U.S. AFRICA COMMAND FACT SHEET

ACOTA Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance

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Overview

The Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) program is funded and managed by U.S. Department of State (DOS). The initiative is designed to improve African militaries' capabilities by providing selected training and equipment necessary for multinational peace support operations. U.S. Africa Command supports the ACOTA program by providing military mentors, trainers, and advisors at the request of State Department.

Objectives

ACOTA provides a full range of peacekeeping training and instruction tailored to match a country's needs and capabilities. The program focuses on sub-Saharan African soldiers from partner nations who are scheduled to participate in a peace support operation or who are designated to be in a standby mode to do so.

Benefits

ACOTA benefits its partners by: training African soldiers on topics including convoy escort procedures, refugee management, and small -unit command skills; overseeing exercises for battalion, brigade, and multinational force headquarters personnel; providing equipment to partner nations, including mine detectors, field medical equipment, uniforms, and water purification devices; conducting refresher training periodically to ensure that trained units maintain their capabilities; and training African trainers, who in turn train their own nation's soldiers in peacekeeping skills.

HASTINGS, Sierra Leone - Sergeant 1st Class Grady Hyatt (far left) confers with his British Army counterpart during training of Republic of Sierra Leone personnel. Hyatt is a military mentor working for U.S. Army Africa with the U.S. Department of State's African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance program known as ACOTA. (U.S. Army photo)

Facts and Figures

Since 1997, the U.S. has provided training and non-lethal equipment to more than 215,000 peacekeepers from African partner militaries in 238 contingent units. ACOTA's 25 partners include Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.

These partners have sent peacekeeping contingents to such varied missions as Sudan (AMIS, UNAMID, UNMIS and UNMISS), Sierra Leone (ECOWAS and UNAMSL), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC/MONUSCO), Guinea-Bissau, the Central African Republic (MISAB, MINURCA, MICOPAX, and MINURCAT), Ethiopia-Eritrea (UNMEE), Cote d'Ivoire (ECOWAS and UNOCI), Liberia (ECOWAS and UNMIL), Burundi (OMIB and ONUB), Kosovo (UNMIK), Lebanon (UNIFIL), Somalia (AMISOM), Chad (MINURCAT II), and humanitarian relief efforts in Mozambique.

Impact

ACOTA facilitates the deployments of about 20 African battalions annually and helps them build peacekeeping training capacity. The importance of this program is evident in its wide acceptance from its 25 participating nations, its ongoing support by the U.S. State Department, and the budgetary increases it has received from the U.S. Congress over the years.

More Sources

The Global Peace Operations Initiative

U.S. Army Africa ACOTA Team Trains Sierra Leone Troops