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AFRICA DEFENSE FORUM



CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS

Building Trust,
Ensuring Security

PLUS

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ON THE COVER:

President Joyce Banda of Malawi walks beside Gen. Henry Odillo, the nation's top military officer, during her inauguration in 2012. Odillo, who is featured on page 12, helped avert a constitutional crisis when he refused to participate in a coup plot after the death of the previous president, Bingu wa Mutharika.

Most African militaries are trusted by those they serve. According to a survey of residents of 19 African nations conducted by the polling firm Gallup, 61 percent of respondents said they had confidence in the military as an institution. That means the military is more trusted than banks, the health care sector, journalists or national governments.

This is important. The bond forged between the armed forces and civilians must be unbreakable. Without civil-military trust, no national army can claim legitimacy.

History shows that militaries are most respected when they are subordinate to elected civilian officials, free of corruption, obedient to the rule of law, and responsive to the needs of citizens. When militaries help the public during natural disasters, they cement their position as protectors in a time of need. When Soldiers hold events such as medical civic-action programs or work to build roads, bridges and other infrastructure, the public sees the armed forces in a new way.

In this edition, *ADF* shines a light on some of the signs of hope emerging in the realm of civil-military relations across the continent. On **page 8**, we examine Mauritania's increased emphasis on civil-military outreach programs such as health clinics and veterinary events that are making a difference in the lives of people living in the country's most isolated regions. In an exclusive interview on **page 12**, Gen. Henry Odillo, commander of the Malawi Defence Force, explains how he rebuffed a coup attempt and insisted on a constitutional transition of power in his country. On **page 30**, Professor Calestous Juma of Harvard writes of the important role African militaries can play in building infrastructure. Finally, on **page 40**, we look at how Central African nations at the exercise Central Accord 13 in Douala, Cameroon, trained to use aerial supply drops to assist Soldiers on the front lines and help civilians during natural disasters.

Trust is earned. By prioritizing missions that improve the lives of civilians, Africa's militaries can be as strong on the homefront as they are on the battlefield.

U.S. Africa Command Staff



REUTERS

Children wave at a Soldier from Niger as he patrols the Malian city of Gao in February 2013.



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*After 50 Years
of Unity,*

THE AFRICAN UNION LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

DR. TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

Dr. Tedros spoke at Chatham House in London on May 13, 2013, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Organization of African Unity-African Union. This is an edited version of his remarks.

Darfur, as well as high-level mediation such as the African Union High Level Panel, facilitating dialogue between Sudan and South Sudan on outstanding issues of the post-independence period.

As we chart the way forward, I believe there is a clear need to mobilize our efforts to consolidate peace and stability, deepen the roots of democratic governance, and bring about structural transformation to sustain the growth momentum. In this regard, I wish to indicate that the African Union has developed a strategic plan for the years 2014-17,

which aims to accelerate progress toward creating the foundations of an integrated, prosperous, people-centered and peaceful continent in the short and medium term. The plan identifies eight strategic priorities and concerns to be addressed. These include promoting peace and stability, increasing agricultural production, fostering inclusive economic development and industrialization, building Africa's human capacity, mainstreaming the participation of women and youth, implementing strategies of resource mobilization, strengthening a people-centered union, and enhancing the institutional capacity of the commission and other organs of the union, as well as the Regional Economic Communities, which are

the building blocks of our union.

In the light of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, the African Union is also in the process of elaborating the Strategic Framework for Vision 2063, which will outline Africa's agenda for the next 50 years to realize the vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa.

If we continue to build on our achievements and try to overcome the challenges facing us, there is no reason why we will not be able to translate the dreams of our founding fathers into a reality.

African countries have long understood that their freedom and independence will be in vain without their unity. Thirty-two independent African states signed the charter establishing the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on May 25, 1963, at Addis Ababa, thereby laying a solid foundation for the unity and solidarity of Africa.


At the turn of the 21st century, African states recognized the need to accelerate the continent's socio-economic integration to forestall its marginalization in the era of globalization. This necessitated transforming the OAU into the African Union to better respond to the challenges facing the continent and realize the vision of the founding fathers for a peaceful, prosperous and united Africa.

The African Union has been striving to promote peace, security and stability in Africa and create a favorable environment for sustainable development in line with its mandate. Particularly, the African Peace and Security Architecture composed of the Peace and Security Council, the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System, and the African Standby Force have become the veritable mechanisms of the African Union for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts on our continent. This could be exemplified by the deployment of peacekeeping missions to Burundi, Somalia and



GETTY IMAGES

A statue of Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of independent Ghana and a founding member of the Organization of African Unity, the predecessor of the African Union, stands outside AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Today, nearly two-thirds of girls in Niger are enrolled in school, up from less than a third a decade ago.

NIGER

SEES INCREASE IN School Attendance Among Girls

IPS/SOULEYMANE MAËZOU

A decade ago, less than a third of school-age girls in Niger were in a classroom. Today nearly two-thirds of girls are enrolled in school.

"Back in 2003, we had only 15 girls at my school, out of 150 students. Now, we have 103 girls out of a total of 175 students," said Ibrahim Sani, who has taught for 17 years in the northern town of Agadez.

Salouhou Adou teaches on the outskirts of Tahoua, the capital of the central region with the same name. "When I came to Kollama in 2003, there were only 29 girls out of 113 students," he said. "Today, the number of girls has tripled, to 87 out of 137 students."

Between 2001 and 2011, Niger's rate of enrollment for girls rose from 29 percent to 63 percent, according to the Ministry of Education. The improvement is due to efforts of administrative and traditional authorities, teachers, parents and civil society.

"I have gone door to door to talk to families who were against education for their daughters," said Maman Zakari, a trader in his 60s in the southern town of Maradi. "I myself was against enrolling girls in school in the past. But I came to understand the importance of education for girls through public awareness campaigns and radio programs." He has enrolled two of his five daughters.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is also supporting various incentives. "Teachers in rural areas who take part in these campaigns get some material support from UNICEF, in addition to their salaries," said Kadri Yacouba, director of primary schools in Maradi. "And women who send their daughters to school get money to start small businesses."

Despite the growth, there is still a gap in school attendance between girls and boys. Many families don't send their girls to school because of social and cultural beliefs.

"There are many parents who think that school is a destabilizing factor for girls," said retired school inspector Aboubabcar Amadou. "For them, a girl's destiny is to become a good wife to her husband and a good mother for her children."

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ALGERIA BRINGS Street Traders Into Legal Economy

MAGHAREBIA.COM

The Algerian government aims to move 55,000 to 60,000 young people working on the black market into legal trading.

"The survey, which we undertook starting early in 2012, enabled us to draw up a list of 1,368 sites where informal trade was taking place, employing 63,190 individuals," said Interior Minister Dahou Ould Kablia. More than 785 sites have been shut down.

Abandoned sites within existing markets are being used. In all, 15,918 people had been relocated as of May 2013. Some 327 covered urban markets with about 40 stalls each were developed early in 2013. By the end of April 2013, 165 markets were finished, with 119 more due to be completed by June 2013.

The operation, launched in 2012, should generate 55,000 to 60,000 jobs, Ould Kablia said. New traders will have a permit from the town hall, valid for a year, before they need to be listed on the trade register. They will be exempt from rental fees for six months.

The Commerce Ministry also created a public body to oversee the markets. Plans include large regional markets in a number of wilayas, or provinces. These markets



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

are not intended for "street vendors who compete with national production," said Commerce Minister Mustafa Benbada. They are "intended to offer the public basic goods at affordable prices."

"At last I can work and earn a living without fear that the police will come and seize my goods or that the neighbors will chase me away," said vendor Lamine Sayoud. "I won't have to worry about where to store my goods, and I'll no longer have to work in the blazing sun or pouring rain."

WEBSITE *lets* TUNISIANS Report Corruption

MAGHAREBIA.COM

The Tunisian organization I Watch has launched a website that lets the public report corruption. The site, Billkamcha.com — a slang term for a person caught in the act — collected 7,000 supporters in its first 48 hours in April 2013.

"This interactive website is designed to enable the victims of corruption to immediately report what happened to them, whether this corruption is financial, administrative or in the form of favoritism," I Watch Tunisia President Achraf Aouadi said.

Whistleblowers can remain anonymous.

In Transparency International's annual Corruption Perceptions Index, Tunisia fell from 59th in 2010 to 75th in 2012. A 2011 poll by the

Tunisian Centre for Corporate Governance found that 72 percent of Tunisians believe the police are corrupt, 70 percent thought the same of political parties, 57 percent of customs, 40 percent of lawyers and 39 percent of judges.

I Watch was created in March 2011 as a local nonprofit watchdog to foster transparency and fight corruption. The organization will coordinate



with lawyers to process files the website receives. The site has six members in charge of receiving complaints and reports, and 10 bloggers whose mission is to expose cases of corruption received by the site.

KENYA'S

NO-HASSLE CELLPHONE BANK GIVES LOANS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Jane Adhiambo Achieng walked into a Kenyan bank to get a loan for her small grocery business. She provided paperwork and spent weeks interacting with bank officials. She did not get a loan.

"They just told me I don't qualify," Achieng said. "My income was too little." She sought a \$250 loan, about half her monthly proceeds, to expand her fruit and vegetable stall in Nairobi.

Later, in March 2013, she applied for the same amount through a Kenyan mobile phone application called M-Shwari and got the money in minutes. Swahili for "smooth," M-Shwari is a new banking platform that lets subscribers to Kenya's biggest mobile network,

Safaricom, operate savings accounts, earn interest and borrow money.

It expands on Kenya's innovation of sending money by mobile phone known as M-Pesa.

The application revolutionized banking for at least 12 million people left out of the system. Through this platform, Safaricom clients can open an account, move money, and access instant microcredit of a minimum of 100 Kenyan shillings — slightly more than a dollar — any time.

Borrowers must repay loans within a month, and a single fee of 7.5 percent is charged. The application has been so successful that on its first day of operations late in 2012, more than 70,000 new accounts were opened.

WINNING *on the* HOMEFRONT

Mauritania Views Civil-Military Operations as Key to National Defense

ADF STAFF



It's an unusual assignment for a Soldier. He's accustomed to being asked to take up arms to fight for his country, and he doesn't hesitate when ordered to deploy to a foreign land for a peacekeeping mission. But even a hardened warrior might be surprised when told that his new mission involves vaccinating a herd of cattle.

Members of Mauritania's National Army are being asked to assist in civil-military operations

(CMOs) that include veterinary work, health clinics and development projects such as drilling wells and building roads. Mauritania's Army leaders say this type of work is not a distraction from the Army's primary security mission. In fact, they say it's vital to national defense.

"Civil-military actions are of such an importance that the National Army intends to include them in all future programs to engage vulnerable zones in the country where the population can easily be influenced by malevolent groups," said Commandant Lif Mohamed Diadie of Mauritania's military public relations directorate. "It's a strategy intended to gain the support of the civilians, and on this point the Mauritanian Army appears to be winning."

Beginning in January 2012, the military partnered with the National Center for Veterinary Research and Breeding and began conducting events to help farmers and herders in seven villages across three provinces in the south and east of the country.

Using anti-parasite and multivitamin injections, veterinary teams vaccinated hundreds of cattle and camels. The teams kept careful records that allow veterinarians to return to villages and check on animals' well-being and evaluate

treatments. In a supporting program, U.S. Africa Command funded the construction of seven metal pens in the villages used for livestock vaccination and inspection. The enclosures prevent large animals from breaking free and injuring their handlers or themselves during treatment.

To heighten Mauritania's emphasis on CMO, the military is calling on its Camel Corps, known as Troupes Méharistes or Groupement Nomades, to expand its long-standing tradition of aiding those who live in the most isolated regions in the country. Formed in 1912, the Camel Corps is made up of roving security officers adapted to the harsh terrain where they live and operate. Through the years, they have won the trust of local populations, including nomadic herders.

"In keeping with the nature of their mission, the Groupement Nomades have always given their services to the population," Diadie said. "The civil-military actions that these troops are being trained to perform are only going to reinforce the degree of assistance they give and the connection to the people they serve. They will criss-cross the most isolated corners to offer treatment to the ill, distribute medicine, educate people about hygiene, evacuate the sickest, rehabilitate water sources, and educate the population about terrorism and extremism."

These types of civil-military projects may seem small-scale, but officials say they can pay major security dividends. At more than 1 million square kilometers and with a population of about 3.5 million, Mauritania is one of the least densely populated countries in Africa. Only Libya and Namibia have fewer people per square kilometer.

With limited resources and needing to project power in remote areas, the Mauritanian government needs the support of rural populations, including tribal leaders and regional governors known as *walis*. Furthermore, communities along Mauritania's more-than-5,000-kilometer land border play an important role as the first line of defense



A member of Mauritania's Camel Corps is pictured near Nema in the southeastern part of the country. The Camel Corps, which formed more than 100 years ago, conducts outreach to some of Mauritania's most isolated and vulnerable populations.

SPC. JUSTIN DE HOYOS/U.S. ARMY



Children celebrate before the
dedication of a livestock vaccination
corral in southern Mauritania.

SPC. JUSTIN DE HOYOS/U.S. ARMY

against cross-border crime or burgeoning extremism.

In a 2012 analysis of Mauritania's security challenges, Anouar Boukhars of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace warned that ungoverned or misgoverned areas can be "breeding grounds" for organized crime and terror groups, especially those that recruit young people. He cautioned that a shortfall by the state in providing services, which he called the "service gap," could lead young people into the arms of extremists.

"The greater the chasm between youth expectations and the capability or willingness of the state to meet them, the greater the risk that angry youths might look to nonstate actors for essential goods," Boukhars wrote.

This lesson was highlighted in the Sahel by the fall of northern Mali in 2012 and the ill-fated partnership of local Tuareg leaders with extremist groups, including al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. Although decades-old grievances played roles in the Tuareg revolt, another driving factor was a feeling by some citizens that they were underserved by their national government, had no job opportunities, and saw no investment in the region.

Therefore, meeting needs, aiding development and winning good will are of significant importance in this part of the world. And those goals are what CMOs are all about. In February and March 2013, the multinational military exercise Flintlock 13, which took place in Mauritania, included a series of medical civic action programs in which villagers living near exercise sites received free medical care.

In the course of 18 days, military and civilian doctors treated more than 1,000 patients in three regions of the country. Ailments ranged from minor skin rashes and digestive troubles to malaria and respiratory infections. Ophthalmologists further treated

300 patients and handed out 250 pairs of eyeglasses.

The CMO teams also supplied local clinics with additional medical materials, allowing them to continue to treat patients after the exercise was completed.

Following the event, several regional governors accustomed to hearing civilian complaints of unwelcome noise or land destruction during military maneuvers said they received glowing reports from citizens living near the exercise site. Sall Saidou, wali of the Hodh El Gharbi

in southern Mauritania, said his region saw the construction of a medical clinic, treatment of local livestock by veterinarians, and an uptick in business for local banks and merchants. "This exercise was a real success," he told the military journal *Akhbar El Jeich*. "Our military was professional, courteous and respectful, and the local population responded to that."

Similarly, Cheikh Abdellahi Ewah, wali of Assaba, spoke of the eyeglasses distributed to local citizens, the children who were treated, the cattle that were vaccinated and the drilling for freshwater access. "I want to make clear that these actions were done in perfect collaboration with administrative authorities and local elected officials with the objective of reaching the most vulnerable among our population," he told *Akhbar El Jeich*.

These successes are leading Mauritania to expand its CMO programs, which now include a national plan of action and teams of trained CMO Soldiers who will return to villages regularly to follow up on earlier work.

"Both sides are becoming conscious that without security, all human and economic development projects are destined to fail," Diadie said. "The military and civilians need to join hands to put aside fear and assure the peace for which every citizen aspires." □



SFC. JUSTIN DE HOYOS/U.S. ARMY



SFC. JUSTIN DE HOYOS/U.S. ARMY



U.S. AFRICA COMMAND

Mauritanian military medical professionals treat a woman during a medical seminar in the village of Weizen. • A member of Mauritania's Camel Corps tends to his herd near Nema. • A Mauritanian contractor completes a livestock vaccination corral. The construction of seven livestock pens was a cooperative effort between the United States and the Mauritania Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.



U.S. EMBASSY IN MALAWI

Staring down a CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

Gen. Henry Odillo, commander of the Malawi Defence Force, tells ADF why he refused to go along with an attempt by politicians to seize power after the sudden death of the country's president in 2012. Below is an edited version of the interview.

