Japan,



U.S. Africa Command donated five 21-foot Relentless-class patrol craft to the Cape Verde Maritime Police and plans to donate 10 more by 2019. AFRICOM

the Netherlands and Switzerland.

A typical offering is the school's three-week course in training for possible deployment as a U.N. military observer. One such class brought together 25 military officers from 10 countries. In the first week, the class learned the legal framework for missions and partners in peace support operations. The class also studied disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; civil-military acts; and fundamental tasks of an observer. In the second week, the instructors discussed mine awareness, character analysis, working with the media, risks and threats, and protective measures. The students learned mediation, investigation and liaison techniques. Class members spent the final week conducting practical exercises based on what they had learned.

The Peace Operations Training Institute of the United States has partnered with EMPABB to provide free online peacekeeping courses. They are offering 29 courses in English, 24 courses in French, 17 courses in Spanish, and others in Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese and Russian. Nigeria's National Defence College and the **International Peace Support Training Center** in Kenya also are offering the free online courses.

NIGERIA'S TRAINING HERITAGE

The National Defence College refers to itself as "the apex military training institution for the Nigerian Armed Forces, and a Centre of Excellence for peace support operations training at the strategic level in West Africa."

The college was established in 1992 as the highest institution for the training of senior military officers in Nigeria. The Nigerian Armed Forces had long established a strong military training heritage with the establishment of the Nigerian Defence Academy in Kaduna for cadet training and the Armed Forces Command and Staff College in Jaji for middle-level staff training. Nigeria decided it was appropriate and cost-effective



Staff members leave their posts at the end of a shift at the KAIPTC. ADF

to establish a third institution for its most sophisticated training.

The college started at temporary quarters in Lagos, moving three years later to another temporary site in Abuja. The current, permanent site also is in Abuja.

The college has developed a working relationship with its counterparts in Turkey, and in February 2018, it hosted a delegation from the Foreign Relations Department of the Turkish

General Staff. Two months later, Nigeria signed a military training agreement with Turkey covering anti-piracy, humanitarian aid, peacekeeping support and other areas.

The agreement covers training cooperation, exchanges, exercise observation, joint exercises, military history, logistics, maritime security, personnel exchange, mapping and hydrography, special forces, and special expertise courses, such as

ARMIES WORK TO BRING PEACE TO ‘CARANA’

ADF STAFF

An international team of 4,500 was scheduled to go to the African island nation of Carana on a six-month mission to separate the four warring factions, enforce a permanent cease-fire and prepare the country for the arrival of a long-term United Nations mission.

Team members had less than five days to plan and prepare. They had to study the geography of the country, figure out what the different factions wanted and set up lines of communication among the participating countries. They had to set up supply lines, plan for housing and camps, and find ways to protect civilians. All the while, the news media were asking questions.

Carana does not actually exist. It's modeled after real African countries and situations, and it is part of an

in Kenya has also endorsed the Carana scenario. The center has the entire Carana “owner’s manual” available as a free download in French and English. Its evolution has become so detailed — it’s now more than 300 pages — that a shorter version has been developed and also is available for download.

A Carana “coach” from the United Kingdom told ADF that the full version of the scenario has become so daunting that it is hard to get participants to read it all the way through.

The exercise has proven easily adaptable to advances in technology. In 2015 in South Africa, the exercise included video conferencing for the first time.

Officials say that the main beneficiaries are participating organizations within the African Standby Force.

It is an international, continental multi-dimensional African force, with military, police and civilian components, under the direction of the African Union.

The latest version of Carana includes exercise-specific documents such as treaties, technical surveys and Security Council Resolutions. It includes the country’s “history,” beginning with the first settlements to the present day.

“Carana was a colony of the former Azurian Empire (that became the Republic of Azuria in the 19th century), achieving independence in April 1962. Post-independence politics in Carana were characterized by the strong-turned-authoritarian rule of Joseph Uroma, a military coup d’état in 1971 and a further coup in 1975. Since the mid-1980s, Carana has re-established itself as a democracy, electing its National Assembly

members and President. The Falin-led Parti démocratique de Carana continues to dominate the National Assembly and produced the two most recently elected presidents (Roselyn Okatsi and the current president, Jacques Ogavo).”

A South African officer told *The Star* of South Africa that the exercise is “as close as possible to what is happening in Africa.” He added that the exercise is to develop “African solutions by Africans for Africans, for African problems.”



