



2023
CALENDAR





symbols of INDEPENDENCE


African nations proudly celebrate their independence or national holidays at various times throughout the year with fanfare. In 2023, the Central African Republic and Guinea will celebrate 65-year anniversaries, while Kenya will observe its 60th anniversary. The nations of Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini and Mauritius will mark 55 years of independence, and Guinea-Bissau will observe its 50th anniversary. As nations commemorate these special days, we at U.S. Africa Command stand by our African partners, who remember a proud history and look ahead to a bright future.


 **January 1**
Republic of the Sudan
Independence Day (1956)


 **February 18**
Republic of The Gambia
Independence Day (1965)


 **March 6**
Republic of Ghana
Independence Day (1957)


 **March 12**
Republic of Mauritius
Independence Day (1968)


 **March 20**
Republic of Tunisia
Independence Day (1956)


 **March 21**
Republic of Namibia
Independence Day (1990)


 **April 4**
Republic of Senegal
Independence Day (1960)

 **April 18**
Republic of Zimbabwe
Independence Day (1980)


 **April 26**
United Republic of Tanzania
Union Day (1964)


 **April 27**
Togolese Republic
Independence Day (1960)


 **April 27**
Republic of Sierra Leone
Independence Day (1961)


 **April 27**
Republic of South Africa
Freedom Day (1994)


 **May 20**
Republic of Cameroon
National Day (1972)


 **May 24**
State of Eritrea
Independence Day (1991)


 **May 28**
Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia
Downfall of the Derg (1991)


 **June 25**
Republic of Mozambique
Independence Day (1975)


 **June 26**
Republic of Madagascar
Independence Day (1960)


 **June 27**
Republic of Djibouti
Independence Day (1977)


 **June 29**
Republic of Seychelles
Independence Day (1976)


 **June 30**
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Independence Day (1960)


 **July 1**
Federal Republic of Somalia
Republic Day (1960)


 **July 1**
Republic of Burundi
Independence Day (1962)


 **July 1**
Republic of Rwanda
Independence Day (1962)


 **July 5**
People's Democratic
Republic of Algeria
Independence Day (1962)


 **July 5**
Republic of Cabo Verde
Independence Day (1975)


 **July 6**
Republic of Malawi
Independence Day (1964)


 **July 6**
Union of the Comoros
Independence Day (1975)


 **July 9**
Republic of South Sudan
Independence Day (2011)


 **July 12**
Democratic Republic
of São Tomé and Príncipe
Independence Day (1975)


 **July 23**
Arab Republic of Egypt
Revolution Day (1952)


 **July 26**
Republic of Liberia
Independence Day (1847)


 **August 1**
Republic of Benin
Independence Day (1960)


 **August 3**
Republic of Niger
Independence Day (1960)


 **August 5**
Burkina Faso
Independence Day (1960)


 **August 7**
Republic of
Côte d'Ivoire
Independence Day (1960)


 **August 11**
Republic of Chad
Independence Day (1960)


 **August 15**
Republic of the Congo
Independence Day (1960)


 **August 17**
Gabonese Republic
Independence Day (1960)


 **September 6**
Kingdom of Eswatini
Somhlolo Day (1968)


 **September 22**
Republic of Mali
Independence Day (1960)


 **September 24**
Republic of Guinea-Bissau
Independence Day (1973)


 **September 30**
Republic of Botswana
Botswana Day (1966)


 **October 1**
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Independence Day (1960)


 **October 2**
Republic of Guinea
Independence Day (1958)


 **October 4**
Kingdom of Lesotho
Independence Day (1966)

 **October 9**
Republic of Uganda
Independence Day (1962)

 **October 12**
Republic of
Equatorial Guinea
Independence Day (1968)


 **October 24**
Republic of Zambia
Independence Day (1964)


 **November 11**
Republic of Angola
Independence Day (1975)

 **November 18**
Kingdom of Morocco
Feast of Independence (1956)

 **November 28**
Islamic Republic
of Mauritania
Independence Day (1960)

 **December 1**
Central African Republic
Republic Day (1958)

 **December 12**
Republic of Kenya
Jamhuri Day (1963)

 **December 24**
State of Libya
Independence Day (1951)



A Ghana Armed Forces Soldier
dismounts from a helicopter during air
assault training in Asutsuare, Ghana.

SENIOR AIRMAN DUNCAN C. BEVAN/U.S. AIR FORCE

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An Ivoirian Special Forces Soldier prepares to conduct marksmanship training during Exercise Flintlock 2022 near Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

STAFF SGT. ANDREA SALGADO RIVERA/
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND AFRICA

JANUARY 2023						
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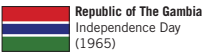
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Republic of The Gambia
Independence Day
(1965)



Republic of The Gambia
Independence Day
(1965)

FEBRUARY 2023



Tanzanian Marine Special Forces conduct a tactical pause during small-unit tactics and patrol training near Msata, Tanzania.

