



U.S. Military Support to African Efforts to Counter LRA

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Overview

In May 2010, President Obama signed into law the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act. According to the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. strategy aims to assist the governments of Uganda, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan, as well as the African Union and United Nations to "mitigate and end the threat posed to civilians and regional stability by the LRA.

The strategy outlines four key objectives for U.S. support:

- (1) increased protection of civilians,
- (2) the apprehension or removal of Joseph Kony and senior LRA commanders from the battlefield,
- (3) the promotion of defections and support of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of remaining LRA fighters, and
- (4) the provision of continued humanitarian relief to affected communities."

To that end, the decision, announced Oct. 14, 2011, to send U.S. military advisers to assist the forces that are countering the LRA forms one part of the United States' overall continuing effort to achieve these strategic objectives.

The Role of the U.S. Military

It is widely recognized that there is no purely military solution to the efforts of African security and administrative officials from throughout the region to protect the civilian population from the threat posed by Joseph Kony and the LRA. The U.S. military role is in support of a combined effort that involves the U.S. embassies in the affected countries, U.S. Agency for International Development's programs, as well as contributions from nongovernmental organizations. The collective intent is to supplement host nation efforts with advice and assistance that maximizes the flow of information to, and synchronizes the activities of, host nation efforts. U.S. military forces can enable intelligence fusion, facilitate more efficient means for delivering and managing logistics, and offer improved staff coordination capabilities.

After deployments in 2011, approximately 100 U.S. military personnel are now in forward locations with the national militaries of the region, living and working side-by-side with their military peers as guests in African camps run by African security officials. Their mission is focused on finding ways to enable Uganda, CAR, DRC, and South Sudan to more effectively collaborate, coordinate and synchronize their efforts to remove the threat of the LRA. The U.S. advisors seek to strengthen cooperation among the national militaries, assist them to collaborate more effectively, and enhance their capacity to improve operational planning. While this is not an open-ended commitment, nor is there a specific timeline associated with it, we will regularly review and assess whether the advisory effect is sufficiently enhancing our objectives to justify continued deployment.

More Sources

[Oct. 14, 2011 -Text of President Obama's announcement](#)

[Dec. 15, 2011 -Text of Letter Regarding the War Powers Resolution](#)

[Dec. 7, 2011 - Remarks by Johnnie Carson, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs](#)

[Feb. 7, 2012 - U.S. Department of State Fact Sheet: US. support to regional efforts to counter the LRA](#)

[Feb. 22, 2012 - Press Brief: United States' support in coordination with the African Union and the United Nations of regional efforts to counter the LRA](#)

[April 23, 2012— Fact Sheet: Mitigating and Eliminating the Threat to Civilians Posed by LRA](#)

[April 25, 2012 — US Supports Central African Effort to Counter LRA Insurgency](#)