



Natural Fire 10 Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Exercise, Uganda, October 2009



U.S. Africa Command Vignette

"It is through exercises that we build capacity and capabilities to respond to any disaster situation, or any situations that requires us to operate together."

-Col. Sam Kavuma, Uganda People's Defense Force, 5th Division

Overview

Natural Fire 10 in Uganda, was a multi-national, globally resourced exercise focused on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The goal was to promote interoperability between militaries of African partner nations and U.S. military forces, while improving capabilities of African nations to respond to complex humanitarian emergencies. Roughly 650 troops from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda worked alongside U.S. troops during the two-week exercise.

The Team

The Ugandan People's Defence Force and U.S. Army Africa co-led the exercise. Soldiers from U.S. Army Europe, the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, and the U.S. Army National Guard supported the exercise. Joint forces from the Marine Corps Reserve and U.S. Air National Guard also took part.

Objectives

The exercise took place at three locations in Uganda: Entebbe, Kampala and Kitgum. At the first two sites, U.S. and African military leaders underwent a tabletop exercise – facing simulated emergencies in Africa.

This challenged senior and mid-level military leaders in responding to disasters, offering humanitarian



The Bottom Line

U.S. Army Africa partnered with the Uganda People's Defence Force to conduct a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise in September 2009.

assistance and preparing for pandemic situations. In Kitgum, soldiers of U.S. and African partner nations enhanced their abilities to work together by training on tasks that support disaster relief and humanitarian assistance. Together, they practiced tasks such as convoy operations, crowd control, weapons handling and vehicle checkpoints. Also in Kitgum, East African nations and U.S. troops partnered to provide medical, dental and engineering support to local communities.

Outcome

The success of Natural Fire 10 in Uganda in October, marked a change for the way soldiers conduct missions on the continent.

Not only was Natural Fire 10 the USARAF's first major exercise, it was also the command's debut as the newest Army Service Component Command, to U.S. Africa Command. For soldiers, the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise tested their abilities to operate safely and successfully on the continent as part of a multi-national coalition.

Natural Fire 10 validated U.S. Army Africa's capability to serve as America's premier Army team for achieving positive change in Africa by building capacity within partner nations and increasing abilities to work together. In doing so, the U.S. military solidified military rapport with allies in East Africa, which is key to supporting stability in the region.