Members of the Eastern Africa Standby Brigade from Kenya and Uganda drill during the Amani Africa military exercise in 2009. REUTERS

elaborate training exercise conducted regularly in parts of Africa and other parts of the world. One “deployment” to Carana was staged in April 2018 in Bangladesh.

Peacekeeping specialists at the United Nations developed the story of Carana and its people in 2002 and 2003. It was intended as a scenario-based training exercise specifically for African peacekeeping forces. The exercise has evolved over the years and has been endorsed by the European Union.

The International Peace Support Training Centre



A graduation ceremony at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre KAIPTC

explosive ordnance disposal, defence-Web reported.

The Nigerian Institute of Management has partnered with the college to eliminate military corruption. The institute and the college want to make Soldiers not only honor their military code, but be bound by the institute's code of conduct.

COLLEGE PROMOTES WOMEN

The **International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC)** in Kenya began as the Peace Support Training Centre, part of the Kenyan Defence Staff College. Its primary mission was training Kenyan forces for U.N. peacekeeping missions and African Union peace operations. It became a separate entity in 2006 and merged with the International Mine Action Training Centre in 2009, adopting its current name.

In 2011, through formal partnerships with Canada, Germany, Japan, Kenya, the United Kingdom, the U.N. and the U.S., it became an autonomous institution.

The center's core mission is to train Soldiers, police and civilians in peace support operations and how to respond to complex emergencies. The center also is a research facility, studying a range of topics including conflict prevention, field and staff

management, and post-conflict reconstruction. In recent years, the center has increasingly emphasized the impact of armed conflicts on women and children.

One of the hallmarks of the school is its Senior Mission Leaders Course, conducted twice a year. Typically, military, government and police officials from about a dozen countries take the two-week course, which trains participants to plan, manage and conduct deployed support for U.N. and African Union peace missions.

In 2015, the IPSTC established a gender equality policy, both for the center and to advance women in peacekeeping missions. The policy promotes the application of the U.N. Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security. Specifics include monitoring the ratio of male to female students at the center to achieve gender balance, including a gender component in most of its training courses, and making gender issues a key component in the planning and implementation of all peacekeeping missions.

FOCUSING ON CIVILIANS

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) established the **Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre** in Zimbabwe in 1996 to provide training for peace support

missions in the region. The center was built in Harare in 1999 with money from the government of Denmark.

Although the center was built specifically to offer peacekeeping training to SADC countries, it has expanded its reach to include other countries in Africa.

The center has participated in the preparation and running of all major peacekeeping exercises conducted in the region, including Blue Hungwe in Zimbabwe in 1997, Blue Crane in South Africa in 1999, Tanzanite in Tanzania in 2002, Exercise Thokgamo in 2005 in Botswana and Ex-Golfinho in South Africa in 2009.

In 2017, after the establishment of the center's newest five-year plan, it hosted its first Civilian Foundation Course for peacekeeping missions. The course targets civilians who have no peace mission experience, as well as personnel who have some experience, but no formal peacekeeping training.

The United Nations says there are 124 peacekeeping training centers throughout the world, with some more active and comprehensive than others. Africa's training centers are among the youngest on the planet. But whether they are government-run or public-private partnerships, many of them already have established world-class programs. □



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GHANAIAN SLEDDER MAKING PLANS FOR

ADF STAFF

2022

After becoming Ghana's first skeleton racer in the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea, Akwasi Frimpong is planning to compete in the 2022 Olympics in China.

Frimpong, 32, lived in a one-room home in Ghana until he was 8, when his mother moved to the Netherlands. By high school, Frimpong was one of the best sprinters in the country. He became the Dutch National junior champion, earning 16 medals. He planned on running in the 2012 Summer Olympics, but an injury kept him off the team.

Refusing to give up on his Olympic dream, Frimpong learned to be a brakeman on a bobsled team. But he came up short, making only the national Dutch team as a reserve for the Winter Games in Russia in 2014.

That's when he took up the skeleton. The dangerous sport involves riding a tiny one-man sled, stomach-down and head-first. Skeletons race the same courses as bobsleds, hitting speeds of up to 137 kilometers per hour.

Frimpong had to earn his way to the Winter Olympics, rising in the world rankings to the top 60. As CNN noted, he made the Olympics on January 15, 2018 — two years after taking up the sport. He did not medal at the games.

He is the second Ghanaian to compete in the Winter Olympics. Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong competed in the slalom in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Canada.

Eritrea, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa and Togo competed in the Winter Games in 2018, the most African countries ever represented. It was the first time for Nigeria and Eritrea. Fifteen African teams have competed in at least one Winter Olympics, even though most of Africa has no snow or ice suitable for training.

