



Exercise Africa Endeavor

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Overview

Africa Endeavor (AE), U.S. Africa Command's annual 10-day communications exercise, 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), The Gambia (2011), and Cameroon (2012).

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 and African Standby forces involved in humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, peacekeeping missions, etc.

Benefits

The participating nations are active 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 given an opportunity to host a planning conference or exercise. The participants decide on the exercise objectives, agenda, training goals, and format. AE gives participating nations the opportunity to communicate with other African countries, and creates important personal relationships between communicators from different countries. This enhances the ability of African nations to support multinational operations, respond to crises, and avoid conflict.



Colonel Stephen Koku Assem, the delegation chief from Ghana, speaks with U.S. Navy Commander Bryan McRoberts, exercise director for Operation Africa Endeavor during the 2012 event.

Facts and Figures

Africa Endeavor has trained more than 1,450 communications specialists. Participants in 2012 exercise, held in Douala, Cameroon, hailed from 36 nations. The 2012 exercise included a public affairs workshop for the first time. Seventeen public affairs officers from 14 nations and the African Union participated in three days of training, then operated as public affairs officers during the exercise scenario.

Impact

During the 2011 exercise, the first communications voice and data network was 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 in The Gambia. Command and control messages based on an AU format were exchanged, simulating an African Standby Force comprised of nations organic to their regions. 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.

More Sources

[Africa Endeavor Exercise Prepares Communicators from Across the World to Work Together](#)

[National Guard Joins 36 Nations in Africa's Largest Military Communications Exercise](#)