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Technology Changes Peacekeeping

Sophisticated
Equipment Serves
as a Force Multiplier

THE SPEED TO SAVE

The African
Union Creates
a Rapid-Response
Mechanism

EBOLA

A conversation with Maj. Gen. Julius Oketta, leader of the AU Ebola mission

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ADF ILLUSTRATION

ON THE COVER:

This original photo illustration shows the technological improvements such as drone technology, GPS devices and night-vision goggles that are helping peacekeepers accomplish their missions.

For decades, Africa has been host to many of the world's peacekeeping missions. This has been challenging, but one benefit is that African nations now boast some of the world's most experienced and well-trained peacekeepers. Year after year, these men and women are setting the standard for how to intervene in crisis zones.

In 2013, more than 70,000 African peacekeepers served in African Union and United Nations peacekeeping missions. Nearly three-quarters of African nations — 39 — had peacekeepers deployed somewhere on the globe. Among the military leadership in African nations, peacekeeping is typically at the top of resumes, and it is common to hear of an officer's service record that includes time spent in the Middle East, Asia and beyond in command positions. This deep knowledge and experience is paying off.

After years of tough progress in Somalia, the 22,000-person AU mission has turned the tide against al-Shabaab insurgents and restored order to the capital, Mogadishu, and the coast. In the Central African Republic, the African-led support mission stood between warring factions for months to defuse what the U.N. termed a "pre-genocide." This effort gave the U.N. the time and space it needed to take control of the mission. In West Africa, an AU mission is helping to contain the Ebola outbreak and treat those already infected.

Despite this record of success, there is room for improvement. The AU wants its missions to become faster, more high-tech and less reliant on force. To that end, the AU has identified a need to develop a rapid-reaction capability to respond to disputes before they explode into crises. The AU also is supporting mediation and dialogue to resolve conflicts nonmilitarily where possible and placing a greater emphasis on the protection of civilians in combat zones. Finally, the AU and African nations are incorporating the latest and most affordable technology to protect Soldiers from harm and increase their effectiveness on the battlefield.

None of this will be easy, but in peacekeeping as in life, experience is priceless. With the firm commitment of African nations, regional organizations and the international community, Africa will continue to lead the way in peacekeeping innovations even as the need for interventions decreases.

U.S. Africa Command Staff



Troops from Cameroon serving in the African Union mission in the Central African Republic patrol the streets of Bangui. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Building Peacekeeping Capacity

Volume 8, Quarter 1

U.S. AFRICA COMMAND

CONTACT US



U.S. AFRICA COMMAND
Attn: J3/Africa Defense Forum
Unit 29951

APO-AE 09751 U.S.A.
ADF.EDITOR@ADF-Magazine.com

HEADQUARTERS
U.S. AFRICA COMMAND
ATTN: J3/AFRICA DEFENSE
FORUM
GEB 3315, ZIMMER 53
PLIENINGER STRASSE 289
70567 STUTTGART
GERMANY

ADF is a professional military magazine published quarterly by U.S. Africa Command to provide an international forum for African military personnel. The opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily represent the policies or points of view of either this command or any other U.S. government agency. Select articles are written by ADF staff, with credit for other content noted as needed. The secretary of defense has determined that publication of this magazine is necessary for conducting public business as required of the Department of Defense by law.

Ending Terror *on the Continent* Starts from Within



**Rose
Namayanja
Nsereko**

is a Ugandan lawyer, author, security sector manager and former member of Parliament. She has been the minister of information and national guidance in the Cabinet of Uganda since May 2013. This article originally appeared on Aljazeera.com. It has been edited to fit this format.

In September 2014, Ugandan authorities discovered an al-Shabaab terrorist cell operating in our biggest city, Kampala. Explosives were discovered in the raid, and there is little doubt that this group of terrorists had no other intention but to cause carnage on the streets of the city.



It was only four years ago when bombs planted by extremists ripped through two locations as crowds gathered peacefully to watch the football World Cup. Now, almost

a year from the barbaric events of the Westgate Mall attack in Nairobi, these latest developments show that governments throughout East Africa can never let their guard down.

The government of Uganda has taken immediate steps to shore up our national security — increasing security in public places, partnering with organizers of public events, and activating further counterterrorism measures, including surveillance.

The nature of how the September 2014 discovery came about is worth examination. Along with other recent successes in dismantling key branches of terrorist cells in East Africa, our tactics were based on a broad-based coalition of expertise — of intelligence sharing by various African Union nations, with additional international assistance.

We know that complex and often sophisticated terror networks cannot be met by a single nation's resolve alone. Terror networks like al-Shabaab have proven that they can operate effectively across porous borders, utilizing technology and sophisticated criminal networks — child trafficking, poaching and drug smuggling — that do not recognize the rigid boundaries of nation states.

And with Ahmed Abdi Godane, the spiritual leader of al-Shabaab now dead, courtesy of a U.S. air strike with AMISOM [African Union Mission in Somalia] forces operating in partnership on the ground in Somalia, it seems that a flexible, multipronged international coalition is the answer to effectively challenge the once creeping dominance of extremist Islamic factions in East Africa.

The Kampala terror cell was an uncomfortable reminder that it takes more than targeted air strikes to sever the tentacles of extremist cells that operate throughout our region. But AMISOM's relative success in Somalia

does indicate that Africa can be at the epicenter of the successful stymying of terror on our continent.

As Ugandans, our commitment to fight terrorism manifested itself at the very beginning when we were the first country to deploy troops in Somalia. We operated for almost two years before other troop-contributing countries joined.

AMISOM is now a credible peacekeeping force that has negotiated Somalia's deeply divided and fractured web of warlords, clans and militant factions to bring a semblance of stability to the capital, Mogadishu. Somalia has some distance to go before it can boast of restoring the fundamental pillars of a functioning state, but it was an African force, with Western financial commitment and technology, that has made the most progress.

AMISOM has been a story of international cooperation. The financial commitment was considerable — \$1.5 billion in aid, with additional funds for the AU Mission. Yet in comparison to peacekeeping operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo or Afghanistan, what has been achieved by a coalition of African nations for the resources expended is considerable.

In Somalia, troops were taught responsible weapons control to reduce civilian casualties. They reached out to local populations and supplied basic medical care. And when terror cells continue to perpetuate the narrative of Western intervention in foreign lands, the presence of a united, regional African force shows we can win the hearts and minds of those who doubt our motives.



Ugandan police stand guard outside a popular Kampala shopping mall in September 2014 after suspected al-Shabaab extremists were arrested on charges of planning bomb attacks. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The arrests of September 2014 — and the advances of the past year — have shown that international cooperation, with African nations at the very heart, is the most effective answer to terrorism. In Africa, we are proving we can meet these challenges on our own two feet. This war will be won only if it is led from within.

Côte d'Ivoire on Quest to Be West Africa's Rice Bowl

REUTERS

Côte d'Ivoire is increasing rice production and processing in hopes of beginning exports in 2018 and generating more than a million jobs.

The country, better known as the world's biggest cocoa producer, is investing about \$4 billion on the regional staple food as part of a program to diversify its agricultural sector.

The nation's economy grew 9.8 percent in 2012, but unemployment among its 20 million people remains high, especially among the young.

Although the nation currently is a rice importer, Yacouba Dembele, director of the National Rice Development Office, is targeting self-sufficiency within two years. "We want to be the granary of the [West African] subregion, and from 2018 we want to start to satisfy the subregion's rice needs," Dembele said. "We have the potential."

Under the program, the government is organizing distribution of high-yield seeds to farmers and bankrolling the development of new production areas and irrigation systems. In and around the western town of Gagnoa, one of the areas that has benefited from the program, dozens of new rice plots have appeared.

"There were plots that were abandoned and which are now being used," farmer Mamadou Diaby said. "We have abundant rainfall, which means that we can grow year-round. There are plots that are doing two or even three harvests a year."

Côte d'Ivoire's rice production jumped to 980,000 metric tons in 2012, the first year of the development plan, compared with 550,000 metric tons in 2011. In 2013, production hit 1.2 million metric tons, with output projected to rise to 1.6 million in the 2014 season.

Imports, meanwhile, fell to 830,000 metric tons in 2013, from 1.26 million metric tons in 2012.

Côte d'Ivoire will need to reach production of 2 million metric tons before it becomes self-sufficient. Dembele hopes to hit that target in 2016. The government then plans to build up stocks to guard against international price fluctuations before starting exports to regional neighbors two years later. Côte d'Ivoire's government expects locally produced and processed rice to go on sale alongside imported rice by April 2015.

Workers unload bags of rice at the Port of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The West African nation is increasing rice production to begin exports and create jobs.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES



A tourist is served water as he takes a desert sand bath in the Merzouga region of Morocco in August 2014. Nomadic tribesmen who settled in Merzouga have turned to wellness tourism to make a living.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

TOURISTS GO TO MOROCCO FOR HEALTHY SOAK IN DESERT SANDS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

THE DUNES OF MERZOUGA tower over the small community in southeastern Morocco, where the Berber Ait Atta tribe makes a brisk living from tourism.

For years, the formerly nomadic tribesmen have been running hotels and restaurants in Merzouga, a key stop on the Moroccan tourist trail on the edge of a sea of sand dunes. Now they're turning to the sands themselves to attract visitors.

For about 10 minutes, visitors are buried neck deep in the hot sand for therapy said to benefit those who suffer from ailments including rheumatism, lumbago, polyarthritis and some skin disorders.

The therapy has the same effect as a sauna session, helping to purge the body of poisonous toxins, according to tribesmen such as Abdessalam Sadoq, who now works in wellness tourism.

"We offer every type of tourism here, but especially for health," he said.

Visitors in search of a cure do not come only from abroad: Many Moroccans also firmly believe in the power of the desert. "I really feel much better, and each year I come back here to spend a week," said sciatica sufferer Ali Kallamouche, from the central town of Beni Mellal.

A sand bath at Merzouga costs up to 10 euros (\$13), and when customers shake off the sand, they are wrapped in hot towels to avoid shock when their bodies suddenly begin cooling.

"People come for sand baths ... and to taste the local dishes we make using medicinal plants and herbs," said Sadoq, who also heads an association to promote tourism in the Sahara.

Tourism is a cornerstone of Morocco's economy, contributing 10 percent of the gross domestic product. It also is growing, thanks to the development of wellness tourism.

Hit Song Delivers Ebola Message in Liberia

VOICE OF AMERICA

In Liberia's capital, the hit song *Ebola in Town* has a danceable beat and conveys a serious message about avoiding infection.

Three Liberian musicians came up with the song idea in May 2014 after thinking that people weren't taking the Ebola outbreak seriously enough. The song got people's attention. Just a few days after they recorded it, *Ebola in Town* was a nationwide hit.

Musician Samuel "Shadow" Morgan says he and his fellow artists didn't want to produce a typical awareness song. They wanted something people could dance to.

"Since everybody wants to dance these days, they will first dance to the beat," Morgan said. "And the next thing is, they will learn the chorus. From the chorus, you start going into the verses and what the song is actually about."

The last verse, for example, is about how someone can contract the disease from eating bush meat:

*If you like the monkey
Don't eat the meat
If you like the baboon
I said don't eat the meat
If you like the bat-o
Don't eat the meat
Ebola in town.*

Music like *Ebola in Town* can be a powerful tool for delivering a health message. Susan Krenn, who directs the Center for Communication Programs at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, United States, said the emotional response to a catchy tune helps make delivering facts easier. Back in the late 1980s, she and the center teamed up with Nigerian singers Onyeka Onwenu and King Sunny Ade for a song about family planning called *Wait for Me*.

Ebola in Town is not the only song about the disease you will hear in Liberia. The Ministry of Health & Social Welfare put out a song that includes these lyrics:

*Always wash your hands with soap and water
Always cook your food very well
Go to the health facility any time you have headache
Fever, pain, diarrhea, rash, red eyes and vomiting.*

Liberian world-famous soccer star George Weah also has produced a song to raise awareness about Ebola. Weah, who is now a politician and singer, once was named FIFA's player of the year. He has run for president twice. He told The Associated Press that Liberia's Health Ministry asked him to join their efforts to raise awareness, so he worked with the Ghanaian musician, Sidney, to record the song. Sales proceeds will go to the Liberian Health Ministry.

NIGERIA LAUNCHES ELECTRONIC NATIONAL ID CARDS

BBC NEWS AT BBC.CO.UK/NEWS

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan formally launched a national electronic identity card in August 2014, which all Nigerians will need by 2019 if they want to vote.

Jonathan received the first biometric card, which also can be used to make electronic payments.

"The card is not only a means of certifying your identity, but also a personal database repository and payment card, all in your pocket," Jonathan said at the launch in Abuja. "I have taken keen interest in this project, primarily because of the pervasive impact it can have on every facet of the socio-economic fabric of our dear nation."

According to Nigeria's central bank, about 30 percent of the country's 167 million residents have access to bank accounts.

MasterCard, which is providing the card's prepaid payment element, said in a statement that combining an identity card with a payment card for those 16 and older "breaks down one of the most significant barriers to financial inclusion — proof of identity."

The new cards show a person's photograph, name,



Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan looks at a replica of his electronic identity card with Uche Secoundus, right, chairman of the board of the National Identity Management Commission, during the launch of the cards in Abuja in August 2014.

age and unique ID number. Ten fingerprints and an iris are scanned during enrollment. These details are intended to ensure that there are no duplicates on the system.

During the pilot phase, which began registering names in October 2013, 13 million ID cards will be issued. There are enrollment centers in all 36 states, and there is no fee to get the card. People will be charged if it needs to be replaced.

The Nigerian Identity Management Commission, which is behind the rollout, is trying to integrate several government databases, including those for drivers' licenses, voter registration, health insurance, taxes and pensions.



CREATING SUSTAINABLE PEACEKEEPING CAPABILITY IN AFRICA



COL. DANIEL HAMPTON
AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

Hampton, a senior military advisor at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS), has served 29 years with the United States Army as an infantry officer and foreign area officer, including as defense attache to Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. This article has been adapted from a 2014 ACSS Africa Security Brief. It has been edited to fit this format.

A state maintains a military to defend its borders, deter aggression, and fight and win wars. These are missions normally associated with conventional forces. Yet, many states are now more likely to call upon their militaries to conduct peace-support operations than conventional combat. More than 100 countries provide uniformed personnel in support of 16 ongoing United Nations peace operations. More nations train, resource and equip their armed forces to achieve proficiency in the unique military skill set required for peacekeeping. This is particularly true in Africa. Not only do 78 percent of all U.N. peacekeepers serve in Africa, but nearly half of all uniformed peacekeepers are African. More than 70,000 uniformed personnel from 39 African countries serve in peace operations worldwide. Because most peace operations are in Africa, it is in African states' regional security interests to participate, stabilize and help shape post-conflict environments.

Soldiers from the Uganda People's Defence Force train with weapons at the Peace Support Operations Training Center-Singo in Kakola, Uganda.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Participation in a peacekeeping operation (PKO) also can augment resource-constrained defense budgets. When a troop-contributing country (TCC) deploys, the accompanying U.N. payment of per-Soldier stipends, combined with reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment, provides the TCC with significant finances. For example, the provision of a standard 800-person battalion to a U.N. PKO can mean up to \$7 million for a TCC in the course of a six-month rotation. External actors (i.e., Western nations) perceive an advantage in offering training and equipment to African governments over deploying their own troops to a crisis area. Providing training and equipment is viewed as a relatively low-cost endeavor to address an emerging or existing security crisis, and it strengthens security cooperation relationships with African partners.

This intersection of mutually supporting interests has resulted in an abundance of programs, activities, exercises and events aimed at increasing African peacekeeping capacity. However, the tangible effects and long-term benefits of these efforts remain open to debate. Although it is true that capability is often created or enhanced to address specific crises or missions, sustained capacity and operational readiness are short-lived. This is evidenced by the recurring cycle of donor-led training programs and the frequent inability of the African Union to rapidly respond to emerging crises. An AU study of the 2012-2013 crisis in Mali lamented “Africa’s inability, despite its political commitment to Mali, to confront the emergency.”

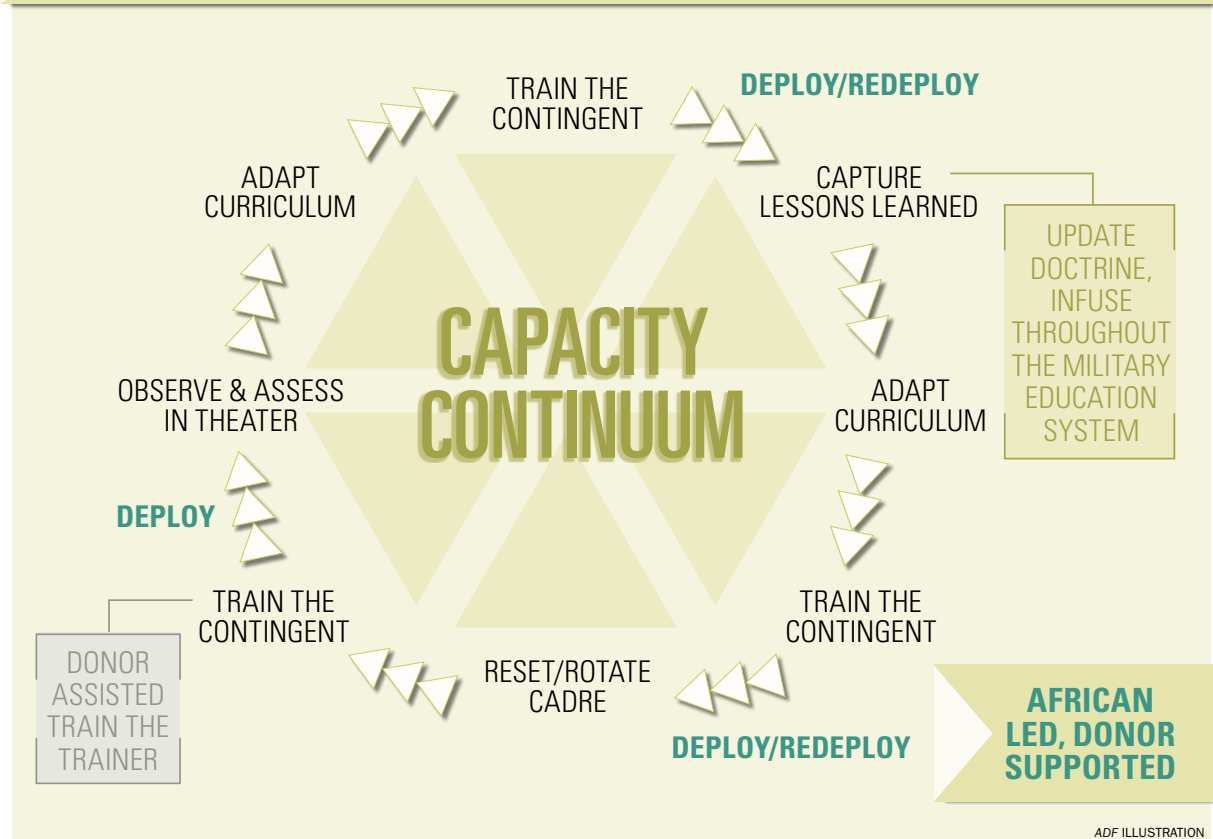
THE CHALLENGE OF RETAINING READINESS

The standard model of donor peacekeeping assistance is often characterized as “train and equip.” Typically, an African military pulls together a composite trainee cohort, a group that may or may not be the actual troop contingent that will deploy in an operation. Instructors providing the training typically are Western Soldiers or, more often than not, private military contractors (PMCs). An equipment package is donated that may or may not be compatible with the host nation’s inventory, spare parts and maintenance systems. The model produces at best episodic and transitory proficiency.

The United States is the predominant donor nation. Through programs such as the African Crisis Response Initiative (ACRI), Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA), and the Global Peace Operations Initiative, the U.S. government has trained more than 250,000 African Soldiers in peace support operations at a cost of about \$228 million per year.

This suggests that there are a quarter of a million well-trained African peacekeepers available for deployment. This is not the case. All military skills are inherently perishable. A trained peacekeeper in the past is not a trained peacekeeper in the present, nor does a trained peacekeeper in the present indicate an available trained peacekeeper for the future. Soldiers show marked degradation of task retention after 60 days. Without practice or retraining, after 180 days there is an estimated 60 percent

ENHANCING CAPACITY: A CONTINUUM, NOT AN EVENT



loss in skill retention. With respect to collective task training (team training), the rate of degradation is even more rapid.

Cohesion of the collective is a recurring constraint to sustainable peacekeeping capability. With African peacekeeping contingents, frequently the unit receiving training is a formation cobbled together from multiple organizations and rounded out with individual Soldiers who have never previously trained together. In this scenario, upon completion of training the cohort disbands, with collective task proficiency essentially lost. In instances where the trained formation deploys directly into a peace support operation, proficiency is retained longer. However, upon completion of a normal six-month rotation, the formation no longer can be termed a trained peacekeeping asset if it does not retain cohesion and receive sustainment training.

Retaining post-deployment unit cohesion is difficult due to reassignment, promotion, retention and replenishment. Hence, the need for institutionalized training within an established professional military education (PME) system is important to sustained peacekeeping capability. Many African states lack an effective PME system to complement training received from international partners. The result is that acquired knowledge and experience erodes, capacity is not increased and capability is not retained.

Clearly, the key to retention of peacekeeping skills is an indigenous, institutionalized training. The United States'

ACOTA program acknowledges this tenet in its mission statement, yet to date there has been limited success in creating sustainable peacekeeping training institutions within Africa. At the inception of the ACRI program in 1997, there was a stated focus on "training the trainer." However, such a methodology has never been fully implemented. When the ACRI program transitioned to ACOTA in 2002, the desire to build institutional capacity remained, but, in practice, the program continued to provide training primarily to African Soldiers rather than creating professional instructor cadres within African militaries. The trainers standing in front of the trainees still were predominantly American and almost exclusively PMCs.

