

ENHANCING CAPACITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP IN AFRICA



ALFS

LILONGWE, MALAWI - MAY 8-11, 2017

FEATURED EXERCISES



ACCORD



MEDRETE



FOLLOW U.S. ARMY AFRICA



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MG Joseph P. Harrington
Commander



BG Kenneth H. Moore
Deputy Commander



CSM Christopher G. Gilpin
Command Sergeant Major

VISION

U.S. Army Africa/Southern European Task Force is a trusted and respected partner, achieving U.S. Africa Command and U.S. Army's long-term strategic goals.

MISSION

U.S. Army Africa/Southern European Task Force provides mission command and employs forces to set the theater, conduct security force assistance and provide support to joint and international partners in order to achieve U.S. Africa Command's theater campaign plan objectives.

TOTAL FORCE

- State Partnership Program (National Guard)
- Army Reserve
- Active Component

EXERCISES (FY17)

ACCORD SERIES

- **JUSTIFIED**
Ethiopia
20-24 March
- **UNIFIED FOCUS**
Cameroon
24-28 April
- **UNITED**
Ghana
19-30 May
- **SHARED**
South Africa
17 Jul-4 Aug

MEDRETE SERIES (T)

MEDICAL READINESS TRAINING EXERCISE

- Senegal
- Ghana
- Chad
- Gabon
- Cameroon

JOINT

- **FLINTLOCK**
Chad
SOCAF
27 Feb-16 March
- **AFRICAN LION**
Morocco/Tunisia
MARFORAF
19-28 April
- **EPIC GUARDIAN**
Stuttgart/Burkina Faso
SOCAF
3-12 May
- **JUDICIOUS RESPONSE**
Vicenza, Italy
USARAF
29 Nov-12 Dec 2016



CONTENTS



HIGHLIGHTED ARTICLES

WESTERN ACCORD

By Staff Sgt. Candace Mundt
Page 6

EASTERN ACCORD

By Staff Sgt. Tiffany Lundberg
Page 10

SOUTHERN ACCORD

By Staff Sgt. Candace Mundt
Page 11

AFRICA READINESS TRAINING

By Staff Sgt. Candace Mundt
Page 12

NIGER BASIC TRAINING

By Capt. Jason Welch
Page 14

UGANDANS AT JRTC

By Jean Dubiel
Page 18



General Daniel B. Allyn
35th Vice Chief of Staff of the Army

General Daniel B. Allyn assumed duties as the 35th Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, August 15, 2014.

General Allyn is a native of Berwick, Maine, and a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He previously served as the Commander of the United States Army Forces Command, Fort Bragg, NC.

He also served as the Commanding General, XVIII Airborne Corps and Commanding General, 1st Cavalry Division, "America's First Team," including duty as Commanding General, Combined Joint Task Force-1 and Regional Command East in Afghanistan. General Allyn has

also served as the Chief of Staff, and later, Deputy Commanding General of XVIII Airborne Corps, including duty as Chief of Staff, Multi-National Corps Iraq. His joint assignments include the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization and the Joint Operations Directorate, J-3. Prior to his Joint assignments, he served as Commander, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), culminating with service during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Prior to serving in the "Marne Division," General Allyn served two tours of duty with the 82nd Airborne Division, two years with the 2nd Infantry Division, and three tours of duty with the 75th Ranger Regiment.

General Allyn's previous duties include command at the platoon through division level and staff assignments at the battalion through Joint Staff level. He served an overseas assignment in Korea and operational deployments for Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, two peacekeeping deployments to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, and Operations Desert Spring and Enduring Freedom in Kuwait, two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and most recently was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom XII.

He is a graduate of the Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island, where he earned a Master of Arts degree in Strategic and National Security Studies.

General Allyn's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, three Defense Superior Service Medals, three Legions of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, six Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, four Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, the Combat Infantryman Badge (with Star), the Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge (with Bronze Star), the Ranger Tab, the Pathfinder Badge, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge.

African Land Forces Summit

The History of

When U.S. Army Africa was established in 2008, leaders recognized the importance of establishing relationships with the chiefs of land forces from our partner nations in Africa. U.S. Army Africa realized the best way to achieve this goal was by conducting a summit solely for African partner nations' chiefs of land forces.