ADF STAFF

ADF: Please tell us a little about yourself, your career and how you came to hold your current position.

Gen. Henry Odillo: I actually come from the southern part of the country, and I joined the Malawi Defence Force (MDF) immediately after my training in 1978. I've gone through all the positions from a young officer to midlevel command, all the way to the senior position. I've commanded different troops, the infantry battalion and recce [reconnaissance] squadron. I've also been assistant aide-de-camp to our president, and I have also been defense attaché for our country in London from 2001 to 2009.

ADF: We heard of you and your country most recently in news reports that came after the sudden death of Malawi's president, Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika. According to media

Maj. Gen. Patrick Donahue, commander of U.S. Army Africa, awards Gen. Henry Odillo of Malawi the Legion of Merit medal during a ceremony in Lilongwe on July 30, 2013.

reports, after his death, there was a constitutional crisis as several members of the president's party plotted to hold onto power by encouraging the military to take over the presidency through a coup. Could you tell us what happened?

Odillo: That's correct.

We had some unfortunate events in 2012 around the Easter period in April. We lost our

commander in chief, our president. That was indeed one of the most difficult moments in the history of our defense forces. We had to come out in front to support the Constitution of this country, which allows for a proper transition in terms of the succession of political leadership. The three days commencing from the 5th of April, when the president died, we went through those events where there was a lot of pressure coming in from the political circles, especially from the opposition side. But the position was extremely clear from our point of view. I told all of my officers in the Defence Force that we are going to support the Constitution of this country, and that point was made very clear from the beginning.

ADF: So there were various people from the party of the former president plotting and thinking that there could be an unconstitutional way to achieve power. In the face of that, you and the defense forces basically said, "No, there is a constitutionally mandated route for the vice president to ascend to the presidency, and we must follow that." Is that correct?

Odillo: Correct. That was our position from the start. When we saw the pressure coming in from the opposition political circles, they understood our position. And that was eventually respected. So, the rest is history. There is



Malawi's guard of honor looks on as President Joyce Banda is inaugurated in April 2012 in Lilongwe.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES



a case going on through the Commission of Inquiry, which was instituted to investigate the issues surrounding the death of our president and the transition of power. I testified at the Commission of Inquiry and, at the moment, the court case is pending for those individuals who are alleged to be involved in that plot. They will be answering those various charges in the court of law. That is where we stand.

ADF: Was it a turning point when they saw that the defense forces would not go along with a coup or an undemocratic transition of power? Did the military stance put an end to the plot?

Odillo: Absolutely, I think that was a huge turning point to whatever plans that they had that morning. When they suddenly

training or your personal history that led you to know right away that this plot was not correct and that this was something that would not end well for the country?

Odillo: I think the various professional trainings which I've gone through, both in the U.S. and the institutions where I had some training in Kenya at the National Defence College, led me to understand the most important strategic issues pertaining to the security of the country. This affects not only a single country but perhaps has implications in terms of regional security and beyond that, continental security and international security. So going back and looking at my position at that particular moment and knowing that I had a massive responsibility in terms of handling the situation [in 2012], I realized how fragile our country was at

The militaries should be seen as a force for the citizens of the country, as a force for good for the country.

— GEN. HENRY ODILLO

realized that the members of the military were not on their side, I think that smoothed out the transition process. A lot of people sobered up, and they understood the importance of safeguarding the Constitution of this country and respect for the rule of law, which we abided by from that point onward. Our forces and our officers understand the importance of being nonpolitical and safeguarding the national interest, and safeguarding the safety and security in this country.

ADF: Was there anything in your personal

that moment. I understood that as a country we've been going through some difficulties in terms of economic development, and we were facing a lot of challenges. The first thing that came to my mind was not to allow any security issues to affect the entire situation of our country or the safety of ordinary citizens. I thought about them and thought of the negative impact that there would be if there was any bloodshed. That would be the most horrific thing that could happen, and certainly our country would never come back from that calamity. So my thought process at

that point was that this country needs the maximum protection, and if bad decisions are made, this could have a negative impact on the security and development of our country and we could actually be going backward.

ADF: Is there any way you can teach or institutionalize all the way down the ranks the importance of civilian control of the military and the importance of the rule of law?

Odillo: I think we have learned quite a lot from the incidents of [2012]. The issues have been appreciated from different levels. I've even noticed that now there is a deeper respect for the military as an institution that is safeguarding the democracy of our country from the civilian perspective. I think the politicians now had a wake-up call to understand how politicians and anyone within the citizenry of our country must respect the rule of law and the Constitution. And yes, we can draw some lessons where we probably can emphasize more training on the importance of democracy and more engagement with our civilian counterparts in terms of them understanding the role of the military and that there are certain boundaries which must be respected. Those points have come up very clearly from the incidents [in 2012]. It has even given us the impetus to justify certain requirements needed for the military. For example, the importance of looking after the welfare of our Soldiers — the living conditions of our Soldiers need to be improved — and the importance of investing more in the leadership programs of the military to ensure that we continue to maintain high professional standards into the future. And perhaps this is where we should start investing in the critical areas where we can build the strong links between defense and the civilian sector.

ADF: When you talk about the interaction between the civilian population and the military, civilians are most likely to interact with Soldiers at lower levels, the lower ranks. They may be manning roadblocks or securing government facilities. What can be done in terms of ethical training to ensure that these lower-ranking Soldiers uphold high ethical standards?

Odillo: I think the training where we need to focus more on our Soldiers is to help them understand their obligations to citizens as men and women in uniform, and how they relate to the public. As I've said, the public does have enormous respect for the Defence Force, which

we want to maintain and perhaps get those skills up and running all the way into the future.

ADF: In 2011, the MDF, along with the U.S. military, conducted an exercise known as MEDREACH, in which military and civilian doctors went into villages and communities to offer free medical care, free dental care and important surgeries such as cataract operations. Is this something that the MDF can do to engender good will from the civilian population?

Odillo: Absolutely. I think programs like MEDREACH proved useful, both by exercising our military and having that appreciation from the civil point of view, where they better understood the role of the military in relation to the public. But perhaps we could also do more engagement if we did training programs relating to construction — for example, if there is a school to be built or a dilapidated bridge which needs to be maintained — where we can use our military engineering skills and apply it to projects that will benefit the community. So I think there are different ways where we can improve and think: How do we expand that engagement with the population? What sort of programs can we invest in which would make a positive impact on our community? These are some of the things we can consider in the future.

ADF: [On July 30, 2013, Odillo received the Legion of Merit award from Maj. Gen. Patrick Donahue of U.S. Army Africa. He was also named man of the year by the newspaper the Nyasa Times.] How do you react to all this attention, all these accolades?

Odillo: I feel extremely humbled and honored to be given those honors. I think, personally, it's a huge point of pride to the country. It's also for my family, who have been supporting me throughout my career in the military. What happened [in 2012] has really brought out a lot of serious, provoking thoughts in people's minds. Whatever goes down, the issues are the main thing. That's the key thing. How do you react in that situation where there are complex issues around you and where there is so much pressure around you? I think that, as leaders at different levels, I think it's a learning process where we need to calm down, we need to analyze issues and carefully think before making that final decision. We should understand what sort of impact our decisions will have on the world around us. So whatever was given to me, it's a huge point of



pride, and I'm extremely humbled. But also it goes down to the men and women who are tirelessly working in uniform here in Malawi.

ADF: Finally, it seems that your example is still a bit of a rare one on the continent. We've seen a coup in Mali. We've seen various elements of the military in the Democratic Republic of the Congo acting in ways that weren't professional. Time and again, we've seen the military getting involved in politics across Africa. What do you hope other countries take from the Malawi example?

Odillo: Absolutely, I think other countries can learn from how issues were handled in this country. It has been a learning point, and I'm certain that countries which are still young in terms of the political democracy will perhaps learn something out of this. Countries should also understand the limitations that our militaries do face, where we should draw the demarcation between politics and military. The militaries should be

seen as a force for the citizens of the country, as a force for good for the country. So the political circles should not take advantage in trying to misdirect the functions or the roles of the military. They should be supporting a military where it can be of use to the country, where it can be positive for the economic development of the country. So they can concentrate on politics, and we can concentrate on security. And where we interface the two, we will be providing a conducive environment where politics, economics and social programs can prosper. That should be the learning point. So issues of priorities can arise, but constant negotiations, constant discussions between the military and civilians need to continue, and also don't involve the military in politics. That's the main thing. Stay out of politics, and the military should do their profession without being interfered with; politicians should do their business without interfering in the business of the military. That would be my message. □

Gen. Henry Odillo accompanies President Joyce Banda as she inspects Malawi's guard of honor during her inauguration in April 2012.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

AFTER WAR, LAND MINES **CONTINUE TO KILL**

The cost in lives and money persists decades after land mines were planted



GWENN DUBOURTHOUMIEU

ADF STAFF

Two Tunisian Soldiers were wounded May 6, 2013, when a land mine exploded in the Mount Chaambi border region during a hunt for Islamic extremists. Security forces said the mine was strategically placed in a populated area next to a park.

“We consider that a dangerous evolution given that everyone who uses this path, citizens, Soldiers and security forces, are targets,” the Tunisian Defense Ministry said. The previous week, 15 members of the security forces were wounded by handmade explosive devices in a remote region near the Algerian border, triggering a major operation to take out the extremist group and demine the area.

Land mines in Tunisia are, unfortunately, nothing new. During World War II, Italian and German soldiers heavily mined parts of the country to slow down advancing French troops. Long after the war’s end, the Tunisian Army was finding and removing an estimated 200 to 300 land mines every year. The country declared itself mine-free in 2008 — until the extremists came along.

It’s not hard to understand the value of land mines in war. They’re low-tech, easy to make, cheap and effective. They can be deployed over large areas to prevent or stop enemy advances. They can be used to force an enemy to divert its path to a particular area. They can be used to slow down enemy troops until reinforcements arrive.

But after war, they become a plague. The remaining land mines hinder trade and prevent the development of farmland. They make land too dangerous to explore for oil or natural gas. Piecemeal efforts to find and remove mines, such as controlled fires, are invariably only partially successful. Seasonal flooding can move plastic mines to new areas. The land is condemned to uselessness.

About 80 percent of land-mine victims are civilians. The International Committee of the Red Cross says that more than 800 people are killed and 1,200 maimed by land mines every month — most of them children, women and the elderly. Often their bodies are so decimated there is nothing left to bury.

Despite being old technology, mines have a deadly presence in the modern world. More than 100 million planted land mines exist in 70 countries around the world, according to OneWorld International. Since 1975, land mines have killed or maimed more than 1 million people. On a positive note, anti-mining programs are working, and the numbers of deaths and casualties are down drastically from even a decade ago.

In 1997, countries throughout the world began signing the Ottawa Treaty, also known as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and generally referred to as the Mine Ban Treaty. So far, 161 countries have signed, including 47 of the 48 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Rebels, however, do not honor treaties, and new mines are still being planted. In recent years, rebels and extremist groups have planted mines in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

TYPES OF MINES

More than 350 varieties of mines exist, falling into two categories: anti-personnel mines and anti-tank mines. Anti-tank mines are generally larger and are much more explosive, for obvious reasons. A typical tank mine can cripple or destroy a tank or truck, as well as kill people in and around the vehicle. Typically, the weight of a person will not detonate an anti-tank mine. Anti-tank mines are planted in predictable areas: roads, bridges and large clearings where tanks may travel.

Anti-personnel land mines are designed to stop, reroute or push back foot Soldiers. Anti-personnel mines are often designed to kill, but smaller, cheaper anti-personnel mines are designed mostly to maim and blow off limbs. In addition to traditional mechanical triggers, some modern anti-personnel mines can be remotely detonated. There are also smart mines, which automatically deactivate themselves after a certain amount of time.

A child walks near the Kisangani airport in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The area, considered a strategic location during wars in the late 1990s and early 2000s, included land mines and unexploded ordnance. It was later cleared by the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre and the South African company Mechem.



In South Sudan, a 7-year-old boy was 4 when a land mine he was playing with blew up in his house, killing his mother. He lost one leg. The Soldier shown here in the center lost a leg on duty.

Anti-personnel mines fit into three basic categories:

Blast mines are the most common type and are buried only a few centimeters. They are triggered when someone steps on the pressure plate. These mines are generally only powerful enough to maim, but can cause death from bleeding and infection.

Bounding mines set off a propelling charge, which lifts the mine about a meter into the air, causing injury to a victim's head and torso. They are typically triggered by pressure or a tripwire.

Fragmentation bombs can be set to release fragments in all directions or in one specific direction. These powerful bombs can have a range of up to 200 meters. The fragments typically are made of metal or glass.

Anti-personnel mines have an interesting genesis. When tanks were developed during World War I, armies quickly developed anti-tank mines. The anti-personnel mines were developed to prevent Soldiers from moving anti-tank mines.

Anti-tank mines are generally much larger versions of anti-personnel mines. Most anti-tank

mines require considerable weight to detonate, in the range of 158 to 338 kilograms. All anti-tank mines are blast mines, designed to destroy the tank's tracks and as much else as possible. A typical modern anti-tank mine is about 350 millimeters across, 125 millimeters tall, and armed with about 10 kilograms of explosives.

GETTING RID OF THE MINES

Demining is a slow, expensive process, financially exhausting many African nations' resources. For that reason, countries and nongovernmental organizations have pledged support and money to clear Africa's remaining land mines.

A key component of the Mine Ban Treaty is the pledge to destroy stockpiles of unused land mines. The 2012 Landmine Monitor Report says that signatory nations have destroyed more than 46 million stockpiled mines since 1999. As of the 2012 report, 87 countries had destroyed their stockpiles. Another 64 countries declared that they had no stockpiles to destroy. The treaty lets countries keep some mines for training in clearance and mine detection, with 72 countries choosing to do so. □

OUT OF NECESSITY, MOZAMBIQUE BECOMES WORLD AUTHORITY ON DEMINING

ADF STAFF

Mozambique, a quiet country along the southeast coast of Africa, has a rapidly growing economy but struggles with a deadly legacy. It's infested with old land mines.

Soldiers on all sides laid the mines during the fight for independence from 1964 to 1975. They planted more mines during the civil war that followed. In all, mines made in 15 countries ended up in Mozambique.

"Perhaps the most devastating use of land mines was the random dissection of mines in fields and along access paths to stop peasants from producing food," observed Human Rights Watch Africa. In a country that struggles with famines and droughts, mined farmland made matters worse.

As always, when the fighting finally ended, the mines remained. In the nearly 20 years since the fighting stopped, Mozambique has methodically removed mines, a slow and expensive process. Along the way, the mine clearers have become some of the best in the world. In 2002, Mozambican demining teams were sent to Sri Lanka, Nigeria and Sudan to help with operations in those countries, AllAfrica.com reported.

NO EASY WAY TO CLEAR MINES

Clearing land mines is a science and not an easy one. Metal detectors are slow and produce false positives. They can fail to detect modern mines made mostly from plastic. Deminers sometimes use specially trained dogs to sniff out the mines. They also use armored vehicles, usually modified tractors with special arms for removing mines.

But Mozambique's deminers are best known for their famous mine-detection rats, specially trained by a company in Belgium. The giant African pouched rats are strapped to tiny harnesses and sweep back and forth on ropes, stopping to scratch and point when they find a mine.

The rats have real advantages over conventional mine detection techniques. The rats weigh much less than dogs and do not trigger the mines. They have poor vision, so they rely largely on their great sense

of smell to detect mines. They are not as smart as dogs, so they are not as easily distracted from the task at hand. Unlike dogs, they do not bond with their trainers and can be used by various handlers. They can live up to eight years.

The greatest advantage to the rats is their speed. A human team using metal detectors has to dig up anything metal. Rats, using their sense of smell, have far fewer false positives and can sniff plastic explosives that a metal detector might miss. The BBC reported that a rat can accomplish in a single day what would take a human deminer almost two weeks.



A giant African pouched rat sniffs out land mines in Mozambique. The rats make good mine detectors because they have an acute sense of smell and don't weigh enough to trigger the devices.

APR/GETTY IMAGES

LAND MINES: **THE FACTS**



REUTERS

An anti-personnel mine-detecting worker stands at a minefield near Vilancoulos in southern Mozambique.