"My goal is to come to Ghana and seek support from the Ghana Olympic Committee, sports authorities and the Ghana Sports Ministry to work together and come up with a four-year plan, so in 2022 we have more than one athlete," Frimpong told Africanews.



BLACK PANTHER

MAKES AFRICAN DEBUT

VOICE OF AMERICA



Lupita Nyong'o THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One of 2018's biggest films premiered for African audiences in February in the Kenyan hometown of one of the film's stars, actress Lupita Nyong'o. Based on a Marvel superhero comic, *Black Panther* is set in a fictional, technologically advanced African nation.

The Kisumu premiere drew several hundred people. Although the stars of the movie did not attend, that did not dampen the atmosphere. "To be honest, it's a great honor that

Kisumu is the first place in Africa that this movie is screened," Kenyan actor Moses Oduwa said. "We are so happy that we are honored this way."

The film has been hailed as an example of the Afro-futurism movement, which blends science fiction and African tradition. After the screening, attendees gave positive reviews.

"What I remember is this interesting mix between the traditional and postmodern, and something about the movie which I liked is that evil was punished in the end," said John Obiero, a Kisumu resident.

The movie also gives a positive view of the continent, something that hasn't been the case in major motion pictures.

"I think it's more of like massaging African ego," opined Edwin Odoyo, who also lives in Kisumu. "Like we are strong but we really don't know how strong we are."

The movie has become one of the most successful films of any genre in history, topping \$1.3 billion in ticket sales early in its release.



Ancient Necropolis Contains 'MESSAGE from the AFTERLIFE'

BBC NEWS AT BBC.CO.UK/NEWS

An ancient necropolis containing dozens of stone coffins and a necklace bearing a "message from the afterlife" has been discovered in Egypt.

The site near the city of Minya, south of Cairo, is more than 2,000 years old and is expected to take another five years to excavate. Antiquities Minister Khaled al-Enany said it contained 40 sarcophagi, jewelry, pottery and a gold mask.

He said there were burial shafts dating from the late Pharaonic period to the early Ptolemaic era of about 300 B.C.

"This is only the beginning of a new discovery," he told reporters. "We are very soon going to add a new archaeological attraction to Middle Egypt."

Mostafa Waziri, head of the archaeological mission, said eight tombs had been found since the end of 2017, and he expects more to be uncovered.

Four well-preserved jars with lids designed to look like the faces of the four sons of the god Horus also were found. "They still contain the mummified inner organs of the deceased," Waziri said. "The jars are decorated with hieroglyphic texts showing the name and titles of their owner."

He described the "wonderful coincidence" of discovering a necklace charm on New Year's Eve that had "happy new year" inscribed on it in hieroglyphics. "This is a message sent to us from the afterlife," he said.

In February 2018, archaeologists unveiled the tomb of an ancient priestess that dates back 4,400 years. It was adorned with well-preserved and rare wall paintings depicting the priestess, Hetpet, in a variety of scenes.

Statues discovered near an ancient necropolis in Minya, Egypt REUTERS

Migrants sit at a naval base in Tripoli after being rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard. REUTERS



EU TO TRAIN LIBYAN COAST GUARD

REUTERS

The European Union plans to rapidly expand the training of Libyan Coast Guard personnel to stem migrant flows to Italy and to reduce deaths at sea.

Rear Adm. Enrico Credendino, chief of the EU naval mission in the Mediterranean, said the EU's Operation Sophia hopes to train 300 to 500 personnel by the end of 2018. Since 2016, the operation has trained 188 Libyans, which contributed to a sharp decline in the number of attempted crossings in the second half of 2017.

Operation Sophia began monitoring the Libyan trainees in

late 2017, providing GoPro video cameras to Libyan Coast Guard boats to record their work.

"We monitor the Libyan Coast Guard, observing them at sea. We have airplanes, we have ships that are observing them. And we also have periodic meetings" with Libyan Coast Guard members, Credendino said.

Libya remains the main departure point for Sub-Saharan African migrants trying to reach Europe by sea, though the level of migrant smuggling by Libyan armed groups has dropped under European pressure.

More than 130 alleged smugglers have been arrested at sea

and handed to Italian authorities, but major migrant smugglers in Libya have largely acted with impunity, out of reach of international authorities.

"We are working with a lot of international actors — Interpol, Europol, Frontex. ... We are building a picture, but it's too early to make an actual assessment," Credendino said.

