AFRICA: Vital to U.S. Security?

Terrorism & Transnational Threats - Causes & Enablers

Briefing for NDU Symposium

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November 16, 2005
Africa: Vital to U.S. Security? Terrorism & Transnational Threats-Causes & Enablers

The original document contains color images.
Outline

Sub-Saharan Threat Environment

Problem of Ungoverned Space

• Ungoverned and Exploitable Areas
• CT Capacity vs. Governance Capacity

Strategic Elements Defined

DOD’s Security Cooperation Examples
Sub-Saharan African Threat Environment

- Sub-Saharan Africa continues to face constant security, political and economic crises
- Government corruption is a major problem
- Many countries have limited or unreliable capacities for internal security, law enforcement, and border protection.

  - This lack of governance capacity makes them attractive venues for the development of violent extremism, terrorism, and criminal activities.
Ungoverned and Exploitable Areas

Ungoverned and exploitable areas have physical and non-physical dimensions:

**Ungoverned territories**: Rugged, remote, maritime, or littoral areas not effectively governed by a sovereign state

**Competing governance**: A sovereign state’s inability or unwillingness to exercise authority over part or whole of a country, e.g.,

- Conditions where a government has made the political decision to relinquish authority over territory or the provision of essential functions (e.g., education, health) to actors that potentially threaten domestic or international order
- Situations in which incapacity or, in extreme cases, government collapse has allowed actors that potentially threaten domestic or international order to fill the governance void by controlling territory or providing basic governance functions

**Exploitation of legal principles**: Areas in which legal norms and processes can be exploited by actors who threaten domestic or international order (e.g., speech and assembly rights, immigration and asylum laws)

**Opaque areas of activity**: Areas created by the inability of a government to monitor or control certain illicit or facilitating transactions when they are conducted in a certain way (e.g., within cyber or financial systems)
CT Capacity vs. Governance Capacity

- Building partners’ CT capacity generally refers to improving police, military, administration of justice, financial regulation, intelligence, and border security
  - Example: Bolstering economic and administrative capacity is needed to sustain security capacity
- Depending on context, focusing on only one area without regard for others may produce unintended and self-defeating consequences
  - Example: Building CT capacity without concern for political institutions may contribute to repression
- Building governance capacity requires understanding how various components of governance interact to be mutually reinforcing
Strategic Elements Defined

• Civil Control & Defense Reform
  – Civil subordinated/appropriately sized and funded militaries with improved transparency and accountability for national security.

• Military Professionalism
  – Institutionalization of training to develop and maintain a disciplined force, with a professional ethic, conducting legitimate national security missions with respect for law and human rights.

• Capacity Building
  – Skilled, appropriately equipped and well-led African militaries that can help reduce ungoverned space by contributing positively to combating terrorism, controlling land and maritime space and work to prevent and to respond to crises, at both the national and sub-regional level.
CONCLUSION
African Security Cooperation Tools

SECURITY ASSISTANCE
- IMET & E-IMET
- Foreign Military Financing
- Foreign Military Sales
- Excess Defense Articles
- Direct Commercial Sales
- Counter-Terrorism Fellowships

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
- HAP-Excess Articles
- HAP-Civic Action
- Humanitarian Demining

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES
- Peacekeeping Operations
- Humanitarian Relief Ops
- Counter-Narcotics Ops
- Sanctions Enforcement
- Contingency Ops
- NEOs
- MIOs

REGIONAL PEACEKEEPING
- TRAINING & EXERCISES
- PKO Exercises
- ACOTA
- EPIC

COMBINED TRAINING & EXERCISES
- JCET & FLINTLOCK
- Natural Fire Exercise
- Multi- & Bi-Lateral Exercises
- MEDFLAGs
- Disaster Assistance Training
- Maritime Training

MIL-MIL CONTACT
- Multi- & Bi-Lateral Staff Talks
- Ship & Port Visits - WATCs
- GO-FO Visits
- Counterpart Visits
- Chaplain Program

COMBINED EDUCATION
- ACSS
- Military Academies

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES
- Peacekeeping Operations
- Humanitarian Relief Ops
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OTHER DOD ACTIVITIES
- Demobilization
- Civic Affairs
- Environmental Security