United States Africa Command, (U.S. AFRICOM) is one of six of the U.S. Defense Department's geographic combatant commands and is responsible to the Secretary of Defense for military relations with African nations, the African Union, and African regional security organizations. A full-spectrum combatant command, U.S. AFRICOM is responsible for all U.S. Department of Defense operations, exercises, and security cooperation on the African continent, its island nations, and surrounding waters. AFRICOM began initial operations on Oct. 1, 2007, and officially became an independent command on Oct. 1, 2008.

**ACCORD Series**

**MISSION:** (AFRICAN LION, EASTERN ACCORD, WESTERN ACCORD, CENTRAL ACCORD, and SOUTHERN ACCORD): The ACCORD exercises are a progressive series of Command Post Exercises (CPX) and Field Training Exercises (FTX) conducted with Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to African Union (AU) or United Nations (UN) missions. The series is designed to exercise and assess a U.S. and regional African Standby Forces (ASF) TCC Combined/Joint Task Force (C/JTF) response to an AU/UN mandated peace operation resulting from a man-made crisis.

**INTENT:** U.S. and regional African partners contingency plans, crisis action planning SOP, and C/JTF are established in response to an AU/UN mandated peace Operation. The exercise will serve as a capstone event for the preceding years' security assistance and mil-mil activities aligned with both the Theater Security and Regional Cooperation Plans. The exercise constructs, objectives, and scenarios are designed to be a continuation of those executed in the previous years' exercise, i.e. CPX followed by FTX biennial rotation. Identified capabilities gaps are then addressed in subsequent annual country work plans and exercises.

**END STATE:** The ACCORD series will enhance the ability of African TCCs and U.S. forces to plan, deploy, employ, sustain and redeploy forces in support of an AU/UN mandated peace operation.

- **EASTERN ACCORD (EA):** U.S., Eastern African Partners, Euro-Atlantic partners, and ASF friends/partners/donors will conduct an exercise focused on contingency plans, crisis action planning SOP, and establishing a C/JTF in response to an AU/UN mandated peace operation. EA14 will be held in Jinja, Uganda.
- **AFRICAN LION (AL)/NORTHERN ACCORD (NA):** AL is a joint and combined regional exercise conducted with North African partner nations, focusing on partner nation interoperability and the conduct of HA, DR, PKO and PSO missions. This exercise is conducted annually in Morocco.
- **WESTERN ACCORD (WA):** WA is a progressive series of PKO focused exercises that will enhance the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) Standby Force (ESF), its member nations, U.S., and Allies Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) to plan deploy, employ, sustain, redeploy forces in support of AU/UN mandated peace operations in a regional crisis. WA14 will be held in Senegal.
- **CENTRAL ACCORD (CA):** CA is a progressive series of exercises that enhances the ability of the U.S. Euro-Atlantic Allies, Economic community of Central African States (ECCAS), and African Union (A.U.)/United Nations (U.N) Troop Contributing Countries (TCC) to plan, deploy, employ, sustain and redeploy forces in support of A.U./U.N.-mandated peace operations in a regional crisis. CA14 will be held in Cameroon.
- **SOUTHERN ACCORD (SA):** SA is a progressive series of exercises that enhances the ability of the U.S. and Southern African Development Community (SADC) Troop Contributing Countries (TCC) to plan, deploy, employ, sustain and redeploy forces in support of A.U./U.N.-mandated peace operations in a regional crisis. SA14 will be held in Malawi.

**EXPRESS Series**

**MISSION:** EXPRESS Series (CUTLASS EXPRESS (east), PHOENIX EXPRESS (north), SAHARAN EXPRESS (west), and OBANGAME EXPRESS (central): The EXPRESS exercises are a progressive series of maritime security
focused exercises in order to exercise and assess standard procedures for Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and information sharing for combined/joint Maritime Interception Operations (MIO).

**INTENT:** Optimize joint, interagency, and multinational partner opportunities to identify and resolve operations issues while synchronizing and integrating the conduct of training and exercise events supporting the USAFRICOM Theater Campaign Plan (TCP), Subordinate Campaign Plans (SCP), Theater Security Cooperation Plans, and interagency and regional and country plans.

**END STATE:** African nation Maritime Operations Centers (MOCs) conduct joint combined MIO that enhances maritime security to counter piracy and illicit trafficking and enhance maritime security.