“Building and Maintaining Strong Relationships”

The first African Land Forces Summit was held in Washington, D.C., in May 2010. The theme for the first summit was “Building and Maintaining Strong Relationships,” and was attended by the guest of honor, the U.S. Army chief of staff, as well as 23 chiefs of land forces from African partner nations. The main issues of discussion at the 2010 summit focused on the role of land forces in the current security environment, building relationships with the leadership of countries that represent common interests and lastly, the responsibility of military leaders to democratic governments. Finally, as a way forward, the participants of the first African Land Forces Summit made the determination to conduct a summit every other year and, more importantly, they decided to relocate the summit to the continent of Africa.

“The Strength of an Army for the Nation and Its People”

In 2012, the Ugandan chief of land forces agreed to host the next summit in Uganda's capital city of Kampala. The theme for the second African Land Forces Summit was “The Strength of an Army for the Nation and Its People.” The guest

of honor was the commanding general of U.S. Africa Command, and 35 chiefs of land forces from African partner nations attended the summit. This dramatic increase in partner nation attendance demonstrated the importance of conducting this event on the African continent. At the 2012 summit, participant nations addressed strengthening Army values and preparation for crisis and conflict. Finally, the summit participants were treated to a presentation on security cooperation initiatives in Africa. In planning the way ahead for future summits, the chiefs of land forces agreed to include breakout sessions on key issues and to incorporate more chiefs of land forces as speakers on topics relevant to Africa.

“Training for a Range of Military Operations”

The Senegalese Defense Forces took the lead in 2015 and hosted the third African Land Forces Summit in Dakar, Senegal. The theme for the 2015 summit was “Training for a Range of Military Operations” and the guest of honor was the commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. In attendance were 36 chiefs of land forces from African partner nations, who helped to lead a wide range of discussion that ranged from training for peacekeeping operations, the value of military institutions, to regional military cooperation. The 2015 African Land Forces Summit was a tremendous success, due primarily to African chiefs of land forces active participation and speaker presentations. Breakout group discussions gained more visibility thanks to strong partner nation participation. Finally, as a way forward, the summit participants agreed to conduct the African Land

Forces Summit on an annual basis in a different country in Africa each year.

“Building Security in Africa through Cooperation”

The Tanzania People's Defense Forces hosted the 2016 African Land Forces Summit, the fourth gathering of land forces chiefs in Arusha, Tanzania. The theme was, “Building Security in Africa through Cooperation” and the guest of honor was U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley. U.S. Army Africa and the Tanzanian People's Defense Force proudly welcomed the attendance of 42 African partner nations, the largest ever gathering of chiefs of land forces for an African Land Forces Summit. The event afforded African land forces chiefs the opportunity to discuss common threats and challenges and identify workable solutions from national and regional perspectives. Most importantly, participants had the opportunity to strengthen existing relationships and develop new ones.

“Enhancing capacity through partnership in Africa”

This year, the summit will be hosted by the Malawi People's Defense Forces in Lilongwe, Malawi. The theme will be “Enhancing capacity through partnership in Africa.” The weeklong seminar will bring together land force chiefs from across Africa for candid dialogue to discuss and develop cooperative solutions to regional/transregional challenges and threats.

On behalf of U.S. Army Africa, welcome to the 2017 African Land Forces Summit.



General Pingrenoma Zagre, Chief of Defense Staff for Burkina Faso Armed Forces, salutes WA16 participants.

WA16 Participants closeout exercise at Camp Zagre

By Staff Sgt. Candace Mundt, 2nd BCT, 3rd Infantry Division

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso – The Burkina Faso prime minister, U.S. ambassador for Burkina Faso and deputy commanding general for U.S. Army Africa attended a closing ceremony for Western Accord 2016 May 13, at Camp Zagre, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The two-week command post exercise, which began May 2, brought together 15 West African nations, 7 NATO European countries and the U.S. to work as a multinational headquarters to build interoperability and shared understanding.

“Let me start by saying thank you to Burkina Faso for hosting Western Accord 2016,” said Tulinabo Mushingi, U.S. Ambassador for Burkina Faso. “We, in the United States, are very proud that this year’s event has been successful and has been an excellent training opportunity for everyone represented here today.”