**A LAND MINE INCIDENT
MAY COST A FAMILY ITS
PRIMARY BREADWINNER.**

**250
MILLION**
Stockpiled land
mines worldwide

Land mines delay repatriation of refugees and displaced people, or even prevent it altogether.

350
Minimum number of different
types of land mines

Medical treatment for land mine victims, where available, is costly, burdening an already overstretched health-care system.

70

Number of
people killed
or injured
daily by land
mines

Mines hamper
aid and relief
services, and
threaten,
injure and kill
aid workers.

Mines cut off access to economically important areas, such as roads, electricity pylons and dams.

Many survivors struggle to make a living after their accidents because vocational training and support are unavailable.

5 KILOGRAMS
Weight needed to trigger some land mines

100 MILLION
Land mines in the ground worldwide

\$3
Cost in U.S. dollars of a cheap land mine

1 MILLION
PEOPLE KILLED OR MAIMED
BY ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES SINCE 1975

2.5 MILLION
New land mines laid each year

Communities are deprived of their productive land: Farmland, orchards, irrigation canals and water points may no longer be accessible.

Mine-affected countries stand to gain international assistance for mine clearance and victim assistance once they ban land mines and join the Mine Ban Treaty. Donor governments are understandably reluctant to fund demining in countries until they have given up land mines altogether.

\$33 BILLION

Cost in U.S. dollars to remove every mine in the world, if no others are planted

\$1,000

Cost in U.S. dollars to remove one land mine



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A mine-clearing expert for Handicap International works on the outskirts of Ziguinchor, in the Casamance region of Senegal.

the COST of CORRUPTION

UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR CAN DAMAGE
DEFENSE SECTORS AT ALL LEVELS

ADF STAFF

Corruption may seem like a minor thing: A Soldier or police officer asks for a small bribe for quick passage at a checkpoint or to make a traffic citation go away. But even small, individual acts of corruption can have major economic and security consequences.



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A billboard in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, features a campaign against corruption launched by the National Secretariat for Governance and Capacity Building. The billboard reads, "I established the racket that killed my son."

Consider a recent case in Nigeria. Authorities arrested a senior official of the Nigeria Customs Service in May 2013 and accused him of allowing arms to pass through Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, to benefit the Boko Haram extremist group. A civil servant told *The Sun* that “the senior officer manned the border post each time the truck conveying arms was coming into Maiduguri. He would simply tell his boys to let it pass, that it has been cleared from above.”

“These trucks usually come with goods from Chad or Niger, and arms are carefully hidden there,” the civil servant said. “It was one of such supposed cleared trucks that exposed him. The truck was checked again by the Multinational Joint Task Force troops at the border and behold, arms were discovered and the driver spilled the beans.”

The case sheds a harsh light on corruption and its effects. The Nigerian Army has been engaged in fierce fighting with Boko Haram militants. As of May 2013, Nigeria had military operations underway in three of its federal states to combat terrorism. Despite this, with only a narrow interest in monetary gain, a Nigerian official was supplying arms to the enemy.

WHAT CONSTITUTES CORRUPTION?

Transparency International (TI) is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that raises awareness and works with governments, businesses and other groups around the world to develop anti-corruption programs. TI defines corruption as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.” Although basic in its definition, it has far-reaching implications in the defense and security sector. TI’s “Building Integrity and Countering Corruption in Defense & Security” report explains how:

- Corruption wastes scarce resources.
- Corruption reduces operational effectiveness.
- Corruption reduces public trust in the armed forces and the security services.
- Defense budgets, due to their secrecy, are an easy target for politicians seeking funds.
- International companies shun corrupt economies.

Corruption in the military and security sector is all too common and has the potential to damage credibility and effectiveness. It has ramifications domestically, regarding everything from national procurement policy to citizen interaction with military and security officials. Internationally, it becomes important when Soldiers deploy with peacekeeping missions.

“Defense and security ministries and armed forces must adopt wide-ranging integrity-building measures to reduce corruption risk and improve the ethical standards of officials and officers,” Lord George Robertson, former secretary-general of NATO, wrote in the TI report.

TI suggests ways to instill professionalism and ethics in military and security forces. “Good reform

programs reinforce positive behaviors and controls,” the report states. “It is a mistake for anti-corruption programs to focus only on constraining illegal or bad behavior: They must also accentuate the positive. In defense and security, this means strengthening the values and codes of conduct by which officers, officials and members of the armed forces conduct themselves.”

PETTY BRIBES ADD UP

Petty bribes have a high cost for security forces, governments and civilians. Jean-Louis Billon, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Côte d’Ivoire, told the BBC in 2010 that checkpoint bribes amounted to at least \$300 million a year and as much as \$600 million — about 2 percent of the nation’s economy at the time. Billon attributed his figures to a World Bank study.

“Every Ivorian today ... has been asked to pay at a roadblock,” Billon said, adding that the Army and former rebel New Forces were to blame. The bribes, he said, had driven the cost of charcoal three times higher than necessary as it was transported into Abidjan, the nation’s biggest city.

Small bribes such as the ones Billon described are where most citizens are likely to experience corruption. They can include checkpoints, payments to speed up administrative matters such as licenses, and extortion by police officers. TI says policymakers must not limit their focus to large-scale corruption. “A plan that focuses only on high-value corruption is unlikely to succeed; the general public needs to see benefit at a local level.”

REUTERS



A United Nations peacekeeper speaks to a man in Gao, Mali, during a protest against sending peacekeepers from Senegal to the northern rebel-held town of Kidal in July 2013. About 500 people from different youth organizations rallied in front of the camp where Senegalese peacekeepers were stationed. Soldiers serving in peacekeeping missions are expected to treat residents of the host country with respect.

Brig. Gen. Koko Essien of the Nigerian Army told *ADF* his country has started to keep an eye on checkpoints. “So long as you pop in there at the time that they least expect it, in a manner that they least expect it — in a personal vehicle and all of that — we keep the boys on their toes. So I think we’ve basically to some extent, I will not say eliminated it, but it has really gone down.”

TI shows how defense forces can instill professional ethics in Soldiers through a code of conduct. Its report offers these suggestions:

- There should be one code of conduct for all personnel. It should be easy to access, easy to understand, appealing to read, and it should feature graphics and a simple layout.
- There must be clear guidance on accountability, including who is responsible for the ethics program, as well as instructions on how to report suspicious acts and how personnel can get advice on issues covered.
- The code should include regulations on bribery; gratuities, gifts and hospitality; conflicts of interest; and post-separation activities — ideally with case studies.
- It should offer regular ethics training and refresher courses to put regulations in the context of real-life situations.
- The code and its implementation program should be updated periodically.

PROBLEMS WITH PROCUREMENT

Bribes affect civilians directly, but they are just one extreme of corruption. The other extreme is much grander and can affect people indirectly, by hamstringing a government’s ability to effectively render services.



United Nations Soldiers from West African countries pose for a picture after a ceremony that marked the beginning of the 12,000-strong U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali on July 1, 2013.

Corruption costs the global defense sector an estimated \$20 billion per year, according to TI. “The Government Defence Anti-Corruption Index,” released by TI in January 2013, examined 82 countries and found that 70 percent of them do not have adequate mechanisms to prevent corruption in their defense sectors.

These problems are well-known in South Africa, according to a paper by Gareth Newham of the Pretoria-based Institute for Security Studies. A 1999 decision to buy military weapons in what was termed the “arms deal” still haunts the country years later. The country was left with equipment it doesn’t need, cannot maintain or cannot use.

The deal was set out in the 2011 book *The Devil in the Detail: How the Arms Deal Changed Everything*, by Paul Holden and Hennie van Vuuren. The deal has been said to cost anywhere from 30 billion rand (\$4.8 billion) to more than twice that. Had the money been spent on infrastructure or development, from 300,000 to 575,000 more people could have been employed. Instead, it is alleged that deals between politicians and armament companies put hundreds of millions of rand into the pockets of people with political power and connections.

In 2011, South Africa announced it would reopen an inquiry into the deal. An Arms Procurement Commission was set to hear testimony in Pretoria from August 2013 through January 2014.

More openness in what is often a closed process can help ward off corruption and waste. TI has developed the defense integrity pact, an independent monitoring tool that can be used for procurement and adapted for oversight and transparency during the disposal of equipment, land or infrastructure. Such a pact usually has three main features:

- A short contract in which bidders and the procuring organization agree to avoid bribes, and bidders agree to enhanced disclosure rules. Bidders also agree to sanctions, including withdrawal from projects, if they violate pledges.
- An independent monitor or monitoring team ensures that all parties abide by their commitments.
- Documents and processes are made more transparent to the public. This allows the public and civil society to have more input, enhancing confidence in the process.

EFFORTS TO COMBAT CORRUPTION

Some African countries have formal institutions in place to fight corruption. Prominent among them is Sierra Leone’s Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), established by the government in 2000. A 2008 act replaced the original, giving the commission power to prosecute.



A Tunisian police officer halts a motorcycle at a checkpoint in Kairouan in May 2013.

“The military should lead by example and leave no ground for suspicion.”

— Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara, Sierra Leone’s anti-corruption czar

REUTERS

TI’s Global Corruption Barometer Report for 2013, released in July, rated Sierra Leone as having one of the highest incidences of bribery, particularly related to accessing services such as education, electricity, health, justice, licenses, the police and registration. Even so, the ACC noted that 99 percent of 1,028 Sierra Leonean respondents were willing to get involved against corruption in some way. “Over the years, the Commission has emphasized the need for the people of Sierra Leone to come on board in the fight against corruption and to report, resist and reject corruption in all its forms,” the ACC said in a release.

The commission also is educating the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) about the importance of fighting corruption. In March 2012, officials from a regional ACC office spoke with more than 200 members of the RSLAF in Makeni. Raymond Alieu Kamara, the commission’s Bombali district coordinator, told the Soldiers that the RSLAF is of strategic importance in the fight against corruption. ACC Northern Regional Manager Patrick Sandi explained the penalties for offenses such as misappropriating public or donor funds or property, abuse of office and position, soliciting and accepting advantage,

using influence for contracts, and receiving gifts for corrupt purposes.

The commission gave the RSLAF high marks in June 2011, proclaiming it “75 percent corruption-free.” “The military should lead by example and leave no ground for suspicion,” said Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara, Sierra Leone’s anti-corruption czar.

However, the public considers security institutions such as the police highly corrupt. Although the military has been singled out as a good example, Kamara had words of caution. He said promotions, transfers and deployments, as well as the distribution of rice to military personnel, should be watched closely. “It is important to set up a system of accountability to clearly define the responsibilities of personnel and effectively supervise their activities,” he told *Africa Review*.

Kamara told officers at Wilberforce barracks in Freetown that corruption could be attributed to unfair political practices and over-centralized administration. Inadequate pay and law enforcement shortcomings also played a role.

“There is now need for continued organizational growth and confidence-building measures to be developed between officers and the lower ranks,” the ACC leader said. □

SENEGALESE TOWN

DESCENDS INTO CELEBRATION

ADF STAFF





REUTERS

EACH SPRING, THE SENEGALESE VILLAGE OF NDANDE BECOMES A HUB OF RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE. RESIDENTS ADORN THEMSELVES WITH COLORFUL CLOTHES. THEY SING. THEY DANCE. PRAYERS AND CHANTS DRIFT UPON THE NIGHT AIR AND ECHO THROUGH THE TOWN.

The town of 1,000 to 2,000 marks Gamou-Ndande, a Sufi Muslim ceremony that includes nights of praying, chanting and traditional animist ceremonies. Sufism is a form of Islamic mysticism. Sufi orders are found in Shia, Sunni and other Islamic groups.

Fourteenth-century Arab historian Ibn Khaldun described Sufism as “dedication to worship, total dedication to Allah most High, disregard for the finery and ornament of the world, abstinence from the pleasure, wealth, and prestige sought by most men, and retiring from others to worship alone.”

The people of Ndande make their observance a rousing community affair. Nighttime gatherings teem with people and joyful noises. Lights hang from tent posts, and decorations abound. Rows of townspeople wrapped in clothes of vibrant red, purple, orange, yellow and white fabrics sit on metal folding chairs and plastic lawn chairs under a tent. A man chants over a loudspeaker. At times, those assembled offer a melodic response.

One Gamou-Ndande event offers high drama. Residents crouch shoulder to shoulder at the mouth of a historic well named the Puits de Kalom. As they watch, a man tied to a rope is lowered into the pit, where others wait to untie him. Above, women and men sing and dance to traditional drumbeats near the mouth of the well, which is reinforced with wooden pilings.

The well was the site of significant battles in Senegalese history. Baye Niass, a local historian, says it is 36 meters deep, 11 meters across and dates to the 16th century. In ancient times, this well also was said to be the site of rituals in the event of great droughts.

“Our heritage is tied to water,” said Senegalese Minister of Culture Abdoul Aziz Mbaye. “A culture is made with the links that man has with his environment. Here, we remember particularly the bonds we have with water.”

A Senegalese man is suspended by ropes across the mouth of a former well named the Puits de Kalom in the village of Ndande.



building *for the* future

CALESTOUS JUMA

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FOUNDATIONS FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY

Africa is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity at a momentous time. On one hand, the continent is experiencing unprecedented economic growth. On the other hand, major peacekeeping challenges remain in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali. Other nations, including Liberia and Sierra Leone, have emerged from years of conflict but are faced with a great deal of unfinished reconstruction work.

To address some of these challenges, Africa is increasingly emphasizing regional integration that promotes economic growth and intra-African trade. Today, it is not the absence of political will that stands in the way of Africa's integration. The main challenge lies in poor infrastructure, especially in the sectors of energy, transportation, irrigation and telecommunications.

Meeting the continent's infrastructure needs will involve mobilizing all available resources in civilian and military circles and creating new systems of civil-military cooperation that go beyond traditional arrangements. Coming at the moment when Africa needs it most, military engagement in infrastructure projects could help redefine the role of the military by projecting a new image of public service.

FIGHTING FOR DEVELOPMENT

The challenge is huge. The World Bank estimates that Africa will need to invest nearly \$93 billion yearly in the next decade to provide adequate infrastructure for sustaining economic growth. Nearly one-third of the investment will go to maintenance. Part of the cost can be met through public and private sector funding, including new instruments such as the infrastructure bonds proposed by the African Development Bank.

Meeting the rest of the need will require unconventional measures, such as the mobilization of the continent's armed forces. This is not a new role for the military. There is a long history of military involvement in infrastructure construction dating back to the days of ancient Rome when Soldiers built roads to connect far-flung colonies. This legacy has survived and is embodied today by the existence of institutions such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

African security forces have extensive human resources, technology and the equipment needed for infrastructure construction and

Tanzania People's Defence Force Soldiers work to build a road after floodwaters washed away railways and roads near the town of Mpwapwa in 2010.

U.S. ARMY AFRICA



MARTHA STEWART

maintenance. In fact, they already deploy this capacity in emergencies. What is needed is an explicit strategy to extend their role in cooperation with civilian agencies.

This would build on a tradition in Africa that includes converting military facilities to support civilian infrastructure work. Rwanda, for example, transformed a military barracks into the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology, which played a key role in the country's reconstruction after the genocide. The role of the military in Rwanda's civilian affairs includes a wide range of activities, which culminate in the annual awareness-raising Army Week.

Uganda is another example of the military engaging in infrastructure projects. The country's armed forces created Africa's first University of Military Science and Technology, which is training engineers to build and maintain infrastructure. Uganda has been collaborating with the U.S. Army to rehabilitate railway networks. Similarly, Eritrea has an elaborate program of engaging the military in development and infrastructure projects.



At the moment when Africa needs it most, military engagement in infrastructure projects could help redefine the role of the military by projecting a new image of public service.

The role of the military in infrastructure projects needs to be under democratic control for it to win popular support. It also should not be seen as competing with the private sector. Some African models offer lessons on how such civil-military cooperation can be structured. Senegal, for example, has established clear policies and guidelines that have, since independence, steered its "Army-Nation" program. The program includes infrastructure work (especially on water supply and road construction), health care and environmental management.

In 1999, Senegal created the civil-military committee in support of development to bring together representatives from Parliament, the military, government ministries, civil society and the private sector to collaborate on implementing public programs. Its broad membership helps foster trust and coordination.