Operation Sophia has destroyed more than 500 intercepted smuggler boats, in addition to those destroyed by the Italian Navy, but Credendino said it was impossible to block the import of flimsy rubber dinghies commonly used by smugglers.

GHANA, U.S. STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP FOR DISASTER RESPONSE

GHANA NEWS AGENCY

Security professionals in Ghana and their counterparts from U.S. Africa Command held a forum to better prepare for disasters. The event focused on the capabilities of the military, police, fire service, National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), the ambulance service and others to respond to mass-casualty events, particularly earthquakes.

Speaking at the event, Ghanaian Minister of the Interior Ambrose Dery said preparation is essential because an earthquake could wipe out decades' worth of development.

"Apart from massive loss of human life, critical social and economic infrastructure is lost," he said. "It may take several years for a less advanced and resilient nation like Ghana to fully recover from such an event."

Ghana's last destructive earthquake — magnitude 6.4 — hit in 1939, killing at least 17 people in the capital city, Accra. Today, the toll could be much worse. Accra's population has increased from 77,000 to more than 3 million since then, Dery said.



A Ghanaian Soldier guards the wreckage of a petrol station that exploded in 2015, killing about 90 people in Accra. REUTERS

Eric Nana Agyeman-Prempeh, director general of NADMO, said Ghana continues to receive support from U.S. Africa Command in emergency operations training and simulation exercises for flood and fire. "We agreed to move on to hold a full-scale simulation exercise this year," he said. "The capacity and capability to respond to a low-probability but high-consequence event has never been tested, so an earthquake scenario has been chosen to test our readiness to respond effectively."

U.S. Lt. Col. Mathew Holmes said the forum would help the U.S. better understand the Ghanaians' process to effectively support them should a disaster strike.

"It is a way for us to both talk about our capabilities and how America can swiftly help in the area of transportation and relief response," he said.

Germany Donates Patrol Boats for Fight Against Boko Haram

DEFENCEWEB

Germany has given five patrol boats to the Nigerian Navy, which will use them to patrol Lake Chad and coastal creeks and deltas.

The boats will be used, in part, to combat Boko Haram terrorists who have staged attacks around Lake Chad and have largely managed to elude Nigerian military patrols by hiding out on islands in the lake.

"The five boats are part of the greater initiatives of Germany in enhancing the peace and security of partner governments," said Ingo Herbert, consul general of the German Embassy. "The focus is to support partner countries in the fight against terrorism."

Herbert said the boats can be used for other purposes besides fighting extremists.

"These boats will not only primarily contribute in your fight in the Northeast, but also to fight illegal fishing, oil theft and other maritime crimes," Herbert said, according to *New Day*. "Especially when you consider how important the maritime traffic is, with more than 90 percent of all growth worldwide really using maritime to reach their goals, it is very important to keep the maritime environment free of criminal elements."

The five boats were built

by Nigeria's Epenal Group in a Port Harcourt shipyard. They are 8.2 meters long, have a glass-reinforced plastic hull and can accommodate up to seven people. They are powered by two 250-horsepower Yamaha outboard engines and armed with 12.7 mm machine guns and automatic grenade launchers. Top speed is 35 to 40 knots.

After the boats were handed over, German officials were taken through some of the creeks in the Niger Delta, during which Nigerian Navy personnel arrested five suspected oil thieves and boats loaded with illegally refined fuel.

South Africa Prepares for 'Day Zero'

REUTERS

DEFENCEWEB

The South African National Defence Force is ready to assist in preparations for "Day Zero," when the metropolitan water supply in Cape Town is projected to run dry. If this day does come, Soldiers could be deployed as sentries or guards at water distribution points. There is also discussion of military escorts for water tankers. At a briefing in Cape Town, a senior provincial police officer said up to 80 Soldiers could be deployed.

In addition to national police, it appears Cape Town metropolitan police and other municipal security services are handling what is reported to be the first instance of a major world city facing the possibility of running dry.

"Whatever threat is coming, we shall be able to deal with it," Provincial Commissioner Maj. Gen. Mpumelele Manci told News24 of Cape Town.

Brigadier Jorina Zandberg, provincial head of the police operations command center, said if the day comes, a command center will be activated. It will be linked to the provincial disaster center and will coordinate the delivery of water tankers to 187 distribution points for water rationing.

At the beginning of March 2018, dam levels were at an average storage level of 24 percent. The last 10 percent of the water is not usable.



Residents fill containers at a source for natural spring water in Cape Town, South Africa. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya^{to} Launch Coast Guard

DEFENCEWEB

The Kenyan government has asked Parliament to pass a bill to establish the Kenya Coast Guard Service, a maritime security force that would operate on the high seas to prevent maritime crimes such as robbery, piracy and trafficking.