Participants had to plan and

notionally execute an African Union and United Nations peacekeeping operation in a joint, combined environment. Each military representative came with a different operational process, but everyone aligned efforts to complete their mission.

“There is no standard for success, that we all have different backgrounds and different experiences that we can capitalize from,” said Capt. Scott Saunders, U.S. Army Africa scenario manager for the accord. “We’re dealing with language barriers, many different backgrounds, and not one person was going to solve it all. So, we had to get out of our comfort zones and contribute in any way we could. It took a little bit more time, but, in the end, I feel the consensus is what gave us strength.”

Western Accord 2016 has allowed the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, to train for regionally significant real-world scenarios that currently, not

only West Africa, but all its partner nations.

“This act is a testimony of your support and involvement in encouraging the armed forces of the countries involved in order to prevent conflict, preserve and maintain peace and stability in the ECOWAS area and all over the world,” said General Pingrenoma Zagre, Chief of Defense Staff for Burkina Faso Armed Forces. While the exercise was directed at enhancing interoperability across the region, it was also beneficial for U.S. participants, as most have less experience outside a combat operational environment.

“While the U.S. does a lot of training, the Burkinabe participate in a lot more peacekeeping operations than we do,” Saunders said. “I feel I learned a lot about U.N. operations and the U.N. planning process.”

This is the first of four annual U.S. Army Africa accord series exercises scheduled this year.



(Left) 2nd Lt. James Mills, transportation officer in charge for CA16, observes a truck being loaded onto a landing craft. (Top right) Sgt. Heather Green, mayor cell NCOIC, and 1st Lt. Charles Wagenseil, camp mayor, discuss billeting at the cooperative security location of CA16. (Bottom right) Spc. Benjamin Thompson, with 703rd BSB, works with Gabonese Armed Forces to transport supplies.

Central Accord 16's force behind the exercise

By Staff Sgt. Candace Mundt, 2nd BCT, 3rd Infantry Division

LIBREVILLE, Gabon – To set up and sustain a U.S. Army Africa Accord series exercise is no small task and Central Accord 2016 is the largest, most complex USARAF-led exercise to date. In addition to robust field training and command post exercises, the CA 16 Joint Exercise Support Group must also facilitate an 82nd Airborne Division parachute jump, two international jumps and two course iterations at the French Jungle Warfare school.

The JESG's support cell, 25 select U.S. service members, will coordinate for and distribute an estimated 75,000 liters of water, 72,000 meals and 4,200 personnel transports over three weeks to support approximately 1,200 participants at four separate locations, according to Maj. Ryan Crosby, support cell officer in charge with the JESG.

“The biggest success I'd say we've had really is taking the adhoc team and bringing them together,” said Crosby, who is also the support

operations officer for 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. “Even though most of the support (cell are) members of the 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, most of us hadn't worked together before.”

According to Crosby, most of his team also hadn't operated in a support cell role previously, but are pulling together to drive forward in the same direction.

“I couldn't be happier with how they've all kind of pulled together here never having worked together before, never having rehearsed this mission,” Crosby said. “It was challenging at first, but man, they have really rowed hard in the same direction.”

As a battle noncommissioned officer in charge, Sgt. 1st Class Leilani Postell drives daily operations at the support cell. With over 500 exercise participants at two separate locations each and about 100 people at two others,

the team of two dozen has to stay connected at all times.

“Right now we're supporting about 16 countries,” Postell said about transporting personnel and supplies across their area of operations. “It's a lot of constant movement going back and forth. So, it's a lot of communication, but we're making everything work. If we don't have it, we find other ways to support them.”

U.S. Army Africa's exercise Central Accord 2016 is an annual, combined, joint military exercise that brings together partner nations to practice and demonstrate proficiency in conducting peacekeeping operations. It is one of four regional Accords in addition to other missions 2nd IBCT is supporting this year on the African continent as the regionally allocated force for USARAF.

“We support all, we not only support U.S. forces. We gotta remember this is a bigger mission

than ourselves,” Postell said. “It’s the most powerful thing when we put our heads together, its like we get things done really quickly.”