African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur peacekeepers from South Africa work on the installation of a tank in Forog, Sudan. South African peacekeepers delivered 30,000 liters of water to aid the local population in the construction of a clinic. REUTERS

Egyptian Soldiers work on a project to bolster border security. At a time of massive infrastructure needs across the continent, some argue that Africa's armed forces should help build roads, bridges and other structures. AFP/GETTY IMAGES



A CALL TO DUTY

It can be argued that deploying the military for civilian infrastructure work could divert attention from essential defense functions. To the contrary, the military would strengthen its national security mission by building infrastructure projects for four key reasons:

The military has the equipment, capabilities and logistical know-how. In many African nations, the military is the only institution with the resources and the manpower to take on difficult development tasks. The military is often called upon in emergencies because it has logistical experience and the equipment to help civilians in need. Mobilizing the military relieves the burden on other sectors and, during peacetime, keeps troops active and prepared for deployment.

In an essay published in the security studies journal *Prism*, Col. Birame Diop of the Senegalese Air

Force and director of the civil-military organization Partners Senegal advocated for greater involvement by the military in nontraditional roles across Africa.

He made a significant point: “They have planes for delivering the food, medicine, and doctors needed to fight health problems, as well as manpower and expertise to assist in building infrastructure. When available, these resources must be used to contribute to the positive development of the continent and to save lives.”

Diop added that involving the military in development tasks shouldn’t be seen as a threat to civilian sectors. “Mobilizing the military to become involved in this new range of societal challenges is not meant to replace or circumvent other sectors,” he wrote. “On the contrary, using the resources already available to the military can alleviate pressure from other entities while they reform and develop new strategies and capacities.”

Infrastructure engagement allows countries to more productively manage their post-conflict armies. Development projects allow militaries to downsize and shift away from a war footing. Some researchers say that Soldiers near retirement age or who need to be disarmed and reintegrated in a post-conflict state could become craftsmen for infrastructure projects. This could give them the same sense of camaraderie and accomplishment that they enjoyed in the military.

Douglas Lovelace Jr., director of the Strategic Studies Institute at the U.S. Army War College, wrote: "If these experienced officers, accustomed to leading and doing, are given the skills to manage construction projects and the knowledge to design and build power stations, dams, bridges, and roads, and if noncommissioned officers are trained to run and maintain these projects once built, those who pledged to serve their country in uniform could continue to do so with pride and purpose while wearing mufti."

This point has been proven with jobs programs for ex-combatants in places ranging from Côte d'Ivoire to Rwanda. In South Sudan, tens of thousands of ex-combatants are now being put to work on projects building schools, clinics and other facilities necessary for the new nation's development.

The challenge is huge. The World Bank estimates that Africa will need to invest nearly \$93 billion yearly in the next decade to provide adequate infrastructure for sustaining economic growth.

Infrastructure projects can help improve the perception of the military among the population it serves. Most Africans have a positive perception of their militaries. A 2006 survey of 19 African nations by the polling firm Gallup found that 61 percent of respondents had confidence in the military as an institution. This puts the military ahead of such institutions as banks, the health care sector, journalists and national governments in terms of trust.

Military popularity is not just good for public relations — it's important for security. When civilians trust the military, they are more likely to assist them in matters of national security and alert them to potential threats.

There is some anecdotal evidence that civil-military engagement projects can improve favorability rankings for the military among the people they serve. Of all African countries polled by Gallup, Botswana had the highest confidence in its military at 86 percent. For years, the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) has undertaken nontraditional military tasks, including wildlife protection, flood relief and helping farmers to control livestock disease. The BDF also has remained firmly under civilian command and stayed out of politics.

This is also true in Senegal, where the Army has been deployed to work on projects such as the ambitious 7,000-kilometer "great green wall" that is designed to serve as a buffer of plant life against encroaching desertification in the Sahel.

Engaging the military in infrastructure projects helps diversify the skills of Soldiers, which better prepares them for life outside the barracks. This is a subtle but important point. African military officers do not usually have many options to participate in economic development after they retire. A few of the senior officers may find second careers in various public and private sector functions, but this is not the case with the rank and file.

Having opportunities to participate in infrastructure projects provides the military with additional skills that not only helps individuals, but also helps the economy as a whole. One way to make this more attractive is to link participation in infrastructure to additional technical and managerial training.

The case of the Uganda University of Military Science and Technology illustrates the value of such training. In fact, the demand for higher technical training may require upgrading military colleges into full technical universities, which are in short supply in Africa. By creating such universities, the military will be in a better position to attract talented young people who can benefit from military technical training that is relevant to the civilian sector.

As Africa looks to the future, it should consider how best to deploy its youth in the military to play a role in the critical hour of infrastructure construction and maintenance needs. The continent has a painful history of military coups, which are now mostly relegated to the past. Today's Africa is led by an increasing number of forward-looking and technocratic presidents. This is the time to give future generations hope through building infrastructure — the engine of the continent's economic future. □



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PROGRESS

AGAINST A PLAGUE

—  —

HIV/AIDS INFECTION AND DEATH RATES ARE DECLINING IN AFRICA, AND MILITARIES ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE GAINS

ADF STAFF

Senegal, a country of more than 13 million, faces challenges typical of the region, including limited resources and a booming youth population. But in one important way Senegal is not typical. Its adult HIV/AIDS infection rate is only 0.9 percent, which is about one-fifth the rate of Sub-Saharan Africa, and lower than the United States capital, Washington, D.C., where nearly 3 percent of adults are HIV positive.

"I would say that's fairly dramatic; it's not what I think people expect," Dr. Liza Briggs, a social scientist for U.S. Africa Command, told *ADF*. "And the military had a hand in that. They did a lot of military education, and they did it in many ways without a whole lot of outside funding. They kind of took it by the reins and just said, 'Hey, we're going to tackle this; we're not going to let this happen.'"

Most of Senegal's work educating the populace occurred in the early 1990s, years before the HIV/AIDS epidemic reached its peak on the continent. Senior military officers led their junior troops to change behavior and do things such as use condoms. The result was a low infection rate, not just for the military but for the nation at large, Briggs said. The work was a source of pride for the Senegalese. "It was coming, and they said 'Nope!' and they fixed it."

A CONTINENT RESPONDS

Africa as a whole is making strides against HIV/AIDS after years of discouraging news. Seven Sub-Saharan countries have cut in half the number of new HIV infections in children since 2009, the United Nations AIDS (UNAIDS) program reported in June 2013. Death rates declined 33 percent across Africa from 2005 to 2011.

Improvements are due in large part to the use of anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs), which can suppress symptoms and lessen the chances of transmission, especially from mother to child.

Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies and international governments also have worked to quell an epidemic that peaked in 1997.

African militaries such as Senegal's are taking action, too. Education, screening and treatment help prevent the spread of HIV and more effectively manage troops already infected. Militaries realize that the disease affects troop readiness and, by extension, national security. At the height of the AIDS crisis, seven out of 10 South African military deaths were AIDS-related, according to government figures.

"HIV/AIDS is more deadly than the weapons which are at our disposal, and prevention efforts and the manner in which they can be successfully accessed by our forces should be the focus of our intervention," Botswana's Maj. Gen. Gobuamang Jefferson Tlhokwane told a Military HIV/AIDS Prevention Conference in Gabarone.

"In Botswana, we hold the view that anything above zero is a cause for concern," the now-retired Defence Force deputy commander and Air Arm commander said. "We have passed the denial stage and hope other African nations do the same."

THE ROLE OF MILITARIES

Briggs said the culture and structure of African militaries makes them well-equipped to curtail the spread of HIV "because they're hierarchical; because you have a chain of command, you have leadership that can drive down directives that influence behavior."

That's important because African Soldiers deploy often in peacekeeping missions and to areas where the disease has been prevalent. HIV can be a drain on militaries if they must care for sick troops or replace those who are unable to serve. Because of their mobility, forces also can spread the virus in multiple locations, including their homes after their tours of duty.

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— Maj. Gen. Gobuamang Jefferson Tlhokwane, former Defence Force deputy commander and Air Arm commander



A billboard in Accra, Ghana, promotes healthy habits for avoiding HIV/AIDS.

ADF STAFF



Maj. Gen. Gobuamang Jefferson Tlhokwane

CMDR. DENISE SHOREY/U.S. AFRICA COMMAND

The United Nations understands this. Despite engaging in nearly 70 peacekeeping missions since its founding, “no conflict on the agenda of the Security Council has resulted in greater or more widespread devastation than AIDS,” according to UNAIDS. The Security Council passed Resolution 1983 in 2011, which makes HIV prevention and treatment mandated tasks of peacekeeping operations, “including assistance to national institutions, to security sector reform and to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes.” Along with Resolution 1308, passed in 2000, the U.N. has highlighted the need to use peacekeepers to help combat sexual and gender-based violence.

The United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan has made HIV prevention a priority. The mission has trained 120 change agents, 105 peer educators and 34 HIV counselors. Awareness campaigns have reached more than 30,000 people, and more than 3,000 uniformed personnel have received voluntary HIV counseling and testing. Other programs are making a difference in U.N. peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur and Liberia.

Some individual nations have worked

with NGOs and other agencies to bolster their capacity to prevent HIV/AIDS from straining military resources. Others have enacted policies for managing those who already have the disease. Below are some stories of how a few African nations have made progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

GHANA

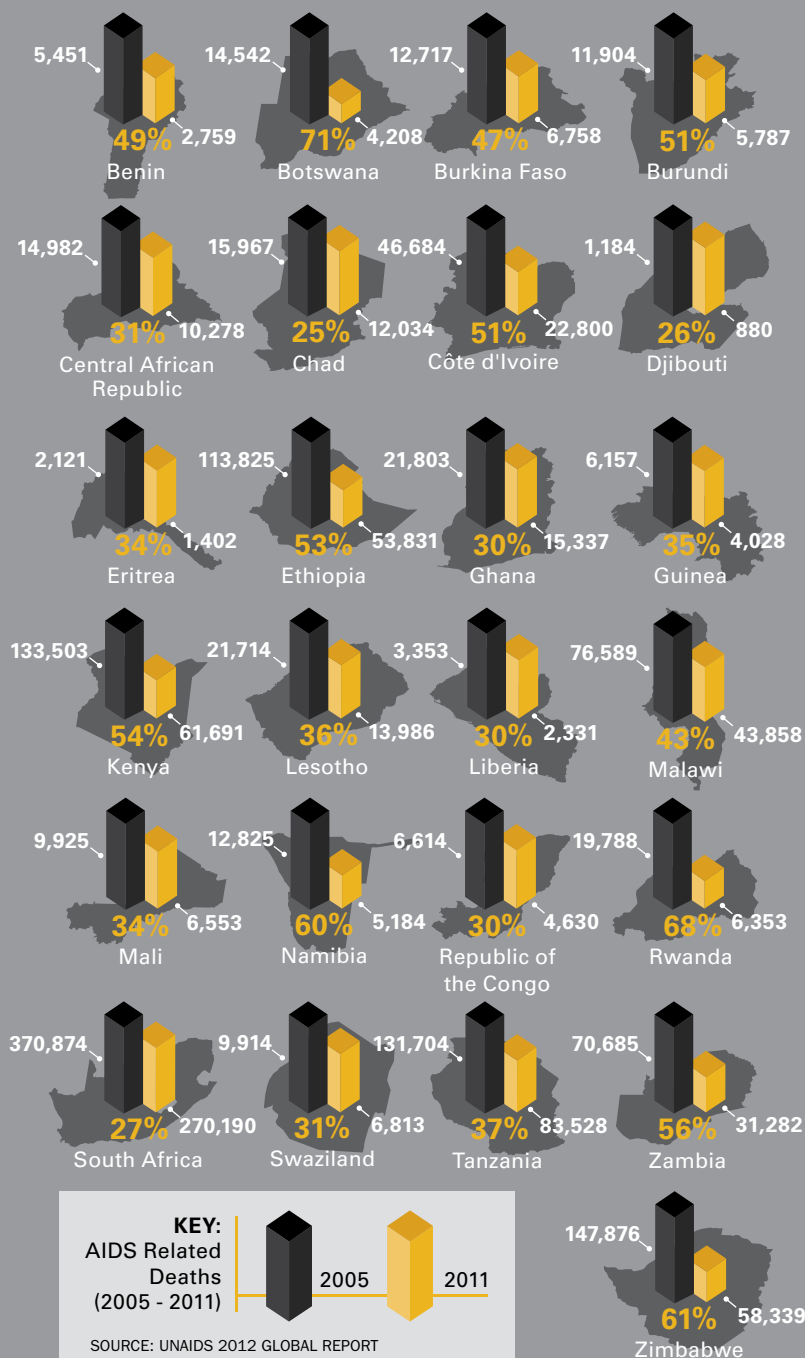
A new laboratory opened in Takoradi, Ghana, in May 2013 to help the Ghana Armed Forces with military-specific HIV prevention, care and treatment, such as testing, counseling and diagnosis. It also will help with treatment of sexually transmitted infections and screen for tuberculosis.

The U.S. Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program built and equipped the \$85,000 laboratory. The renovation started in 2010, transforming a building into two laboratories — one for HIV/AIDS and the other for malaria. The facility will serve the large military community in the area, including active-duty and retired military personnel from all branches, as well as civilian staff members and family members living in Sekondi and Takoradi on Ghana’s coast.

HOPE GROWS IN FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

The number of people dying from AIDS-related causes began to decline in the mid-2000s due to increased access to anti-retroviral therapy and the steady decline in HIV incidence since the peak of the epidemic in 1997.

In **2011**, there were **33%** fewer AIDS-related deaths in Africa than in **2005**.



The facility has state-of-the-art equipment, including a centrifuge, an analytical balance, a light microscope, a hot-air oven, an incubator, an autoclave, water heaters and a 3,785-liter over-head water tank.

ZAMBIA

Zambia teamed up with Project Concern International in 1996. By 2003, an innovative campaign that uses theater, music, workshops, and educational materials was in place to help the Zambian Defence Force conduct, manage, and evaluate HIV prevention among 30,000 uniformed personnel and their families. The program also includes counseling, testing, care, support and treatment for those who already have the virus. The endorsement and participation of military leaders and the Zambian government have achieved significant results. Zambia saw AIDS-related deaths drop 56 percent from 2005 to 2011.

NIGERIA

In 2006, Nigeria spent 8.5 billion naira (\$6.1 million) on efforts to control the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Nigerian military, according to the Panapress news agency. The initiative, a collaboration between the Nigerian Ministry of Defence and the U.S. Department of Defense, included 5.8 billion naira (\$4.7 million) spent in 2005, the year that free ARV therapy started.

Benefits were not limited to military personnel. Minister of State for Defence Erelu Olusola Obada said 28,585 HIV patients were getting free ARVs in various military facilities as of May 2013.

Brig. Gen. Koko Essien of the Nigerian Army told ADF his country's military has played a significant role in preventing and treating HIV/AIDS. Soldiers are required to have an HIV test yearly as part of their annual medical test. The military works with NGOs to support those who test positive through the Armed Forces Programme on AIDS Control. All Soldiers are tested going out and coming back from deployments, be they regional or U.N. peacekeeping operations. The military also provides support after diagnoses, such as ARVs, doctors and psychologists.

A positive HIV test will not automatically prevent Soldiers from serving, though it may influence the type of assignments they get. "Depending on how bad their situations are, we may not get them out to remote outposts where they will not have support and management," Essien said. "We may leave them in major areas, major cities where management is easier. But we don't necessarily restrict them from military service." □

ABOVE





CENTRAL ACCORD 13 BUILDS AERIAL RESUPPLY CAPACITY

ADF STAFF

On the final day of Central Accord 13, exercise organizers set up a large tent to protect onlookers from the blazing tropical sun. The closing event was a sort of report card demonstrating what participants had learned during two weeks of training, and the grades would be apparent to all those watching. In aerial resupply — the focus of Central Accord — success is clear. A good air drop will hit its mark. A bad air drop will veer off course, the parachute may become tangled, and the load may crash to the ground.

A group of Soldiers from Cameroon's Airborne Battalion, wearing red and green berets, gathered to watch as rumbles from the hulking C-130 transport plane grew louder overhead. When the plane passed by, a package was pushed out of its rear hatch. The box pitched forward, wind pulled the parachute strings taut, and the canvas billowed out to slow the box's fall. The package, carrying valuable supplies, floated to earth, landing inside a predetermined grass "drop zone" marked with bright orange panels. It may not have looked like much to the untrained eye, but it had major implications.