In instances where a train-the-trainer approach has been applied, too frequently the African partner nation failed to use the trained instructors for their intended purpose, and many were reassigned or deployed shortly after donor-provided training. As more African states commit part of their defense force to peace operations, several have seen the utility in establishing dedicated peacekeeping training facilities. If an international partner is willing to provide instructors, training aids and resources for a specific training event or exercise, then there is not a perceived advantage for the host nation to incur the cost of staffing and operating a full-time training facility. Although this would seem to be pragmatic in a resource-constrained defense budget, it is a model that offers little in the way of institutional longevity. So



Soldiers from the Uganda People's Defence Force, one holding a piece of wood representing a weapon, train in urban operations at the Peace Support Operations Training Center-Singo in Kakola, Uganda.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A French military trainer helps Ugandan troops prepare for deployment to the African Union Mission in Somalia.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR

SUSTAINED CAPABILITY

TRAIN THE TRAINER: Build African noncommissioned officer capability.

TRAIN THE CONTINGENT: Africans train Africans.

INSTITUTIONALIZE: Dedicate a training facility or mobile training team concept.

RETAIN EXPERTISE: Maintain a professional instructor cadre within the defense force.

SUSTAIN: Integrate instructor cadres and curricula within African PME systems.

ADAPT: Capture and analyze operational lessons and update training curricula.

OPTIMIZE RESOURCES: Coordinate donor support to ensure complementarity.

peacekeeping training centers must be incorporated into a larger PME system. This will ensure sustained capacity and create economies of scale with respect to the cost of full-time instructor cadres and operating resources.

A NEW MODEL

Peacekeeping assistance must focus on building and supporting indigenous institutions in which a professional military instructor cadre trains the Soldiers that will comprise peacekeeping contingents. In this new model, peacekeeping tactics, techniques and procedures are embedded in doctrine and reinforced throughout all levels of a PME system. Lessons learned and operational experience are captured and incorporated into curricula and training exercises. The real metric of success is not how many people receive training, but how well a country sustains capability and maintains operational readiness to respond to an AU or U.N. request.

The days of Western Soldiers standing in front of African Soldiers as primary instructors should be long gone. In fact, several African militaries could accurately be characterized as professional peacekeepers with little need for outside training. Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa have provided troop contingents to U.N. missions almost continuously for more than a decade. Incorporating these lessons, proficiencies and experiences into African PME systems is the key to sustainable capacity and capability.

Another advantage of removing the Western face from troop training is the opportunity to empower and legitimize host-nation noncommissioned officers. When a training instructor stands in front of a formed unit, there is an understood expert-to-novice relationship.

Training a cadre of professional instructors before a

troop contingent exercise ensures that the recognized expert on the subject matter is not an American contractor but a noncommissioned officer from the responsible African force.

Emergent requirements to field-trained peacekeepers for missions in areas such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mali or Somalia will naturally shape the method employed. One cannot discount the short-term impact achieved via train-and-equip missions to prepare thousands of peacekeepers for deployment into crisis areas. However, at issue is the missed opportunity for long-term gains from the millions of dollars spent. If African and partner nations adopt and adhere to a policy of building institutional capacity, the demand for reactionary training diminishes as more TCCs sustain and maintain a higher level of operational readiness. The goal must be to create the conditions where train-and-equip missions are the exception, not the rule.

Several African U.N. TCCs — Nigeria and South Africa to name but two — have a dedicated peacekeeping training center and a fully developed PME system up through the defense college level. However, the link between operational experience and institutional education has not been optimized. Absent is a formal process and organization to capture lessons from the field, analyze them, and develop and adapt training curricula to sustain and improve performance and capability.

The International Peace Support Training Centre in Kenya and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Ghana are examples that reflect successful partnerships between international actors and African states to create indigenous peacekeeping capacity. Although these centers are not designed to provide training for formed battalions, they are an excellent resource

for sustainment training. They are primarily donor-funded, subregional assets that provide multinational classroom and seminar instruction at the operational and strategic level. These regional centers are not a substitute for institutional peacekeeping training capacity within a military's PME system. However, they can be an effective complement to sustaining and maintaining critical peacekeeping skills.

SUSTAINING AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING CAPABILITY

Enhancing capacity and capability is an ongoing effort, not an event. Achieving this will require changes from African governments and international partners. Both parties must ensure that resources and assistance are applied to the life cycle of a peacekeeping contingent to maximize retention of skill and experience for future units. This means that in addition to predeployment and post-deployment interaction, mentors should visit a unit in the theater to assess the suitability of the program of instruction and then modify it as necessary.

Donor programs designed to increase the capability of African peacekeepers require a collective approach. Assistance should be coordinated with other international and regional efforts. International assistance must begin with the baseline list of established U.N. and AU peacekeeping standards (the "United Nations Infantry Battalion Manual" is an excellent foundational document for the basic Soldier skills). From this baseline, a program of instruction can be adapted to the host nation's tactics, techniques, procedures and experiences.

African policymakers also should selectively identify bilateral partnerships that can provide expertise or resources that transfer a unique or superior capability. Basic Soldier skills and traditional collective tasks associated with PKOs can be taught and proficiency achieved in a fairly straightforward and structured fashion. There are U.N.-approved programs of instruction available that any capable training cadre can adopt and apply. However, the more complex tasks and problem sets associated with peace support operations are not rote. For example, countering improvised explosive devices, explosive ordnance disposal, and intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance are capabilities the United States can offer to enhance African peacekeeping capability beyond basic Soldier skills. Although these skills were honed by the U.S. military during counterinsurgency operations, their application in the PKO environment is increasingly evident. More and more, the threats and situations faced by peacekeepers in the eastern DRC, Mali and Somalia are asymmetric in nature, involving nonstate actors possessing varying degrees of capability, equipment and technology.

Unfortunately, security assistance of this nature is too often lumped under counterterrorism programs. This is not only too limiting, but can evoke negative connotations. It is important to address the range of capabilities required in PKOs and avoid labeling certain military assistance and skill sets too narrowly.

When entering into military assistance partnerships, it is also worth examining the role of PMCs. There are several benefits for African and donor nations in using uniformed personnel rather than civilian contractors for PKO training. Although PMCs are fully capable and qualified to conduct most training to the same standards as uniformed military trainers, the issue returns to one of short-term versus long-term effects. The professional bonds formed during military-to-military interaction cannot be underestimated. At the Soldier level, the sharing of experiences and expertise during an exercise is mutually advantageous. Although there is a role for PMCs to play in augmenting a military lead during training events, the value of military-to-military interaction endures beyond training.

The cornerstone of sustainable peacekeeping capability is institutional training capacity. A generic peacekeeping training model in its simplest form is composed of three phases. In the first phase — train the trainer — international subject matter experts are used as needed to train a host-nation instructor cadre. In the second — train the peacekeepers — international trainers observe and mentor African instructors with little to no interaction with the trainees. The more challenging third phase — sustainment training — requires retention of an enduring professional cadre within the African defense force. This requires the will of senior defense and military leadership, and will often necessitate an organizational restructuring within the force to create instructor billets that are permanent positions and considered career enhancing.

Ideally, a professional cadre of peacekeeping trainers would exist within a defense force's PME system at a peacekeeping training school or center. Peacekeeping curricula should be incorporated throughout all professional development courses, such as platoon and company commander courses, staff colleges and warrant officer courses. Although this is an option for the more mature and better resourced defense forces, less endowed militaries can still institutionalize the training program without a designated facility or comprehensive PME system. A peacekeeping training cadre organized as a mobile training team can effectively prepare and train units to sustain capacity.

African states must better leverage donor assistance to increase and then maintain force readiness. African Soldiers are the best resource to train African Soldiers. African states must not let themselves become dependent on donor support to participate in U.N. or AU missions. It is in their interest to develop and sustain an indigenous capacity to generate ready peacekeepers. Likewise, donor nations must break from a seemingly perpetual cycle of training hundreds of thousands of African peacekeepers, frequently from the same handful of countries, with little sustained impact. The real shared interest of both parties is the establishment of sustainable peacekeeping capability that is institutionalized within African defense forces. It is time to move beyond the reactionary nature of train-and-equip missions and create enduring capacity. □

PEACE OPERATIONS: BY THE NUMBERS

AFRICAN NATIONS PARTICIPATE IN MISSIONS ON AND OFF THE CONTINENT

ADF STAFF

Africa has been a major contributor and a major recipient of peace operations over the years. In the 21st century alone, more than 50 peace operations have been deployed to African countries, according to Paul D. Williams, an expert in African security issues. More than 10 have been deployed since 2011, including missions conducted by the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, regional bodies and individual states, such as France in 2013's Operation Serval in Mali.

Some missions aim to make peace. Others seek to keep it. Some missions are short-lived, including only a few dozen uniformed personnel. An example is the

Observer Mission in the Comoros 3, which deployed 39 uniformed personnel in 2002. Others are huge multinational endeavors that deploy more than 20,000 people, such as the U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), which has been in operation since 2010.

Peacekeeping operations continue to be added or evolve into new missions. An example is the latest mission in the Central African Republic, which has transitioned from the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic to the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

When looking at Africa and peace operations, interesting statistics emerge.



African nations send Soldiers all over the world for peacekeeping. Here, United Nations peacekeepers from Senegal watch a demonstration in Port-au-Prince as part of the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

AFRIGETTY IMAGES

AFRICA ON THE U.N. WORLD PEACEKEEPING STAGE*



ETHIOPIA

is the Top Troop Contributor
from Africa with **7,706**

\$4.99
BILLION

Currently budgeted
for U.N. Peacekeeping
in Africa

9 **OF** **16**

**U.N. Peacekeeping
Missions Worldwide
ARE IN AFRICA**

72% **OF AFRICAN NATIONS
ARE INVOLVED IN
PEACEKEEPING SOMEWHERE**



39

African Nations
Contribute to
Peacekeeping
Missions

SENEGAL



is the Top Police Contributor
from Africa with **1,052** Officers

African nations
comprise six of the
top 10 contributors of
troops, police officers
and military experts.
They also comprise 15
of the top 25, which are:

1. Bangladesh
2. India
3. Pakistan
4. **Ethiopia**
5. **Rwanda**
6. Nepal
7. **Ghana**
8. **Nigeria**
9. **Senegal**
10. **Egypt**
11. **Tanzania**
12. **Morocco**
13. China
14. **South Africa**
15. **Burkina Faso**
16. Indonesia
17. **Niger**
18. Uruguay
19. **Togo**
20. Jordan
21. Brazil
22. Sri Lanka
23. **Cameroon**
24. **Benin**
25. **Burundi**

Source: United Nations | * Information current as of November 30, 2014

HUMAN COST

Peacekeeping fatalities from all causes in U.N. missions in Africa*

15	2	43	83	212	17	31	187	120
MINURSO	MINUSCA	MINUSMA	MONUSCO	UNAMID	UNISFA	UNMISS	UNMIL	UNOCI
Since April 1991	Since April 2014	Since April 2013	Since July 2010	Since July 2007	Since June 2011	Since July 2011	Since September 2003	Since April 2004

*From mission inception through November 30, 2014

THE FOUR KINDS OF PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

ADF STAFF

Walter Dorn, author of *Keeping Watch: Monitoring, Technology and Innovation in UN Peace Operations*, says peacekeeping missions can be divided into four categories:

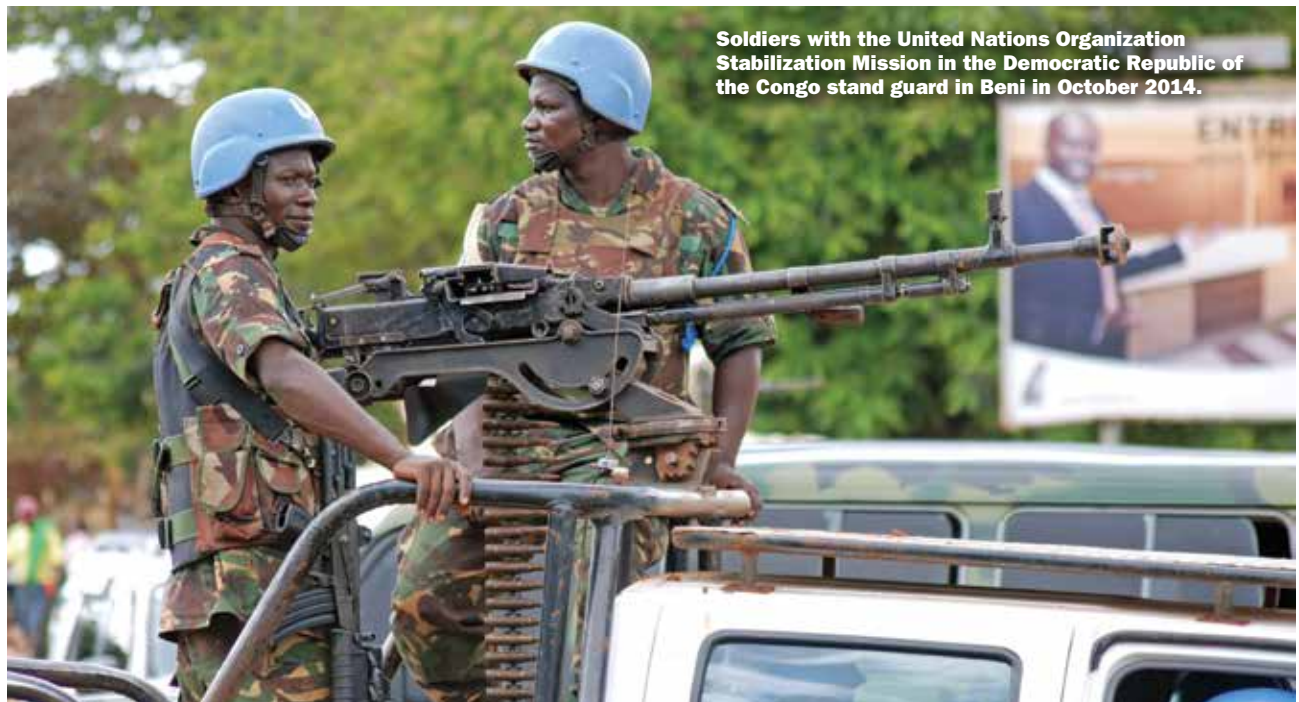
OBSERVER MISSIONS are to get the facts straight. These are the oldest type of missions, with the main purpose of observing the movements of two or more conflicting states, usually in relation to a cease-fire agreement. These unarmed peacekeepers “observe and report,” but they also attempt to influence opposing forces to stop violence using “advice, aid and mediation.”

INTERPOSED FORCES MISSIONS are placed between opposing forces, and unlike observer missions, these peacekeepers are armed. They typically consist of thousands of Soldiers, compared to the hundreds deployed in observer missions. By physically separating opposing forces, they

reduce the number of military flare-ups and skirmishes. They prevent armies from violating cease-fires and closely monitor neutral zones between warring factions.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL OPERATIONS arose from the changed characteristics of conflicts after the Cold War. Peacekeepers were called upon to stop warring factions and assist in the task of nation-building. These more complex operations include the traditional peacekeeping roles, as well as human rights protection, the delivery of humanitarian aid and the supervision of elections. More than 30 multidimensional peacekeeping operations have been launched since 1989.

TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS not only keep the peace but actually govern an entire territory for a time. The most notable examples have been in Cambodia, East Timor and Kosovo.



Soldiers with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo stand guard in Beni in October 2014.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

THE AFRICAN UNION AND PEACEKEEPING

The African Union (AU) has deployed one of the largest peacekeeping missions on the continent with the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

AMISOM has been a particularly dangerous mission for African troops, mainly because of battles against the al-Shabaab insurgency. Reuters reported in May 2013 that up

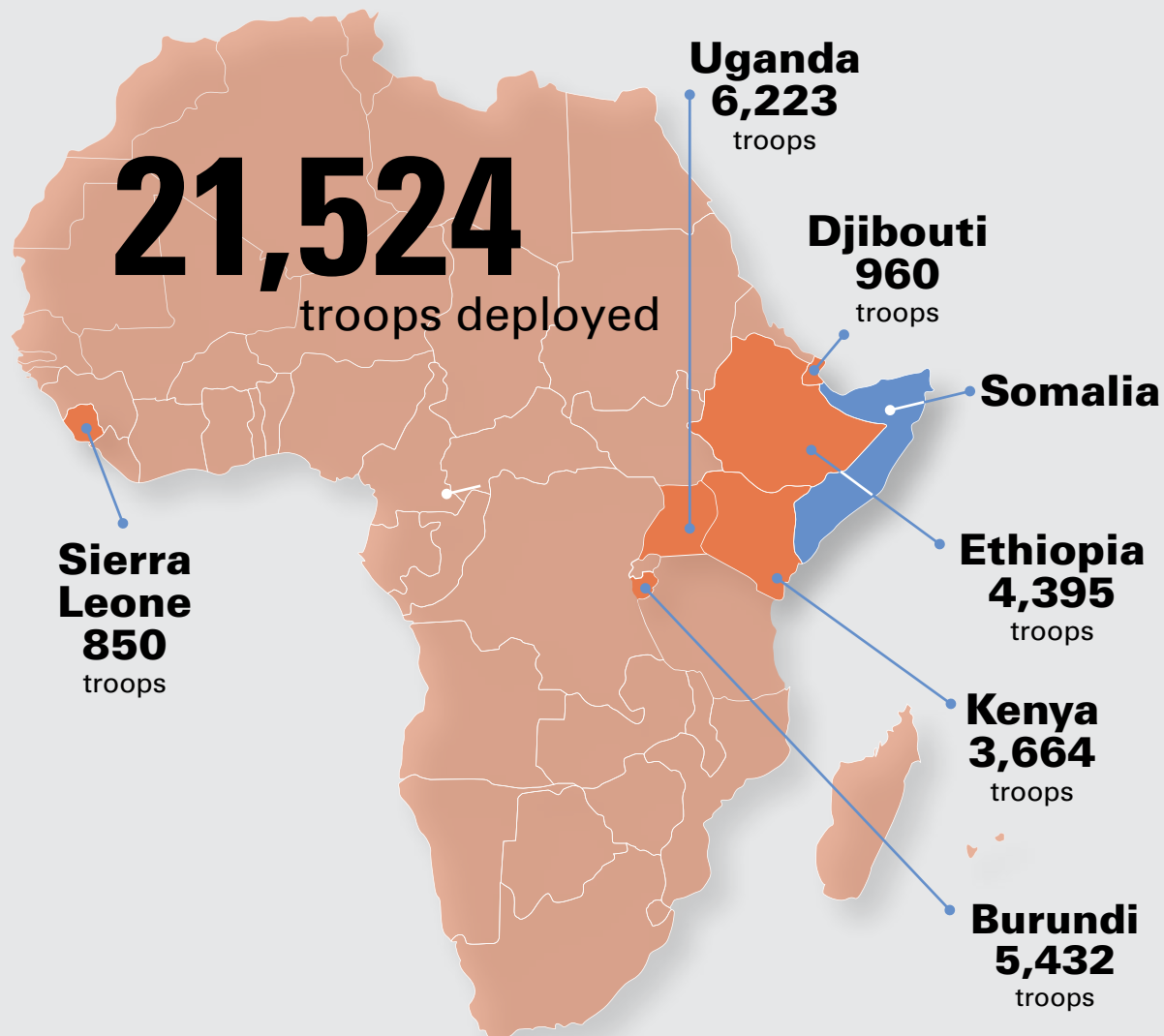
to 3,000 AU peacekeepers have died since the operation began in 2007. By contrast, U.N. figures show that 3,308 peacekeepers and other personnel have died worldwide between 1948,

when U.N. peacekeeping began, and November 30, 2014. This includes deaths due to accident, illness and malicious acts in peacekeeping, assistance and political missions.

AMISOM: The mission is authorized to deploy 22,126 uniformed personnel (21,586 troops, 540 police officers).

515

Police officers deployed from Burundi, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Uganda.



Source: The African Union

Kenya's Economy on the Rebound after Westgate Attack

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Westgate Shopping Mall was a symbol of Kenya's growing well-heeled middle class: a vast market crammed with flat-screen televisions, imported wines, and chilled cabinets of cheese and meats.

Then, in a burst of grenades and gunfire in September 2013, gunmen prowled food aisles and executed at least 67 people in cold blood, making the Nairobi mall's Nakumatt supermarket the epicenter of a brutal massacre.

The attack, claimed by Somalia's al-Qaida-linked al-Shabaab, ushered in a tough year for Kenya's economy. But there are signs that the economy is rebounding.

"Three days after the terrorist attack, we had no Nakumatt there; we had lost everything," said Atul Shah, managing director of Nakumatt Holdings, East Africa's biggest retail chain by outlet numbers. Its Westgate outlet had been its flagship branch. Stock losses were estimated at \$6.7 million.

"Business was slow for a couple of months," Shah said. "Everybody avoided shopping malls or public places." He said the company has since started to recover, opening new stores.

"More than anything, the Westgate attack struck at the 'Africa-rising/emerging middle class' narrative — the cheerleaders of the economy," said Aly-Khan Satchu, a financial analyst in Nairobi. "These folks have moved from a very offensive game to one which is more defensive."

Subsequent attacks, especially killings in the coastal region, have badly dented Kenya's tourist industry — a key foreign currency earner and huge employer.

"The negative spillover has been felt most intensely in coastal tourism, which is on its knees, and it's unlikely to bounce back meaningfully in the next 12 months," Satchu said in September 2014.