In order to reach logistical mission success, Crosby and his team coordinate efforts with their higher headquarters, 414th Contingency Contracting Battalion, representatives from the Defense Logistics Agency and the Central African nations present.

“We’ve had great support from our Gabonese partners,” Crosby said. “I couldn’t be happier with them and how they’re giving us, really as guests in their country, all the support we could ask for.”

Many U.S. paratroopers strive to jump with multinational partners. 82nd Airborne Division troopers will fly direct from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and will first touch Gabonese soil by parachuting onto Pointe Denis, near Libreville. Once on ground, the support cell will put their plans into action and begin moving the other two airborne operations forward.

Crosby described each logistical detail required: moving troopers back and forth from the drop

zone, both by bus and ferry, coordinating and overseeing parachute pick-up with 82nd Airborne Division riggers, and emplacing medical staff and a safety team at the operational area, all while maintaining day-to-day operations for the main exercise.

He expressed his appreciation for support from the 82nd Airborne Division planners and Gabonese partners who helped coordinate timelines and provided transportation assets.

“It was really daunting at first to look at that, but now I’m pretty happy,” Crosby said about the overall logistical preparation and execution process for the airborne mission. “My planners and my transportation guys have done such a fantastic job setting this up. I think this is going to be a great operation.”

In addition to combined airborne jumps, another primary logistical and sustainment focus throughout CA 16 is Soldier welfare, not just to boost morale but also for overall health.

“The better we can control and make an environment where people can have reliable showers,

have hand washing stations, are eating chow that has been supervised by a Department of Defense preventative medicine specialist, all those things mean that the Soldiers most likely will not get sick,” Crosby said.

“Sure, we can do expeditionary operations, and we can go as austere as we want, but whenever we can get an opportunity to have a shower, have a Soldier sleep in a room that’s a decent temperature, get (him or her) a meal they can consume right before they go into 12 to 14 hours of tough, realistic training – that’s obviously what we want to do whenever that’s possible,” Crosby explained.

A majority of those elements are monitored and related issues resolved by the camp’s mayor cell, an element of Crosby’s support team not often utilized during a typical U.S. Army brigade-level field training exercise. Conducting mayor cell and reception, staging, onward-movement and integration operations during CA 16 has proved beneficial for 703rd BSB in preparation for this year’s 3rd Infantry Division Warfighter Exercise 17-1 at Fort Stewart, Georgia.



U.S. and Cameroonian Soldiers conduct squad-level maneuvers during CA16.





Hussein Ali Mwinyi, Minister of Defense and National Service, and senior military leaders take a group photo during EA16.

EA16 kicks off in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

By Staff Sgt. Tiffany Lundberg, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania – Marking the first day of U.S. Army Africa’s annual exercise, Eastern Accord 2016, the opening ceremony brought combined and joint military senior leaders together to the Tanzanian Peacekeeping Training Centre, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on July 11, 2016.

The two-week exercise is intended to build readiness, maintain U.S. and African coalition partnerships, facilitate interoperability between militaries and build capacity. The countries participating are Ethiopia, Djibouti, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Other organizations present are the African Union, the East African Standby Force, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, for a total of over 200 personnel.

“The command post exercise, Eastern Accord 2016, is designed to bring a real time reflection on peace support operations, counter terrorism and humanitarian

assistance,” said Hussein Ali Mwinyi, Minister of Defense and National Service. “The exercise is quite encompassing having participants from nine countries.”

Members of the 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, along with members of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, provide logistical support including transportation, communications support, sustainment and various other support for the participants.

“We are excited to increase our knowledge of both the African Union and Eastern African Standby Force’s planning processes and standard operating procedures,” said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Jon Jensen, U.S. Army Africa deputy commanding general and co-exercise director. “We all benefit from exercises like this as our nations and militaries become stronger and better equipped.”

“This will allow them to further professionalize themselves and their forces in process as well as deepen existing relationships and creating new relationships amongst the (nine) countries that

are participating in this exercise,” he said.

The multinational training exercise involves three phases: academics, planning process and final scenario exercise. For the academics portion of the exercise, subject matter experts will take turns sharing their best practices in various subjects to lead up to developing a plan for the final scenario scheduled in the second week of the exercise.