"This can be applied in the case of resupplying troops, in the case of the displacement of people by war, maybe by a natural disaster and maybe in the case of medical help," said Staff Sgt. Julius Mkong of the Cameroonian Airborne Battalion. "We need to develop the feel that will permit those who come from the air to drop the materials that we use to help those in need."

Cameroonian Soldiers watch as a reinforced box of supplies is dropped without a parachute in a test of the free-drop delivery system at Central Accord 13. ADF STAFF

When it comes to aerial resupply, the operative phrase is "on time and on target," and military leaders during the 10-day Central Accord exercise in Douala, Cameroon, said the capability is vital for militaries across Africa.

"This is an added value for us," said Lt. Col. Léonidas Bizimana of Burundi's Aviation Command and a member of the team of riggers that built the boxes. "When you know how to do this in a military context, you can use it in a civilian context."



Cameroonian Soldiers carry a patient with a simulated injury during a medical drill at Central Accord 2013 in Douala, Cameroon. ADF STAFF



Cameroonian Soldiers load and secure bundles onboard a C-130 transport plane at Air Base 201 in Douala. Central Accord 2013 marked the first time a Cameroonian C-130 was used for aerial resupply. ADF STAFF

The exercise, which took place in February and March 2013, brought together about 750 service personnel from seven countries — Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, and the United States. In addition to air drops, exercise participants trained to conduct medical evacuations and perform field medicine to stabilize wounded patients.

Many African nations, including Cameroon, must overcome a lack of road infrastructure that limits their ability to transport food, ammunition, medicine and other items to troops on peacekeeping, defense or humanitarian missions. According to a 2008 study by the World Bank, Sub-Saharan Africa has about one-quarter the density of paved roads that other low-income parts of the world have. Furthermore, only about half of the main road network on the continent is deemed to be in good condition.

This deficiency is highlighted during natural disasters when civilians need assistance quickly. In Cameroon, the need for additional aerial resupply capacity became apparent in late 2012 when the military was mobilized to help thousands of people displaced by flooding in the north part of the country.

“We need to improve our skills in the completion of certain missions,” said Colonel Eba Eba Bede Benoît, Cameroon’s deputy chief of Air Force Staff and a fighter pilot by training. “Last year we experienced a natural disaster in the north of Cameroon, and we got to go and rescue people there. We wasted too much time trying to use the means such as the roads that were no longer serviceable. The only means that were efficient were air delivery. So we all appreciate this initiative that helps us improve our skills.”

As taught at Central Accord, aerial resupply is not overly complicated, nor does it require advanced technology. What it requires are three elements that must work in sync:

1. **The Riggers:** The riggers are the packing crews, the teams of Soldiers who prepare bundles of supplies and strap them with parachutes. At Central Accord, groups of riggers from Central African nations and the U.S. built low-cost, low-altitude (LCLA) bundles strapped with one-time-use parachutes. They lined the boxes with cardboard “honeycomb” material to absorb shock and separated items with wooden skid boards. An experienced team of riggers can produce an LCLA package in a matter of minutes, and the type built at Central Accord can be dropped from up to 610 meters and carry loads as heavy as 181 kilograms.

Another, less complicated option practiced at Central Accord is the free-drop delivery system, which uses a reinforced box that can be dropped without a parachute. The free-drop boxes at Central Accord can carry weights of about 36 kilograms and be dropped from about 24 meters. This type of drop is recommended mainly for water and food supplies, although drops have been successfully executed containing low-caliber ammunition, weapons and medicine.

2. **The Pathfinders:** The Pathfinders make sure air crews have a serviceable space to drop supplies. They look for a flat, open area and survey and mark the ground before communicating with pilots to coordinate drops. They must account for numerous factors including the wind speed and “forward throw” of the aircraft.

At Central Accord, pathfinders used bright orange panels to mark drop zones. Carefully aligning the



A Cameroonian Soldier uses a compass to determine where to mark a drop zone at Central Accord 2013 in Douala, Cameroon. MASTER SGT. STAN PARKER/U.S. ARMY

“WHEN YOU KNOW HOW
TO DO THIS IN A MILITARY
CONTEXT, YOU CAN USE IT
IN A CIVILIAN CONTEXT.”

— LT. COL. LÉONIDAS BIZIMANA OF BURUNDI'S AVIATION COMMAND

A Cameroonian Air Force C-130 is parked at an air base in Douala, Cameroon, during the aerial resupply exercise Central Accord 13.

SGT. AUSTIN BERNER/U.S. ARMY

panels using compasses, the teams hammered them into the ground in an inverted “L” pattern. Pilots were instructed to approach the zone about 100 meters to the right of the panels and then drop the load once they became even with the corner of the “L.”

In some cases where a drop zone cannot be properly marked, riggers use a verbally initiated release system. They stand at the release point, hold a hand in the air, and guide the aircraft to the appropriate point using visual and verbal cues. When the aircraft reaches the drop point, the pathfinder gives the radio signal “execute,” indicating it is time to drop the load.

3. The Air Crews: Pilots at Central Accord flew aircraft including the Bell 206 helicopter, Puma Aérospatiale SA 330 helicopter and the C-130 cargo plane. Each aircraft had a loadmaster aboard to make sure packages were properly secured and released at the correct time. All drops at Central Accord used either a ground-marking release system, with the air crew locating the drop zone using provided coordinates and visual markers, or the verbally initiated release system.

The air crew must also be on the lookout for a signal from the pathfinders to cancel the mission, which could include setting off a flare or scrambling the panels. More advanced technology is required for a system called Computed Air Release Point or Joint Precision Airdrop System in which a loadmaster can program a specific point for the load to be dropped. Some advanced technology allows technicians to steer loads in mid-air and drop from altitudes as high as 7,600 meters.

At the end of Central Accord, organizers said they were satisfied with the results. Cameroon recorded its first aerial supply drop from a C-130, and dozens of loads were dropped on target to two drop zones cleared and marked by Cameroonian pathfinders.

“I have a wish that this kind of exercise be carried out as often as





Cameroonian Soldiers training to work as Pathfinders listen to instructions on how to survey, mark and communicate the location of a drop zone to facilitate aerial resupply at Central Accord 2013 in Douala, Cameroon. ADF STAFF

possible," said Eba Eba. "Once is not enough; you need to do it more times."

Organizers said Central Accord may not be the most action-packed exercise, but it's among the most important and corresponds to what happens during real-world missions. Col. Frederic Ndjonekpe, exercise director, said it is common for road infrastructure to be destroyed or nonexistent in

theaters of conflict.

"There are always these types of challenges," Ndjonekpe, of Cameroon, said. "Central Accord gives us what we call operational continuity. That means that no matter what the situation, we'll find a way to continue and maintain operations. That's important."

Ndjonekpe believes the relationships being built at Central Accord are just as important as the training. Soldiers from multiple nations worked together overcoming barriers of language and military culture. "You see the countries are really engaged here," Ndjonekpe said. "The ability to rub shoulders means a lot. Because countries like Sao Tome and Principe, we don't know them. But here we share and exchange information; their doctors come and

they offer different perspectives, and that knocks down the barriers of misunderstanding."

The skills developed at Central Accord also will be important in regional peacekeeping. The African Union is working to stand up peacekeeping brigades under the African Standby Force. To support this endeavor, there has been discussion of creating regional logistics bases so supplies can quickly be moved to troops. The AU also has examined a Strategic Mobility Package that will include partnership agreements with member states that have high airlift capacity. These planes and pilots will be called on in the event of a crisis so they can move troops and supplies by air. None of this will be possible without the aerial resupply skills practiced at Central Accord.

During closing ceremonies, Koumpa Issa, the Cameroonian minister of defense for veterans and war victims, told participants that the success of the exercise would echo throughout West Africa.

"The new geostrategic context of our subregion is marked by cross-border and multiform threats," he told the crowd. "You are facing up to this. And the sharing of methods and knowledge will be without a doubt the *sine qua non* for the African Standby Force to accomplish its mission of peace and stability on our continent." □



MANAGING MALI

WEST AFRICAN NATIONS COME TOGETHER IN GHANA TO PREPARE FOR A CHALLENGING U.N. PEACEKEEPING MISSION

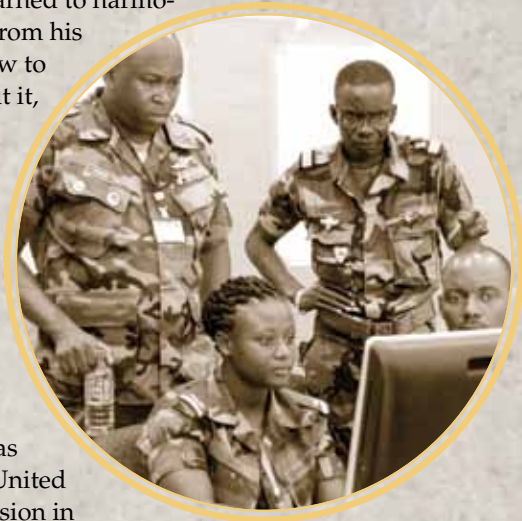
ADF STAFF

The Soldiers spent hours huddled around computers, sometimes several to a terminal, considering the problems before them. How to move troops. How to respond to changes on the ground. How to learn to expect the unexpected.

They also got to know each other and learned to harmonize the military approaches each brought from his own West African country. They learned how to work together because they had to. As one observer put it, a major goal was “human interoperability.”

The Soldiers were from 11 of 15 Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) nations including Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea (Conakry), Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo. They gathered in June 2013 in Accra, Ghana, at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) with French military officers, U.S. military personnel and civilian specialists for a week of classroom instruction and several days of “command post exercises.” The goal was to prepare personnel for peacekeeping, namely in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), which began July 1, 2013.

MINUSMA takes over from the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA). Some of the 6,200 AFISMA troops will join a force of about 12,000 Soldiers and police officials in northern Mali, which



Participants at Western Accord 13 in Accra, Ghana, huddle around a computer to deal with a simulated issue related to Mali.

MASTER SGT. MONTIGO WHITE/U.S. ARMY AFRICA

will be divided into eastern and western sectors. The mission is not expected to be easy. Ethnic and religious factions are numerous, and some compete for dominance. Mali is landlocked, and its territory is vast, which will require significant air support. Brig. Gen. Koko Essien of the Nigerian Army offered a blunt assessment: "It's going to be a logistics nightmare in Mali."

PROBLEMS BEGAN WITH COUP, REBELS

Mali's national government — considered a model of emerging African democracy — fell in a March 2012 coup on the eve of national elections. Just before the coup, factions in the north, armed with a flood of weapons from the fall of Moammar Gadhafi's Libya, began a rebellion. By April, Tuareg rebels had taken control of northern Mali and declared independence.

The north eventually became a cauldron of complex factions, some with competing objectives. The Tuareg National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad, known by its French acronym MNLA, merged with the Islamist Ansar al-Dine group and declared northern Mali an Islamic state. Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) endorsed the deal, according to the BBC. Ansar al-Dine imposed Islamic law in Timbuktu. The Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), which broke away from AQIM, also is present and has a goal of spreading its ideology in West Africa.

By midsummer, Ansar al-Dine and AQIM had captured Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal; their alliance with MNLA had fallen apart. The extremists destroyed Sufi Islamic shrines and mausoleums, claiming they were idolatrous, and sought out collections of ancient artifacts and manuscripts for destruction.

FRENCH INTERVENTION

In January 2013, as Islamists captured the town of Konna on their way toward the capital, Bamako, France deployed troops to Mali in Operation Serval and took back Timbuktu and Gao. By month's end French troops had entered Kidal, the last major town held by the rebels. France began withdrawing troops in April. African troops under AFISMA, which had entered Mali in February, began supporting Malian forces.

France's intervention in Mali made for a unique and challenging mission, according to one senior French military official who was part of Operation Serval. The decision and the resulting action came quickly, said

French Col. Jean-Pierre Fagué. Even so, the Malian population supported Serval.

"We were not counting on such a popular support and such a sustained support," Fagué said. "Initially, when the operation was launched, the assessment was that after two or three months the support would downsize, but I think it's still as high as it was initially. ... French forces have been very, very careful in avoiding collateral damage, and using force was very restrict[ed] and very strict employment, so I think that kept up support."

Continuing to maintain popular support in a diverse country such as Mali will be key as MINUSMA forces work to fulfill their mission, Fagué said. "It is essential because in the end the force protection of the troops relies on the human intelligence that will be provided by the population," he said. "And in the same way, the interaction and the ability to conduct joint operations with the Malian security forces is essential because they are the only ones who know the terrain, both the geographical terrain, but especially the human terrain. They can recognize people, they can recognize a guy that should be here or shouldn't be here, so it is key."

MINUSMA BEGINS

The United Nations Security Council authorized MINUSMA in April 2013. Its mandate is to support the political process, including national elections, and stabilize the country. ECOWAS nations will contribute a significant number of troops to the MINUSMA force, which will include some AFISMA Soldiers and others under the U.N. banner.

Brig. Gen. Essien of Nigeria, who has served as deputy chief of military planning in the U.N.'s Department for Peacekeeping Operations in New York, brings to Mali his experience in U.N. peacekeeping missions in the former Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone and Burundi. Essien will command five battalions in Sector West in Timbuktu. Four battalions will consist of 850 troops each; the fifth will be a quick-reaction force of 400.

A free and stable Mali is essential to West Africa, Essien said. Extremist groups such as AQIM and MUJAO operate in Mali, and Nigeria's Boko Haram extremists have support and bases there. "So whatever happens in Mali will affect all of West Africa," Essien said, "because if you don't deal with the problem of Mali for instance, you can't take away the objective of MUJAO to Islamize the West African region."



“WE’RE NOT DEALING IN ABSTRACTS, WE’RE DEALING WITH REAL-LIFE SITUATIONS, REAL-LIFE SCENARIOS — SCENARIOS THAT THE FRENCH HAVE ENCOUNTERED, SCENARIOS THAT AFISMA HAS ENCOUNTERED, WHICH ARE NOT GOING TO CHANGE JUST BECAUSE GREEN BERETS BECOME BLUE BERETS.”

— BRIG. GEN. KOKO ESSIEN, NIGERIAN ARMY



Burkinabé Soldiers, part of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali, receive blue berets to signify the change of mission command to the United Nations in Timbuktu on June 30, 2013. The 12,000-strong U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali started on July 1, 2013.

REUTERS

GHANAIAAN ARMY LEARNS CROWD-CONTROL TECHNIQUES

ADF STAFF

An angry crowd formed on an empty lot. They held homemade signs, chanted slogans and hurled insults.

Across the lot, a Ghanaian Army force stood assembled in full riot gear. Soldiers banged their batons rhythmically against their shields to show that they meant business.

The crowd didn't take the hint. Some adventurous protesters dashed toward the Soldiers and threw water bottles at their shields. The Soldiers began their advance, marching steadily toward the crowd. As the two sides advanced toward an inevitable confrontation, the Soldiers sprayed pepper spray. Some fired nonlethal rubber bullets, knocking protesters to the ground.

The confrontation was a demonstration of nonlethal crowd-dispersal skills at Ghana's Military Academy and Training Schools parade grounds in Accra. Fifty troops from Ghanaian Army forces spent more than a week with a group of six U.S. Marines learning nonlethal weapons skills. The training was a component of exercise Western Accord 13.

"These techniques are the same techniques that would be taught to police for domestic situations," said U.S. Marine Master Sgt. Brian Dye, chief nonlethal weapons instructor. "They had no base-line knowledge of what we do, so they did very well."

The skills could be relevant in Mali, as Ghana joins other Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) nations in the new U.N. peacekeeping mission there.

Ghanaian Col. Salifu Yakubu commands the Soldiers who took part in the training. He said his men did well, and that they will add this new method of dispersing unruly crowds

to their repertoire. He explained that Ghanaians typically have relied on a different technique called a box formation. In that, Soldiers form a three-sided box and advance in a way that addresses threats from the front and both sides.

Dye said the system the Marines taught is most useful in tighter spots, such as a narrow street bordered on each side by a building. "This is not the way to do it," Dye said. "This is a way to do it."

Yakubu said many Ghanaian Army techniques are "U.K.-based." "Now we are fusing the two, and it helps," he said.

Ghanaian Soldiers also learned techniques for restraining and subduing passive-resistant people with minimal force. They trained in baton techniques, which allow Soldiers to defend against more aggressive assailants without using deadly force. They learned how to block blows from different directions and how to strike with batons in nonlethal ways.