The tourist board insists that visitor arrivals dipped by less than 5 percent in the first four months of 2014, but hotels and tourism operators reported a slump. "We basically became a closed shop," Mohammed Hersi, chairman of Kenya's Coast Tourist Association, said. "We have had an almost 40 percent drop."

But Kenya has bounced back before, including after al-Qaida's bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi in 1998, as well as postelection violence in 2007. Shares in the operator of Kenya's stock market, Nairobi Securities Exchange, were rapidly snapped up when they debuted in September 2014.

"Kenya's economy has exhibited outstanding resilience post-Westgate," Satchu said in September 2014. "The Nairobi All-Share Index has rallied more than 30 percent since Westgate, and that is a major signal."

A year after the al-Shabaab attack, Westgate remained closed. Bullet holes still were visible on the boarded-up mall. Large parts collapsed during the siege as a result of a huge explosion and fire. Ornamental plants appeared to have grown wild around the terrace cafes where Kenyans and foreigners once mingled over expensive coffees and wine.

Shah says reconstruction is ongoing. He remains hopeful for Kenya. "We will recover one day, and pray something like this will never happen again."





A hawker peddles his wares outside the Westgate Shopping Mall.
REUTERS

A Doctors Without Borders health worker holds a child suspected of having Ebola at a treatment center in Paynesville, Liberia, in October 2014. The girl and her mother were awaiting test results.

GETTY IMAGES



bolan

*MILITARIES
MOBILIZE
AGAINST A
NEW ENEMY*

ADF STAFF

SOLDIERS, POLICE AND CIVILIANS JOIN FORCES TO HALT THE SPREAD OF ONE OF EARTH'S DEADLIEST DISEASES

Two-year-old Emile Ouamouno lived in a home like many others in his native Guinea. His small, rain forest village of Meliandou was close to the borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone. Like most in the region, his family gathered its food from the plants and animals found in the area.

Wild fruit bats are among the plentiful and popular food sources. Several varieties are indigenous. The boy's family had hunted two types — the hammer-headed bat and Franquet's epauletted fruit bat — in late November or early December 2013. His mother might have grilled the flying mammals or cooked them in a soup. Emile might have played at her feet as she prepared a meal.

Maybe, in childlike curiosity, he touched one of the bats, running his chubby little finger across its furry back or leathery wings. Then perhaps he touched his mouth, as children do. Maybe that is all it took.

On December 2, 2013, Emile became ill with fever, black stools and vomiting. Four days later he was dead.

The boy's mother died December 13, 2013. His 4-year-old sister, Philomène, became sick on December 25, 2013. She, too, died after four days. The children's grandmother died January 1, 2014, and a nurse and a village midwife died on February 2, 2014, after being ill only a few days.

The grandmother's sister and another person from Dawa village attended the grandmother's funeral. Both died. A relative of the midwife, who cared for her kin, died in Dandou Pombo village. In the four months after Emile died, 14 Meliandou residents died, according to CNN.

What likely started with a small fruit bat and a young boy was on its way to becoming a ferocious cross-border killer as it marched into nearby Liberia and Sierra Leone. The virus, which resembles a twisted bootlace when viewed with a high-powered microscope, was tightening its grip on an unsuspecting region. Ebola had been unleashed.

WHAT IS EBOLA?

Ebola virus disease, also known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever, is a highly lethal viral infection

that stems from four viral strains known to cause harm in people. As a threat to humans, it appears to be relatively new. The first known case was in the former Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in 1976. The disease was named for its proximity to the Ebola River.

Since then, Ebola has emerged in several African countries through the years, never killing more than 280 people in a single outbreak. Until now.

The disease can take up to 21 days to

FROM 1976
UNTIL THE START OF THE
CURRENT OUTBREAK,

2,348

PEOPLE WORLDWIDE
CONTRACTED EBOLA AND

1,548

DIED.
THAT'S A COMBINED
DEATH RATE OF

66%

A burial team dons protective clothing before collecting the body of a 54-year-old woman who died of Ebola in the New Kru Town suburb of Monrovia in October 2014.

GETTY IMAGES



manifest itself in a person after exposure. Symptoms usually include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, severe headaches, muscle and abdominal pains, and hemorrhaging. Some people eventually recover, but Ebola at its most lethal has killed nearly nine of every 10 people it infects.

It is spread via close contact that involves bodily fluids. Burial customs, in which mourners clean and touch bodies, are believed to have contributed to the spread of Ebola in West Africa.

The outbreak that started in Guinea and crossed into Liberia and Sierra Leone is the biggest in known history. Although it's possible that Ebola killed people before 1976, there is no record of earlier outbreaks.

The virus is known to exist in a variety of animals, including apes, monkeys and antelope, but its natural host is probably the fruit bat. Five types of fruit bats are common to West Africa. Often people eat the bats and other infected animals. The practice has been cited multiple times as the likely cause of human illness.

out before it becomes widespread.

In the West African outbreak, proximity to dense population centers such as Monrovia, Liberia, allowed the disease to spread faster than medical personnel were able to react. Hospitals and medical facilities became overwhelmed quickly.

Fear associated with the disease also has had a deadly cascading effect. People with treatable maladies such as pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria have avoided hospitals for fear of contracting Ebola. Sometimes, nervous health workers turn away the sick out of fear of the disease. Both can increase the spread of Ebola and lead to preventable deaths.

"If you stub your toe now in Monrovia, you'll have a hard time getting care, let alone having a heart attack or malaria," Sheldon Yett, Liberia's representative for the United Nations Children's Fund, told *The Washington Post* in September 2014. "It's a tremendous threat to children and a tremendous threat to families."

The Ebola crisis also has taken the focus off curable diseases, such as polio. Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone sat out a recent 18-nation polio immunization campaign, according to U.S.-based NPR. Other childhood vaccinations, such as measles, also are falling by the wayside.

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf told The Associated Press in August 2014 that the outbreak had to be met with "extraordinary measures for the very survival of our state and for the protection of the lives of our people."

"Ignorance, poverty, as well as entrenched religious and cultural practices continue to exacerbate the spread of the disease, especially in the counties," Sirleaf said.

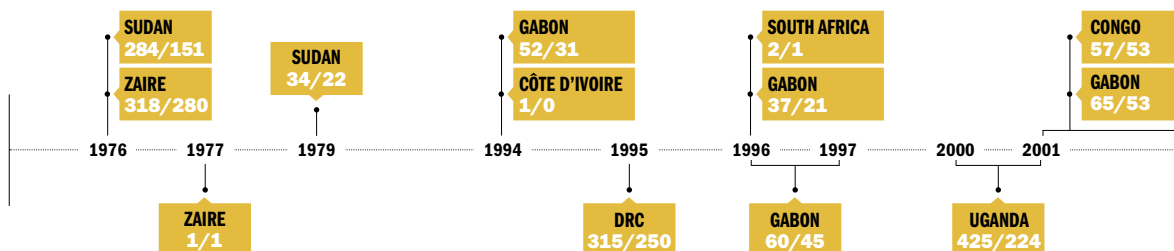
THERE HAVE BEEN
34
RECORDED EBOLA
OUTBREAKS WORLDWIDE.
SEVEN OF THE 34 —
21%
— INVOLVED
A STRAIN THAT AFFECTS
ONLY ANIMALS.

RESPONDING TO A PANDEMIC KILLER

Disease is no stranger to Africa. The continent is home to the "meningitis belt," which stretches from Eritrea west to Senegal. Malaria is a problem across much of the continent, and cholera outbreaks are common, particularly during rainy seasons. Pandemic flu outbreaks are perennial threats in Africa and beyond. But Ebola is different. Outbreaks are not particularly common. The disease lives in the shadows of dense jungles and remote villages. If a man in an isolated village handles or eats a dead chimpanzee, for example, he may contract the disease and even spread it to friends and family members. But the high mortality rate sometimes causes Ebola to burn

EBOLA timeline

NO. SICK/DIED





A police officer blocks access to a road in Monrovia, Liberia, in September 2014 after a body was found in the center of the city.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Among the early ways Ebola spread in West Africa was through funeral and burial customs in which mourners touched and sometimes washed bodies of those who had succumbed to the disease. This close physical contact with infected bodies was a prime mode of transmission.

Recalcitrance in some communities to relinquish bodies to health authorities led to clashes and distrust in a crucial stage of the outbreak, when control of the spread was essential. Furthermore, some of these same groups may well have been exposing themselves to the virus through the consumption of wild forest animals, known as bush meat.

Dr. Mark J. Walters, a veterinarian and journalism professor at the University of South Florida-St. Petersburg in the United States, said it can be difficult for Soldiers and public health officials to communicate important medical information to

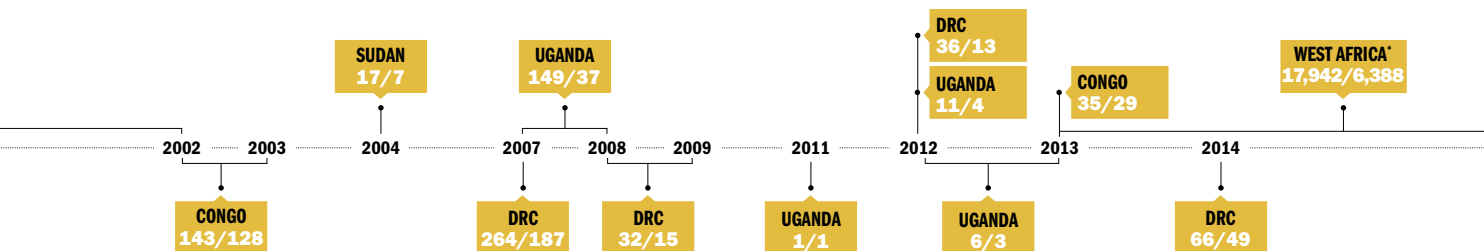
civilian populations that adhere to age-old traditions. And yet, this communication is crucial.

"I think one universal way that works is the notion of embedding scientific information in story or parable," Walters said. "It's really about stories. It's not about information per se. We, I think, as humans are hard-wired for stories. That's what we understand, that's what we tell each other, and this whole idea of scientific communication is really rather new, and it's an acquired thing — it's not built into the way we think."

He said booklets containing simple "picture stories" could be effective in illustrating symptoms and precautions for civilians.

An artist in Monrovia, Liberia, painted wall murals with vivid images of people and faces that illustrated all the symptoms of Ebola. Thousands of people walked and drove by the mural each day. "That artist has got exactly the right idea," Walters said.

*Countries affected in descending order of cases as of December 11, 2014: Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Nigeria, Mali, the United States, Senegal and Spain. Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



HOW TO PREVENT CONTRACTION, SPREAD OF EBOLA

ADF STAFF

Ebola is a deadly viral hemorrhagic fever, part of a group of viruses that attack several organ systems in the human body and often cause bleeding. There are five strains of the virus, and four of them are known to infect people. The West Africa outbreak is from the Ebola Zaire strain, the most common and deadliest to date.

HOW EBOLA SPREADS

The virus spreads through contact with bodily fluids of an infected person. Transmission is not thought to be possible until an infected person is symptomatic. But once that occurs, the blood, sweat, saliva, stool, vomit, urine, breast milk and semen of an infected person can spread the disease if the fluid enters an open wound or a part of the body covered by a mucus membrane, such as the eyes, nose and mouth.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, other methods of transmission include objects such as needles and syringes contaminated by the virus, and infected animals. The handling and ingestion of wild animals hunted for food, commonly called bush meat, can spread the disease if the animal is infected. Bats, monkeys, chimpanzees and pigs have been known to carry Ebola.

Mosquitoes and other insects do not transmit Ebola, and there is no evidence the disease is spread by air.

A person who recovers from Ebola may still be contagious through semen for up to three months. For that reason, people who recover from Ebola are advised to abstain from sex for three months or use condoms during that period.

HOW TO PREVENT EBOLA

The World Health Organization recommends these steps to avoid contracting Ebola:

- **DO NOT TOUCH** sick people who exhibit Ebola symptoms such as fever, diarrhea, vomiting, headaches and sometimes heavy bleeding.
- **DO NOT TOUCH** the dead bodies of suspected or confirmed Ebola patients.
- **WASH YOUR HANDS** with soap and water regularly.

Experts also say that people should avoid contact with bats and nonhuman primates or the blood, fluids and raw meat prepared from these animals.

If you go to an area where Ebola is prevalent, monitor your health for 21 days and seek medical care immediately if you develop Ebola symptoms.

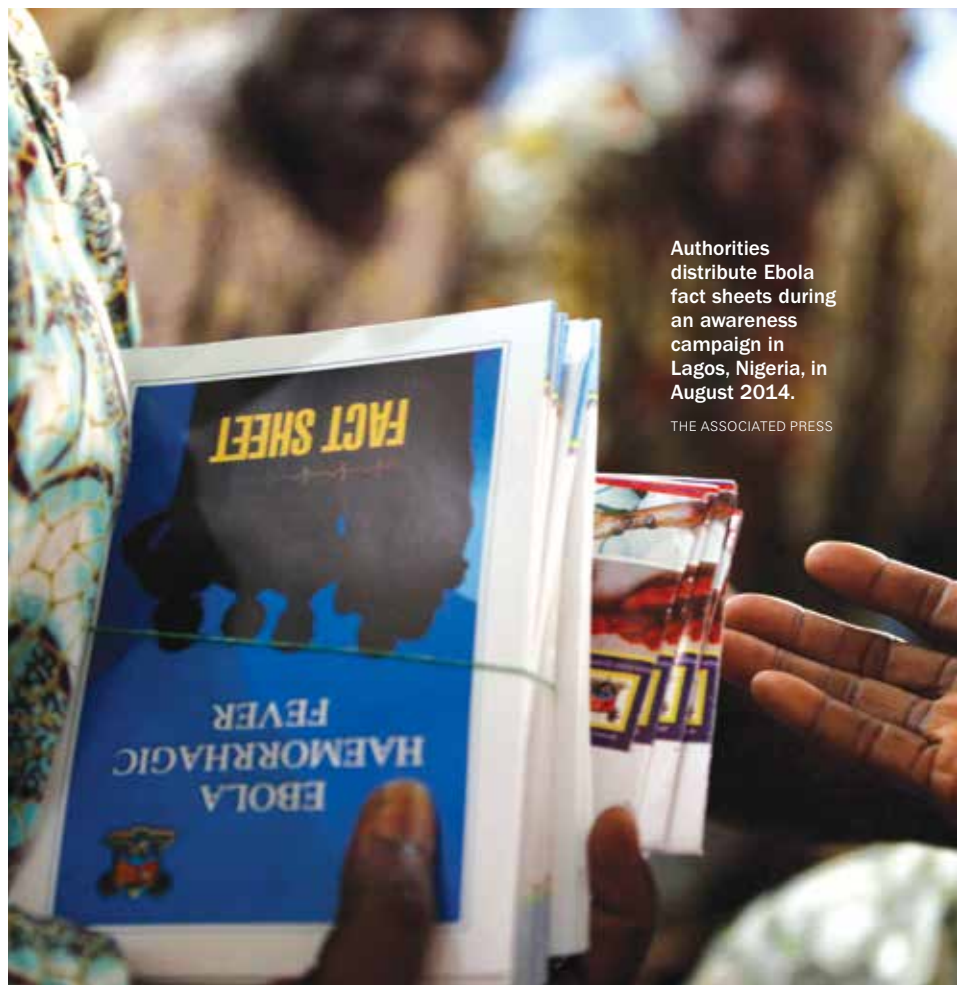


A mural in Monrovia, Liberia, explains the symptoms and causes of Ebola. Simple, picture-based messages can be an effective way to share scientific information. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

WEST AFRICAN MILITARIES RESPOND

Ebola is a frightening disease. Its lethality and the ignorance about it among many civilian populations can quickly spawn unrest and civil disorder. This happened during the West African outbreak. Some people believed government officials fabricated the outbreak as a ruse to get millions of dollars in Western aid money. Others became convinced that if they went to Ebola treatment facilities, they would become sick and even die. Some people, infected with Ebola, left hospitals and tried to return to their homes, taking the highly infectious disease back into population centers.

It quickly became clear that military involvement was essential. "What is critical in order to make this care successful is to have a strict monitoring, a strict supervision, a good chain of command," Sophie Delaunay, executive director of Doctors Without Borders, told NPR in mid-September 2014. "This is key. And this is why we do value the role of the military in this intervention, and we would actually wish that there



Authorities distribute Ebola fact sheets during an awareness campaign in Lagos, Nigeria, in August 2014.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

would be much greater mobilization of military assets and personnel, because they are much better equipped than any nongovernmental organizations to put in place those kind of very strict and solid supervision from A to Z."

By that time, West African militaries already were mobilizing efforts to combat and contain Ebola's spread. Liberian Soldiers were called upon to keep people from traveling to Monrovia from outlying areas in August 2014. The nation emerged as the epicenter of the outbreak with the most cases. With hospitals and medical personnel at a premium, Ebola patients sometimes died in the streets or lay slumped at the gates of treatment hospitals because no beds were available. In the capital, taxis emerged as a prime mode of disease transmission because infected patients used them to get to care centers.

SIERRA LEONE SAW

327

NEW CONFIRMED
CASES IN THE
WEEK ENDING
DECEMBER 14, 2014.
LIBERIA REPORTED

8

NEW CONFIRMED
CASES IN THAT
SAME PERIOD,
ACCORDING TO THE
WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION.

A simple lack of medical resources also conspired with other factors to sustain Ebola's spread.

"As soon as a new Ebola treatment facility is opened, it immediately fills to overflowing with patients, pointing to a large but previously invisible caseload," the World Health Organization told the BBC in September 2014. "When patients are turned away ... they have no choice but to return to their communities and homes, where they inevitably infect others."

In Sierra Leone, one of three West African nations battling the disease, the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) organized Operation Octopus. In early August 2014, 54 RSLAF medical workers were among 750 military personnel deployed to Kailahun and Kenema districts in support of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the Sierra

Ugandan Lab

A VALUABLE TOOL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DEADLY DISEASES

ADF STAFF

Ebola is no stranger to Uganda. Since 2000, two strains of the deadly disease — Sudan virus and Bundibugyo virus — have struck the country a total of five times, killing 269 people in all, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Other diseases also frequently infect Ugandans. They include yellow fever, HIV/AIDS, Rift Valley fever and Marburg, a viral hemorrhagic fever similar to Ebola. For years, Uganda has had an essential tool in studying and responding to such illnesses: the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) in Entebbe.

The Rockefeller Foundation established the UVRI in 1936 as the Yellow Fever Research Institute. In 1950, it became the East African Virus Research Institute. It was renamed the UVRI 27 years later. Among its many milestones since inception are:

- Isolation of chikungunya and West Nile viruses at the institute in 1937. Chikungunya causes fever, joint pain, and sometimes headache, muscle pain, joint swelling and a rash. West Nile, also spread by mosquitoes, sometimes causes fever and other symptoms.
- Discovery of Bwamba fever, transmitted to humans by mosquitoes, in the 1940s. This illness, often mistaken for malaria, causes fever, headache, backache and other symptoms.
- Isolation in 1942 of Semliki Forest virus, another mosquito-borne disease. Semliki Forest virus causes mild symptoms, including headache, fever, and muscle and joint pain.
- Isolation of O'nyong'nyong virus in 1959. The name means "weakening of the joints" and is similar to chikungunya.
- In 1997, the CDC set up a center at the UVRI.
- In 1999, the UVRI collaborated on the first HIV vaccine trial in Africa.
- The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative started collaborating with UVRI on HIV/AIDS vaccine research in 2000.

The UVRI also gives Uganda some distinct advantages when an Ebola outbreak occurs.

"Uganda has historically handled these cases very well," Trevor Shoemaker, an epidemiologist at CDC's Viral Special Pathogens Branch in Uganda, told IRIN. "If there is a suspected case of Ebola, local health officials follow a process for investigating and reporting a suspect sample through DHIS 2 [the District Health Information System]."

In Uganda, a Village Health Team member or district health worker notifies district officials of suspected Ebola cases. If the patient is found to meet the criteria of such a case, he is taken to a medical facility, blood is drawn and he is isolated until lab tests are complete.

The sample is registered and sent to the UVRI and CDC for testing. The time needed to take a sample, test it and report the results is 24 to 48 hours. In the past, and in other places without such facilities, such tasks could take weeks.

"With CDC's support, Uganda now has the ability to test samples within 24-48 hours of receiving them and this allows a response team to be deployed to the [affected] district to begin a rapid response quickly," Shoemaker said. "This time factor alone can greatly reduce the total number of cases because you can rapidly identify new cases and monitor contacts."

Asuman Lukwago, permanent secretary at Uganda's Ministry of Health, told IRIN the capacity brings peace of mind and saves lives. "Previously, we could take those specimens to Atlanta [in the United States] and this could take us about two to three weeks when we are fidgeting, and this could allow time for transmission of epidemic to take place. But now, we can quickly confirm and therefore alarm the public and everybody becomes cautious."

If Ebola strikes, Ugandan officials work with the World Health Organization, the CDC, Doctors Without Borders, the Uganda Red Cross and other nongovernmental organizations to provide lab support and a communications campaign, said Issa Makumbi of the Ministry of Health. A national task force coordinates health teams from the national to the village level, and politicians work to inform the public.

CDC's lab in Entebbe has helped Uganda identify eight hemorrhagic fever outbreaks in the past four years. Uganda is able to do the same types of diagnostic work being done in West Africa faster and at a much earlier stage. Also, because Ebola and similar diseases are not new to Uganda, civilians are more likely to seek medical care, allowing for quicker overall response, Shoemaker said.