The bill would allow the service to be partially staffed by civilian professionals from the Public Service Commission. Trained security service personnel drawn from the police, Army and intelligence services would form its rank and file.

The service, which will be commanded by a director general, primarily will be deployed to fight crime in Kenyan territorial waters but could help the Kenya Defence

Forces protect national security and sovereignty in times of war.

The service also will conduct disaster relief operations and search-and-rescue missions. It will replace the Kenyan Police Service in the provision of security at seaports nationwide. Other areas of responsibility include the protection of

archaeological or historical maritime sites, enforcing sanitation measures, and pollution control.

Meanwhile, the Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries says the 54-meter-long offshore patrol vessel MV Doria acquired from JGH Marine A/S of Bangladesh in 2017 will start operations in 2018.

State Department of Fisheries spokeswoman Mwaka Barabara said the vessel will be deployed to patrol Kenya's 1,500-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone, primarily to prevent illegal fishing.

This 54-meter offshore patrol vessel will be used by Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to combat maritime crime.

SERVOGEAR



CHAD Opens Anti-Extremism Center

ADF STAFF

A group of Chadians has founded a center dedicated to the study and prevention of violent extremism and the deradicalization of jihadists.

This founders of the center in N'Djamena, Chad, hope it will become a research and study laboratory, with communication organs, including a journal, and programs to rehabilitate and deradicalize former extremists.

Ahmat Yacoub Dabio, an advisor working in the Chadian government who specializes in human rights advocacy and mediation, is one of the driving forces behind the project. He said it is a deeply personal cause born out of Chad's turbulent period that lasted from 1965 to 2000. "My mother and my sister were killed before my eyes while I was an adolescent," he told the magazine *Le Point*. "My friends then convinced me to join the rebellion. Today, I want for young people to understand that political or religious violence leads to nothing."

In a speech at the inauguration, Dabio said the center aims to translate academic research into practical solutions for combating extremism. "This worldwide phenomenon knows neither color nor borders; we all

Ahmat Yacoub Dabio, an advisor working in the Chadian government, helped found a center to battle extremism.



must do what we can to eradicate it," he said.

"This is the time to underline that extremism has no religion because no religion in the world tolerates barbarity."

Ahmed Ayong, an Islamic scholar and socio-anthropologist at the Cameroon Institute of International Relations, hailed the initiative and hopes it will not be limited to Chad. "It is essential to call on subregional expertise; Cameroon, Gabon, all the countries of Central Africa must be involved; Chad must contact our universities, our research centers to broaden the scope of reflection. ... Working in the long term to make it an African initiative ... Chad can become a recognized international center," Ayong said, according to africanews.com.



PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM HELPS SOUTH SUDANESE

WORLD BANK

A social safety net program in South Sudan that temporarily provides income to poor and vulnerable households in Juba is being expanded to six other areas of the country.

The public works component of the World Bank's Safety Net and Skills Development Project is operating in Juba and includes road repairs. It is benefiting 6,000 households, of which an estimated 70 percent are headed by women.

The public works program has transferred close to \$1.6 million as income for 652,049 total person-days worked, to about 85,000 people from 10,865 households.

Cash transfers provide increased purchasing power for basic necessities, including food, clothes, medicines and home improvements. They have also helped households cover children's school fees and uniforms.

"People's lives are improving; they have nutritious meals to eat, and their human capital is being improved through continued investment in health and education," said Dena Ringold, practice manager of the Bank's Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice.

Improvements in community assets have increased access to services and mobility due to better road networks and reduced crime. Some workers have used their money to set up small-scale businesses, such as tea kiosks and vegetable stands.

Child care centers at work sites have allowed mothers with young children and the elderly who take care of them to participate and earn wages.

Truck drivers collect water from the Nile River to distribute in Juba, South Sudan. AFP/Getty Images

CAMEROON

SEEKS MORE *Female Political Participation*

VOICE OF AMERICA

Political parties in Cameroon have set an ambitious goal in 2018 – to put women in at least 30 percent of elected offices.

Three hundred women selected from associations around Cameroon have been campaigning in markets, universities and popular spots in the capital, asking women to register to vote.

Cameroon will have a series of important elections in 2018 – local, parliamentary and presidential. Political parties have made public commitments to achieve a United Nations-established benchmark of at least 30 percent female representation. The government has echoed that commitment, calling on parties to put forth a higher number of female candidates.

