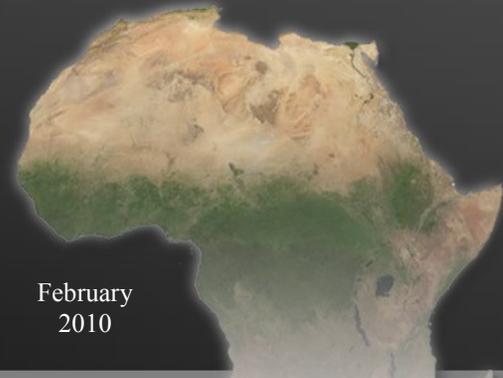




# Ghanaian Journalists Visit U.S. Africa Command HQ

## U.S. Africa Command Vignette

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*"Before we got here there was a lot of suspicion in my country. We see and hear of military bases as huge establishments...and there is fear that they could take over the country, the people and the resources and there would be nothing left for us. But after coming, I see things differently. I don't see it as the U.S. military trying to impose its ideas on African militaries or African countries. It is a mutual relationship where African countries benefit from the technical skills, experience and expertise of the U.S. military for its own development and safety. I believe if more public education had been done about the concept of AFRICOM then there wouldn't have been fear or suspicion. I believe more education on AFRICOM should be organized for AFRICOM partnership nations to be able to understand the concepts." — George A. Naykene, reporter for the Ghana News Agency*

### Overview

As part of public information outreach initiatives, U.S. Africa Command actively seeks opportunities to host African media, academic and civic leader delegations at the command's headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. The purpose is to provide African audiences in-depth and personal insight into the command's programs and activities in Africa.



As of February 2010, the command, in cooperation with U.S. Embassies, hosted media delegations from countries including Cameroon, Ghana, Senegal, and South Africa. The command also hosted an historic military-to-military visit by Libyan military editors.

### The Participants

Most recently U.S. Africa Command hosted a successful visit by a Ghanaian media delegation February 22-26, 2010. The group consisted of four prominent Ghanaian journalists, an information officer with the Ghanaian Ministry of Information, a public affairs officer from the Ghanaian Navy, and a media specialist from the U.S. Embassy in Accra.

The weeklong visit to the command, in which they met with senior staff members to discuss the command's programs and activities, culminated in interviews with the deputy to the commander for civil-military activities, Ambassador J. Anthony Holmes, the deputy to the commander for military

### The Bottom Line

General William "Kip" Ward told the Ghanaian delegation that U.S. Africa Command is "a command that we want you to know; we don't want you to be wondering about it. We want it to be very well understood." Efforts like the public information outreach initiative help achieve that goal.

operations, Vice Admiral Robert Moeller, and the commander, General William "Kip" Ward. The delegation also traveled to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to meet Major General Ron Ladnier, U.S. Air Forces Africa and 17th Air Force commander. They also toured American Forces Network-Europe studios in Mannheim, Germany, and met with the European Stars and Stripes staff in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

### Objectives

Ghana is a strong partner of the United States with a robust military-to-military relationship. In March 2010, Ghana served as one of two hubs for Africa Partnership Station 2010 (West), and in August 2010, Ghana will host Exercise Africa Endeavor, the

command's annual communications exercise that focuses on interoperability and information sharing among African partner nations.

With such a high level of bilateral partnership and engagement, the command focused resources and time into helping inform and educate the host nation audiences on the programs and activities of U.S. Africa Command.

### Outcome

Subsequent reporting has reached 100 percent of Ghana's media organizations. The U.S. Embassy Accra Public Affairs Office reports that clear and accurate coverage of U.S. Africa Command's program and activities in Ghana was mentioned in 150+ newspaper stories, 300+ radio mentions and 25+ TV broadcasts.