"We, too, panicked during the first outbreak in 2000, which killed one of our doctors," Lukwago told IRIN. "Everybody looked at Ebola as a mysterious disease. But from then, we noted that we are always prone to getting Ebola. So every time we have a suspected case, we are well ready to handle the worst scenario. So it has become less of a crisis."

The DHIS 2 reports suspected cases, sends emails and SMS alerts, and uses radio and TV to get the word out about outbreaks.

"If we got an outbreak of Ebola in any part of Uganda, a majority of people who have telephones will be able to know in one hour or two hours through SMS alerts," Lukwago said. "We, too, communicate through radio and television, which [the] majority of people have. By the end of the day, almost every Ugandan is aware of Ebola outbreak."

Leone Police in the fight against Ebola, according to RSLAF Capt. Yayah Sidi Brima.

Brima reported that RSLAF Brig. Gen. Brima Sesay said the unarmed military operation would include securing disease epicenters, quarantine areas and government hospitals, and establish checkpoints and mobile patrols.

In October 2014, 65 RSLAF personnel in the Sierra Leonean cities of Freetown, Makeni and Bo were trained by Ireland-based nongovernmental organization GOAL so that they could train an additional 1,630 RSLAF Soldiers deployed nationwide to help the Ministry of Health and Sanitation fight Ebola.

Brima reported that the training would teach RSLAF personnel how to protect themselves and their communities from Ebola.

Sierra Leone also imposed a three-day lockdown September 19-21, 2014, in hopes of halting the spread of the disease. The lockdown was met with skepticism by medical professionals, who claim such tactics “end up driving people underground and jeopardizing the trust between people and health providers,” Doctors Without Borders told *The Washington Post*. “This leads to the concealment of potential cases and ends up spreading the disease further.”

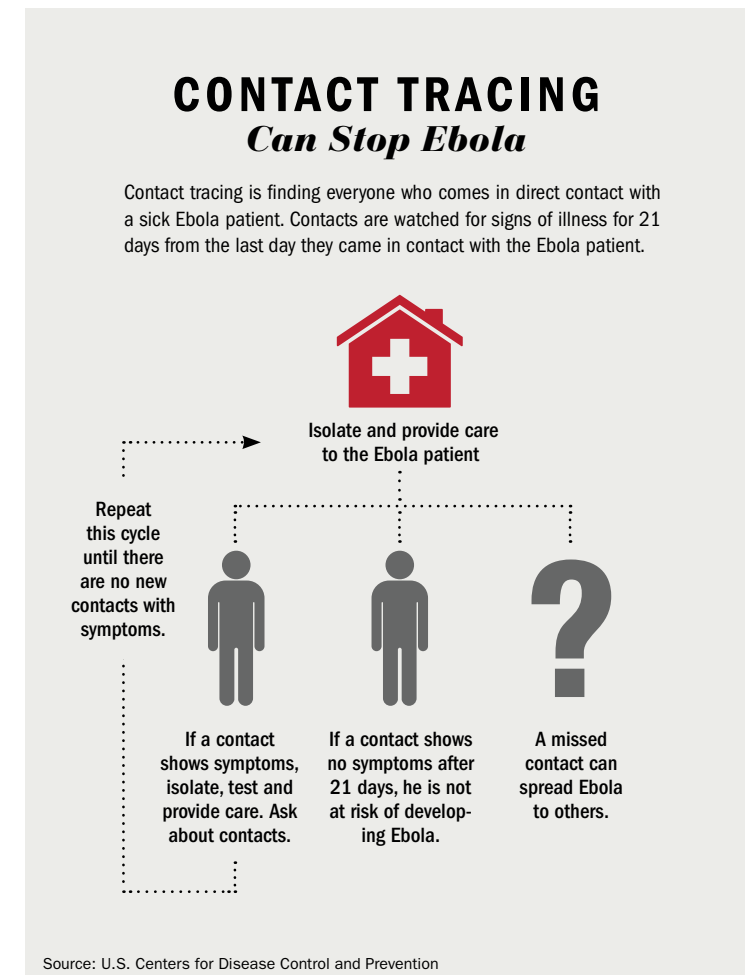
The United States deployed more than 3,000 military personnel to Monrovia to construct Ebola treatment units, known as ETUs. Each ETU will provide 50 to 100 beds throughout the city and to the north and south. Officials expected the ETUs to be complete by the end of December 2014.

THE AFRICAN UNION RESPONDS

The African Union’s Peace and Security Council in August 2014 authorized deployment of a joint military and civilian humanitarian mission in response to the Ebola outbreak.

The African Union Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA) deployed civilian and military volunteers from across the continent. Mission personnel include doctors, nurses, and other medical and paramedical workers. The \$25 million operation was expected to run for six months with a monthly volunteer rotation. The effort was meant to complement the work of the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other agencies.

The mission was the first of its kind by the AU. Initially, 30 volunteers joined Ugandan Maj. Gen. Julius Oketta, head of mission for ASEOWA, in Liberia. (See interview with Maj. Gen. Oketta on page 30). Oketta has extensive experience in emergency management in his home country, where he is director of the country’s National Emergency



Coordination and Operations Centre.

The first 30 volunteers underwent predeployment briefings at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, before their September 2014 departure for West Africa. Their ranks included epidemiologists, clinicians, public health specialists and communications workers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda.

According to the AU, ASEOWA offers “technical expertise, resources, political and financial support” to humanitarian assistance, and is able to coordinate support and “support public awareness and preventive measures across Africa and specifically in the affected region.”

A second batch of volunteers was scheduled to follow in Sierra Leone as the operation expands.

“You are unique in that you will be carrying the African banner in your mission,” Dr. Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, AU commissioner for social affairs, told volunteers before they left for Liberia. “This is the time for Africa to show solidarity with the affected countries.” □

Africa's answer to EBOLA

A UGANDAN GENERAL
LEADS THE AFRICAN
UNION MISSION TO
CONFRONT THE
DEADLY VIRUS



**MAJ. GEN.
JULIUS OKETTA**

of Uganda, head
of mission for the
African Union Support
to Ebola Outbreak
in West Africa.

ADF STAFF

Maj. Gen. Julius Oketta of Uganda spoke with ADF on October 1, 2014, about the African Union Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA), for which he serves as head of mission. He arrived in Monrovia, Liberia, on September 6 in advance of further deployments. The following interview has been edited to fit this format.

ADF: Please tell us a bit about your background in the military and the Ugandan Parliament.

OKETTA: I went through the rank and file and then command from platoon to division commander. I was the chief of logistics and engineering for the Army. And then head of the procurement and disposal unit of the Ministry of Defence. I have become a member of Parliament, one of the 10 members of Parliament representing the Army.

ADF: Have you participated in any other United Nations or African Union missions other than the current mission to fight Ebola?

OKETTA: I am currently a member of the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund in New York. I'm also a participant of the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) Pandemic Response Program, which has been participating in training for a

long time. I am the national director of the National Emergency Coordination Center in Uganda, and I have been coordinating several Ebola responses in the country and other disasters like landslides, floods and many others with all the U.N. agencies and AFRICOM.

ADF: What is the current status of ASEOWA? How many people have been deployed, and when is deployment expected to be completed?

OKETTA: The AU mission will deploy 200 medical personnel. This will include 54 doctors and nurses. This is broken down into two phases. Phase one is 100, and phase two is also 100, which will come to rotate, because when they work, the doctors work for six weeks. Then the nurses work for nine weeks, then we rotate them, from the 100 that are in reserves. Our initial operation is for six months. If we are not done, the AU will renew the period of staying here. [Since this



interview, the AU announced plans to send more than 1,000 health workers by the end of 2014.]

ADF: *What are some of the specific things ASEOWA will do to coordinate Liberian, Sierra Leonean and Guinean militaries and police forces?*

OKETTA: One is medical response. Our personnel will be working in the ETUs [Ebola Treatment Units], for example the ones being constructed by the U.S. government in Liberia. Some of our team will be put in charge of those ETUs. And some will be working with the community care units. So in this mandate of medical support, we will work alongside the Ministry

of Health of Liberia and be filling in the gaps. The second area of my work is humanitarian. Our teams are working to help identify orphans in families that have been affected by Ebola. Area number three is logistics. In logistics, we are making sure that all our health personnel are properly protected. We'll make sure that we coordinate with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention], the World Health Organization and other partners to make sure that the logistics required for the personnel security — before, during and after the treatment of the Ebola cases — are available to make them feel more confident and concentrate on their work. Number

Police quarantined this home in Port Loko, Sierra Leone, in October 2014 in hopes of preventing the spread of Ebola.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

four is about information management. Ebola can only be contained if the information, the right information, goes to the core community members.

ADF: *What kinds of precautions are you taking to make sure the people under your command are protected from being infected with Ebola when they're in these areas?*

OKETTA: We assume we know very little, or nothing at all, about the behavior of Ebola. And therefore, all of our team has to undergo transition training. In the initial phase they have to go through the suits, then the second phase they have to go through the dummy exercise, then the third phase is to go into the real ETU exercises.

ADF: *Have you given the people under your command, be they military or civilian, any words of encouragement or inspiration about this mission?*

OKETTA: As it was stated by U.S. President Barack Obama, the one thing is not to exaggerate issues, but to get the facts about Ebola. So we need them to know the facts about Ebola, about the do's and the don'ts, the directions, knowing the time, keeping the cushion by keeping distances, and the rest of it. So all these processes and experiences that have led other people to make mistakes and get infected, and the experience of groups of people who did the right thing and they never got infected, are already related to the workers. They all understood this and realized that actually facing the truth and doing the drills is the only way out.

ADF: *How has your experience in national emergency management prepared you to wage the fight against Ebola?*

OKETTA: The late Dr. Matthew Lukwiya in northern Uganda was a friend of mine, and when Ebola started he was the first person to show us how to deal with the threat. Unfortunately, he didn't know he was infected, so he died. And since then I took a special interest and have been very close with the local, national and international medical people in knowing how to deal with Ebola. So in all the cases of Ebola in Uganda, I participated, because I saw that one day, one morning, I could wake up and Ebola is in my door. So how do I help? You cannot do it unless you

know more about it. So that is how I took interest in these contagious diseases impacting the community.

ADF: *So what was your involvement in responding to some of the Ebola outbreaks in Uganda that started back in 2000? What lessons did you learn from them?*

OKETTA: In northern Uganda, I participated physically with the Soldiers in supporting the civil authorities because they were totally scared, and then in all other areas in the country I coordinated the operations in supporting the minister of health and making sure that these teams are supported, i.e., coordinating with the military that they should provide force helicopters, their personnel and overseeing that they are doing the right thing. And it ended up really well; we never lost any personnel of the army, and the civilians were content. I think as leaders, or as the military for that matter, you are always the first and the last in the battlefield against anything in the community.

ADF: *What is the most important advice you could give national military and police forces that are faced with a threat such as Ebola or a similar pandemic?*

OKETTA: First of all, leadership starts with the overall preparedness of the country — preparedness, preparedness, preparedness. And with preparedness, they should build medical capabilities. I mean the medical capabilities in the military should be consistent with the country's national plan, for instance a plan of contagious diseases. And in preparation they should build an early warning system. If you have a good early warning system, it will give you a timely response.

ADF: *Given your experience, what is your impression of how Liberian, Guinean and Sierra Leonean forces have done in the face of the Ebola threat thus far? What is your assessment of the military and security response up until your arrival?*

OKETTA: I would say at the initial stage, the Ebola threat did not come out very clearly in the three countries. The initial act of response was not very effective. Secondly, when it was detected, there was not a timely response; there was delay in reaction. Thirdly, when this question came up outright, the

“Once the communities in this area accept our word that it is true — that death is being caused by this and they stop certain traditional practices — that will be the first battle won.”

military of this country immediately jumped in to supplement the gaps while the presidents of the various countries gave their mobilization messages of incoming support from other friends.

ADF: In mid-September, eight Ebola relief workers were killed and dumped in a latrine in Guinea. This shows that there's still quite a bit of fear and mistrust in the midst of the Ebola threat. Do you see that mistrust and fear subsiding or is it growing worse?

OKETTA: It is subsiding now because we came and we are accepted at every level. Before now, on-site our response has been slow. Slow in giving information about Ebola, slow in trying to find out where the Ebola cases are, slow in dealing with the cases, or the suspected cases. And in every community once that thing happens, there are people who unconsciously say bad messages without knowing they are saying bad things. So we came to support the government in the sectors, and we are very grateful for the international community to insist on the right messages. And I'm telling you right now there's a bit of change because the civil society, the youth, the women — many of them have now come on the government side to accept the messages about what Ebola is. So the issue of negative response to medical health workers and other people is now reducing. All the people who are staying in denial have now started coming out. But there's still a lot to do in the remote areas, where people are still believing in their tradition of cleaning dead bodies, and

dealing with the monkeys, the bats, those elements that are suspected to be the cause of this thing. So we are now advancing in with the different task forces, which have been established to go in those communities, meet those traditional leaders like the clan leaders, the witch doctors, to convince them that this is not the truth; so that we win their hearts and minds to accept the messages. And when we win their hearts and minds to accept the messages, they will turn to their people and say, 'Ladies and gentlemen, the truth is this, stop this.' And at that point, we shall have succeeded in ending this threat of Ebola.

ADF: At this point, how confident are you that ASEOWA and other forces, such as the United States and the West African countries, can contain and eventually eliminate the Ebola threat?

OKETTA: I am very confident that the multicultural forces of the world that are gathered in this region are going to contain Ebola shortly with the deployment of two strategies: One is for the people to accept the message that Ebola is there, and the way it affects people is true and they should comply with the health practices. Once the communities in this area accept our word that it is true — that death is being caused by this and they stop certain traditional practices — that will be the first battle won. Battle number two is to stop denial — they start coming out, on any simplest signs, to report themselves to the doctors to be checked. We think within a short time these two strategies can make the battle won, sustained and managed forever. □



HEALING WORDS

MEDIATION
STRATEGIES
CAN HELP
END CONFLICT
AND LAY A
FOUNDATION
FOR LASTING
PEACE

ADF STAFF

Nations trying to prevent or defuse conflict are experimenting with all types of peacekeeping strategies. They build coalitions of nations to intervene, enact sanctions, use high-tech devices such as drones for surveillance and train elite rapid-reaction units. But too often one aspect of conflict resolution is ignored or used only as a last resort: mediation.

History shows that mediation — resolving disputes through dialogue — is a cost-effective and bloodless way to bring about a stable peace. But it is not as simple as gathering warring parties around a negotiating table and letting them talk things out. Mediation, like kinetic operations, has its own tactics, techniques and procedures that have proved, over the years, to increase the likelihood of success.

The Helsinki, Finland-based Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) listed the four phases of mediation and some lessons learned in a 2013 report, and CMI experts relayed some of those lessons in interviews with *ADF*.

Mwai Kibaki, then president of Kenya, center, shakes hands with opposition leader Raila Odinga, right, as former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan looks on. In 2008, Annan led the mediation efforts to end postelection violence in Kenya and form a coalition government.

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THE PRE-TALKS PHASE

The most important assessment to make before beginning mediation is whether the conflict is “ripe” for resolution. Mediators must ask: Are warring parties ready to set aside arms and pursue peace in good faith? Or are they still fixated on the deadly and wasteful idea of winning the war?

Former U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Alvaro de Soto said ripeness occurs when combatants determine that “the cost of coming to an agreement has become less than the cost of pursuing the conflict.”

Waiting for the right time, though, can be gut-wrenching as mediators watch a war drag on pointlessly. Col. Mbaye Faye, a retired Senegalese Army officer and a former member of the U.N. Department of Political Affairs’ Standby Team of Mediation Experts, cautioned that a premature mediation can actually make things worse and even reignite conflict. “If they are not convinced of the need to leave something in order to gain, the give-and-take process is not in their minds,” he told *ADF*. “It will be useless to get into such a process.”

Mediation was premature during the civil war in Sierra Leone. In 1996, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Sierra Leone People’s Party signed the Abidjan Peace Accord. But fighting quickly resumed. Observers now believe the conflict was not ready for mediation because the RUF still was convinced it could win militarily.

Even if warring parties are ready to talk, mediators must do advance work to understand their background and motivation. Faye said the goal is to find the root cause of the conflict. He recommends that mediators do research that digs deeper than the publicly available material because published accounts can be inaccurate or slanted. Mediation teams should meet informally with faction leaders for tea, coffee or dinner, he said.

Faye said civilians and civil society groups also should have their say. It can be beneficial to set up what some West African countries call a “palaver hut,” so people from the community can come by to discuss issues informally without fear of retribution.

CMI separates the key elements of pre-talks into three P’s:

- **PROBLEM:** A mediator should understand the full context of the dispute, including the issues being contested; the history; and its national, religious or ethnic implications.
- **PEOPLE:** Who are the warring parties? How powerful are they? Who do they represent? What are their motivations?
- **PROCESS:** What are the ground rules for talks? Has the mediator’s role been explained and accepted by all parties?

THE TALKS PHASE

Once started, peace talks do not follow a consistent pattern, nor do they have a reliable timeline. Some, like the talks to end the civil war in Burundi, can last more than a decade. Others, like the 2005 talks with Aceh rebels in Indonesia, proceed from negotiation to

implementation in just months. The forum is another variable. Sometimes talks are held around a table, and sometimes they take the form of “proximity talks,” in which a trusted third party shuttles back and forth between warring sides.

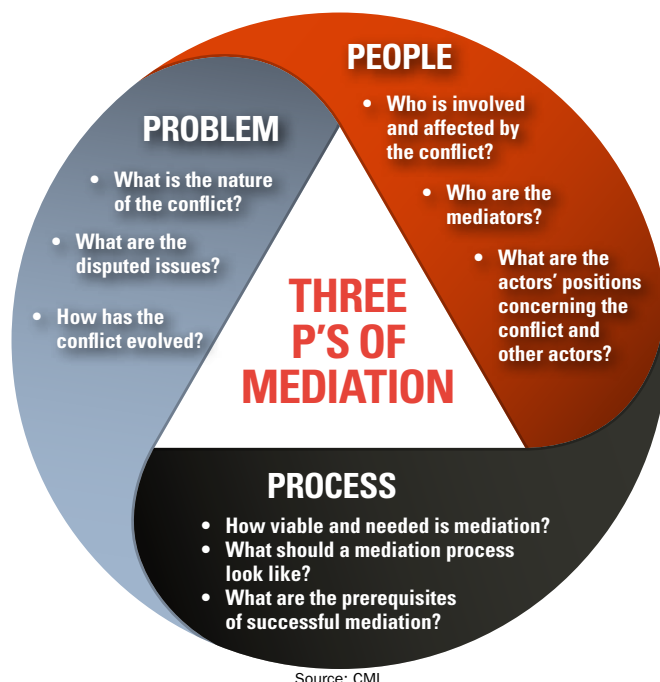
Experts tend to agree that the best venue for talks is outside the conflict zone and often outside the country itself. This is key for the security of those involved, but it also lets the parties interact in an open, relaxed environment.

The late Margaret Vogt, a Nigerian native and former U.N. representative in the Central African Republic, believed it was important to bring parties back to the conflict zone periodically for a “reality check.” “They need to first of all bring the results of whatever they are agreeing [to] back to the people,” she told CMI. “Secondly, they need to assure that whatever they are discussing reflects the priorities and needs of the people on the ground.”

DEADLINES: Deadlines and progress markers are vital. Otherwise, mediation might drag out over years as combatants squabble over minute details. However, CMI experts caution against setting rigid or aggressive deadlines, which can result in hasty agreements that are more likely to be broken.

Faye calls rigid deadlines “deathlines” because they can kill the process. “We should have deadlines for the purpose of planning and organizing, but still there must be flexibility,” Faye told *ADF*. “Because these are living processes with living people, and you have to adjust to the reality. Reality is the overriding principle.”

In some cases a firm deadline acknowledged by both sides spurs the parties to action. The Good Friday Agreement of 1998 that led to peace in Northern Ireland was one of those instances. Talks went hours past the deadline, but both sides finally signed the historic pact.



Source: CMI

ALL PARTIES PRESENT: People participating in mediation aren't a group one might invite to a social gathering. Rebel or militia leaders may be morally abhorrent, but they still must have a seat at the table.

"If you want peace, you have to talk to the combatants," Bishop George Biguzzi, a mediator in Sierra Leone, told CMI. "Peace with your friends, you have already."

Terrorist groups or ideological extremist groups present a more nettlesome problem. Some experts think they never should be included. Others contend inclusion is the only way to show them that dialogue works better than attacks. It is also vital that civil society groups have a voice so civilians do not view mediation as a reward given only to armed combatants.

Faye cautions against widening talks too extensively. He recalled participating in a recent mediation that included more than 100 representatives speaking for factions of the dominant political party, different ethnic groups, minor political parties and civil society groups.

"Too much inclusivity can hamper a process," he said. "The question becomes, 'What do you want to do? When? And with who?' If you're aiming to first and foremost resolve the problem of war, you must first deal with the warring factions."

ONE MEDIATOR: History shows that multiple mediators mean parties will look for the best deal and seek to play one against the other. An example was the peace talks in Darfur in the late 2000s. The African Union and the U.N. each had its own mediators, which "caused confusion as to who was the legitimate mediator and actually leading the process," CMI wrote. "Both organizations held separate meetings, wrote their own reports, and had different support teams, which only intensified the confusion on the ground."

A better example was set after the Kenyan election violence in 2008. There, former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan established himself as the sole mediator and firmly guided both parties in the disputed presidential election toward a coalition government.

A GOOD-FAITH MEDIATOR: An effective mediator must command instant respect but not be seen as having a stake in the success of any of the parties. To that end, there are advantages and disadvantages to having a mediator with direct ties to the conflict area. The advantages are that he knows the culture, the players and has an inherent interest in a positive resolution. The disadvantage is that local ties can override the mediator's impartiality in fact or in perception.

