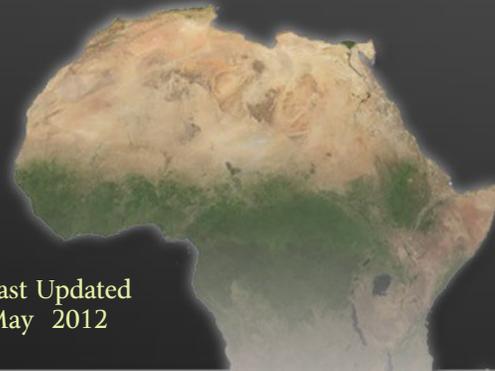




Africa Endeavor Exercise

U.S. Africa Command Fact Sheet

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Program Overview

Africa Endeavor (AE) is U.S. Africa Command's annual 10-day communications exercise, which focuses on interoperability and information sharing among our African partners. The first Africa Endeavor was held in 2006 in South Africa. Past exercises have taken place in Nigeria (2008), Gabon (2009), Ghana (2010), and in The Gambia (2011).

Objectives

Africa Endeavor's primary objective is to increase the command, control, and communications capacities (C4) of African nations by encouraging interoperable tactics, training, and procedures and creating documented C4 systems standards that support coalition interoperability. Increasing our partner nations' C4 capacity allows them to provide critical C4 capabilities to the African Union and African Standby forces in support of humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, peacekeeping missions, etc.

Benefits

The participating nations take an active role in shaping the exercise. The planning conferences and exercise locations are nominated and voted on by the delegation chiefs from each nation (U.S. does not vote) with the intention of each region being afforded the opportunity to host a planning conference or exercise. The participants decide on the exercise objectives, agenda, training goals, and format. Africa Endeavor gives participating nations the opportunity to communicate with other countries across the continent. This exercise creates important personal relationships between communicators from different countries. These relationships enhance the ability of African nations to support multinational operations, respond to crises, and avoid conflict.

Facts and Figures

Since its inception, Africa Endeavor has trained more than 1,450 communications specialists from more than 39 countries. Participants in the 2011 exercise included



Gambian Minister of Defense Lieutenant General Masanneh Kinteh meets delegates from several nations during a tour of the 2011 Africa Endeavor site at Falajar Barracks, The Gambia. (U.S. Army photo by Sergeant Daniel T. West 358th)

representatives from NATO, the African Union, and the African Regional Economic Communities and such coalition partners as Canada, France, The Netherlands, and Sweden. The Africa Endeavor 2011 budget of \$4 million supported three planning conferences and the exercise, all on the African continent.

Impact

A highlight of the 2011 exercise was the first communications voice and data network established between the African Union Peace and Support Operations Center, the Economic

Community of West African States (ECOWAS) East Regional Operations Center, and the main exercise site, located in Banjul, The Gambia. Command and control messages based on an AU format were exchanged, simulating that of an African Standby Force comprised of nations organic to their respective regions. Technical interoperability tests conducted during the course of the exercise were used to build a Communications Equipment Interoperability Guide, distributed to all participating nations. The Interoperability Guides provide the technical specifications necessary to develop communications standards within regions, across the continent and in support of African Union Peace and Security Operations.

Key quote

"We all remember what happened when ECOWAS first deployed in Liberia, and the challenges we faced," said Brigadier General Joseph Kwankye, director general, Communications and Information Systems Department, Ghana Armed Forces. "Most of these challenges we faced have been solved during the course of our participation in these exercises and conferences...so let me say, it has been very useful and beneficial to Ghana."

Other sources

[Lesotho Hosts Africa Endeavor 2012 Planning Conference](#)

[Africa Endeavor 2011 Kicks Off in Banjul](#)