Only the Ghanaians were trained at Western Accord 13. Next year, at Western Accord 14 in Senegal, the

training will be expanded to include other ECOWAS nations.

Each crowd-dispersal platoon has a base element: two ranks of nine shield-bearers with batons in the first rank and three teams of three Soldiers per team. Of these three, one is armed with nonlethal weapons such as pepper spray or a rifle with rubber bullets, and one is armed with lethal rounds and is the team leader.

The support element is next and could replace the base element. It also performs extraction and clearance operations. The command element consists of a platoon commander, sergeant, radio operator, an interpreter if required, riot control agent dispenser operator, and a camera operator.

Finally, the escort team secures and escorts captured rioters to reserve security forces in the rear of the riot control platoon.

Nonlethal techniques offer a valuable tool to police and Soldiers because they can reduce the likelihood of violence, which can tarnish the reputation of security forces in the minds of civilians.

Ghanaian Soldiers assemble to practice a new crowd-control formation they learned.



MASTER SGT. MONTIGO WHITE/U.S. ARMY AFRICA



Left: A Soldier from Guinea (Conakry) consults a map of Mali at Western Accord 13.

Col. Hassan Dada, left, and Brig. Gen. Koko Essien of the Nigerian Army consult during the exercise.

ADF STAFF



MASTER SGT. MONTIGO WHITE/U.S. ARMY AFRICA

If you cannot deal with the problem of AQIM, then you provide sanctuaries for Islamists in Algeria and Mauritania and Libya to come into Mali and have a free ride, and then go back and continue their operations on the other side.”

WESTERN ACCORD 13

Events in Mali transformed Western Accord from a more generic peacekeeping capacity-building command-and-control exercise into one with immediate real-world applications. In the scenario, forces received an operations order to assume responsibility for the eastern sector of Mali, home to cities such as Gao and Kidal, to conduct stability and security operations. In the exercise, a control room injected scenarios to force participants to communicate and solve problems. When Soldiers pushed pins into maps, they were marking spots in Mali. Injected situations and scenarios from the exercise control center involved real-life events such as civil disturbances caused by water and fuel shortages, attacks on minority populations, damaged infrastructure, and internally displaced people. These scenarios added practical value, Essien said.

“We’re not dealing in abstracts, we’re dealing with real-life situations, real-life scenarios — scenarios that the French have encountered, scenarios that AFISMA has encountered, which are not going to change just because green berets become blue berets,” he said.

The first week of the exercise consisted of classroom training on topics such as peace operations, the legal basis for U.N. mandates, protecting civilians, planning, multinational operations and interagency

cooperation. In the second week, participants divided into various rooms representing personnel, intelligence, operations, logistics, long-range planning and communications. Each group worked its slice of the operational environment and reacted to changes imposed by exercise controllers. As Soldiers do these things, they must communicate effectively and work through military doctrinal differences. This is significant because several countries speak English and others speak French. Language differences also can represent cultural and doctrinal differences in how forces approach military matters.

For example, as Col. El Hadji Babacar Faye of Senegal noted, a nation will base its military doctrine on matters such as whether neighboring countries are friendly or hostile. If a nation has coastal concerns, for instance, more military resources and policies may be directed toward the navy.

Doctrinal differences and training disparities must be overcome, and then participants must be prepared to adapt to the U.N. way, Faye said. By the end of the exercise, Faye seemed pleased with the way participants had performed. As exercise chief of staff, he saw participants deal with scenarios every day. “I think things went as planned,” he said. “For the beginning, we were staggering a little bit, but it’s normal.”

Essien agreed that the event was invaluable. “We’ve been able to work together and see all the interoperability problems, see all the deployment problems, see all the planning problems, and we were able to fix that problem out of theater,” he said. “So getting into the mission, I think, will reduce the level of the challenges that we would have faced.” □



A CONVERSATION WITH

MAJ. GEN. OBED AKWA

The commandant of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre talks about his experiences and hopes for dealing with conflicts.

ADF STAFF

Maj. Gen. Obed Boamah Akwa of Ghana assumed his post in May 2013, the 10th year of the KAIPTC. Akwa sat down with ADF in his office in Accra, Ghana, during Western Accord 2013 to talk about the new peacekeeping mission in Mali, his own views on peacekeeping and his vision for the KAIPTC. Here is an edited version of the interview.

Q *For a decade, the member states of the African Union have been discussing the creation of an African Standby Force. And yet, this past year as the turmoil in Mali unfolded, West African countries were unable to swiftly deploy a force to the area. Why?*

A I will say there are three factors, and those three factors are rolled up into one, and that is logistics, logistics and logistics. The African militaries within our subregion are, in terms of manpower, quite well-trained, fairly well-equipped. But when it comes to strategic lifts and the strategic support in terms of logistics, there's a constraint. The reason is this is tied in with our state of development, which is making progress by leaps and bounds. But when it comes to such major assignments, then we need support from our international partners. For instance, the British government airlifted our squadron of engineers from here to Mali, and I think similar assistance was given to other countries.

Q *We've been hearing about the Africa Standby Force for a few years now. Recently the AU said it thinks it also needs a rapid-reaction force. What has been the biggest challenge or impediment to the creation of that rapid-reaction peacekeeping force in West Africa?*

A Several challenges confront the creation of such a force. I believe that the first one has to do with the doctrinal incompatibility of the countries. And this goes back to colonial experiences, where in Ghana, for instance, our doctrines are based on the British military doctrine. And our neighbors — Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin — are based on the French, and Guinea-Bissau, based on the Portuguese. So in the light of this, how to form a force, which would be doctrinally compatible and to ensure interoperability, is a challenge. There are always national interests that sometimes come into play. And that could affect the establishment of this. And I'll get back to my old problem of logistics. That cuts across. But I believe that with political will, this can easily be overcome.

Q *What particular skills do you think peacekeepers need when deployed to a region like northern Mali?*



MASTER SGT. MONTIGO WHITE/U.S. ARMY AFRICA

A Every person, from the force commander to the last Soldier, must have a clear understanding of the mandate, which should translate into the rules of engagement. You also need to understand the historical background to the crisis. All these are very necessary before you go into the operational setting. So troops should be deployed having been thoroughly trained to withstand the vagaries of the weather and all that it entails. They must, necessarily, be good at their arms, because there's the likelihood of open confrontation with armed elements. I would also say that troops, and for that matter everybody, on that mission must understand the basic principles of peacekeeping.

Q *What kind of interoperability, linguistic and cooperation challenges will Soldiers from West African nations face once deployed in northern Mali?*

A I think, in language, especially those at a particular level of the operation must have a working knowledge of French. Because peacekeeping is about dealing with the locals. And the inability to do so could create a communication gap. But there are very practical ways of overcoming this. I was in [the Democratic Republic of the] Congo [DRC] over the past year, and I'm not a very good French speaker, and yet I was able to carry out my mandate because arrangements were made for us to have interpreters within our brigade headquarters. And also those within the national army who are training will overcome the problem of the doctrinal differences, because once you get inserted into a mission area there's always a training department within the mission, which will ensure that everybody's brought onto a common platform for executing the mandate. So where there are doctrinal differences — what to do on patrols, what to do when you encounter any armed elements, radios, what is expected of the force — all these things are really spelled out in the standard operating procedures. But enough training brings everyone to that level platform.

Q *As someone who has been in a peacekeeping mission in the DRC [United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC], what is the reception likely to be from the local population in Mali, and what can these peacekeepers do to win the hearts and minds of the civilians?*

A My take is that people in Mali and, for that matter, in all war-torn areas, are always exhausted from the war and, therefore, look forward to an intervention force that will restore normalcy to their country. So I expect that a force being inserted into Mali will be warmly received by the locals, because they would like to get back to a normal way of life. Women want to go to their markets. Children would like to go to school and play around. Men would like to do their business and profit, and politicians would like to do their politics and help develop their country, so I expect a positive reception. However, there are always spoilers and negative forces in every society. And that's what the challenge is for a mission like Mali. But in real peacekeeping we don't have enemies, so we try to win the hearts and minds of everybody, and the best way of doing it is to get protection to the vulnerable in society so that they see that their security is assured, to have projects that are addressing the fundamental needs of the locals. And last but not least, we have to share some of the facilities with them like your medical facilities, give them free medical care, play games with them. And all these work together to win their hearts and minds, and to make your work easier.

Q *How have you seen peacekeeping evolve since you first joined the military?*

A I joined the military in 1977 as a commissioned officer and have gone through five missions, and I've seen a gradual change from one mission to the other. The first mission was the United Nations Emergency Force in the



MASTER SGT. MONTIGO WHITE, U.S. ARMY AFRICA

Maj. Gen. Eric Vollmecke, U.S. Air Force, chats with Maj. Gen. Obed Boamah Akwa of Ghana at exercise Boam Accord 2013 in Accra, Ghana, in June 2013.



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Women carry corn past United Nations peacekeepers in Goma in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in July 2012. Maj. Gen. Akwa served in the U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC. He said locals typically welcome peacekeepers, and he expects the same for the mission in Mali.

"IN REAL PEACEKEEPING WE DON'T HAVE ENEMIES, SO WE TRY TO WIN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF EVERYBODY."

Sinai Desert in Egypt, and that was a demilitarized zone between Egypt and Israel following the 1973 war. And that was straightforward, classical peacekeeping, where there was a definite zone where troops and weaponry were not permitted, and lines of disengagement were established clearly so that you patrolled those lines and then established observation posts and things like that. But this changed gradually when I went into Lebanon, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, where the deployment was within urban areas and not in a desert, so that had its own special challenges. It meant that contact with the locals was frequent; therefore, we had to adopt a more human approach to conducting operations. And then the next was in Cambodia. In Cambodia, it was a case of whether the U.N. virtually had to take over the running of the country and run elections and restore democracy back to that country. So the multidimensional nature of peacekeeping, my view started evolving, from my experience in Cambodia. However, in Kuwait after the Gulf War, another mission was established where again we are dealing with the two countries, establishing confidence among the locals and ensuring that there's no eruption of the war. That was also a completely different type of operation. And recently in Congo, I see the multidimensional nature of peacekeeping having been developed to its very apex, where you've got all elements, the political, the rule of law, the humanitarian elements, you have maritime patrols along the Congo River, you've got air assets — a very complex organization. So it has evolved.

Q *What is the biggest challenge to effectively training Soldiers for peacekeeping when they are accustomed to combat?*

A Well, a Soldier in basic training is trained conventionally for warfare. Some of the skills acquired are physical fitness, skill at arms, ability to shoot and kill. But at the same time, you have a policing role, because almost every country when the police, the civil police, is unable to handle a situation, the military has to step in. But in doing that, they are not stepping in to, as it were, wage war on their own people, but to contribute to the restoration of law and order. And you have to be very adaptable, to be able to shift from one end of the spectrum to the other, depending on the call of duty. There is a challenge there.

Q *Generally, what is the most important thing for an African peacekeeper to know before going on a peacekeeping mission?*

A Know your mandate, and apply the rules of engagement with common sense.

Q *How do you view the primary mission of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre?*

A Our primary mission here is to provide a globally recognized capacity for international actors on African peace and security, through research, training, and education, to foster peace and security in Africa. We are celebrating our 10th anniversary [in 2013]. And I'm proud to say that the center has developed over the years and is now classified as a Center of Excellence in this business of peace and security. It is recognized by the U.N., it is recognized by the AU, and it is recognized by the ECOWAS Commission [Economic Community of West African States]. And we are proud that we've been able to earn this accolade, because after all, the center is named after Kofi Annan, past secretary-general of the United Nations, who incidentally as you know is a son of the soil from Ghana, so we are proud that we can be associated with his very high reputation globally.

Q *What would you consider the training center's greatest success in its 10 years?*

A The very title of Center of Excellence speaks volumes about what the center has been able to do. But physically, the records here indicate that there are close to 10,000 personnel that have been trained in various aspects of peace and security, and these have been deployed in various missions across Africa, and among those who have benefited from this are police elements, military elements, election observers, and electoral officers, matters bordering on gender, and also logistics delivery in peacekeeping. And all these have impacted in various peacekeeping operations across the African continent.

Q *What is the future of peacekeeping on the African continent? Do you see it as continuing to be primarily U.N. led, or do you see the AU taking more of a lead?*

A From my years' experience, you see that the various subregional organizations like ECOWAS and the regional organization, AU, being very proactive when matters of instability happen. And, therefore, I think African countries have come of age and should be able to take the lead in addressing their own problems. But where there are challenges, then obviously, being in a global village, we can call on our international partners also to support us. So if you ask me, I'll say that we should endeavor to do our homework, but if it goes beyond us, we can call on the U.N. and any other supporter. □

Burundian Woman Makes History at FIFA

BBC NEWS AT BBC.
CO.UK/NEWS

Burundi Football Association President Lydia Nsekera has become the first woman elected to the Fédération Internationale de Football Association's powerful executive committee in the governing body's 109-year history.

Nsekera, 46, will serve a four-year term on the committee after winning the vote at the FIFA congress in Mauritius at the end of June 2013. She collected 95 of the 203 votes ahead of Australian Moya Dodd and Sonia Bien-Aime of Turks and Caicos Islands. "I will inspire women to believe they can lead, and I will support women in member associations," Nsekera said.

Nsekera has been head of the Burundi FA since 2004 and was a member of FIFA's organizing committee for the 2008 and

2012 Olympic football tournaments.

A member of the International Olympic Committee, she is also on the independent governance committee set up in 2011 to tackle corruption within FIFA.

"In the executive committee, we work as a team, but personally, I will carry on working in order to have more women as coaches in grassroots football," she said. "I will push for more women to be elected and ask parents to let their daughters play football."



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

New Nigerian Festival Aims to Revive Theater

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Theater has been central to some of the defining campaigns in Nigerian history, including the push for independence in 1960, but it is now a struggling art, with actors warning that their industry is in danger.

One factor is the proliferation of "Nollywood" films, which are hugely popular due to their outrageous plotlines and scandalous characters. They're also cheaper and easier to watch than live plays.

But at the Lagos Theatre Festival that debuted in February 2013, performers spoke of another hurdle: finding a place to perform in Nigeria's economic capital, one of the world's largest cities, with a population of 15 million.

Ojoma Ochai, assistant director at the British Council in Lagos, which organized the festival, said several of the city's performance spaces have been converted to churches. Some venues have been closed, and others now set astronomical rental fees that theater companies cannot pay. The concept of the inaugural festival was to showcase theater staged anywhere apart from an actual theater in the hope of inspiring further productions in alternative spaces.

At risk is the loss of an art form that has been more than just entertainment throughout Nigeria's history, said Duro Oni of the University of Lagos and a theater historian. The

birth of modern theater in Nigeria came after World War II, when plays started shifting away from churches and village markets into permanent venues, he said. The most prominent was Glover Hall on Lagos Island, one of the city's oldest neighborhoods, where the flamboyant Herbert Ogunde founded Nigeria's first professional theater company, drawing large audiences from the elite and the working class.

Oni said provocative theater is still being produced at several universities across the country, while the festival's producers noted that a wider revival is possible if companies rethink where and how to stage a play.



PHOTOS BY AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Actors perform a scene at an outdoor venue in Lagos. A new festival is seeking to revitalize Nigerian theater, which has played a central role in the cultural history of the country.

DRC Hosts **FIRST** Cycling Tour

ADF STAFF

In the largest and most ambitious sporting event held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in decades, the Tour de Congo welcomed about 60 cyclists from around the world to compete in a grueling 960-kilometer race.

The inaugural race marked by exuberant crowds wrapped up June 27, 2013, in Kinshasa as Frenchman Mederic Clain crossed the finish line. The riders came from the DRC, France, Benin, Burkina Faso, the neighboring Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda. One surprise was a team from Rwanda, which has a strained relationship with the host country.

AFPIGETTY IMAGES



France's Mederic Clain rides his bike after winning a stage of the Tour de Congo. He went on to win the overall tour.

Sylvestre Mutayo, president of the Congolese Cycling Federation, told the BBC that cycling has always been an important sport in the DRC. Historically, it was the most popular sport after football, but because of economic difficulties it had faded in the past decade, he said. Winner Clain had nothing but good things to say about the event.