To meet the gender goal, women would need to win at least 20 of the 70 senatorial seats up for grabs, and President Paul Biya would have to include women among the 30 senators that the constitution calls on him to appoint.

Observers say the odds of success are long, at least in the short term.

Cameroon has 386 mayors. Just 26 are women. In the National Assembly, women occupy one-third of the seats in the lower house, but the upper house is just 20 percent women.

Sen. Julienne Djakaou of Cameroon's Far North region says many women are not able to participate in decision-making because of traditional misconceptions and early marriage, which derails their education.



A woman prepares to vote in Cameroon. AFP/Getty Images

She said she did not believe it when men in her community said the Bible prohibits women from participating in politics, so she went to seek advice from the highest member of the Roman Catholic Church in Cameroon, Cardinal Christian Tumi. She said he told her that politics was for both men and women. But some male politicians argue that women aren't ready and that Cameroon needs to get more women to vote before it can get more women in office. Women constitute 52 percent of the country's population. Yet, according to official figures, women account for just 30 percent of the 7 million people registered to vote in 2018's polls.

JUDGE BECOMES FIRST SOMALI TO LEAD

INTERNATIONAL COURT

VOICE OF AMERICA

Judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf has become the first Somali to lead the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands.

"I am humbled by this election," he said. "And I feel that it actually shows the trust placed in me by my colleagues. That's why I'm extremely grateful to them. I hope that I will be able to meet their expectations and to perform the responsibilities entrusted to me in the best way possible — to show them that they have actually made the right choice in electing me as their president."

The 15-member court is the primary judicial organ of the United Nations. It issues final and binding rulings on disputes

between states and advises the U.N.

Yusuf, 69, a native of the Somali port town of Eyl, studied at Somali National University, the University of Florence and the University of Geneva. He will be the third African to lead the court.

Yusuf's leadership is being tested immediately. Among his first cases is a dispute between the U.S. and Iran over the freezing of Iranian assets inside the U.S.

"We have 14 cases which are pending, and which, of course, concern all types of disputes between states," he said. These include disputes about environmental protection, boundaries and diplomatic immunity. "We have been extremely busy



UNITED NATIONS

for the past 10 years as a court, which shows the increase in the growing trust that the international community has in the World Court, in our court. And we are extremely happy with that development."

Another case that will be closely watched in East Africa is a maritime boundary dispute between Somalia and Kenya. Yusuf said his nationality will not influence his work on the case.

Yusuf has been on the court since 2009 and had previously served as the court's vice president. He will serve a three-year term.



KENYAN SHOW

ENCOURAGES FARMING THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AS A STUDENT, Leah Wangari imagined a glamorous life as a globe-trotting flight attendant, not toiling in dirt and manure.

Born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya's skyscraper-filled capital, the 28-year-old said farming was the last thing on her mind. The decision to drop agriculture classes haunted her later, when her efforts in agribusiness investing while running a fashion venture failed.

She made her way to an unusual new reality TV show, the first of its kind in Africa. *Don't*

Lose the Plot trains contestants from Kenya and neighboring Tanzania and gives them plots to cultivate, with a \$10,000 investment credit for the most productive. The goal is to prove to young people that agriculture can be fun and profitable.

"Being in reality TV was like the best feeling ever, like a dream come true for me," Wangari said. But she found it exhausting. As callouses built up on her hands, her friends made bets that she wouldn't succeed.

Don't Lose the Plot aims to inspire young adults in East Africa to pursue agribusiness entrepreneurship. Producers said the show wants to demystify the process of starting a small business and challenge the prejudices against farming-related careers, even as many rural youths flee to cities.

Attracting people to agriculture is no small challenge in Africa, where a booming young population is often put off by the image of punishing work and poor, weather-beaten farmers.

Africa has more than 60 percent of the world's fertile but uncultivated land while importing \$35 billion to \$50 billion in food per year, the Alliance for the Green Revolution in Africa says. Weak or corrupt land governance is a challenge, as is conflict.

Yields for major crops remain low compared to other regions of the world. Change must come by empowering the smallholder farmers who produce 80 percent of the food consumed on the continent, the organization says.

Now Wangari is one of them. After placing fourth in *Don't Lose the Plot*, she became a full-time mushroom farmer.

"When I see young men in the village now sitting idle, I feel disappointed because there is a lot of idle land and they can use it to make ends meet," she said. "They don't require a lot of capital, but they don't have the information."

Solar Power Startups *Pour into West Africa*

REUTERS

Standing by a towering equatorial forest, Jean-Noel Kouame's new breeze-block house may be beyond the reach of Côte d'Ivoire's power grid, but it's perfectly located for solar power.