- **CUTLASS EXPRESS (CE):** A progressive series of maritime security-focused exercises with eastern African coastal nations, U.S., and international partners. The CE-series is designed to exercise and assess standard procedures for Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and information sharing for Combined/Joint Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) to include counter piracy and counter illicit trafficking objectives.
- **OBANGAME EXPRESS (OE):** A progressive series of maritime security-focused exercises with Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) Gulf of Guinea coastal nations, U.S., other international partners. The OE-series is designed to exercise and assess standard procedures for Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and information sharing for Combined/Joint Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) to include counter piracy and counter illicit trafficking objectives.
- **SAHARAN EXPRESS (SE) (biennial/odd years):** A progressive series of maritime security-focused exercises with west African partner nations, U.S., and Allies in the Sea Lines of Communication between Senegal Cape Verde, and Mauritania. The SE-series is designed to exercise and assess standard procedures for Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and information sharing for Combined/Joint Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) to include counter piracy and counter illicit trafficking objectives.
- **PHOENIX EXPRESS (PE) (biennial/even years):** A progressive series of maritime security focused exercises with various North African and European partners. The PE-series is designed to exercise and assess standard procedures for Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and information sharing for Combined/Joint Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) across North African littorals and the Central Mediterranean.

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES (SOF) Series**

**MISSION:** The Special Operations Forces (SOF) exercise and assess U.S. and African SOF capability and capacity to conduct Counterterrorism (CT) & Counter-Violent Extremist Organization (CVEO) within Africa. Additionally, the exercise series is used to develop U.S. and African SOF interoperability and ability to support joint special operations activities.

**INTENT:** Sustain and improve U.S. and African Partner SOF’s capability and capacity to conduct CT and CVEO while improving interoperability with U.S. SOF. These exercises will optimize joint, combined, multinational, and intergovernmental partner opportunities to integrate the conduct of training and exercise events with the commander’s theater campaign strategy, theater security cooperation plans, subordinate campaign plans, and applicable country work plans.

**END STATE:** Terrorists & Violent Extremist Organizations degraded. Capable, interoperable African Partner SOF able to conduct African led SOF exercises where U.S. is sponsor and part of training audience. African partners possess the will and capacity to combat transnational threats and contribute to stability in their respective states.

- **FLINTLOCK 2014:** Niger (Conducted with TSCTP Nations and Western Partners)
- **SILENT WARRIOR 2014:** Garmisch & Hohenfels (Symposium/TTX-Pan Africa participation)

**AFRICA ENDEAVOR (AE)**

**MISSION:** AFRICA ENDEAVOR (AE), U.S. Africa Command’s annual communications exercise, focuses on interoperability and information sharing among our African partners. The first Africa Endeavor was held in 2006 in South Africa, and this year will be hosted by USAFRICOM in Garmisch, Germany. Past exercises have taken place in Nigeria (2008), Gabon (2009), Ghana (2010), The Gambia (2011), Cameroon (2012), and the Republic of Zambia (2013). Beginning in 2014, the tactical aspects of communications interoperability previously conducted during Exercise Africa Endeavor will be integrated into USAFRICOM's ACCORD Series exercises, providing African, U.S.,
and partner nation military communicators the opportunity to exercise their capabilities as a fully integrated component
of a multi-national force, improving the training opportunity for all exercise training audiences. Africa Endeavor 2014 and beyond will be executed as a 4 day Table Top Exercise (TTX) with senior military communicators from African, U.S., and other partner nations.

**OBJECTIVES:** AE’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 standards that support interoperability. This allows our partner nations to provide critical C4 support to the African Union, African Standby Forces, and multi-national United Nations' missions involved in humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, peacekeeping missions, etc.

**BENEFITS:** AE gives participating nations the opportunity to communicate with other African countries, creates important personal relationships between communicators from different countries, and provides a venue for evaluation of strategic communications capabilities and challenges. This enhances the ability of African nations to support multinational operations, respond to crises, and avoid conflict.

**FACTS AND FIGURES:** Africa Endeavor has trained more than 1,750 communications specialists and military planners. Participants in the 2013 exercise, held in Lusaka, Zambia, hailed from 46 nations and international organizations.

During the 2013 exercise, participating nations across Africa collaborated to developed and exercised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) contained in a Communications Planning Handbook, which serves as a foundation for the procedures employed by many African regional organizations and troop contributing nations with forces deployed to ongoing AU and UN mandated missions. Technical interoperability tests were used to build a Communications Equipment Interoperability Guide, distributed to all participating nations. These guides provide the technical specifications needed to develop communications standards within regions, across the continent and in support of African Union Peace and Security Operations.