"The spectators who followed the race in three provinces were very welcoming," Clain told Reuters, as Congolese groups played music at the finish line. "The countryside was absolutely extraordinary. I'll be back for the second edition."

"For the second edition, the tour should be of the whole of Congo and not just a few provinces," said sportswriter Beni-Joel Dinganga. "But for a first try this was a hit!"



WORLDREADER

E-Books Gain Popularity Across Africa

ADF STAFF

With Africans using their cellphones for just about everything, it's no surprise that they're now using them to read books. Nigeria and Kenya are among the world's innovators in adapting their cellphones to new uses. The rest of the world is still playing catch-up to Kenya's system of cell-phone banking, which transforms cellphones into banks and credit cards all in one. And now, a new use has come into vogue: e-books. A 2011 study shows that 88 percent of Kenyans use their cellphones for email and social media, and a surprising 20 percent for reading books, newspapers and magazines.

Some schools in Africa are now distributing traditional e-book readers such as Kindles. The nonprofit corporation Worldreader, with its "Books for all" philosophy, is trying to place e-books in parts of the world where access to reading materials is limited. Worldreader Mobile is a book-reading application specifically designed for cellphones. As of January 2013, Worldreader Mobile was installed on 5 million cellphones, most of them in Asia and Africa. The goal was 10 million by the end of 2013.

Worldreader says it is distributing "free storybooks, textbooks, international classics, locally published books, award-winning short stories and health information" for cellphone

users. The users receive the materials for free; the cost to Worldreader is about 50 cents per e-book, raised through donations and partnerships.

Worldreader is also working with more than a dozen African publishers, digitizing their books for distribution to cellphones. The cost of the books is about \$3.50 each, about the same cost as for a traditional paperback book.

Kenya's popular literary journal, *Kwani?*, is working with computer application developers to make its publications available on cellphones. Cellphones are a "huge component of how consumption is happening here," Angela Wachuka of Kwani Trust told *The Christian Science Monitor*. She said she has seen Kenyans read hundreds of pages of text on their tiny cellphone screens, "plowing through tell-all memoirs and other accounts of the country's recent political turmoil."

For now, much of the potential has yet to be realized because of infrastructure limitations. Wachuka said she gets complaints from readers that bandwidth limitations can make downloading an e-book slow.

But she and others are optimistic that cellphones are, for now, the future of e-book reading in Africa. And they envision the process going a step further, with supplementary features in e-books that include videos, podcasts and reader interaction.



JAPAN PLEDGES MAJOR INVESTMENT IN AFRICA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Africa will be an engine for world growth in coming decades, Japan's prime minister said, wrapping up a meeting in June 2013 that saw Tokyo pledge huge aid as it tries to match China's growing involvement on the continent. Shinzo Abe said Japan must make a commitment to Africa in a way that will benefit both sides.

"Africa will be a growth center over the next couple of decades until the middle of this century ... now is the time for us to invest in Africa," Abe told a news conference at the end of the three-day Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). "Japan will not simply bring natural resources from Africa to Japan. We want to realize industrialization in Africa that will generate employment and growth."

Japanese officials have stressed the need to transform their country's relationship with Africa from one of donor-recipient to that of business

Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe greet each other during the Tokyo International Conference on African Development in June 2013. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

partnership, as Tokyo's companies seek to tap a burgeoning market. Even so, Abe opened the TICAD with a pledge of 1.4 trillion yen (\$14 billion) in aid.

The cash, half of which was to be dedicated to spending on much-needed infrastructure projects, is included in 3.2 trillion yen that Japan's public and private sectors will invest in Africa over the next five years. The package will include \$1 billion in aid to be spent on helping to stabilize the Sahel region. Japan is also aiming to double jobs offered by its corporations in Africa to 400,000 by the next TICAD in 2018.

"The type of growth the TICAD recognizes is not just figures ... it [aims to] achieve high-quality growth by distributing benefits widely and deeply among people in the society," Abe said.

Africa's need for roads, rails, ports and power grids dovetails well with Abe's pledge to triple the value of Japanese infrastructure exports to 30 trillion yen a year by 2020. The continent's growing middle class also makes an attractive target for Japan's companies, whose domestic market is graying and shrinking.

OBAMA UNVEILS ELECTRICITY INITIATIVE During Africa Visit

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

During a three-nation visit to Africa in June 2013, U.S. President Barack Obama announced an ambitious program meant to increase access to electricity across the continent.

For the announcement, Obama traveled to the Ubungu power plant in Tanzania and spoke of the plight of 70 percent of Africans who lack reliable access to electricity. Speaking against the backdrop of the plant that had been repaired with U.S. dollars, Obama sought to promote his new \$7 billion effort to help. "All of us have to feel a sense of urgency. If we are going to electrify Africa, we've got to do it with more speed," Obama said.

The plan, dubbed "Power Africa," leverages loan guarantees and private sector finance, and aims to double access to electricity in Sub-Saharan Africa, where more than two-thirds of the population lives in the dark. The plan will initially be launched in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania.

Obama also had fun at the event trying out a device known as a "Soccket ball" that has a generator inside to capture energy during game play for use later to power a light or a cellphone.



During an event with Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete, U.S. President Barack Obama holds a "Soccket ball" that has internal electronics allowing it to generate and store electricity that can power small devices.

The U.S. leader juggled the ball on his foot and his head, and then demonstrated how it could be hooked up to a cellphone. "I thought it was pretty cool," he said. "You can imagine this in villages all across the continent."

Delighted crowds had thronged Obama when he arrived in Tanzania, and he emphasized that he wanted "Africa to build Africa, for Africans." In addition to the power plan, Obama pushed initiatives on his trip to boost regional trade with America, to tear down customs and border logjams that delay exports, and to save Africa's endangered elephants and rhinos.

Tanzania is the kind of African stable democracy, aided by U.S. health and infrastructure programs, that Washington wants to see duplicated in the region. Obama left Africa more convinced that the region's future is bright.

"Even as this continent faces great challenges, this is also a moment of great promise for Africa," Obama told businessmen in Tanzania.

AFRICAN NATIONS AMONG THE FIRST TO SIGN ARMS TREATY

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

On June 3, 2013, more than 60 countries signed a landmark conventional arms trade treaty, and African nations were among those leading the way.

The U.N.-brokered treaty is the first in more than a decade covering weaponry of any kind and aims to bring transparency and protection of human rights into the often dubious \$85 billion-a-year global arms trade. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the treaty will “put an end to the ‘free-for-all’ nature” of weapons dealing, according to spokesman Martin Nesirky.

The treaty covers tanks, armored combat vehicles, large-caliber artillery, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles and missile launchers, as well as the vast trade in small arms. Countries that ratify the treaty must take precautions to ensure arms don’t breach an international embargo, violate human rights law, or become used by terrorists or criminals.

The opening of signatures was described as an “extremely important milestone” by ministers and other representatives of seven nations, including Kenya, which sponsored the first 2006 U.N. resolution calling for treaty talks.

“It is vital that the treaty comes into force as soon as possible and is effectively implemented,” the seven nations said in a statement. Fifty ratifications are needed for the treaty to come into force, which could occur within a year, Finland’s Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja said.

The African nations that signed the treaty in the first three days it was available were Benin, Burkina Faso,

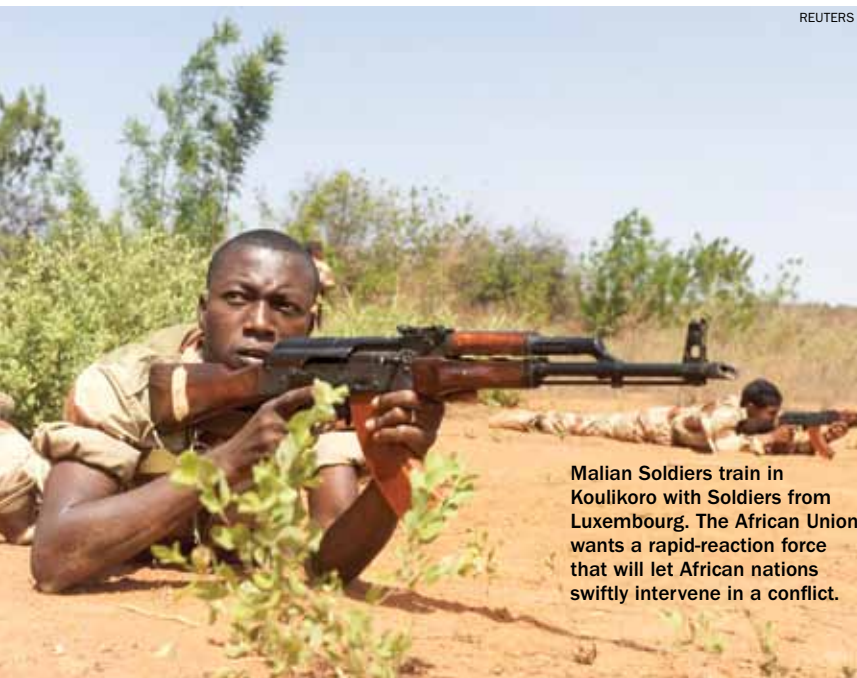


Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, the Seychelles, Tanzania and Togo, according to published reports.

In signing the treaty, Rwanda issued a statement saying, “Each year millions of people around the world suffer directly or indirectly as a result of poor regulation of the arms trade and illicit trafficking of weapons. ... The proposed Arms Trade Treaty like other international tools will help safeguard peace, security and stability for present and future generations. It will regulate the transfer of arms and thus reduce loss of life, human suffering and economic decline perpetuated by crime, terrorist group acts, piracy and drug trafficking.”

Campaigning for the passage of the Arms Trade Treaty, Ugandan activist the Rev. Silvester Rwomukubwe lays flowers at a tombstone in a mock graveyard set up by the Control Arms coalition next to the United Nations building in New York.

REUTERS



REUTERS

Malian Soldiers train in Koulikoro with Soldiers from Luxembourg. The African Union wants a rapid-reaction force that will let African nations swiftly intervene in a conflict.

TANZANIA FLEXES MILITARY MUSCLE TO FIGHT POACHERS

SABAHI.COM

Tanzania is taking steps to combat the rise in elephant and rhinoceros poaching by deploying Army personnel and camera-equipped drones to take part in anti-poaching operations.

According to the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, poaching has reduced the elephant population to fewer than 70,000 in 2012 from about 109,000 in 2009.

Amid an outcry from lawmakers about the increase in poaching, Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism Khamis Sued Kagasheki told Parliament in May 2013 that President Jakaya Kikwete has authorized the deployment of Army units for anti-poaching operations. "We are going to do something that will be remembered by generations to come," Kagasheki told Parliament.

This is the second time the military has participated in the fight against poaching. In 1989, Operation Uhai helped the elephant population rebound after it reached a low of about 30,000. Tanzania National Parks spokesman Pascal Shelutete said the park service will use drones — small, remote-controlled aircraft equipped with cameras — to monitor who enters the parks.

"It is a kind of improved closed-circuit television camera, which will facilitate monitoring all parks 24 hours," Shelutete said, adding that the cameras are connected to computers via satellite.

"We are fighting a war against well-armed and informed poachers," the International Anti-Poaching Foundation (IAPF) said on its website. "In the context of reducing poaching in dangerous environments, [unmanned aerial vehicles] provide a broad-reaching, safer and more cost-effective solution."

Tanzanian Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism Lazaro Nyalandu asked citizens to join government efforts by reporting anything they see or hear linked to poaching.

"The government cannot fight a poaching war in isolation," he told Parliament. "We need to join hands as Tanzanians to fight poachers as a way to preserve our natural resources."

AU to Create Rapid Reaction Force

REUTERS

African leaders decided in May 2013 to establish a military rapid-reaction force to deal with regional security emergencies, moving to reduce the continent's reliance on outside forces and money for its defense.

The decision was made at the 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at the African Union (AU) summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The idea arose after several leaders called for an African defense capacity to be created right away, given the persistence of conflicts and rebellions on the continent.

Plans for an African Standby Force have existed for more than a decade. But delays in its creation have led to criticism that Africa has been slow to do its own peacekeeping. The AU Assembly decision said the immediate rapid-response force would be formed from voluntary contributions of troops, equipment and funds by member states

in a position to provide them.

The initiative is called the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises, and it would be a stop-gap measure pending the full formation of the Standby Force. It would consist of a "flexible and robust force ... to be deployed very rapidly to effectively respond to emergency situations, within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture."

The decision was "aimed at helping in bringing about African solutions to Africa's problems," the AU said. The South Africa-based Institute for Security Studies (ISS) said the rapid-reaction force should have integrated combat units of about 1,500 troops that are highly trained and include a number of specialist capabilities. The force also should include aerial elements so intervention units can be air-dropped or landed in combat zones quickly. The force should be capable of being mobilized in 14 days or less, the ISS said.

U.S. DONATES TWO VESSELS IN SUPPORT OF NIGERIA'S FIGHT AGAINST SEA CRIME

DEFENCEWEB

The Nigerian Navy will receive two ex-United States vessels in 2014: the U.S. Naval Ship John McDonnell and the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Gallatin.

Vice Adm. Dele Ezeoba, Nigeria's chief of naval staff, said the two vessels would be inspected between May and August 2014, according to the newspaper the *National Mirror*. Rear Adm. Emmanuel Ogbor, chief of policy and plans, said the United States has transferred several ships to Nigeria in the past decade, including the NNSThunder, Obula, Nwamba, Kyanwa and Ologbo.

"These ships have contributed immensely to the security of the nation's maritime environment and the Gulf of Guinea," Ogbor said. The vessels are donated as part of the U.S. military's Excess Defense Articles system.



U.S. NAVY

The USNS John McDonnell is a 63-meter, 2,054-ton oceanographic survey vessel with two 10-meter launches. The Gallatin is a 115-meter, 3,250-ton member of the Hamilton class — the same class as the Thunder, donated by the U.S. in 2011. The Gallatin is equipped with a helicopter flight deck, retractable hangar and a fast boat. It has four main engines and can be driven by either twin diesel engines or twin gas turbines via two controllable-pitch propellers.

In May 2013, the Nigerian Navy also showed that it is making good use of its additional capacity when it announced it had impounded more than 40 vessels suspected of being involved in the illegal oil trade. Ezeoba said that the Navy's fleet was expanding, with the commissioning of five Seaward Defence Boats earlier in 2013, and the construction of another indigenous Andoni class boat and the construction of two 95-meter offshore patrol vessels, which are expected to arrive before the end of 2014.

Ezeoba stressed the importance of protecting the maritime domain. "The wealth, peace, and indeed the survival of our nation depends on the sea, the protection of which rests upon the Nigerian Navy."

“INTEGRATE & OPERATE”

INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES CONFERENCE

MAY 20-22, 2014

Tampa Convention Center,
Tampa, Florida, United States

Multinational cooperation is essential to finding shared solutions to global threats. That is why more than 90 partner nations are meeting in May 2014 for U.S. Special Operations Command's 4th International Special Operations Forces Conference.

The theme "Integrate & Operate" reflects the vision of Adm. William McRaven, U.S. Special Operations commander, to empower a global network of SOF operators, interagency representatives, allies and partners that can rapidly respond to shared threats.

Financial assistance to attend is available for qualifying countries. Register soon as space is limited.

To register or for more information, contact
U.S. Army Lt. Col. Walter Richter at
WALTER.RICHTER@SOCOM.MIL





PATHS OF HOPE

Sudan Dreams of Becoming GLOBAL SUGAR PLAYER

REUTERS

Faced with the loss of most of its oil production after South Sudan seceded in 2011, Sudan has been scrambling to find new sources for state revenues and money to pay for imports. Sugar might be the answer.

"There is plenty of land suitable for sugar cultivation, and also the water is plenty," El Zein Mohammed Doush said in May 2013 at Kenana Sugar Co.'s main plant 270 kilometers south of Khartoum.

Boosting sugar production also has political undertones. The sweetener is the most important food ingredient in a country where it is normal to add three spoonfuls to a small glass of tea or orange juice.

The price of sugar is so sensitive in the vast African country that it can spark revolutions. A huge spike was one reason for street protests that led to the toppling of President Jaafar Nimeiri in 1985. For more than a year, the Sudanese government has faced small protests over an increase in food prices. Annual inflation hit 41.4 percent in April 2013, although critics say the real figure is much higher.

Thanks to a capital injection of \$500 million from its main gulf owners Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Kenana wants to more than double its output to 1 million metric tons in 2015. Its affiliated White Nile Sugar Co. intends to produce 250,000 metric tons in 2014.