STAFF SGT. ANDREW FOX/U.S. AIR FORCE

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 Republic of Mauritius Independence Day (1968)							
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	 Republic of Tunisia Independence Day (1956)	 Republic of Namibia Independence Day (1990)					
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MARCH
2023



An Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Soldier conducts landing zone security on the Kiwanja airfield in the eastern DRC.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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16	17	18 <div> Republic of Zimbabwe Independence Day (1980)</div>	19	20	21	22
23 <div></div>	24	25	26 <div> United Republic of Tanzania Union Day (1964)</div>	27 <div><div> Togolese Republic Independence Day (1960)</div><div> Republic of Sierra Leone Independence Day (1961)</div><div> Republic of South Africa Freedom Day (1994)</div></div>	28	29
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APRIL
2023



Cameroon Armed Forces Soldiers march during a parade to celebrate 50 years of national unity in Yaoundé, Cameroon. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Downfall of the Derg
(1991)



State of Eritrea
Independence Day
(1991)



Republic of Cameroon
National Day
(1972)



A Tunisian Armed Forces Soldier fast-ropes from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during live-fire training at Exercise African Lion, Ben Ghilouf Training Area, Tunisia.

CAPT. JOE LEGROS/U.S. ARMY

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 Republic of Mozambique Independence Day (1975)				 Republic of Madagascar Independence Day (1960)				 Republic of Djibouti Independence Day (1977)				 Republic of Seychelles Independence Day (1976)				 Democratic Republic of the Congo Independence Day (1960)											

JUNE
2023



Senegalese Compagnie Fusilier de Marin
Commandos conduct a capabilities
demonstration at the Naval Infantry Leadership
Symposium-Africa in Dakar, Senegal.

SGT. WILLIAM CHOCKEY/U.S. MARINE CORPS

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<div>1</div> <div><div></div><div>Federal Republic of Somalia Republic Day (1960)</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Republic of Burundi Independence Day (1962)</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Republic of Rwanda Independence Day (1962)</div></div>
2	3	4	5 <div><div></div><div>People's Democratic Republic of Algeria Independence Day (1962)</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Republic of Cabo Verde Independence Day (1975)</div></div>	6 <div><div></div><div>Republic of Malawi Independence Day (1964)</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Union of the Comoros Independence Day (1975)</div></div>	7	8
9 <div><div></div><div>Republic of South Sudan Independence Day (2011)</div></div>	10	11	12 <div><div></div><div>Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe Independence Day (1975)</div></div>	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <div><div></div><div>Arab Republic of Egypt Revolution Day (1952)</div></div>	24	25	26 <div><div></div><div>Republic of Liberia Independence Day (1847)</div></div>	27	28	29
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JULY
2023










Rwandan peacekeepers serving in the U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) attend a ceremony welcoming the new force commander.

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY/UNMISS

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				 Republic of Benin Independence Day (1960)				 Republic of Niger Independence Day (1960)				 Burkina Faso Independence Day (1960)	
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		 Republic of Côte d'Ivoire Independence Day (1960)								 Republic of Chad Independence Day (1960)			
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				 Republic of the Congo Independence Day (1960)				 Gabonese Republic Independence Day (1960)					
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AUGUST
2023






A Kenya Defence Forces Soldier communicates with his team during tactical maneuvers in Isiolo, Kenya.

STAFF SGT. ALYSIA BLAKE/U.S. AIR FORCE

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						 Republic of Mali Independence Day (1960)							
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 Republic of Guinea-Bissau Independence Day (1973)												 Republic of Botswana Botswana Day (1966)	

SEPTEMBER 2023



Nigerian Navy Sailors raise a salute during the inauguration of the locally built Seaward Defence Boat NNS OJI at the naval dockyard in Lagos, Nigeria.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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1  Federal Republic of Nigeria Independence Day (1960)	2  Republic of Guinea Independence Day (1958)	3	4  Kingdom of Lesotho Independence Day (1966)	5	6	7
8	9  Republic of Uganda Independence Day (1962)	10	11	12  Republic of Equatorial Guinea Independence Day (1968)	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24  Republic of Zambia Independence Day (1964)	25	26	27	28
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OCTOBER
2023



Malawi Defence Force Maritime Forces conduct riverine training in a rigid inflatable boat at Monkey Bay, Malawi.

STAFF SGT. SEAN CARNES/U.S. AIR FORCE

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									 Islamic Republic of Mauritania Independence Day (1960)														

NOVEMBER
2023



A Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) officer descends with the national flag during the KDF Air Show, Uhuru Gardens National Monument and Museum, in Nairobi, Kenya.

SOPA IMAGES

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <div> Central African Republic Republic Day (1958)</div>	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 <div> Republic of Kenya Jamhuri Day (1963)</div>	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 State of Libya Independence Day (1951) 	25	26	27	28	29	30
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DECEMBER
2023



A Royal Moroccan Armed Forces Soldier combats a forest fire near Ksar el-Kebir, Larache region, Morocco.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

DECEMBER 2023						
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	1  Republic of the Sudan Independence Day (1956)	2	3	4	5	6
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JANUARY
2024



Tunisian Special Forces Group Soldiers and U.S. paratroopers take part in an airborne exercise near Bizerte, Tunisia. STAFF SGT. JOHN YOUNTZ/U.S. ARMY

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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Africa Defense Forum (ADF) is a professional military magazine that serves as an international forum for military and security specialists in Africa.

The magazine is published quarterly by U.S. Africa Command and covers topics such as counterterrorism strategies, security and defense operations, transnational crime, and issues affecting peace, stability, good governance and prosperity.

The forum allows for an in-depth discussion and exchange of ideas. We want to hear from people in our African partner nations who understand the interests and challenges on the continent. Submit an article for publication in ADF, and let your voice be heard.

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