For that reason, many successful mediation efforts in Africa have been led by men with continentwide respect but no local ties to a conflict. Prominent mediators of recent decades include former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, former South African President Nelson Mandela and Annan.

THE CASE STUDY OF BURUNDI

ADF STAFF

Although the genocide in Rwanda is far more well-known, many of the same volatile elements existed in neighboring Burundi in the early 1990s. In October 1993, the country's first democratically elected president, who was also the country's first ethnically Hutu president, was assassinated, and the nation appeared ready to descend into chaos.

"The risk of genocide in Burundi was almost as severe as it was in Rwanda, where it materialized. Incitement to genocide was going on every day," wrote Ambassador Adonia Ayebare, a Ugandan mediator who worked on peace initiatives in Burundi. "What made the difference in successfully preventing genocide in Burundi was the substantial and sustained engagement of the international community, which sent the right message to the right people at the right time."

It is impossible to call the mediation in Burundi a complete success. Violence persisted off and on for more than 15 years, and a civil war led to the deaths of 300,000 people in the tiny nation. However, experts believe that the sustained focus of African leaders and the wider international community avoided the worst outcome.

The mediation initially was led by the venerable former president of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere. He succeeded in bringing 19 delegates representing various parties to Arusha, Tanzania, in 1998. The talks were productive, but the fact that certain armed groups were excluded meant fighting continued.

In 2000, after Nyerere's death, former South African President Nelson Mandela took over the mediation. He brokered the

Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement signed in August 2000. The agreement laid out a power-sharing arrangement among warring factions with guaranteed representation of the two largest ethnic groups in the security forces and the government.

In 2002, Jacob Zuma, then the deputy president of South Africa, took over the role as facilitator. One of the key differences in Zuma's approach, wrote Ayebare, was to closely examine the diverse armed groups inside and outside Burundi that still were fighting. He launched a technical committee of intelligence officials from neighboring countries to report to him about the motivations of the armed groups. He also brought the largest armed group, the Council for the Defense of Democracy, to the talks. In December 2002, he successfully got all parties to sign a comprehensive cease-fire.

This cease-fire created the space for the U.N. to deploy a mission to Burundi, replacing the AU's African Mission in Burundi. The peacekeepers helped create an environment in which national elections could be held. The last remaining armed group, Palipehutu-FNL, came to the table for peace negotiations in 2006.

FOUR LESSONS FROM BURUNDI:

Retired Senegalese Army Col. Mbaye Faye spent 10 years working for the U.N. in Burundi, holding the position of director of security sector reform and small arms/civilian disarmament. He also oversaw the signing of several cease-fires. In a conversation with *ADF*, Faye outlined lessons from the Burundi mediation:

Negotiate with those who are willing: Fighting did not end until the final group, the Palipehutu-FNL, came to the peace process in 2006. However, Faye said, that does not mean mediation should wait until all armed groups are ready to negotiate.

"All those who were ready for peace were taken on board," Faye said. "Meanwhile, we continued to engage those who were not on board. If you wanted to wait until everybody was ready to come on board, it would cost even more lives and even more time."

Representation: In a novel move, the Arusha Accords dictated that, in the new Burundi government, 60 percent of positions would go to Hutus and 40 percent to Tutsis. This quota system showed both sides that working together would be essential in the future, and there would not be a "winner-take-all" government.



Then-Burundian President Domitien Ndayizeze, right, and then-rebel leader Pierre Nkurunziza shake hands during a historic peace accord signed in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in 2003. Nkurunziza later was elected president of Burundi.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

"It gave hope to the minorities," Faye said. "It reassured them that they are not losing power forever, and they are not at risk of what has happened in terms of a massacre that occurred in neighboring countries."

Verification of the process: The process in Burundi included a National Peacebuilding Strategy, which had a section dedicated to poverty reduction. Progress was assessed every four months, and a report was sent to the U.N. headquarters and monitored by 33 countries. Faye said these progress reports empowered civil society members to be watchdogs of the peace process.

Integrating combatants: The Arusha Accords called for even ethnic representation in the police and armed forces. They also called for the integration of rebel forces into the national military. Faye said a lesson he learned was the importance of "rank harmonization." This meant that a commanding officer in the rebel movement should be integrated at the same level in the new national army, once he passes competency tests.

"We showed that the incoming military from the bush ... could meet a number of requirements including international standards," Faye said.

This strategy has proved effective, and integrated Burundian units including former rebel leaders have served to wide acclaim as peacekeepers in the African Union Mission in Somalia.

Itonde Kakoma, the head of CMI's Sub-Saharan Africa program, said mediators can take an active or passive approach, depending on the situation. He pointed to the "facilitation" effort in Arusha, Tanzania, in October 2014 with the leaders of South Sudan's ruling party. There, the chief facilitator, Tanzania's former Minister of Defense Abdulrahman Kinana, told all parties that there was no "magic bullet" to the problems and he was primarily there to "listen with humility" and not to impose solutions.

"He held long, patient listening sessions with all of the delegations independently before saying a word — before interpreting his understanding of the crisis or what needed to be done," Kakoma told *ADF*. Later, he "assembled them together as a full plenary and said, 'This is what I heard you say. Is it accurate? Have I heard you correctly? Correct me where I'm wrong.'"

The result of the Arusha talks was a document in which party leaders frankly admitted responsibility for the troubles dividing South Sudan.

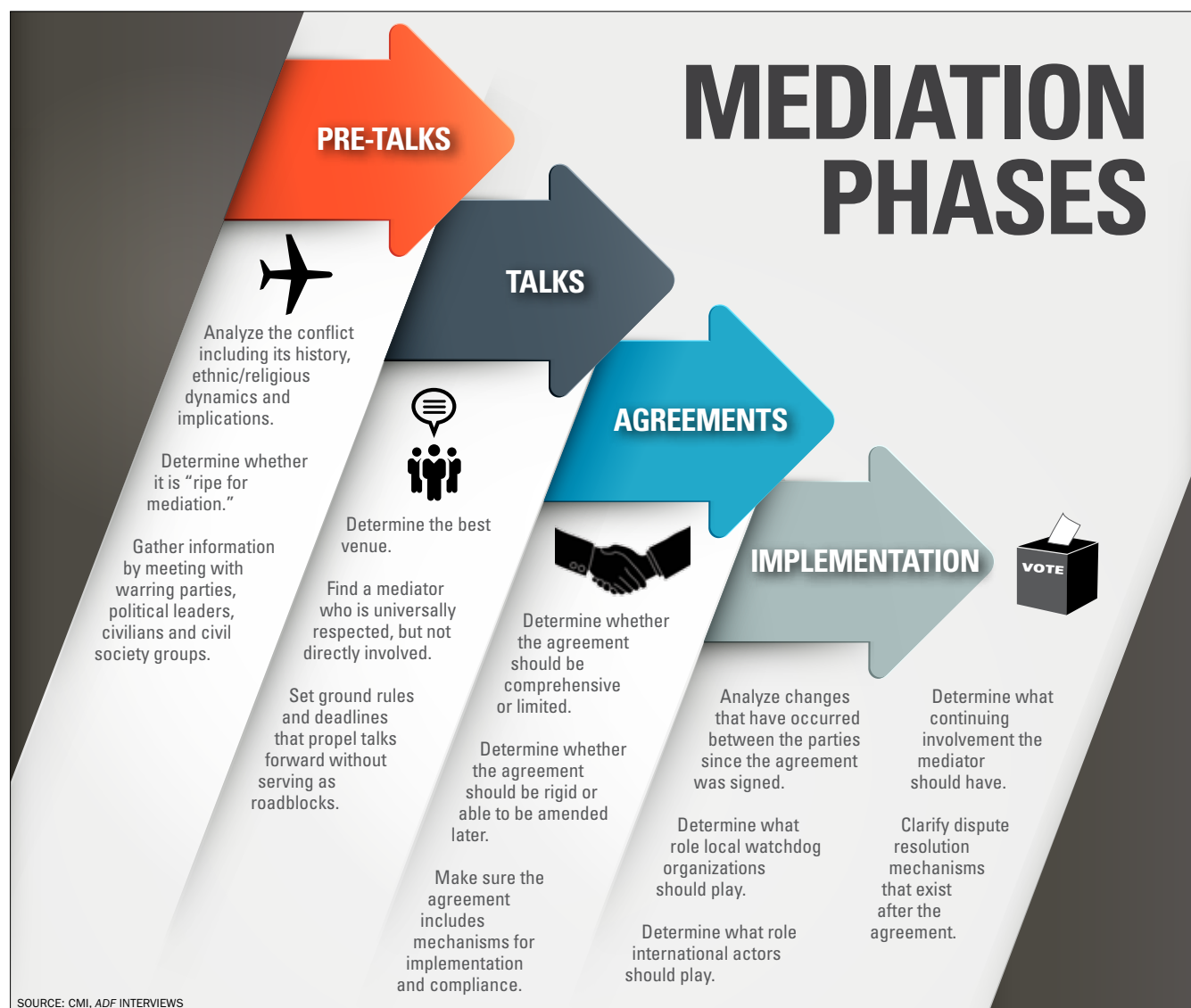
Depending on the crisis, a more activist stance may

be required. Nobel Peace Prize laureate, founder of CMI, and former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari does not care for the term "neutral" to describe a mediator. Instead, he prefers "honest broker." "If you say you are neutral, you are saying that you will come to the negotiations to listen to the parties and their views. That kind of a process can take many years, if not decades," he told CMI. "It is important that the negotiating parties know who I am, what I stand for, and where I draw red lines. This way I can honestly and openly work with each party toward finding a solution."

AGREEMENT PHASE

Although a peace agreement is the goal of any mediation, it must have the right scope, inclusivity and flexibility. It also is important that the agreement has enforcement mechanisms to ensure that it is implemented and followed universally.

Most think simplicity is an asset since it is easier to agree on a shorter list of topics. "Once you get those key





Representatives of Mali's government meet with delegations of Tuareg leaders in the presence of United Nations, African Union and European Union representatives in 2013 at the presidential palace in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

issues fixed, then the other issues do not necessarily have to be addressed in the agreement itself," Solomon Berewa, former vice president of Sierra Leone, told CMI. He participated in peace talks to end his country's civil war. "If the parties trust each other, they can solve disputes after signing the agreement."

If an agreement is too rigid and does not allow for future amendments, it risks falling apart. However, the core elements of the agreement, what CMI calls the "soul," should not change. When multiple issues are fueling a conflict, such as the distribution of resources, ethnic or religious representation in the government/military, or the demarcation of a border, the issues can't be avoided in the agreement. Less essential issues, such as the dates of elections, can be postponed without risking the entire agreement collapsing.

It is typically best to start with simple topics and progress to more difficult ones. That way, like a ball rolling downhill, the process gains momentum, and confidence is built between the parties.

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

The mediator and international community play an important role in the months and years after an agreement is signed. Unlike the talks phase, in which it is good to have one person serve as mediator, the guarantors of an agreement can be a large and diverse group. The

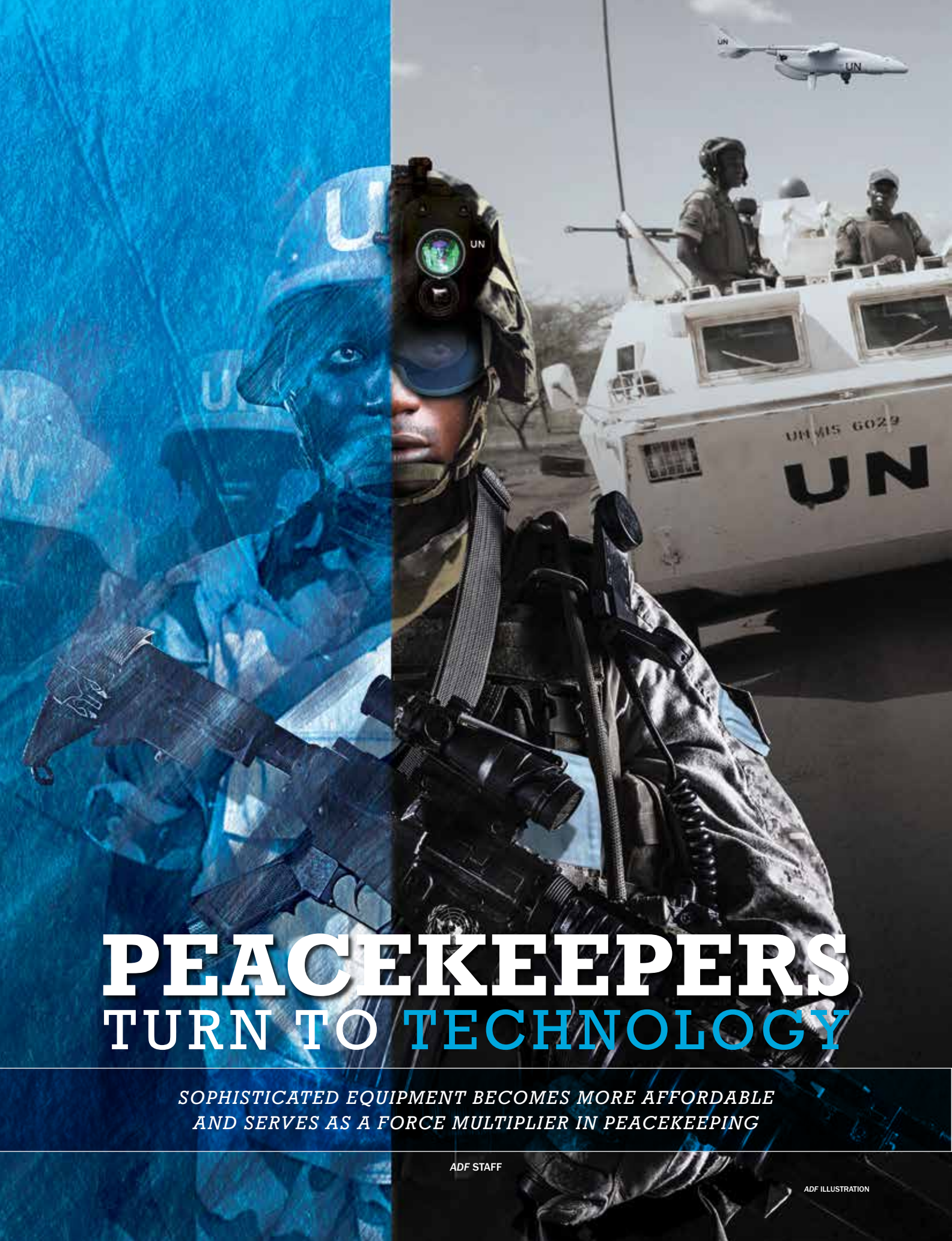
Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed between Sudan and South Sudan in 2005 included an Assessment and Evaluation Commission, which consisted of parties such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the U.N., the AU, the European Union, the Arab League, and various nations including Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The diversity of observers and guarantors helped show that the world was watching and made sure that certain agreed-upon terms, including the vote for South Sudanese independence, were honored.

CMI found that it also is important to empower local actors to serve as watchdogs to make sure the agreement is being honored.

Faye said that, in his experience, the most important elements of implementation are monitoring and verification. Parties need to know that the progress toward agreed-upon objectives is being tracked, not only in terms of cease-fires and a lack of fighting, but also politically in matters such as building a coalition government and preparing for an election.

"The fact that you've signed an agreement doesn't mean that all of a sudden you've become good friends or you trust each other," Faye said. "We say the first victim of conflict is trust. Trust in yourself, trust in the others, trust in any external organization. Recovery of trust is a process, and it requires monitoring and verification." □



PEACEKEEPERS TURN TO TECHNOLOGY

*SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT BECOMES MORE AFFORDABLE
AND SERVES AS A FORCE MULTIPLIER IN PEACEKEEPING*

ADF STAFF

ADF ILLUSTRATION

With unmanned aircraft changing the dynamics of warfare, it should come as no surprise that the technology is changing peacekeeping as well.

Since the end of 2013, the United Nations has used unmanned aerial vehicles, also known as UAVs and drones, to fly over the volatile eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The 5-meter-long drones monitor remote regions that U.N. peacekeeping troops can't reach. The drones, equipped with cameras, heat-signature equipment and night-vision technology, can conduct surveillance in the dark and detect movement below a thick tree canopy — a new frontier in intelligence-gathering.

The drones patrol the eastern border at a low altitude, monitoring rebels and militia, and also track illegal mining in the region.

The DRC mission known by the acronym MONUSCO is the first time the U.N. has used drones for peacekeeping. Although the sophisticated planes aren't cheap, they are becoming more affordable. The initial cost of the two-drone mission was estimated at \$15 million per year, or about 1 percent of the mission's annual budget. The mission has since added three more drones, although one of them crashed in October 2014.

"They provide a very good bang for the buck," a U.N. official told FoxNews.com. "When you are thinly spread in the region, these UAVs provide an extra set of eyes for our peacekeepers in the DRC."

Drone use in the military is here to stay. As of early 2012, at least 10 African countries had established some type of drone program.

MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN THE FIELD

The U.N.'s use of drones for peacekeeping represents a change in philosophy where, increasingly, technology is being taken out of the office and into the field. Critics have charged in recent years that although the U.N. uses technology at its headquarters, it has been slow to adopt it for field missions.

A 2000 U.N. report called for more intensive use of global positioning equipment and other geographic information systems in peacekeeping. A similar report in 2009 called for "better use of technology to support lighter, more agile deployment." Despite the need for more technology in peacekeeping, the Center on International Cooperation said that "many

missions still lack technology that may be necessary to implement their mandates."

Walter Dorn, who teaches at the Canadian Forces College and the Royal Military College of Canada, is one of five people appointed to a United Nations panel examining the use of technology in peacekeeping. He has written a book on the subject, *Keeping Watch: Monitoring, Technology and Innovation in UN Peace Operations*, published in 2011.

Dorn thinks the U.N. has some catching up to do. "Peacekeeping is no longer about the blue berets sitting between two sides, but rather a much more complex, multidimensional challenge that involves the U.N. in counterinsurgency, policing, intelligence gathering and nation building, for which new military technology is essential," Dorn wrote.

Dorn told *ADF* that although expensive, high-tech equipment plays a critical role in peacekeeping, cheaper, off-the-shelf technologies such as smartphones offer the most value in missions.

"Inexpensive products such as high-zoom digital cameras, Web cameras and camcorders have become common household items," Dorn wrote in his book. "Closed-circuit television and digital video networks are making shops and streets safer in cities around the world. But the concept of video monitoring of strategic locations in war-torn cities is a novelty in peacekeeping. Motion detectors are in widespread use in home alarm systems and in driveways, for instance in night illumination systems to alert householders to visitors and potential intruders, but they are not yet the tools of peacekeepers in the world's hottest conflict zones."

MINING INFORMATION

Technology is more than just gadgets — it's also the sophisticated use of data. In a 2013 report on peacekeeping technology, researchers Anne Kahl and Helena Puig Larrauri said, "Key features of technology, both new and older, promise to make efforts in peacekeeping more effective." In particular, they wrote, data processing could be a key component of any peacekeeping program.

Data processing involves collecting, organizing and analyzing information, which can include anything from photographs taken by drones to building databases using crowdsourcing information from emails and text messages.

"The most evident application of these tools



A Ugandan officer serving with the African Union Mission in Somalia uses a laptop computer to film preparations for an advance on the central Somali town of Buur Hakaba in 2013.

AU/U.N. INFORMATION SUPPORT TEAM

is to help collect better data for conflict early warning systems,” the report said. The researchers specifically cited Voix des Kivus, a crowdsourcing program used in the DRC since 2009. Peter van der Windt, a New York-based researcher and teacher, was involved in the program from the start.

“Atrocities in hard-to-reach areas — for example many areas in Eastern Congo — often go unnoticed because of the lack of accessibility, both due to poor infrastructure and to the simple fact that fighting makes it too dangerous to get close,” van der Windt wrote for Ushahidi.com. “The inability of international organizations and humanitarian NGOs to collect information under these conditions hampers the provision of assistance in a timely and effective manner.

“It works like this,” van der Windt said. “In each village participating in Voix des Kivus, there are three cell phone holders: one representing the traditional leadership, one representing women’s groups, and one elected by the community. Holders are trained extensively on how to send messages to the system. They are provided with a phone, monthly credit, and a code sheet that lists possible events that can take

place in the village. Sending messages to the system is free but it is also voluntary — although users do not have to pay for each message, they do not get any financial rewards for sending content to the system.

“For participating communities Voix des Kivus provides a system for creating histories, archiving testimonies, and communicating with the rest of the world about events that affect their daily lives. For researchers and practitioners working in the region, the information gathered forms an important resource to learn more about the situation on the ground in hard-to-access areas.”

NIGHT VISION CHANGES EVERYTHING

The importance of the revolution in night surveillance cannot be overstated. As Dorn has noted, with the exception of night guards, traditional peacekeeping has been a “daytime job.” And because little can be seen in the dark with the naked eye, the night gives violent parties about 10 hours of free rein.

Night-vision equipment, along with other surveillance technology, is changing the rules of night warfare. Night-vision technology is so effective,

MODERN PEACEKEEPING TECHNOLOGY

ADF STAFF

DRONE AIRCRAFT, or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), have largely been used as weapons in Africa and are just now coming into their own as surveillance tools. UAVs can be as small as a bird or as large as a conventional airplane. Much less vulnerable than balloons, a UAV in the hands of an experienced ground pilot can be a surveillance tool without peer. Depending on the propulsion system, some UAVs are nearly silent.