That would help cover domestic demand of 1.2 million metric tons and leave room for more exports. In 2013, all local plants produced between 600,000 and 700,000 metric tons annually, analysts estimated. By 2014, the output could reach between 900,000 and 1 million metric tons.

Sudan, one of the biggest African sugar producers after Egypt and South Africa, hopes to become a global player by 2020, competing with world leaders such as Brazil. By that time, the country hopes to produce 10 million metric tons per year as more plants go online, Doush said. Kenana alone plans two more factories, and the government has now put up for sale four state-owned plants that need modernizing.

To diversify its products, Kenana also plans to more than triple the output of biofuels, a byproduct of sugar production, to 200 million liters by 2015. Unlike other North African countries that are mostly desert, Sudan is a prime location for food production due to its vast fertile scrubland and easy access to water from the Nile River.

Workers harvest and pack sugar cane at the White Nile Sugar Factory in El Diwaym, Sudan. Sudan wants to produce 10 million metric tons of sugar per year by 2020.

REUTERS



SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITY MAKES ZULU COMPULSORY

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

To boost proficiency in indigenous languages, a major South African university is making Zulu language classes compulsory for all undergraduate students beginning in 2014.

Students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, in the eastern port city of Durban, will be required to pass a course in Zulu before they can graduate. Deputy Vice Chancellor Renuka Vithal said the decision reflected the university's "commitment to the development of Zulu as an academic language alongside English, which at this stage remains the main language of learning and instruction." Zulu is the mother tongue of a quarter of South Africa's 50 million people and is spoken by more than 80 percent of the people in the KwaZulu-Natal province, where the university is located.

"At a university where more than 60 percent of students are Zulu-speaking, the institution has an obligation to ensure that linguistic choices result in effective learning solutions," the university said in a statement. It also said the decision was in the spirit of "nation building and bringing diverse languages together."

Staff members at the university also will be required to have an understanding of the language. Zulu, along with English and Afrikaans, is a lingua franca in many parts of the country. South Africa has 11 official languages: Afrikaans, English, Ndebele, Northern Sotho, Sotho, Swazi, Tswana, Tsonga, Venda, Xhosa and Zulu.



UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL

KENYA GOES DIGITAL TO REPORT DRUG-SAFETY ISSUES

SCIDEV.NET

KENYA HAS DEVELOPED AN ELECTRONIC REPORTING SYSTEM TO SPEED UP THE TRACKING OF ADVERSE DRUG EFFECTS AND SUBSTANDARD MEDICINAL PRODUCTS.

The Pharmacovigilance Electronic Reporting System, believed to be the first such patient-safety initiative in Africa, lets health-care professionals and patients report suspected adverse drug reactions and poor-quality drugs by submitting forms electronically. The system, developed by Kenya's Pharmacy and Poisons Board, can be used on desktop computers, with plans to add it to mobile phones later.

The board has been monitoring adverse drug reactions since 2004, and a National Pharmacovigilance System was launched in 2009. But reporting had been done manually using printed forms. Jayesh Pandit, head of pharmacovigilance at the Pharmacy and Poisons Board, said this was a "tedious process" because forms had to be printed, sent to health-care facilities around the country, and then returned for manual entry into a database.

"Now users can either log in directly to the Web application online or download the appropriate application for their device, which enables both online and offline access to the reporting form, and so can be used where Internet

access is unreliable," Pandit said.

Data collected on the system will be evaluated monthly and published, he added. Willis Akhwale, head of disease control and prevention at the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, said the initiative is crucial for empowering health professionals. "The information in the database will enable health workers to make informed decisions that will lead to better health care for the Kenyan people," he said.

Akhwale says the online system will help monitor the impact of people self-medicating with prescription drugs illegally sold over the counter, assist in tracking drug resistance, boost the fight against substandard medicines, and curb the use of expired drugs.



A pharmacist fills a prescription at Mbagathi District Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya. A new system will track adverse drug reactions.

SOUTH SUDAN PRIORITIZES IMMUNIZATION; KEEPS POLIO AT BAY

IRIN

Through frequent door-to-door polio immunization campaigns, South Sudan has vaccinated more than 94 percent of children under age 5 against polio, according to the Ministry of Health. In conjunction with World Immunization Week, thousands of volunteer vaccinators conducted a four-day campaign in late April 2013, trying to reach as many of the country's 3.3 million children as possible to keep the country polio-free.

When the country emerged from decades of war in 2005, its health system was devastated. There were few functioning health centers in rural areas, which meant most children went without routine vaccinations against deadly diseases such as polio.

Polio vaccination became one of the new country's early

priorities, in line with an international effort to eradicate the disease by 2013. The door-to-door effort is critical to the success of the program, said Gladys Lasu, a health and nutrition specialist with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which procures the vaccinations for many immunization campaigns.

"We're trying to eradicate polio in South Sudan," Lasu said. Although there have been no new cases in nearly four years, she said the effort is important so it "can continue being that way."

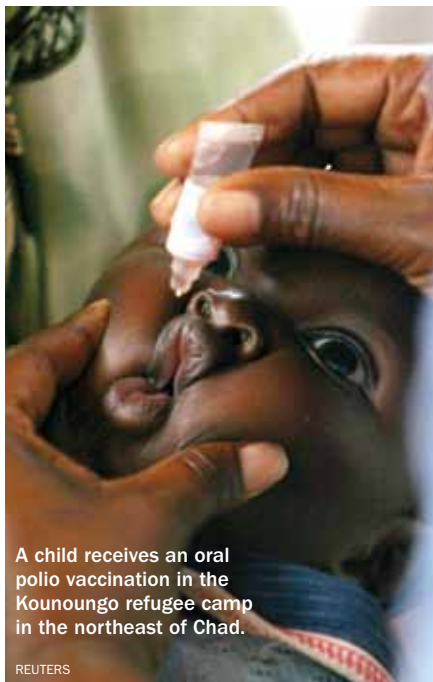
Four times a year, the Health Ministry organizes teams of volunteers to fan out across the country and immunize as many children as possible — including children who have already been immunized. Repeat immunizations are not harmful, and universal outreach is easier than trying to

identify specific unvaccinated children.

Ahead of the campaigns, organizers launch a media blitz that includes text messages, billboards and radio announcements. Trucks with speakers bolted to the roofs blare announcements encouraging people to bring their children to health centers or make them available for the door-to-door vaccinators.

Anthony Lako, director of the Ministry of Health's expanded immunization program, said immunization uptake, and the polio campaign in particular, have been well-received by the population. "Many areas [have been] reached, but there still are, of course, lots of challenges."

These include the steady stream of South Sudanese who have been returning to the country since it achieved independence in 2011. Many have not been vaccinated.



A child receives an oral polio vaccination in the Kounoungo refugee camp in the northeast of Chad.

REUTERS

GHANA Envisions Technology City

BBC NEWS AT BBC.CO.UK/NEWS



OBR ARCHITECTS

Ghana's President John Mahama has launched a project to build a \$10 billion technology hub near the capital of Accra.

Dubbed "Hope City," it will have Africa's tallest building, at 270 meters, an investor said. It will be built on empty land and will employ 50,000 people and house 25,000 people.

Mahama said the private sector will spearhead construction of Hope City. "Government has led growth since independence with all the major investments," he said. "The time has come for the private sector to take over."

Roland Agambire, the head of Ghana technology giant RLG Communications, said his company was investing in Hope City with the aim of making Ghana globally competitive. "This will enable us to have the biggest assembling plant in the world to assemble various products — over 1 million within a day," he said.

The information technology hub will include six towers, RLG said. It will include an IT university, a residential area and a hospital, as well as social and sporting amenities.

In January 2013, Kenya unveiled plans to build "Africa's Silicon Savannah" within 20 years at a cost of \$14.5 billion. Kenya's Konza Technology City, about 60 kilometers from Nairobi, is supposed to create more than 200,000 jobs by 2030.

SHOPPING SITE TAPS NIGERIAN MARKET

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

A new Nigerian online retail company called Jumia allows customers to buy electronics, books, phones, DVDs and other products and have them shipped directly to their homes or offices, with several payment options to choose from.

And that's just the start. The online company also sells toys, clothes, cigars, wine, jewelry and products for the home, including appliances.

Nigeria, Africa's biggest market with 160 million people, has seen Internet access expand rapidly in recent years, opening opportunities for companies to exploit. Although major obstacles remain for any business, from deeply rooted corruption to a lack of electricity, the potential is enormous. Online retailers like Jumia, which is operating in a handful of other African countries, are seeking to unlock the possibilities, developing plans that cater specifically to the local market.

"I doubt there are many markets in the world with 160 million people, a growing middle class and nothing in terms of organized retail," said Tunde Kehinde, a 29-year-old Nigerian and Harvard graduate who co-founded what would become the Nigerian branch of Jumia. "And so for us, that's the vision that Jumia has: to help build organized retail" in Africa's most-populous nation.

In one year of operation, Jumia Nigeria has grown from about 10 employees to 450. It now offers 50,000 products, including clothes, phones, electronics and even cigars, and says the site receives 100,000 visitors each day. A number of other sites are pursuing similar strategies in Nigeria, including Dealdey.com and Konga.com. According to recent figures, they have good reason to do so.

The company was created with capital from German firm Rocket Internet and telecom firm Millicom. Kehinde and his Harvard classmate, Raphael Afaedor, a 36-year-old Ghanaian, had earlier worked to launch two online retail sites in Nigeria and felt they were the perfect people for the job.

Rocket Internet, an aggressive investor in startups that says it has created 15,000 jobs in more than 40 countries, has also launched Jumia in Morocco, Egypt and Kenya.

Internet access in Nigeria has grown from 11 million in 2008 to 46 million in 2011. Online sales have also risen, doubling between 2011 and 2012.



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A Jumia delivery man arranges packages on his scooter at the Ikeja warehouse in Lagos, Nigeria.

Abidjan “Web Mayor” Dreams of Online El Dorado

VOICE OF AMERICA

Côte d'Ivoire's first elected “Web mayor” was sworn in May 24, 2013, by a group of computer-technology enthusiasts hoping to shed the country's reputation for cyber crime and make Abidjan the continent's latest tech hub.

Kneeling on the floor and surrounded by a team of advisors, Emmanuel Assouan placed one hand on an iPad and read aloud the oath of office.

The 22-year-old graphics and Web designer won a hard-fought campaign against 11 other candidates. Organized by members of Abidjan's innovative group of startup founders, Web strategists, designers, entrepreneurs and bloggers, the election was held just days after government-organized polls for municipal and regional offices.

According to Amevi Midekor, one of the election organizers, the campaigns for Web mayor interested the country's online community in a way that the government elections could not.

“The Web community is on course to grow and enlarge here,” Midekor said. “It is a space where expression is free and people can say whatever they want.”

Assouan, who has no budget and only one term to serve, has ambitious goals to end Abidjan's reputation for cyber crime. He wants to turn the city into an “El Dorado” for tech enthusiasts, he said, referencing a mythical city of gold sought by Spanish explorers.

“I want to eliminate the differences and the inequalities among these groups, so that we can share our knowledge and give a better image of our

country to the outside,” he said. “Our country is currently on blacklists because of cyber crime, but I want to turn us into an El Dorado for all of Africa.”

Côte d'Ivoire's online community has already come a long way in just a few years. During the country's postelection violence of 2010-11, members experimented with Twitter and other programs to quickly spread information and get assistance to people in need of medical care or food.

Since then, other projects have been launched to help the public. CivRoute, for example, is a program that lets users post updates on road accidents and traffic jams, making the city more navigable.

Emmanuel
Assouan



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RWANDA BEGINS FINGERPRINT BANKING

NEW TIMES/RWANDA

Rwanda has launched a new mobile banking service that uses fingerprint scanners to authenticate users.

MobiCash, introduced in May 2013, is a universal payment solution that lets customers open and access virtual bank accounts through which they can save money, send or transfer funds, or make payments. All monetary transactions can be done exclusively with the account holder's fingerprint without the need of cash or a card.

The financial banking product, which seeks to bring financial services closer to the majority of the population, uses multifactor authentication mechanisms, including near sound data transfer, which creates an electronic signature for secure transactions; near field communication, which lets devices communicate in proximity; and voice biometrics technology, which identifies users. The fingerprint reader recognizes the identity of a person and connects him to the appropriate bank account.

Patrick Gordon Ngabonziza, the group chief executive officer, said the mobile banking service is flexible, and customers can register to open accounts as well as deposit, withdraw and transfer money. “All shops will be provided with fingerprint readers,” he said. “This assures the easy usage of fingerprint-banking. When shopping, people will only need to leave their fingerprint to pay, without entering a code or giving a signature.”

Ngabonziza said the product penetration will be quick and smooth due to the country's infrastructure and biometric National Identification card.

“This is a mobile money platform that seeks to serve the rural poor through microfinance institutions and retail agents, including supermarkets and drug shops,” he said. “You can easily load, transfer, pay, give or retrieve cash from your phone with very simple and user-friendly interactive voice response-based services or through the MobiCash website.”

The product already has launched operations in Uganda, Burundi and South Africa, and the company soon will open in Kenya and Tanzania.

The Captain Who Disappears in the Grass ADF STAFF

Hendrik Witbooi was many things. He united the Nama people in what is now Namibia. His skill as a guerrilla fighter earned him the name Khabo Nanseb Gabemab, or “The captain who disappears in the grass.” He was a religious man who believed God spoke to him. He was almost 60 before he became a regional leader, and he died in battle at age 75.

Today, several denominations of Namibia’s paper currency bear his steely eyed portrait.

Hendrik was born about 1830 in southern Africa in what is now Namibia. He was descended from chiefs of the Nama tribe and spent much of his early adult life as a teacher. In his 50s, he took up the fight against other Nama tribes, as well as the Herero tribes. At one point, he was captured by the Hereros and later released.

When his father died in 1888, Hendrik became chief. But his people were few in number, and his power was of small consequence. So he began to consolidate power among the other tribes of the Nama people.

During that time, the Germans, who had colonies scattered across the continent, began to increase their presence in southern Africa. German Maj. Kurt von Francois met with Hendrick and offered him “autonomy under German people,” as well as protection. Hendrik knew that “protection” was the Germans’ way of saying that Hendrik would be under their rule, which he rejected.

He came to realize that all the region’s natives must unite against the Germans, saying, “Come, brothers, let us together oppose this danger which threatens to invade our Africa, for we are one in color and custom and this Africa is ours.” He negotiated a

truce with the Hereros against their common enemy.

The Germans knew that Hendrik was their greatest threat in the region, and on April 12, 1893, von Francois launched an ugly, unprovoked attack on a Nama settlement. The attack killed mostly women and children and destroyed homes. Hendrik and his forces responded with a guerrilla war lasting 18 months. After heavy losses, the two sides signed a treaty, overwhelmingly favoring the Germans.

Under the treaty, Hendrik’s troops were forced to help the Germans put down other rebellions in Africa. Hendrik wrote the British governor of Cape Colony in what is now South Africa, warning him of a “great war” if the Germans did not back down. “We did not give our land away, and what has not been given by the owner cannot be taken by another person,” Hendrik wrote.

In 1904, the Hereros waged all-out war against the Germans. Later in the year, Hendrik and the Namas joined the Hereros against the common foe. A year later, Hendrik died in battle. His famous last words were, “It is enough. The children should now have rest.”

The Namas continued to fight until forced to surrender in 1907. The Germans held the territory until World War I, when the South African government took over. Namibia gained independence from South Africa in 1990. Three years later, the country put Hendrik’s face on its currency.

He is recognized throughout Namibia as the father of his country’s freedom.



ISTOCK

WHERE AM I? 

JOACHIM HUBER

CLUES

1

This geological formation is the second-largest canyon in the world and the largest in Africa.

2

The canyon is 160 kilometers long, up to 27 kilometers wide and 550 meters deep at its deepest point.

3

The canyon is more than 500 million years old, and part of it was formed starting as far back as 650 million years ago.

4

The canyon formed through a combination of water and wind erosion and the collapse of the valley floor, owing to tectonic plate movements.

ANSWER: Fish River Canyon, Namibia

SHARE KNOWLEDGE

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.....(**author guidelines for ADF submission**)

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- If possible, include a high-resolution photograph of yourself and images related to your article with captions and photo credit information.

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