Buoyed by success in East Africa, off-grid solar power startups are pouring into West Africa, offering pay-as-you-go kits in a race to claim tens of millions of customers who lack reliable access to electricity.

The main challenge facing smaller companies now is how to raise enough money to supply the expensive solar kits in return for small upfront payments from customers.

In Abidjan, Kouame doesn't know when, or if, the national grid will reach the outer edge of the urban sprawl, but thanks to his new solar panel kit he has indoor lighting, an electric fan and a television. But it's the lightbulb hanging outside his front door that he values the most.

"At night we were scared to go outside," the 31-year-old taxi driver said. "Where there is light, there is safety."

Some 1.2 billion people around the world have no access to a power grid, according to the International Energy Agency. Lighting and

phone charging alone costs them \$27 billion a year, and some estimates put their total annual energy costs at more than \$60 billion.

Although governments in much of the developing world are extending access to national networks, Africa is lagging, with less than 40 percent of households connected.

But what has long been decried as a major obstacle to Africa's development is viewed as an opportunity by entrepreneurs such as Nir Marom, co-founder of Lumos Global, the Dutch startup that built and sold Kouame his kit.

"I read an article about people paying 50 cents a day for kerosene and candles, and that just didn't make sense," Marom said. "I said I can give them four kilowatt hours for the price of kerosene. And that started everything."

Lumos Global's kits, which cost about \$600, include a solar panel linked to a battery that supports power sockets, a mobile phone adapter and LED lightbulbs.

Kouame, who paid 30,000 CFA francs (\$57) upfront for his kit, is now leasing-to-own. A digital counter on the yellow battery pack tells him when he needs to top up his account using his mobile phone.

If he doesn't pay, the kit, which also houses a global positioning system, shuts down. But in five years, he'll own it outright and his solar power will be free.

"Five years is nothing," he said, already weighing the option of another system to run a large freezer sitting empty and unplugged in the corner of his living room. "So my wife can do a little business."



Seychelles

Worldwide Leader in Renewable Energy

SEYCHELLES NEWS AGENCY

An environmental performance index has ranked the Seychelles first out of 180 countries in the climate and energy category, lauding its use of renewable energy.

The Environmental Performance Index 2018 ranks countries in 24 categories, including air pollution, sanitation, climate and energy, fisheries, and agriculture. In the climate and energy category, the island nation has made an “impressive leap in the global rankings from its 179th baseline position to first place,” said the report.



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Principal Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Wills Agricole said the ranking is due to the efforts the Seychelles is making in the two areas.

“Seychelles has stepped up its effort over the previous years in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by accelerating the transition to renewable sources of power through introducing smart renewable energy and energy efficiency schemes,” Agricole said.

The Seychelles, an archipelago in the western Indian Ocean, has faced environmental challenges such as climate change, biological invasions, coral bleaching and coastal erosion.



ANGOLA STRIKES OIL, Fish Oil

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Angola is working to diversify its oil-dependent economy. One natural and readily available resource is fish, but a lack of equipment and know-how has meant the industry has struggled.

President Joao Lourenco took office in September 2017 promising to deliver an “economic miracle” that would transform the Southern African nation, where the United Nations says more than half of the population lives on less than \$2 a day.

The collapse in 2014 of the price of crude oil, which provides 70 percent of all revenues and nearly all hard currency, put immense pressure on the country to diversify.

Lourenco is betting that the 1,600 kilometers of Atlantic coast could provide a fishing bonanza.

Fish oil is highly sought after by the cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries, and fishmeal is used by farmers as animal feed.

Workers move freshly caught fish to be used for fish oil and meal at a factory in Benguela, Angola. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Fishing Minister Victoria de Barros previously announced plans to build a new port with refrigerated storage in Tombwa at a cost of \$23.5 million.

The government is seeking to increase the annual fish catch by 16 percent over the next four years to 614,000 metric tons. Meanwhile, it is aiming for a 50 percent increase in fishmeal production to 30,000 metric tons over the same period.

Reducing oil dependence is proving to be a tough task for a country that has been heavily dependent on the black gold for decades.

“We have a fish industry, but we don’t have the capacity to meet international demand,” said Jose Gomes da Silva, the government director of fishing in the coastal city of Benguela.

Bai Bureh, the Warrior of Sierra Leone

ADF STAFF

Bai Bureh once earned the nickname *Kebalai*, which means “one who never tires of war.” In 1898, he took on one of the most highly trained, disciplined armies in the world. Armed with little more than his stealth, cunning and audacity, he was able to fight to a stalemate for almost a year.