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SMARTPHONES are the most versatile modern technology and can be used in dozens of applications on field missions. A smartphone is a phone, a camera, a video camera, an audio recorder, a walkie-talkie, a GPS, a language translator, an Internet device, a calculator and a flashlight. New applications are constantly under development. Its usefulness as a military device is unrivaled.

DIGITAL STILL AND VIDEO CAMERAS can be used by peacekeepers to make images or clips for reports and databases. Rugged video cameras can cost as little as \$130.

REMOTE VIDEO CAMERAS can monitor hot spots even when peacekeepers are not present. They can monitor conflicts to protect civilians. Cameras can be installed to help prevent trespassing and the illegal trafficking of arms, natural resources and people. Remote cameras can transmit video in real time or images can be downloaded by passing patrols.

HELMET CAMERAS have become standard equipment for many militaries. The view seen by a Soldier can be recorded and transmitted in real time to other Soldiers and commanding officers.

NIGHT-VISION GOGGLES are so useful that some Soldiers insist on them for all night patrols. The view seen by a Soldier wearing such goggles can be recorded on a pocket device or transmitted in real time. Night goggles are used where night violence is a concern. Night devices can include cameras with low-light image intensifiers and cameras for infrared detection.

MOTION-DETECTOR TRIGGERS for cameras can alert Soldiers about invaders and troop movements. They also can be used

with lights at night to show trespassers that an area is being monitored. Such devices often are powered by solar batteries.

COMPUTER SOFTWARE aggregates emails, texts and photographs to show trends, troop movements and problem areas. Such software has revolutionized crowdsourcing in Africa.

REMOTE MICROPHONES, triggered by unusual sounds, can be used with cameras as monitoring devices, or as standalone equipment.

GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEMS (GPS) have almost limitless military applications, from precisely pinpointing the position of aggressors, to accurately mapping directions for troops. GPS devices can be used in the dark and in unfamiliar places. They can track ground and air targets. Downed pilots and airplanes can be found quickly when equipped with GPS.

LASER RANGE-FINDERS can detect trespassing across borders or into restricted zones. Some finders are combined with GPS to determine the exact position of distant objects.

TRUE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) can replace maps. A useful GIS allows data entry and can be accessed from anywhere in real time.

ACOUSTIC/SEISMIC SENSORS can detect the movement of personnel or weapons. These sensors can trigger cameras and alert patrols. They can be used for security and to verify peace agreements.

THERMAL IMAGING CAMERAS, or forward-looking infrared cameras, detect infrared radiation, typically from a heat source. Generically known as FLIR technology, these cameras have distinct advantages over other imaging technologies. The cameras see radiation in the infrared spectrum, which is difficult to camouflage. They can see through smoke, fog, snow and other atmospheric conditions. And the cameras are nearly impossible for the enemy to detect because they receive information, unlike radar and sonar, which emit it. In addition to detection, FLIR technology also can be used for navigation.

TETHERED BALLOONS, also called **AEROSTATS**, equipped with day or night video cameras provide high and wide views of surveillance areas. However, such balloons can be vulnerable and are frequently used as target practice by enemy forces.

BIOMETRIC TECHNOLOGY identifies people using tools more advanced than fingerprinting. Cameras and other image-gathering equipment can identify people based on facial features, hand geometry, retina and iris patterns, and behaviors, including type of speech or manner of walking. The European Union used iris scans to pay Congolese Soldiers, guaranteeing that no Soldier would collect pay more than once per pay period.



ISTOCK

Tethered balloon/aerostat



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SURVEILLANCE DRONES 'A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION'

A UNITED NATIONS PANEL MEMBER SAYS MODERN TECHNOLOGY IS REVOLUTIONIZING PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

ADF STAFF

Technology in peacekeeping is constantly changing and impacting new aspects of missions. And although the cost of surveillance and communications technology has dropped considerably, it remains beyond the means of some countries and organizations.

In June 2014, the United Nations announced the appointment of a five-member expert panel to advise the organization on how best to use new technologies to benefit peacekeeping missions.

The panel is led by American Jane Holl Lute, an expert on peace and security. The other four members are retired Lt. Gen. Abhijit Guha of India, retired Maj. Gen. Michael Fryer of South Africa, retired Maj. Gen. Ib Johannes Bager of Denmark and Dr. Walter Dorn of Canada.

The initiative is part of an effort to realize efficiency gains and cost savings from the use of new and emerging technologies and innovations.

Fryer, a former police commissioner for the U.N.-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), told *ADF* that, ideally, peacekeeping technology can be shared among the military, civilians and police. He said there is "no need for each component to have its own technology available."

"There are nonexpensive technologies available in the market that can make a huge difference in peacekeeping operations [PKOs]," Fryer said. His list includes mobile GPS units, lighter-than-air tethered aircraft with ground radar, closed-circuit television surveillance, forward-looking infrared cameras, mobile UHF radios, VHF repeaters, security lighting and gunshot detectors.

"Smartphones and iPads, with their endless array of apps, will definitely help a lot," Fryer said. "They will give you real-time info, video and pictures for quick decision-making. Tracking of personnel movement will be available that will improve personnel security. The only negative aspect could be coverage in some remote areas of a PKO."

Fryer said the use of surveillance drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), is "definitely a move in the right direction." But he noted that the

highly trained personnel needed to operate and navigate drones come at considerable expense.

Other recent studies have shown that the total cost of support personnel for drones can bring the full cost to that of manned aircraft. State-of-the-art drones should not be considered as cost-cutting alternatives to "live" aircraft.

Fryer does, however, advocate the use of drones as information-gathering tools for "integrated mission decision-making."

"They can act as an early warning system, which enables the mission to be proactive rather than reactive," he said. "Multitasking by mission components to specific information needs will make sure that the UAV is a mission asset."

Fryer also thinks that smaller, more-affordable drones available commercially have a place in the future of PKOs. Such drones can be used by almost anyone with minimal training, he said. The drones could be programmed for long flying patterns over trouble areas and refugee camps to detect crime patterns and hot-spot analyses.

"During patrol in these well-known hot-spot areas, these drones could act as an early warning system for possible ambushes or other volatile situations," he said. Such drones, he said, can fly at an altitude of 150 feet for 45 minutes. Equipped with thermal imaging, these drones have "immense value" in protecting peacekeeping forces.

Fryer regards the use of translation technology as more of the future than of the present. He added that language translation is a real problem, pointing out that South Africa alone has 11 official languages. For now, he said, "Interpreters are the only way to overcome the issue." He said that translation software technology will be helpful for "lecture development for capacity-building efforts."

Fryer said that, like all military equipment, peacekeeping technology must be chosen carefully.

"We do have a wide range of products that can be useful in PKOs," he said. "But we do have to take into consideration financial implications, political implications and the 'nice to have' versus real needs."

Maj. Gen. Michael Fryer speaks to police during a peace-keeping mission.



MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL FRYER



United Nations peacekeepers are using 5-meter-long drones for surveillance.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Continued from page 42

many Soldiers now refuse to go into the field without it.

Infrared radiation detectors that detect heat are the most effective tools for night vision, but they generally cost more than \$5,000 per unit — an impractical price for most U.N. or African Union missions. Instead, peacekeepers are using a simple form of night vision, called image intensification. These devices detect and amplify visible light by as much as 25,000 times or more. They depend on reflected light from the night sky or from other sources.

Under excellent conditions, such as a cloudless night sky with a full moon, a sentry using a modern light intensifier can see people moving 1,500 meters away. Image intensifiers can sell for as little as \$300 per unit.

THE ULTIMATE PEACEKEEPING TOOL

The most versatile tool in the peacekeeping arsenal is the cellphone, and more recently, the smartphone. Mobile use in Africa has grown faster than in any other region on Earth. There were 54 million cellphone subscribers in Africa in 2003; by the end of 2014, there were about 635 million. Africa is expected to have 930 million cellphone subscribers by 2019.

At its most basic, a cellphone can be used to alert military and police officers and coordinate aid. A modern smartphone, costing as little as \$100, also can be used as a surveillance camera, an evidence-gathering device and for crowdsourcing. It is only now being developed as a translation device for peacekeepers who do not speak a common language.

Consider the sheer number of languages spoken in Africa. There are 14 major “families” of languages on the continent, with a staggering number of

variations within those families. Nigeria alone has more than 500 languages. There may be more than 3,000 languages in use throughout the continent.

Language barriers have long been an obstacle for African peacekeeping missions. Training missions and peacekeeping operations have been handcuffed by differences in languages among peacekeepers and with civilians they are assigned to protect. Dorn said cellphones will change that.

“Using cellphones or the Internet, peacekeepers in the field could obtain translations from a central translation service instead of relying entirely on a translator traveling with them,” Dorn said. “Alternatively, they could check on the quality of the translations provided by persons who accompany them, especially to detect any translator bias, which is sometimes a grave problem in peace operations in divided societies.”

However, smartphone translation apps still are developing. Many require access to the Internet so the phones can tap into online dictionaries. And speech-recognition features can make errors.

“If you are a tourist on a street needing to know where the train station is, these tools are pretty good,” said Elizabeth Bernhardt, director of Stanford University’s Language Center. However, she told the *San Jose Mercury News*, “If I were in a business context and I had some serious negotiations going on, I would not rely on machine translation.” The same would be true of a peacekeeping mission.

For now, peacekeepers continue to rely on traditional tools for monitoring trouble areas. A standard pair of binoculars remains the critical piece of surveillance equipment. But aggressors are beginning to use modern technology, and peacekeepers will have no choice but to keep up. □

THE *SPEED* to SAVE

ADF STAFF



After a series of crises, the African Union creates a new rapid-response mechanism for military intervention

In October 2014, Mali's Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop spoke before the United Nations Security Council and pleaded for help. His speech came after several bloody weeks during which insurgents set roadside bombs and launched motorbike attacks against peacekeepers in the nation's troubled north. The attacks killed nine

Nigerien Soldiers in Gao and 10 Chadian Soldiers in Kidal.

"The international community must send these terrorists a strong message," Diop told the U.N. "That's the only message that they understand."

Diop went on to make a suggestion. Peacekeepers, he urged, need to change their tactics.

"Perhaps the Security Council could envision putting in place a rapid intervention force capable of fighting effectively against these terrorist elements," he said.

He was asking for something that peacekeeping missions historically have not been particularly good at: speed and precision. Training, mission bureaucracies and mandates sometimes prevent peacekeepers from launching interventions quickly and repelling and neutralizing spoilers in combat zones.

Mali is a prime example of this deficiency. In 2012 and 2013, as extremists consolidated power in the north, the U.N. and the African Union spent months deliberating and seeking consensus for an intervention. It was only when extremists seized the strategically important

town of Konna and prepared to march south toward the capital, Bamako, that an intervention was launched principally by two nations: France and Chad.

Since then, the nearly 10,000 uniformed personnel of the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali have preserved order in the major cities of northern Mali. But they have had difficulty doing the "search-and-destroy" work that Chadian and French forces did so effectively in early 2013, notably to clear jihadist hideouts such as those in the Adrar des Ifoghas mountains.

Events since the Malian crisis have only

highlighted the need for a continental rapid-reaction force. In late 2013, a civil war in the Central African Republic (CAR) required a swift French intervention code-named Operation Sangaris, in collaboration with AU forces. In December 2013, Uganda unilaterally and controversially sent a force to South Sudan after growing frustrated with the slow

international response to the turmoil there.

More speed was needed in all these instances, said Solomon Dersso, a senior researcher for the Institute for Security Studies. "AU member states failed to muster the required responses, and whatever responses they marshaled in the end were too late, too little," said Dersso, who is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in an interview with IRIN.

Denis Sassou Nguesso, president of the Republic of the Congo, spoke for many African leaders when, in a nationally televised address in early 2014, he said the time had come for action. Africa "must take her destiny into her own hands



LEFT: A Burundian Soldier serving with the African Union mission in the Central African Republic sits in a control area between the volatile Pk5 and Fatima districts of Bangui. CORBIS

RIGHT: A Rwandan peacekeeper patrols a neighborhood in the capital, Bangui, in May 2014.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Mali's Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop has called for a stronger rapid-reaction force to address trafficking and violent extremism in the north of his country. REUTERS



A Burundian peacekeeper in the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic patrols in the Bea-Rex district of Bangui in May 2014. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

before waiting for the support of the international community," he said. "The moment has come for Africa to take a firm position. Whether it is in Nigeria or CAR or South Sudan, Africans must put themselves on the front lines."

THE AU CHANGES ITS STRATEGY

The African Union is aware of the need for more speed in interventions. The 2002 protocol establishing the African Standby Force (ASF) called for each region of the continent to develop readiness to deploy an intervention battalion in 14 days. This was a top priority after the genocide in Rwanda, where a slow and inadequate intervention allowed the killing of 800,000 people in about 100 days.

But the ASF has been struck by delays and setbacks. Originally intended to be active by 2010, the date now has been pushed back to 2015. Some regions may miss that deadline.

In the aftermath of the failure to promptly intervene in Mali, the AU weighed its options. The issue was a hot topic when leaders gathered for the AU's 50th anniversary celebration in Addis Ababa in May 2013. The product of the discussion was the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC), designed to be an intermediate mechanism available until the ASF is ready.

The ACIRC calls for a "reservoir" of 5,000 troops contributed voluntarily by nations from across the continent. Out of this reserve, the ACIRC would call up tactical battle groups of 1,500 personnel that could deploy in 10 days or less and sustain themselves for at least 30 days. The structure also calls for an artillery support group, light-armor elements and an air wing.

"The aim is to establish an efficient, robust and credible force," said AU Chairwoman Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

in a report outlining the plan. The force could be deployed rapidly, conduct quick maneuvers and make way for larger AU and/or U.N. peace operations, she said.

The ACIRC has two key differences from the ASF.

- **It relies on lead states:** Unlike the ASF, which is aligned to Regional Economic Communities, the ACIRC draws support from wherever capacity exists on the continent. For instance, although the intervention in Mali was first planned by the Economic Community of West African States, it was Chad — not an ECOWAS member — that ultimately sent 2,000 troops to the embattled nation. The subregional framework of the ASF has the unintended consequence of excluding contributing countries that are outside the affected region but may be best able to intervene.

An ACIRC intervention would be different. It could consist of multiple troop-contributing countries from around the continent or one key country willing to send a complete brigade of 1,500 Soldiers. "This new approach reflects an attempt to ... validate what has happened during the most recent conflicts where the deployment of African operations was only made possible by the mobilization of key voluntary states," wrote Dr. Romain Esmenjaud in a 2014 paper published in the journal *African Security Review*. "One can think of the role played by Chad in the CAR or by Uganda and Kenya in Somalia. Interestingly, this role has sometimes been played by states that do not belong to the subregional organizations covering the crisis."

- **It's more flexible:** The ASF explicitly outlines six scenarios where an intervention would be launched. The roles for the standby force range

from a military advisory role to the prevention of genocide. Although these scenarios were intended to offer guidance for the urgency and the scope of the problem, they ended up limiting interventions in actual conflicts not matching any scenario. The ACIRC, on the other hand, is broader and gives itself more leeway to intervene in a number of scenarios, including the “neutralization of terrorist groups,” responding to cross-border criminal activities or putting down an armed rebellion. The ACIRC does not limit itself to peacekeeping and says it can be called into action for the more proactive role of peace enforcement.

“This willingness to enlarge the role of African troops is an obvious reflection of the irrelevance of existing scenarios which the Somalia and Mali crises have demonstrated,” Esmenjaud wrote. “In both cases, African troops have had to engage in real wars that the ASF doctrine would theoretically not have allowed.”

A ‘JUST-IN-TIME’ MODEL

Dr. Cedric de Coning, a South African security expert and advisor to the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, said intervention models need to be changed. But first and foremost, he said, African militaries should be praised for the strides they’ve made in peacekeeping over the past two decades.

“When we say the ASF is not working, we don’t give enough credit to the African forces and the African countries that are actually deploying and doing these jobs,” he told *ADEF*.

De Coning said the ASF model of a standing rapid-response brigade that can be called into action by a regional organization is a difficult task. Few regions anywhere in the world can achieve it. For instance, the Danish-led Standby High-Readiness Brigade of the United Nations has been abandoned, and the European Union’s Battlegroup rarely has been used, he said.

“When you look at it, none of these standing capacities have worked yet,” he said.

Meanwhile, African nations have established themselves as among the world’s finest peacekeepers. They have built a coalition to win back Somalia from al-Shabaab extremists, they have helped maintain peace in Darfur and they have prevented the worst bloodshed in the CAR. “The only part of the ASF that is not performing is this expectation of the brigades, but capacity has been

built and we now have 70,000 African troops deployed through the AU and the United Nations,” de Coning said. “There’s enormous capacity here. There’s no other region in the world that has 70,000 troops deployed other than NATO and the U.S.”

De Coning argues that the key now is to create what he calls a “just-in-time” model for a rapid response to African crises. This would focus on building capacity at a national level as opposed to a regional level. Then, in the event of a crisis, the AU would assemble a “coalition of the willing” based on which countries were able to contribute forces and had sufficient national interest to intervene. The old model of disinterested or neutral peacekeepers is not practical, he said, when it comes to the highly volatile counterinsurgency work that describes most African conflicts today and, most likely, in the future.

“Only those countries with a national interest will be willing to send people at a high cost to themselves in terms of blood and treasure. That’s why I think the standing model will not work,” he said. “It is highly unlikely that that kind of predesigned standing brigade will ever meet the specific requirements of the case at hand.”

Speed is already a great asset for the AU; all that is needed now is proper leadership, funding and the will to build the correct coalitions “just in time” to respond to a particular crisis, de Coning argues.

“The reason that the African Union or the African troops can deploy faster than the United Nations is because they don’t

have all the standards and rules and bureaucracies in place that the U.N. or the EU has,” de Coning said. “The EU or the U.N. won’t deploy until there is a proper hospital in place, there’s proper barracks in place, and they have proper communication equipment in place. So if you have those standards and rules, it’s going to take you 90 days to deploy.”

De Coning urged the AU not to create a complex system similar to the U.N. that will only slow down future deployments. When building coalitions, he said, it is important to preserve the interpersonal president-to-president or general-to-general cooperation that puts boots on the ground and planes in the air as fast as possible.

“The comparative advantage of the AU and all the African countries is that they can deploy fast, and they’re willing to be more robust,” de Coning said. “If you turn around and build a new bureaucracy, then you’ve lost the comparative advantage.” □

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DOING THESE JOBS.”*

~ Dr. Cedric de Coning,

a South African security expert
and advisor to the African
Centre for the Constructive
Resolution of Disputes



Caught in the Crossfire

ADF STAFF

EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY IN SOMALIA AND ELSEWHERE
TO PROTECT CIVILIANS IN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

As African Union forces tried to take back Mogadishu, Somalia, from al-Shabaab insurgents, they were faced with a deadly dilemma. Al-Shabaab had entrenched itself in the capital city's Bakara Market, on top of a hill in the city's business district. From the densely populated area, the militants recruited members, extorted money from traders, and dug deep ditches around the market to keep out tanks and military vehicles, Voice of America reported in 2011.

"The problem is that Bakara is a very difficult place," Rashid Abdi, a Somalia analyst for the Brussels-based International Crisis Group, told VOA. "It is a maze of tightly packed kiosks or stalls. It is teeming with humanity, traders, shoppers. It is a very difficult place to control, and al-Shabaab have used Bakara Market to launch mortar attacks on [government] positions."

When al-Shabaab fired mortars at African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces from inside the market, AMISOM forces would fire back, U.S. and AU officials told *The Wall Street Journal* in 2010. "We have a problem with return fire," an AU official said. "It's become a real, serious issue."

How to engage in the increasingly complex task of a peacekeeping mission while protecting civilians, or at least not harming them, continues to vex Soldiers, politicians and humanitarians. U.N.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon summed up the issues during an address to the Security Council in June 2014:

"United Nations peacekeeping operations are increasingly mandated to operate where there is no peace to keep," he said. "We see significant levels of violence in Darfur, South Sudan, Mali, the Central African Republic and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, where more than two-thirds of all our military, police and civilian personnel are operating."



A U.N. Force Intervention Brigade armored vehicle passes near Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The brigade has a mandate to pursue armed militants while mitigating risk to civilians. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

He said that "peacekeeping operations are increasingly operating in more complex environments that feature asymmetric and unconventional threats."

Prioritizing Protection of Civilians

The U.N. in 1999 added a protection of civilians (POC) from physical violence provision to the U.N. Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), the first time a peacekeeping mission had been given such a mandate.

Security Council Resolution 1270 states that “UNAMSIL may take the necessary action to ensure the security and freedom of movement of its personnel and, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, to afford protection to civilians under imminent threat of physical violence.”

Ten years later, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Department of Peacekeeping Operations looked more closely at the U.N. POC policies. They found that “the U.N. Secretariat, troop- and police-contributing countries, host states, humanitarian actors, human rights professionals, and the missions themselves continue to struggle over what it means for a peacekeeping operation to protect civilians, in definition and in practice.”

The report found the following gaps in POC policies at the field level:

- **Lack of missionwide strategy:** Although various missions develop their own tools and strategies, they tend to do be “conceived and elaborated on an ad hoc basis.”
- **Leadership matters:** Understanding and prioritization of POC is inconsistent.
- **Structures and resources:** Mandates and missions cannot succeed if the operation is not set up or resourced to meet its objectives.
- **Information collection and analysis is critical:** Most missions do not have the ability to collect and analyze information to address threats or predict potential escalations in violence.

Information is key, and finding a way to gather, analyze and react to data about civilian harm is what one group has worked on in Somalia in conjunction with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The effort is called the Civilian Casualty Tracking Analysis and Response Cell.