“The achievements gained at the end of this exercise will remind the participants on the contemporary security challenges we face today,” said Mwinyi.

“The new challenges to internal security have compelled us to invest and work in partnerships to train in operations other than war. This will equip and instill skills and capacities to our men and women in uniform to face these undeniable cultural challenges,” he continued.

“When we work together, the trials we each face become more manageable and we all advance,” said Jensen.

Southern Accord 16 closes with success

By Staff Sgt. Candace Mundt, 2nd BCT, 3rd Infantry Division

SALIMA, Malawi – Participants of Southern Accord 2016 held a closing ceremony to mark the end of this year’s command post exercise (CPX), Aug. 12 at the Malawi Armed Forces College in Salima, Malawi.

SA16 is a U.S. Army Africa-led annual, combined military exercise that brings together U.S. military personnel with African partner nations to improve readiness, promote interoperability, build capacity and strengthen partner relationships.

“You were simply outstanding,” said Brig. Gen. Jon A. Jensen, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Africa, to the training audience of SA16. “Your work ethic, your commitment to the exercise and your commitment to each other was spectacular.”

The CPX was based on a scenario, which required African, U.S. Army Africa and European partners to lead a peacekeeping force in support of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission (UN MONUSCO) in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a real-world ongoing mission for the Malawi Defence Force (MDF).

“If you want an example of a complex operation, DRC is one of them,” said Lt. Gen. Clement Namangale, MDF deputy commanding general. Namangale went on to thank exercise coordinators for choosing the timely and relevant scenario and participants for their focus throughout. “This is a purpose-built exercise that we will see the fruits of.”

The first week of the exercise consisted of academic briefings

focused on U.N. operational planning processes and working alongside different agencies and organizations, such as local police and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The MDF hosted a CPX for SA14 as well, but this year joined with the Malawi Department of Disaster Management Affairs personnel to conduct their first disaster relief table top exercise based on a flood that occurred last year.

“You should be proud and honored that your country selected you to come to this exercise, and with this honor, comes obligation, however; the obligation to take what you’ve learned over the last two weeks back to your nation, back to your army, back to your unit and to share, to train your fellow officers,” Jensen said.

SA16 participants and guests observe the opening ceremony at the Malawi Armed Forces College in Salima, Malawi.



Africa Readiness Training 2016

Kicks off in Senegal

**By Staff Sgt. Candace Mundt
2nd BCT, 3rd Infantry Division**

DAKAR, Senegal – Senegalese Armed Forces and U.S. Army Africa began the two-week Africa Readiness Training 16 in Thies, Senegal, July 12.

The first in a series of planned annual USARAF exercises, ART brings together U.S. Army Soldiers from U.S. Africa Command's Regionally Aligned Force with African partners to increase U.S. and partner readiness through tough and realistic training, including combined live-fire events, counter-improvised explosive device detection and combat casualty care.

**“Success for us
looks like joint
integration...”**

Soldiers and headquarters staff of 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division collaborated with the Senegalese Armed Forces to identify exercise training objectives and will partner to complete squad to company-level combined arms training.

“Success for us looks like joint integration and the ability to share information between U.S.





and Senegalese forces,” said Capt. Gerald Popko from Woodstock, N.Y, battalion military intelligence officer with 1-30th Inf. and current operations officer for ART 16.

“We had high expectations of the Senegalese forces coming into this, knowing they are a highly trained and disciplined force, but those were blown away even when we got here,” Popko said. “Their level of discipline, motivation and training proficiency really proved to be a lot higher than what we could have expected.”

“We will learn as much from them as they will from us..”

Conducting training in Senegal provides unique challenges and opportunities for U.S. Soldiers.

“We will learn as much from them as they will from us, and we look forward to seeing a new perspective on military operations,” Popko said.

The intent for all is to enhance the Senegalese army’s ability to train and certify forces, both in Senegal and internationally, to support future operations.

“This is going to be a good experience for us and good for the cooperation between Senegal and United States forces,” said Lt. Col. Souley Mane, commander of the Senegalese 1st Paratrooper Battalion. “This cooperation will enable us to be a part of those people sorting out the problems and conflicts going on in the world and, mostly, Africa.”