Today, he is known as one of Sierra Leone’s greatest heroes.

Bureh was born in 1840 in a village in northern Sierra Leone. As a young man, his father sent him away to train to become a warrior. He became a relentless Soldier — so much so that he was made the ruler of his village when he returned home.

His ambition matched his ferocity, and he began fighting neighboring villages and rulers, with a vision of a region that would be both Muslim and traditional, instead of pandering to British colonists. His influence grew, and at age 46, he became chief of the nation’s Northern province.

At that time, Freetown, Sierra Leone’s port hub, was the capital of British West

Africa. Bureh was not impressed with the British and refused to cooperate with them. His insubordination included a raid on British troops in French Guinea and a refusal to honor a treaty he had not signed.

The final indignity came in 1893, when the British imposed a “hut tax,” making Sierra Leoneans pay for the right to live in their own land. Those who could not afford to pay were forced into virtual slavery, working as laborers.

Bureh refused to acknowledge the hut tax and thought that the British should leave his country. Eventually, the British governor offered a 100-pound reward for Bureh’s capture. Bureh responded by offering an outrageous 500-pound reward for the capture of the governor.

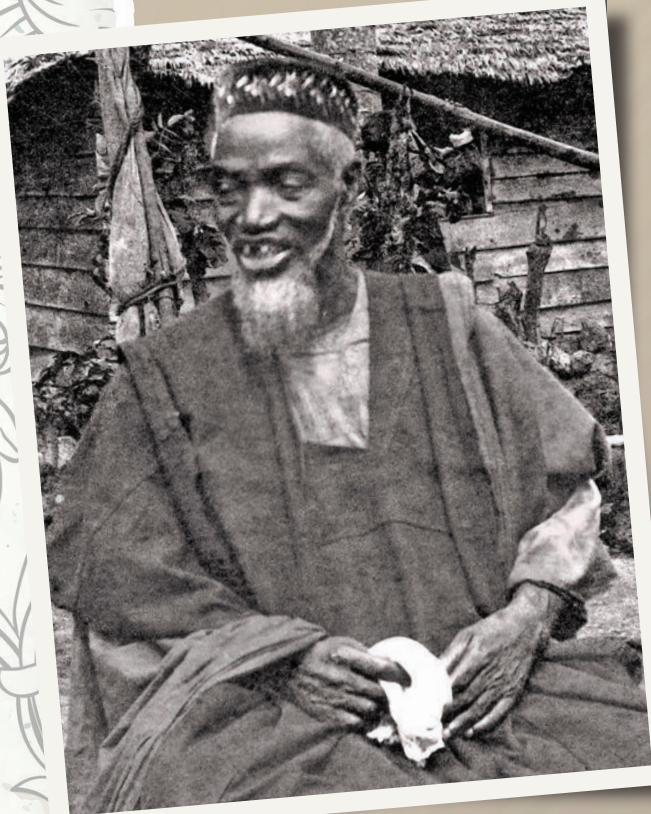
In 1898, Bureh declared war on the British. On the surface, it seemed like a suicidal turn. The British troops were a highly trained, well-equipped world force, and Bureh’s Soldiers had little formal training and were armed only with swords, spears, slings and obsolete muskets.

Fighting invaders in his native land, Bureh stymied the British with his guerilla warfare. He knew the value of military tactics such as cutting off supply lines. Despite the savagery of battle, Bureh went out of his way to protect civilians and missionaries — even British ones — caught in the war zones.

Bureh’s forces held off the enemy for most of 1898 until British forces adopted a scorched-earth policy of burning entire villages and pastures to starve the enemy troops.

Bureh surrendered on November 11, but he had earned the respect of his enemies for his skill as a fighter and his compassion toward civilians. The British hanged nearly 100 of his fighters but spared his life and sent him to Freetown, where he was regarded as a hero and celebrity by his countrymen. The British moved him to what is now Ghana for seven years, allowing him to return to his home village in 1905. The warrior chief died three years later at age 68.

Sierra Leone became an independent state in 1961. The country’s historians will tell you the fight for independence began with the rebellion of Bai Bureh.



CLUES



- 1 This was the residence of emperors in the 16th and 17th centuries.
- 2 The city is surrounded by a wall that is 900 meters long.
- 3 The complex contains palaces, churches, monasteries, and other buildings marked by Hindu and Arab influences.
- 4 The city was the center of the nation's government until 1864.



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