Tracking Civilian Harm in Somalia

Marla Keenan, managing director of the Center for Civilians in Conflict, said her group began working in Africa in 2010. At the time, AMISOM was trying to take back Mogadishu and the rest of the country from al-Shabaab extremists. Fighting in populated areas often involved civilian harm, ranging from injury and death to displacement and property damage.

Keenan said her colleagues began by talking to civilians in the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya about how the operation had affected them. They also talked to humanitarian workers and gathered data for a report, which was circulated to AU, AMISOM and nongovernmental organization contacts. Soon after, a British general working with AMISOM to craft an indirect fire policy contacted the center.

Most civilians harmed by AMISOM forces were victims of indirect fire, such as those resulting from battles centering on Mogadishu’s Bakara Market.

A lack of tracking makes it impossible to quantify the number of civilians killed or injured as a result of AMISOM or al-Shabaab actions. However, Walter Lotze and Yvonne Kasumba wrote in a 2012 article titled “AMISOM and the Protection of Civilians in Somalia” that a report showed as many as 1,400 civilians died in the first half of 2011 alone. Another report indicated as many as 4,000 civilians had been injured during roughly the same time frame, Lotze and Kasumba wrote.

Both sides relied on artillery fire, Lotze and Kasumba wrote, placing civilians’ lives and property at risk. “Al-Shabaab exploited this tactic, firing mortars at AMISOM positions from densely populated areas,” they wrote. “They then used civilians as human shields when AMISOM used retaliatory fire.”

AMISOM is unique, Keenan told *ADF*, because it has an offensive mandate to go after al-Shabaab. In many ways, it’s more like a counterinsurgency operation. That context makes the Civilian Casualty Tracking Analysis and Response Cell all the more important.

Although it sounds technical, the tracking cell is



Left: Peacekeepers with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo defend Kiwanja base from M23 rebels in 2012.
MONUSCO

Ugandan officers serving with the African Union Mission in Somalia stand next to a haul of 155 mm artillery shells found in a house deep in Bakara Market in Mogadishu in 2011.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“AMISOM takes its responsibility for the safety of the people of Somalia very seriously and fully understands its obligations to conduct operations without causing undue risk to the local population.”

~ AMBASSADOR BOUBACAR GAOUSSOU DIARRA,
former representative of the African Union Commission for Somalia



A Ugandan Soldier serving with the African Union Mission in Somalia runs past a Somali woman on the way to his armored vehicle in Afgoye, west of Mogadishu. Somali National Army troops liberated Afgoye and its population from al-Shabaab in May 2012.

AU/U.N. INFORMATION SUPPORT TEAM

primarily a people-based system, Keenan said. Those comprising the cell are expected to understand the impact of operations and pass along information from various areas. That information then can be analyzed to allow for adjustments in the field to avoid civilian harm or address harm already occurring. Information collected can be directed to the force commander.

The tracking cell was expected to become operational before the end of 2014. Keenan was optimistic about its ability to reduce harm to civilians because of success associated with the indirect fire policy, which went into effect in 2011. The policy establishes no-fire zones in heavily populated areas. “When tactical directives were issued on the things that were causing civilian harm, civilian harm went down,” she said. “So these policies and these practices are actually incredibly important, and they’ve been shown to decrease civilian harm.”

Work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

In the DRC, the center persuaded the U.N. to include language on mitigating risk to civilians in the Force Intervention Brigade mandate. This is the first time a peacekeeping mandate recognizes civilian risk from its own actions.

The mandate says the Intervention Brigade will “ensure within its area of operations effective protection of civilians under threat of physical violence, including through active patrolling, paying particular attention to civilians gathered in displaced or refugee camps, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders in the context of emerging from any of the parties engaged in the conflict, and mitigate the risk to civilians before, during and after any military operation.”

The eastern DRC has been rife with conflict for years from a variety of factions, including M23 rebels, the Lord’s Resistance Army and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda.

The Security Council created the Intervention Brigade in March 2013 with three infantry battalions, one artillery unit, one special force division and a reconnaissance company with headquarters in Goma to operate under U.N. command. The brigade carries out offensive operations “in a robust, highly mobile and versatile manner” to disrupt violent factions, the U.N. said. The U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic

Republic of the Congo and the brigade’s mandate were extended through March 31, 2015.

Sometimes, however, civilians aren’t harmed by guns, artillery and the damage they cause. Large-scale peacekeeping missions such as the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) can bring thousands of Soldiers and hundreds of staff members into a city, altering the cultural and economic equilibrium.

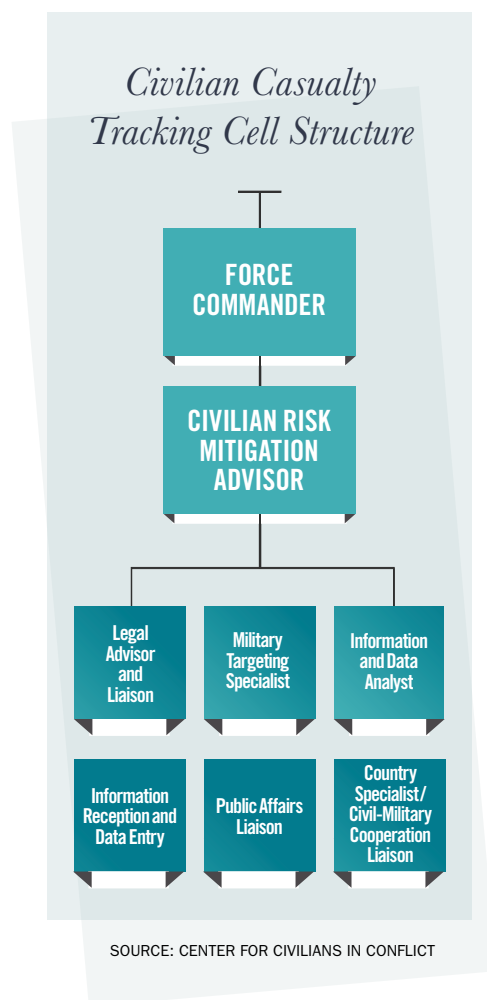
The Approach in Mali

A country such as Mali presents some of these other challenges to civilians. The mission is authorized for 12,640 uniformed personnel and had deployed about 9,300 as of August 31, 2014. A mission of that size can shift the economic dynamics of a city or region.

Food prices can go up, water can become scarce, housing prices increase — even traffic volume changes. These factors can combine with potential property and physical harm to affect civilians.

The Center for Civilians in Conflict helped persuade the U.N., through the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, to establish a “civilian risk mitigation advisor” position with MINUSMA. Keenan described it as a one-person casualty tracking cell. The person would work with the Joint Mission Analysis Center, the Joint Operations Center, and the human rights and protection divisions to gather information about civilian harm.

Because MINUSMA doesn’t involve as many offensive operations, the position could focus on a wider range of harm. The position is the first of its kind for a peacekeeping mission. However, as of fall 2014, it still had not been filled.



More Than Just Prevention

AMISOM has taken steps to reduce civilian harm in Somalia, and that commitment has been reinforced at the highest levels of the mission and the AU. In 2012, Ambassador Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra, a former representative of the African Union Commission for Somalia, said authorities would investigate and rectify any credible reports of indiscriminate harm to civilians.

“AMISOM takes its responsibility for the safety of the people of Somalia very seriously and fully understands its obligations to conduct operations without causing undue risk to the local population,” Diarra said. “We urge all other military forces active in southern Somalia



A Ugandan member of the Formed Police Unit with the African Union Mission in Somalia greets children while patrolling the Kaa'ran district of Mogadishu in 2012.

AU/U.N. INFORMATION SUPPORT TEAM

to exercise due restraint in areas with a substantial civilian population.”

Protecting civilians goes beyond avoiding physical harm or loss of property. Effective measures also should have a way to make amends, Keenan said. Amends can come in the form of an “apology, dignifying gestures, monetary payments, in-kind sort of offerings to the families that have been harmed as a way of saying, ‘This wasn’t our intention, and we recognize that we’ve caused harm,’ ” she said.

Those types of gestures are in keeping with what Somali tribes and groups would do if someone harmed another. Making amends also is an effective way to maintain legitimacy of a mission in the eyes of civilians.

“Harming civilians will harm the mission,” Keenan said. “How much you can win back of that negative public opinion, it’s difficult to know.” If Soldiers will try to avoid harm and address the harm that is caused, it’s likely that would help peacekeepers achieve their “ultimate mission.” □

'NUTCRACKER' SET IN KALAHARI DESERT

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

It's danced to Tchaikovsky's famous melody, but it's not your traditional Christmas *Nutcracker*: South Africa's Joburg Ballet has set the ballet in the Kalahari Desert among ancient Bushmen paintings.

The winter theme has been replaced with sun, sand and baobab trees. The role of the Sugar Plum Fairy is instead played by a sangoma, or traditional healer, and the famous Russian Dance is performed in overalls and gumboots.

Christmas in the Southern Hemisphere comes around midsummer so "trying to pretend that it's winter outside is a little bit ridiculous," said Dirk Badenhorst, CEO of the Joburg Ballet. "So the idea was to create a South African *Nutcracker*

that would tell the normal story, but in a South African setting and in summer."

The Nutcracker Re-Imagined was created in 2008 by the Joburg Ballet's forerunner. It was performed September 19-27, 2014.

It is set in a magical world of South Africa's sangomas, baobab trees, the gumboot dance — an invention of black miners — and would not be complete without koeksisters, a traditional local sweet treat. The 2014 version of the ballet added circus performances, with some characters traveling to a magical world suspended from ropes.

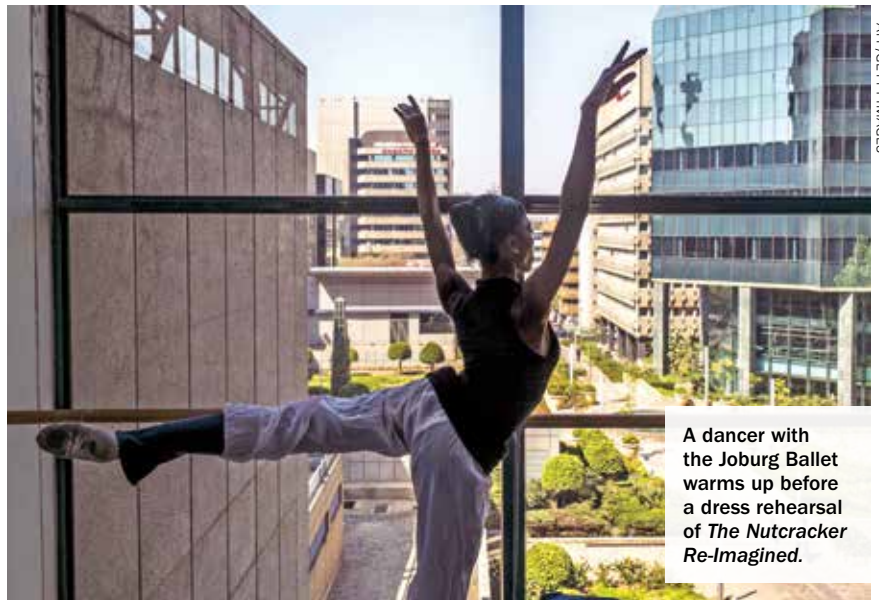
Kitty Phetla, a soloist at the Joburg Ballet, who played the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy, which in this case is

a sangoma, found the latest version of the dance "more dangerous."

"It's more sculptured, rather than being classical; it's exciting, it's quick," she said.

For several years, the Joburg Ballet, previously known as Mzansi Productions and South African Ballet Theatre, has tried to rebrand itself and reach out beyond its predominantly white audience.

"We are trying to sustain the existing audience but grow a very new South African audience, particularly a young and black and exciting audience," Badenhorst said. This performance "is one of the ways we are trying to achieve that."



AP/GETTY IMAGES

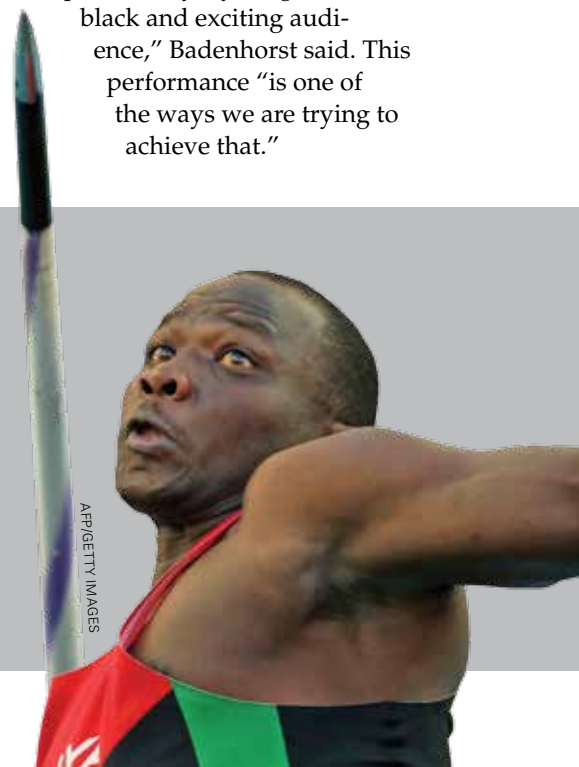
A dancer with the Joburg Ballet warms up before a dress rehearsal of *The Nutcracker Re-Imagined*.

Kenyan is Champion Javelin Thrower

VOICE OF AMERICA

Kenya is renowned for its distance runners who have won races all over the world. But not all Kenyans are built for speed. Some are built for power.

The Kenyans showed their prowess again at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, where they won 10 gold medals. Nine of the 10 golds came in running events, while Julius Yego made history as the first Kenyan to be crowned Commonwealth Games champion in the javelin.



AP/GETTY IMAGES



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zimbabwe Stuns Australia in Cricket

ADF STAFF

Zimbabwe's cricket team beat Australia for the first time in 31 years on August 31, 2014, as Captain Elton Chigumbura led his team to a three-wicket win in a one-day, three-team international tournament in Harare.

Zimbabwe's only previous success against Australia, one of the world's top-ranked teams, came in their first meeting in 1983. Since then, Zimbabwe had endured 27 defeats and one abandoned match.

"I had to be there at the end, and the most important thing was to stay calm under pressure," Chigumbura said. "The guys have worked really hard for this, and the pleasing thing was that everybody contributed today."

The tense victory sparked rare celebrations and a lap of honor for a team that had lost two tournaments in a row and had been beaten in its previous seven one-day matches at home.

South Sudan Promotes Peace through Fashion

ADF STAFF

South Sudan's capital, Juba, hosted the Festival of Fashion and Arts for Peace to raise money and awareness of the plight of thousands of South Sudanese who have been affected by the country's political crisis.

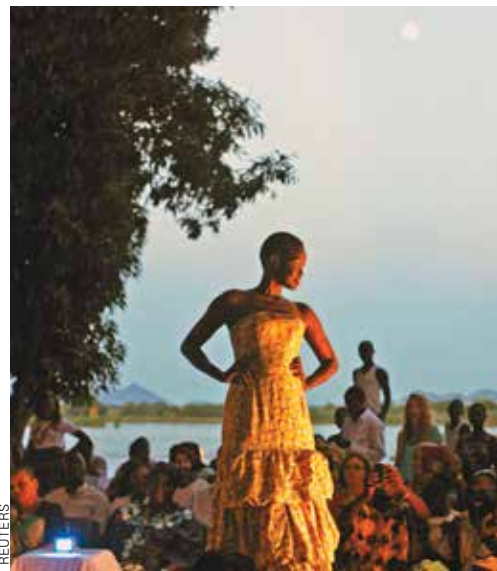
The world's newest nation has been besieged by a political crisis, where at least 10,000 people have been killed since fierce fighting erupted in South Sudan in December 2013.

But organizers behind the August 2014 festival hoped to inspire South Sudanese to come together and showcase some of the country's riches, including culture and fashion. In its second edition, the festival aimed to promote peace in South Sudan through artistic expression. The show featured dancing, singing, food and fashion. The event also provided a platform for artisans and artists to show and sell their work, showcasing jewelry and other fashion items made from local materials and designs.

Event founder and organizer Akuja Garang said she hopes the festival can help change perceptions of South Sudan and promote a positive image of the country.

"We know that there are things going on in South Sudan at the moment, the crises and so on," she said. "We are not in denial of

that; we are aware of that; we are people here from all walks of life from all different ethnicities. We are not naive in any way — we talk and discuss these issues very seriously. These issues don't need to divide us and create violence. You know we can have a debate without having to be violent to each other."



REUTERS

A model presents a dress by a South Sudanese designer during the Festival of Fashion and Arts for Peace in Juba.



Yego's winning throw of 83.87 meters came in the third round of the javelin competition. The 25-year-old decided to pass on his three remaining attempts because he was afraid he would aggravate a groin injury suffered during warm-ups.

"I slipped on the warm-up track," Yego said. "I thought about pulling out, but I spoke to my coach and I decided I couldn't pull out of this championship."

Yego has a stocky, powerful physique. He says as a young boy growing up in the

Rift Valley region of Kenya, he gave up running and took up the javelin because he was so slow.

To improve his technique, Yego studied YouTube videos of athletes like Czech great Jan Zelezny, the three-time Olympic champion and world record holder in the javelin. Yego has shown steady improvement in his throws over the past five years, and Kenyan officials recognized his hard work by naming him captain of the country's athletics team in Glasgow.

Porters carry goods offloaded from ships docked at the harbor in Mogadishu. A Turkish company will manage the port. AFP/GETTY IMAGES



TURKISH COMPANY TO MANAGE MOGADISHU PORT REUTERS



Turkish company Albayrak Group has signed a 20-year agreement to manage the Mogadishu port with promises to modernize it and oversee its growth.

Outsourcing port operations is one more sign of Somalia's slow rehabilitation, a dramatic shift from more than two decades of war in which

clans battled for control of the nation's most valuable asset and let its facilities decay.

"If you come to the Mogadishu port at the moment, you will wonder if it is a market or a port," said Abdirahman Omar Osman, an advisor to the Somali presidency. He described how porters rush to dhows and ships as they tie up, seeking cash to help unload. "The Turkish company will improve the infrastructure, maximize the income of the government, and bring the port to international standards."

An efficient port is vital for the government. It is the state's biggest single source of revenue and essential to

building a functioning economy in a nation that is still battling the al-Shabaab insurgency. The deal also might help change the reputation of Somalia, which has become notorious as a jumping-off point for pirates, although hijackings have dropped sharply since 2012.

The government is seeking to balance the need for an efficient port with job preservation. "They will not lose their jobs," Ports and Marine Transport Minister Yusuf Moallim Amin said, adding that more traffic could mean work for more porters.

Amin said he wants traffic to grow from the 3,000 containers per month that now arrive on vessels to 50,000 in a few years.

The port's intake of \$5 million per month from duties could double in a year with more traffic, the minister said. Albayrak also will improve collection of service fees, amounting to \$1.2 million, of which the state gets 55 percent, Amin added. Albayrak aims to build four new berths and repair others, bringing the number of working berths to 10.

\$8B AID PACKAGE

Aims to Bolster Horn of Africa Economy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

International donors pledged \$8 billion in development aid for projects across eight countries in the Horn of Africa, United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon announced at the start of a visit to the region in October 2014.

The aid, from organizations including the World Bank, African Development Bank, European Union and Islamic Development Bank, will support efforts to boost economies and stem conflict and hunger across the volatile region. Countries targeted are Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

"The countries of the Horn of Africa are making important, yet unheralded, progress in economic growth and political stability," Ban said in a statement. "Now is a crucial moment to support those efforts, end the cycles of conflict and poverty, and move from fragility to sustainability."

Ban, who began his Horn of Africa trip in Ethiopia, also traveled to neighboring Djibouti and Kenya, leading a delegation from six other international organizations.

Projects include support for oil pipelines and improving transport links, and boosting education and Internet access.

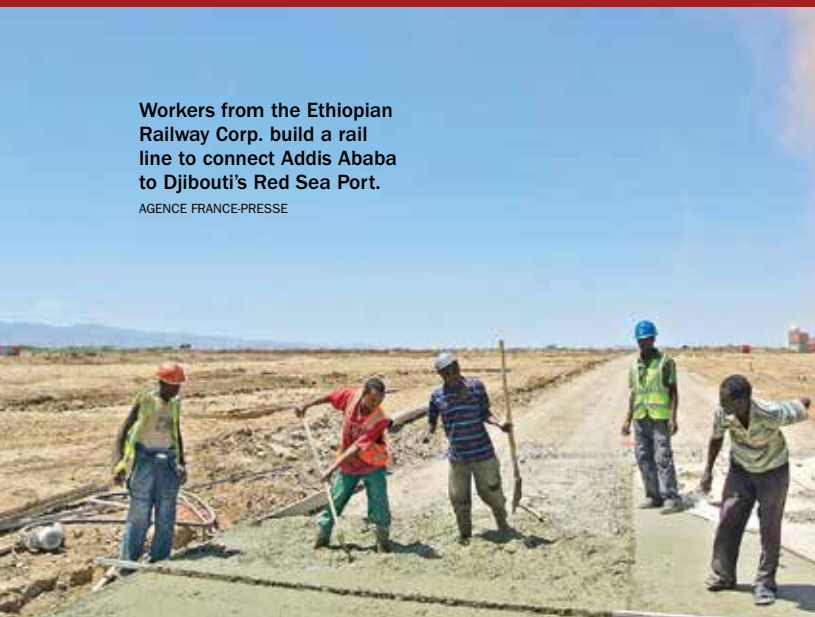
Aid also is intended to increase cross-border trade and boost economic growth amid rampant unemployment and help the millions who have been displaced by war or hunger.