(Left) Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mullins instructs NAF officers on proper obstacle maneuvers. (Right) Sgt. 1st Class Sean Carey and a NAF instructor assemble and disassemble an AK-47.

U.S. troops observe, enhance Niger basic training

By Capt. Jason Welch, U.S. Army Africa Public Affairs

NIAMEY, Niger - Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division partnered with members of the Nigerian Armed Forces (NAF) to observe and mentor the training cadre of the Nigerien basic combat training school from Oct. 13 to Nov. 16 at the Tondibiah Training Base in Niger.

The 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, is the regionally allocated force supporting U.S. Army Africa events and exercises across the African continent this year.

The soldiers came from the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment and traveled from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, to Niger to assess how the NAF was conducting basic training of new soldiers and to share U.S. Army methods, but they also learned some lessons of their own.

“The mission in Niger has greatly assisted me and allowed me, as a young leader, to understand vital tasks to how training structure

can work,” said Staff Sgt. Andrew Prince, a member of the U.S. observation team.

Prince learned the “importance of time management, utilizing all resources available, planning, dissemination of information, and proper training of experienced instructors.”

“What I will take back to my formation is the basics. In any Army, no matter the budget or size, the basics are imperative to achieve success,” said Prince.

“This mission allowed our team to learn from their mistakes, and our lessons learned will help out other units once we pass on what we have learned. The feedback we gave to the Nigerien officers will help them teach their basic training recruits and better prepare them,” said team member Staff Sgt. Matthew England.

The team’s officer in charge, 1st Lt. Daniel Godlasky, also shared lessons learned.

“This Niger mission will generate readiness in our own formation not only with our own training, but in our future USARAF missions as well,” said Godlasky.

“This team, comprised mostly of senior noncommissioned officers, has learned the significance of training on the basics. Once the basics are established then complexities can be added,” said Godlasky.

“We also learned multiple methods of communicating to our Soldiers, which will allow us to cater to different learning types when training. For future missions with USARAF this has given our unit a baseline for what to expect and what we must do prepare for extended trips here,” said Godlasky.

Prince, Godlasky and the rest of the team spent four weeks embedded with the Nigerien training cadre, working and living alongside each other on a daily basis. “The Soldiers, NCOs, and officers were all very receptive to any and

all criticism in the efforts to make their training better,” said Prince. “They are very family oriented and love talking about their children.”

“The team felt extremely privileged to have been able to work with such a professional, disciplined, and virtuous organization,” said Godlasky. “We were able to learn a lot from them when dealing with communication barriers and that is invaluable information.”

The military-to-military exchange was an important part of ongoing efforts to build stronger partnerships between U.S. Army and Nigerien troops and to increase the capacity of Nigerien forces to provide regional stability and security.

“The local populace is extremely receptive to their military, and FANs abilities to protect them from the many threats that the Nigeriennes experience,” said Godlasky.

Some of the areas of focus that the U.S. and Nigerien soldiers focused on during the training were basic

soldiering skills including tactical movement, react to contact drills, rifle maintenance and marksmanship, and the confidence obstacle course built at the training site.

“This reinforced the importance of training my squad on infantry basics,” said team member Staff Sgt. Cameron Marsh.

The team first helped the cadre negotiate the basic training obstacle course and then helped them teach the obstacle course to their students, said Marsh.

In addition to marksmanship and combat tactics, recruits learned about Nigerien military rules and regulations, the law of land warfare, and other basic soldier skills and knowledge to help them serve successfully in the Nigerien military.

“The Niger Army is very professional. The Soldiers are very motivated and disciplined. They are very eager to learn and train,” said England.

The Nigerien basic training course provides a commonality that increases interoperability between different African partner militaries that often face similar threats and challenges across the region.

“I think our presence has strengthened our relationship, which will allow for greater success in our efforts to create a lasting partnership with Niger,” said England.

The Nigerien troops that complete the basic training will have a baseline that allows them to work alongside any other military force that uses similar training including the U.S. and other African partners. By increasing interoperability between African partners like Niger, partner militaries increase their ability to counter violent extremists and provide regional security.

“This not only improves the safety for the Soldier by better preparing them, but also helps build a safe Niger,” said Godlasky.