"This new financing represents a major new opportunity for the people of the Horn of Africa to make sure they get access to clean water, nutritious food, health care, education and jobs," World Bank chief Jim Yong Kim said.

"There is greater opportunity now for the Horn of Africa to break free from its cycles of drought, food insecurity, water insecurity and conflict."

Workers from the Ethiopian Railway Corp. build a rail line to connect Addis Ababa to Djibouti's Red Sea Port.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



French President Francois Hollande reviews troops at the Kosei military base in N'Djamena, Chad. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

France Partners with Sahel Allies to Launch Operation Barkhane

DEFENCEWEB

French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian has announced his country's intention to deploy more than 3,000 Soldiers to begin military operations under a broadened trans-Sahel counter-terrorism initiative set to operate from bases in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger.

The regional force will have its main air force base in the Chadian capital, N'Djamena; a regional operations base in the Malian city of Gao; a special forces base in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; and an intelligence base in the Nigerien capital, Niamey.

Code-named Operation Barkhane, the operation seeks to track down and disrupt Islamist trans-Sahel jihadist militant networks that retreated into the remote and largely ungoverned pockets of the Sahel to regroup after being pushed out of Mali by

French and Chadian forces early in 2013.

Le Drian said the new counterterrorism operation comes after the successful conclusion of Operation Serval in northern Mali, which drove out al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, the Movement for Oneness and Jihad, and Ansar al-Dine.

Speaking in July 2014 after the signing of a defense pact that provides for a long-term stationing of 1,200 French troops in Gao, Le Drian said 200 armored personnel carriers, 10 heavy-lift transport aircraft, six fighter planes, 20 helicopters and three unmanned aerial vehicles will be deployed for task force logistics and operations.

He said the force aims to restore security by improving the intelligence-gathering capacities of member states, the training of local forces, and intelligence-sharing by participating regional powers.





UGANDAN FORCES THWART AL-SHABAAB ATTACK

Uganda People's Defence Force Soldiers and police patrol the streets of Kampala in July 2014 after the Ugandan government and the U.S. warned of a "specific threat" against Entebbe International Airport.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Ugandan security forces stopped a cell of Somalia's al-Shabaab insurgents in the nation's capital that was planning an imminent attack.

Police arrested people in September 2014 in raids two weeks after Ugandan troops, fighting in Somalia, reportedly provided intelligence that helped U.S. special forces kill al-Shabaab chief Ahmed Abdi Godane in an air strike. "Joint security agencies in Uganda have foiled a terrorist attempt at one of its installations," police spokesman Fred Enanga said without giving further information.

Security forces have boosted patrols around major sites, the U.S. said in a warning statement to its citizens in the East African nation.

"At this point we are not aware of specific targets, and the Ugandan authorities have increased security at key sites, including Entebbe International Airport," the U.S. Embassy said.

Uganda's government said the country — a major contributor to the African Union Mission in Somalia — was "happy" about Godane's death and had provided the U.S. with key intelligence on his whereabouts.

Uganda's Ministry of Internal Affairs said immigration officers had carried out an "operation on illegal immigrant workers in different parts of Kampala" on September 13, arresting 69 people.

It was not clear whether the raids were connected. Al-Shabaab insurgents have claimed recent attacks in Kenya and Djibouti, and at home in Somalia.



'HOMEGROWN' PLANE TAKES TO THE SKIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

DEFENCEWEB

A reconnaissance light aircraft built by a South African company has made its maiden flight and has become the first military aircraft fully designed and built in Africa. A product of the Paramount Group, the Advanced High-Performance Reconnaissance Light Aircraft (AHRLAC) is expected to fly 100 to 200 hours under normal and difficult conditions during initial testing.

AHRLAC is designed for military and civilian missions, and can carry surveillance, weapons, radar and electronic warfare systems.

"AHRLAC is a homegrown, world-class capability that will enable developing countries and advanced nations to strengthen and diversify their security infrastructure," said Paramount founder Ivor Ichikowitz. "It offers the global industry a new, very cost-effective and multirole solution that will change the way global air forces procure and structure their air fleets. AHRLAC is a solution shaped for today's modern threats like insurgencies, piracy, poaching and terrorism."

Construction of the second prototype is underway. It will be used to test weapons and sensors, mission equipment, and other hardware. The first aircraft could be delivered to customers near the end of 2015, after flight testing of the second prototype. Production will be four to eight the first year and then up to five per month as production ramps up.

The Advanced High-Performance Reconnaissance Light Aircraft makes its first public flight during a demonstration in August 2014 near Pretoria, South Africa.

PARAMOUNT GROUP

Nigerian Naval Commander Hails Drop in Oil Theft

ADF STAFF

The Nigerian Navy announced that crude oil theft fell 67 percent in 2014.

Rear Adm. Charles Obiora-Medani, flag officer of Eastern Naval Command, said theft dropped from about 2.6 million barrels per month in

January to about 800,000 barrels per month in September. He made the announcement in Calabar, in the east of the country, while inspecting naval formations, the daily newspaper *This Day* reported.

He said the reduction is due, in large part, to increased naval patrols on the Calabar-Oron and Ikang waterways.

"Our effective patrol has made it impossible for sea robbers to attack oil service vessels and international boats that ply between Nigeria, Sao Tome, Cameroon and Gabon," Obiora-Medani said. "Because of our

effective patrol along this axis, they can't get around them, so they have now resorted to attacking soft targets, which are passenger boats."

He noted that the rate of attacks on passenger vessels also was decreasing.

"I am assuring you that very soon, we will eradicate these criminals from our waterways," Obiora-Medani said.

Nigerian Navy special forces commandos patrol waterways near Lagos during a joint military exercise. The exercise, African Winds, was designed to improve the Nigerian Armed Forces' capacity to fight oil theft and other maritime crime. AFP/GETTY IMAGES



ECOWAS DEFENSE CHIEFS MAP OUT COLLABORATION

ECOWAS



Defense chiefs from across the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have pledged greater cooperation to combat shared threats.

The September 2014 meeting of the Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff (CCDS) in Accra, Ghana, brought together 15 defense leaders for a three-day summit themed "Strengthening ECOWAS Military Cooperation for Peace, Stability and Development." Officials called for greater

intelligence sharing among member states and more training in counterinsurgency to bolster Nigerian security.

"Boko Haram has created mayhem in Nigeria and needs to be stopped," said Ambassador Kwesi Quartey, Ghana's deputy minister of foreign affairs and regional integration. "Africa cannot afford an unstable Nigeria."

The meeting also brought together naval chiefs of defense staff who discussed the upcoming activation of a multinational coordinating center that would monitor Maritime Pilot Zone E, which includes waters off the coast of Benin, Niger, Nigeria and Togo.

The group also pledged military support to member states fighting Ebola. Vice Adm. Mathew Quashie of Ghana, chairman of the CCDS, told the group: "The military is ever ready and always the first to respond to any emergency."



AFF/GETTY IMAGES

PATHS OF HOPE

KENYAN RANGERS AT WAR WITH

RHINO POACHERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

With camouflage uniforms, assault rifles, night vision goggles, thermal imaging devices and radios, wildlife rangers in Kenya's Ol Jogi rhino sanctuary prepare for night patrol in the "war" against poaching.

"It sounds crazy, but it's actually a war," said Jamie Gaymer, head of security for the vast sanctuary. "It is organized crime on an international level, and it is completely out of control. And these are the guys on the front line who are having to put their lives at risk in order to protect these animals."

Through the thick bush, 20 men from the local community head out in pairs into the reserve, which covers 240 square kilometers. Some men spend the night on patrol creeping through the forests; others take up ambush positions.

Trained by the Kenya Wildlife Service and police, the men in the security force also are reserve police officers, which allows them to carry weapons. The teams have had military training to even the odds in a potentially deadly battle with a "well-equipped enemy," Gaymer said.

They risk their lives every night. The poachers they hunt shoot on sight, and the rangers also must be watchful for the wild animals themselves: elephants, lions, buffalo and leopards.

"It's dangerous, but it is also the danger that gives me a job and allows me to eat," said 27-year-old ranger Joseph Nang'ole. "I have children, and if we do not protect these animals, my children will not be able to see them."

Conditions can be harsh. The night is long, cold and often wet. But for the head of the unit, Benson Badiwa, protecting the rhinos is key. Their mission is to protect the rhinos in Ol Jogi, including 20 southern white rhinos and 46 critically endangered eastern black rhinos. Fewer than 800 black rhinos are left, with the majority in Kenya.

On the black market, a rhino horn is worth twice its weight in gold: as much as \$80,000 per kilogram in the Middle East or Asia. A poacher receives between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per kilogram, a fortune for a night's work.

Their weapons are sometimes rented for \$200 to \$300 a night from unscrupulous police or soldiers.

In July 2014, Ol Jogi suffered the worst massacre of rhinos in Kenya in more than 15 years. Four rhinos were killed in a coordinated double attack, something never seen in Kenya, said Gaymer, who suspects the organized gangs had inside knowledge.

As in any war, intelligence is crucial, and Gaymer maintains a network of local informants who report on those suspected of links to poachers. About 130 people are working to protect the rhinos at Ol Jogi, with some costs covered by the tourists who visit.



WAR VETERANS TURN TO FARMING

ADAM BEMMA/IPS

Along the fertile banks of the White Nile, a war veteran's co-op is planting for a food-secure future in South Sudan, a country potentially facing famine.

Wilson Abisai Lodingareng, 65, is a farmer and founder of Werithior Veterans' Association (WVA) in Juba, South Sudan. The association is a group of 15 farmers that tends a garden 6 kilometers outside Juba where they grow vegetables on nearly 1.5 hectares.

"I have seven active members in the group, all former SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] troops," Lodingareng said. "I call them when it's time to weed the garden. I visit once a day, each morning, to check the health of the crops and to see what's ready for the market."



Wilson Abisai Lodingareng, 65, is a farmer and former member of the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

INTER PRESS SERVICE

Some of the other WVA members have been displaced from their homes and are now living in a United Nations mission camp in Juba.

Since the conflict began December 15, 2013, between the government forces of South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and the rebel forces of

former Vice President Riek Machar, 1.5 million people have lost their homes. An estimated 3.5 million South Sudanese are suffering from emergency levels of food insecurity.

Lodingareng said obtaining a plot along the Nile River was difficult, with many international investors vying for the prime agricultural real estate. It took him almost three years to acquire a lease from the community that owns the idle land.

As of September 2014, he had transformed the field with long grass and weeds into a garden with leafy vegetables and herbs sprouting. The association cultivates okra, kale, mulukhiyah (jute leaves) and coriander.

"These are short-impact crops which grow quickly, within one to two months," Lodingareng said. "Okra is harvested every three to four days."

The philosophy behind the WVA garden is to see land as a resource not to be wasted. Lodingareng sees a future expansion into the surrounding land, which is also lying idle.

"I'm looking at expanding to grow food crops like maize, potatoes, carrots and eggplant," he said. "The first year has been a struggle. The next year should be much better."

The Mennonite Central Committee in South Sudan provided him with some capital for leasing the land, training in fruit and vegetable production, farm supplies, and tools.

Lodingareng fought as part of the SPLA from 1985 to 2008, and when he wasn't reactivated into the military, he began to think back to his early days as an economics student at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

"I took a course and wrote a paper on agriculture economics," he said. "I was taught that land is food and that crops share behavior traits with humans."



Niger's Traditional Leaders Promote Maternal Health

STORY AND PHOTO BY JOAN ERAKIT/IPS

Dry, hot and often plagued with sandstorms, Niger has a population of more than 17.2 million. Insecurity, drought and cross-border crime contribute to this West African nation's fragility, in which only 50 percent of its citizens have access to health services.

Traditional chiefs in Niger are extremely influential leaders — even heads of state and presidents seek their counsel before making big decisions. Understanding the chiefs' role, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has built a partnership promoting the health and rights of women. The country has the world's highest birthrate and a high rate of infant mortality. In 2012, the traditional chiefs of Niger signed an agreement with UNFPA making a commitment to improve the health conditions of women.

Formed in 2011, the School of Husbands has more than 130 locations in Niger's southern region of Zinder. Members are married men between the ages of 25 and 50, but young boys are now being recruited to sit in on meetings — to learn from their elders.

Yahya Louche is the chief of Bande and believes in the importance of involving men in childbirth. "The School of Husbands is where there is no teacher and there is not student. They are not getting paid; they are working for the well-being of the population," Louche said of the informal institution that brings together married men to discuss the gains of reproductive health and family planning.

The school is a prime example of what can happen when men stand shoulder to shoulder with women, promoting safe births. "Before the School of Husbands, women didn't want to go for delivery at health centers; they would stay at home and have their babies," Louche said.

The schools are carefully introducing the use of contraceptives — a controversial practice in a country where a large family is considered a status symbol. The school teaches that large families are difficult to feed in hard times, and the chiefs are promoting the notion of fewer children. They are also discouraging the practice of child brides.



HELP WANTED

Marketing officers at Jobberman work with clients online.
AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Students Create Nigeria's Online Jobs Giant

BBC NEWS AT BBC.CO.UK/NEWS

Three students had time on their hands in the summer of 2009 when university lecturers in Nigeria went on strike.

Instead of slacking off, Ayodeji Adewunmi, Olalekan Olude and Opeyemi Awoyemi started an online job search company. Five years later, their startup, Jobberman, is worth millions of dollars, employs 125 people and is still growing.

Although Nigeria is Africa's largest economy, it still has considerable unemployment problems, in particular among young people who are also more likely to be connected to the Internet.

Jobberman has become the largest job placement website in Sub-Saharan Africa. The number of companies using the site to find employees has grown from about 40 in 2009 to 35,000 in 2014.

The founders estimate that there are about 1,000 active users searching for a job at any given time. The site includes between 500 and 1,000 jobs each day. "The growth has been tremendous; it's at rocket speed. One of the biggest challenges has been to keep

up with the volume of work," Olalekan said.

Still, there have been challenges along the way. "In the beginning a lot of people did not trust an Internet-based business because at that time a lot of people were using the Internet to perpetuate fraud here in Nigeria," he said.

But as doing business online became more common, Jobberman prospered. Companies would dip their toe in the water with one or two postings, and then when they trusted the site, they would come back.

In 2012, some of Jobberman's clients wanted to use the site to find workers in Ghana, so the company took its first work outside Nigeria. Two years later, it says it is now the biggest online job site in Ghana as well as Nigeria.

The company is expanding its reach to Kenya with a partner called Brighter Monday. The partnership also gives it a footprint in Uganda and Tanzania. "It is incredibly fulfilling helping people to become economically empowered by getting job placements via Jobberman," founder Ayodeji Adewunmi said.

Zimbabwean Company Launches Debit Card

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Zimbabwe's telecommunications giant Econet has launched an international debit card with MasterCard in a move expected to cut reliance on banknotes in the cash-strapped country.

Econet said it expects to issue at least 3 million debit cards over the next five years, equal to roughly a quarter of Zimbabwe's population.

The EcoCash mobile companion debit card, which is linked to its mobile money service, also is expected to increase financial inclusion in a country where most people do not work in the formal economy.

"This is the first time that physical MasterCard debit cards are available to people using mobile

money services in Africa," the companies said in a joint statement.

The card is aimed at reducing dependence on the use of cash in Zimbabwe, which ditched its own currency for U.S. dollars and South African rand five years ago at the peak of an economic crisis.

The dumping of the Zimbabwe dollar for foreign currencies in 2009 helped stabilize the economy and tame crippling hyperinflation. But it also has created new headaches, including a lack of small change, forcing people to use heavily spoiled notes.

Econet is Zimbabwe's biggest telecommunications company with 9 million subscribers.



A new debit card initiative aims to reduce reliance on cash in Zimbabwe, which abandoned its own currency five years ago in favor of U.S. dollars, shown here, and South African rand. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Africa Moves Into Solar Age

MEDIA CLUB SOUTH AFRICA

W

est of the town of Upington, South Africa, is mostly desert. But nearby a tower looms on the horizon.

It stands 5 kilometers down a bumpy dirt road, a 200-meter cylinder stretching to the sky, surrounded by more than 4,000 large, wall-like solar

mirrors. It may look like the set of a science fiction film, but this is Khi Solar One, Africa's first concentrated solar power project.

The 140-hectare plant will produce 50 megawatts (MW) of energy and reduce South Africa's carbon dioxide emissions by 138,000 metric tons a year.

Khi Solar One forms part of the Department of Energy's bid to bring 1,400 MW of wind- and solar-based energy online by 2016. It is part of the South African government's larger strategy to generate 17,800 MW from renewable energy by 2030.

The energy produced will be sold to channel it to the national grid. Kurt Drewes, Khi Solar One's general manager, said it will serve South Africans in the evenings, when energy use is at its peak.

Concentrated solar power gets its name from using mirrors to concentrate sunlight, creating temperatures high enough to drive steam turbines or engines that in turn create electricity. At the heart of the Khi Solar One plant is the hollowed-out super-heated steam solar tower. Stretching 205 meters, the tower is surrounded by 4,200 concave solar mirror panels. These are tilted

at an angle that reflects the sun's rays onto the top of the tower. Each panel has an autonomous computerized control system with a GPS signal that tells it the exact time of day. It determines the sun's angle and adjusts for light to be reflected to the top of the tower.

The tower is filled with boiling tubes, painted black to absorb heat from the reflection. These contain high-pressure water pumped from the Orange River. When the sun's rays are reflected onto the tubes, the water heats until it becomes steam. The steam is heated further, to 500 degrees Celsius, to create enough pressure to turn the turbine and produce electricity.

The tower has a dry-cooling system, an innovation in concentrated solar power. The walls, Drewes said, have openings to allow in air, making it both a heating and cooling tower when required.

Concentrated solar power is the only renewable energy technology that can effectively store power. Khi Solar One has two hours of steam storage capacity — the longest in the world. Although this may seem short, the advantage of concentrated solar power is that supply can be adjusted to meet the demand. If capacity needs to be increased, they do not have to make the tower bigger. They would simply increase the surface of the mirrors, which Drewes said is easy to do.



The Khi Solar One project is near Upington, South Africa. ABENGOA

Abebe Bikila

Marathon Runner ADF STAFF

Abebe Bikila's run to international fame started by accident. Abebe had wanted to run the marathon for Ethiopia in the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome. But his reported personal best time in the marathon was faster than the world record, and race officials were skeptical. He was passed over in favor of another runner, who subsequently broke his ankle playing football. Abebe, then a private in Haile Selassie's Imperial Army, was chosen for the team only as a last-minute replacement.

Abebe's running shoes for the Olympics were a poor fit, causing blisters. He decided to run barefoot, as he had often done on the high plains of Ethiopia. Even among a field of lean marathon runners, Abebe stood out. With his bare feet and his distinctive build — at 1.78 meters he weighed only 57 kilograms — he was a singular figure.

Less than halfway through the 42-kilometer race, Abebe and Moroccan Rhadi Ben Abdesselam had pulled away from the rest of the runners. By the time he re-entered the city, racing in the moonlight, Abebe had pulled away from the Moroccan. He finished the race with a time of 2 hours, 15 minutes and 16 seconds — a world record. And as the other runners trickled in, limp from exhaustion, Abebe stretched and even danced around.

Photos of the barefoot Abebe came to symbolize the entire 1960 Olympics. With one race, he became perhaps the best-known African on the planet at that time. He was the first East African to win any kind of Olympic medal.

The next year, Abebe entered marathons in Greece, Japan and Czechoslovakia. He won all of them.

But Abebe wasn't finished. In 1964, with 40 days to go until the Summer Olympics in Tokyo, he collapsed in pain while training. He was diagnosed with acute appendicitis and had immediate surgery. He was not expected to recover in time for the Olympics.

But he did recover, and he competed again in the marathon, this time wearing shoes. As in 1960, he began pulling away from most of the other runners by the halfway point. After 30 kilometers, he was 40 seconds ahead of his closest competitor. He finished with a time of 2 hours, 12 minutes and 11 seconds — another Olympic record — and more than 4 minutes ahead of the next runner. He became the first man to win the Olympic marathon twice.

Four years later, competing in the Olympics in Mexico City, Abebe left the marathon with a broken bone in his knee. The winner later said that Abebe was on a pace to win the race, had he not been injured.

A year later, Abebe lost control of his Volkswagen sedan and crashed in Addis Ababa. The accident made him a quadriplegic. Over time, he regained the use of his arms and competed again, this time

as a cross-country sledder. In 1973, at the age of 41, he died of a brain hemorrhage, a complication linked to his car accident. An estimated 75,000 people attended his funeral.

Today, African distance runners are the world's elite — 13 Africans have won medals in the men's marathon since Abebe. African men are even more dominant in the 10-kilometer and 5-kilometer races, as are African women.

The barefoot man from Ethiopia did it first.



CORBIS

CLUES

one

This complex served as the home of the sovereigns of the Kingdom of Imerina in the 17th and 18th centuries.

two

The number of structures rose to about 20 during the late 18th-century reign of King Andrianampoinimerina. By the late 20th century, there were 11.

three

The largest and most prominent structure was known as the “Queen’s Palace” after Queen Ranavalona I.

four

A 1995 fire destroyed or damaged all structures in the complex, but the Queen’s Palace and other buildings have been restored.



ANSWER: The Rova of Antananarivo, Madagascar

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Headquarters, U.S. Africa Command
ATTN: J3/Africa Defense Forum Staff
Unit 29951
APO AE 09751 USA

OR

Headquarters, U.S. Africa Command
ATTN: J3/Africa Defense Forum Staff
Kelley Kaserne
Geb 3315, Zimmer 53
Plieninger Strasse 289
70567 Stuttgart, Germany



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