(Left) Sgt. 1st Class Sean Carey shows NAF basic training officers how to use a shadow box while 1st Lt. Daniel Godlasky maintains steady aim. (Right) NAF recruits learn proper sight picture during marksmanship training, while an instructor makes corrections on body position and the proper way to hold a weapon.





Americans learn innovation, gain confidence in medical skills through MEDRETE

By Staff Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti, U.S. Army Africa Public Affairs

ACCRA, Ghana – Fifteen American Soldiers traveled more than 10,000 miles from the U.S. to Ghana to conduct U.S. Army Africa's Medical Readiness Training Exercise Feb. 5-24.

The MEDRETE team included twelve active duty Soldiers from Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas and three North Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the state medical detachment in Bismarck. Comprised of officers and noncommissioned officers across various medical concentrations, the team worked alongside medical personnel from the Ghanaian Armed Forces at the 37th Military Hospital. In the 72 hours spent at the hospital during the three weeks, the team conducted 86 surgeries and treated more than 330 patients with their Ghanaian counterparts.

After landing in Ghana, the Americans broke off into smaller groups concentrating on two major parts of the facility: The emergency room and the operating room. Four medics, one nurse, and one nurse practitioner were assigned to the ER, with the remaining seven which included operating room technicians, an anesthesiologist and several surgeons working in the OR.

“We are actually working in a team environment. So we are here working with the National Guard as well as with active Army in a seamless environment and partnering with medical professionals in Ghana,” said Capt. Annie Gerhardt, nurse practitioner for the North Dakota National Guard, who worked primarily in the emergency room.

The combined team worked alongside their Ghanaian counterparts

for the duration of the MEDRETE. The exercise challenged the team to apply their medical processes and treatment capabilities in a safe but resource-limited environment.

“(Ghanaians) are in the lead and our presence here is to learn their system and work within the confines of their equipment and resources,” said Maj. Frank Agyaopong, emergency room nurse assigned to BAMC. “We have a plethora of resources and diagnostic tools in the United States, so coming here is a little different. You have to rely on your fundamental assessment skills instead of diagnostics for everything. Hone in on your assessment skills and then use diagnostics to enhance your clinical assessment.”

The team learned early in the first week to go back to the basics and sharpen their foundational techniques.



(Opposite page) Lt. Col. Neil McMullin (right), a plastic surgeon with BAMC, assists as his Ghanaian counterpart performs a contracture release surgery. (Above left) Capt. Annie Gerhardt, a nurse practitioner, and Tommy Melvin, a physician assistant trainee, work together to insert a nasogastric tube. (Above right) Maj. Keith Lathrop, a nurse anesthetist with BAMC, helps unload and inventory medical supplies donated by the U.S. Army. (Below) Maj. Lesean Wright, a perioperative nurse with BAMC, presents a class on decreasing the risk of surgical site infection.

“I’ve learned that it’s hard to use a stethoscope in the ER because of all the noise, so I’ve learned other ways to examine a patient by watching my counterparts,” said Gerhardt. “The Ghanaian doctors are extremely good at clinical exams and working around their restrictions but not compromising the level of care provided to their patients.”

During a review in the first week, the team noted all the techniques used by their counterparts are universal. They just had more options to get to the same end-result in the U.S.

“Even though the machines are very similar, they don’t have quite

the same tools. It makes you rely more on basic assessment skills. What we tend to not do so well in the U.S. sometimes—monitor the patient versus monitoring the machine,” said Maj. Keith Lathrop.

The Ghanaian medical processing sometimes has a delay to reach the medical care provider. “Delayed care... would be similar when we are in an actual military conflict. You might have to triage and learn how to prioritize providing care,” said Gerhardt. “There is a lot of thinking on your feet—just like if we were deployed.”

The American medical team members used this exercise to increase confidence in their skills.

“I’ve been able to do things here, practice my basic medic skills, that I haven’t had the opportunity to do in my career yet,” said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Anton, medic for the North Dakota National Guard. Anton, who is currently in an operational position in Bismarck, became a medic within the last two years. “Although I’m senior in rank, I’m junior in the field, so this has been really beneficial to me and has given me more experience.”

“Being competent and capable is necessary but you also have to be confident in your competence. This exercise will give you that confidence,” said Maj. John Ritchie, a general surgeon assigned to BAMC.



JRTC rotation strengthens US, Ugandan partnership

By Jean Dubiel, Fort Polk Guardian



FORT POLK, La. — The Joint Readiness Training Center prepares Soldiers for war. To do that, an enormity of resources, personnel, equipment and preparation must be secured to facilitate realistic, relevant training.

The United States military is fortunate that it has combat training centers to conduct such training, but many partner nations around the globe have only fledgling facilities (or none at all). The Ugandan People's Defense Force is trying to change that by improving its own CTC, and the JRTC is the model for that change.

A group of 19 personnel from the UPDF participated in rotation 17-05, with 15 serving as the battalion headquarters and four serving as first-time guest OCTs, or observer/coach/trainers.

In addition to coaching their team,

these four are taking notes as they experience a rotation from a different angle — one that will help Uganda improve its CTC.

“We will see how they (the JRTC) conduct training to prepare for future missions. This is what we are doing here,” said Col. Maximus Gumisiriza, one of the four UPDF personnel operating in an OCT capacity for the rotation. “We have (people) here so they can learn how to be OCTs, see the rotation in a different light, and understand how to focus on doctrine and training objectives.”

As the battalion headquarters group established its battle rhythm in the training area called “the box” March 17, the UPDF OCTs began to see how the JRTC village facilities and roleplayers impact training.

“It brings in such reality,” said

UPDF OCT Lt. Col. Saad Katemba. “The agencies involved in role play — police, government, citizens — create a realism because they are playing their roles very well, (communicating) their feelings and values.”

Katemba said the Ugandan government doesn't have a training center with the level of infrastructure and support the way it is here, but his hope is that they will understand the need for it.

“This type of (facility) would fill a lot of training gaps,” he said. “We can see here that it works.”

Staff Sgt. Jason Lieber, 101st Airborne Division Regionally Aligned Forces, is a lead trainer for the UPDF team. He assisted the group from Uganda with their training objectives.

“They are learning more than how



to conduct multi-force operations,” said Lieber.

“They are learning how to develop their combat training center in Uganda. They believe the region (currently facing refugee and rebel crises) can change and they want to be a part of that change.”

Master Sgt. Xiengkone Vongkoth, U.S. Army Africa, said, “This team is eager and willing to learn. They want to update their own tactics, techniques and procedures based on what they observe here during training.”

During the battle-planning phase of the rotation, Vongkoth said the team needed little guidance.

“They are very independent, knowledgeable and eager to learn more,” he said.

The hard-charging work ethic

of the UPDF was noticeable, according to Lieber.

“They are extremely motivated. All they want to do is work — they even ask for extra time to work. When we tell them it’s time for lunch, they ask for another 20 minutes to finish up,” said Lieber.

“I’m very impressed with what they are doing.”

Capt. Daniel Specter, 101st RAF, is also coaching the UPDF during the rotation and equally impressed with their progress.

“They are doing incredibly well. Some of their thought processes are a little different but they clearly bring a seasoned, experienced approach to any task,” said Specter.

“Their biggest take away (from the rotation) is seeing how a CTC is operated and how a rotation is

run so they can shape their own program.”

Having a robust CTC in Africa would benefit many other African partners, but the Ugandans are taking the lead.

“They have some bad people in that area,” said Specter. “They (the UPDF) do a lot of the heavy lifting for us in Africa, so this is important for everyone.”

The U.S. Army Africa G3/5/7, Col. Clint Kirk, presented certificates of appreciation to the entire UPDF team March 11 for participating in the rotation.

He said the rotation not only served as an example of CTC and OCT operations, it also marked a beginning for the next phase of the Army’s RAF mission in Uganda, and the fact that they are paired up with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York, is no accident.

“The UPDF is partnering with the 1st BCT, 10th Mountain Division because they will be the RAF for 2018, for security operations and more (The 101st Airborne Division is the current RAF). This rotation is the start for that partnership,” said Kirk.

“We are working closely with the Ugandans because they have a very good military and expressed an interest in (further) developing their own CTC. We’re working to help them with that, and what better way than to show our own JRTC, our Army’s premiere training center? We will help them expand their (training), and thereby help contribute to the overall security in Africa.”

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