

## INTRO:

- Admiral Howe, Dean Mangold, thank you for this opportunity
- Distinguished guests, welcome back. I can see why you chose this institution---great location, rich history
- Africa continues to present a broad spectrum of opportunities and challenges
- Today, I will briefly provide DoD's perspective and approach towards Africa

## General Overview of African Strategic Environment

- Africa = 54 highly-differentiated countries
  - Africa has some of fastest growing economies in the world, though vast poverty.
  - Technological changes sweeping across the continent offer potential opportunities in areas such as banking, medicine, politics, and business.
  - Burgeoning youth population either a source of great productivity or a potential liability.
  - Resource and hydrocarbon discoveries; vulnerability of economies to price changes.
  - Improvements in governance and democracy – **more than 40 countries regularly conduct multi-party elections**. Violent regime change (e.g., coup or war) has declined significantly in last twenty years.
    - Events this year in Burkina Faso and Nigeria – unexpectedly peaceful change.
  - **Fewer cross-border conflicts between states and civil wars; growing violent extremism in some regions.**
- Nevertheless, domestic conflict and the inability of some governments to meet the basic security needs of their people remains an obstacle to effective democratic governance, economic growth, trade and investment, and human development.

## PPD-16, Defense Strategic Guidance and DoD's Africa Strategy

- As the White House June 2012 (PPD-16) strategy for Africa describes, Africa is more important than ever to the security and prosperity of the international community.
  - Convergence of security, prosperity, and good governance.
  - 4 pillars: strengthen democratic institutions; spur economic growth, trade, and investment; advance peace and security; promote opportunity and development.

- Recent POTUS trip – Kenya, Ethiopia, AU
- DoD supports our overall USG strategy toward Africa by ***empowering African partners to take a greater role in providing for their own security***, and by doing so in ways that strengthen emerging pockets of political, economic and democratic vitality.
- Consistent with this approach, DoD seeks to deepen our security partnerships with African countries and regional organizations through ***low-cost, small-footprint, innovative security cooperation activities***.
- From a mission perspective, DoD remains focused on the importance of ***the CT and IW mission set*** in defense of the U.S. homeland, as well as maintaining a stabilizing presence via building partnership capacity. Specific “ends” or objectives include:
  - Undermine the capability of AQAA, ISIL, and other VEOs in Africa to strike partners’ and U.S. interests or citizens.
  - Maintain access and freedom of movement throughout Africa and adjacent sea lanes, enabling the free flow of goods and services.
  - Build capacity within partner security forces and institutions to combat transnational threats, including the proliferation of WMD, piracy, and illicit trafficking.
  - Build capacity within partner security forces and institutions to execute effective continental peace operations, respond to crises, and prevent mass atrocities.
  - Instill within partner militaries a commitment to operate under civilian authority, respect the rule of law, abide by international human rights norms, and contribute to stability in their respective states.
- The “ways” in which we seek to accomplish these objectives include:
  - **1. Build Partner Capacity (BPC)**
    - Provide targeted security sector assistance, e.g. training and education (PME), equipment, and advice, to enhance the military capability of collaborative African partners.
    - Leverage DoD engagements to promote human rights, democratic governance, and civilian control of the military.
    - August 2014 – POTUS hosts first U.S.-Africa Leaders’ Summit with 50+ heads of state
      - Security-focused initiatives include Security Governance Initiative (SGI) and African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Program (APRRP)
    - **(Case studies: Somalia/AMISOM.)**

- **2. Leverage the Efforts of Other Actors**
  - Leverage whole-of-government (3-D) efforts to address complex problems.
  - Deepen collaboration with the UN, the AU, and other regional organizations.
  - Leverage contributions of allies, partners, and other international actors.
  - **(Case studies: Counter-LRA/OOC, work with France to disrupt VEOs in Sahel.)**
- **3. Continue evolution of DoD Posture and Presence**
  - Maintain the minimum footprint required to achieve DoD objectives.
  - Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti is our only enduring location on the continent, and is critical to our counter terrorism operations and broader security cooperation activities in the region.
  - Also have handful of CSLs and other arrangements for rotational or intermittent access.
  - We operate unarmed ISR assets (manned and unmanned) with the consent of host governments. Examples include Burkina Faso and Niger.
  - AFRICOM HQ -- there are no plans to move this HQ to the continent
- **4. Direct Military Action against approved targets who pose imminent and continuing threat to Americans**
  - As described by POTUS in May 2014 speech at NDU.

### Tour d'horizon

#### Southern Africa:

- Least conflicts and VEO activity
- Governance and economic development most advanced
  - But not immune to violence related to economic opportunity – e.g., migrants in South Africa
- Changing dynamics within sub-region – South Africa declining as “superpower” while Angola is rising. Zimbabwe frozen in time under Pres. Mugabe.

#### Central Africa:

- Conflict in continent's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest country – DRC – has been close to continuous since independence from Belgium in 1960
  - Latest version of UN PKO – MONUSCO – is being pressured by Pres. Kabila to depart
- Ethnic conflict that contributed to Rwandan genocide 20 years ago continues to simmer in Rwanda, Burundi, DRC
  - Leaders seeking additional terms of office – Nkurunziza, Kagame, Kabila – contribute to tension and potential violence

- C-LRA – Support to Uganda, DRC, CAR, and ROSS to reduce threat to civilian populations posed by the LRA. DoD’s role is to advise and assist via Operation Observant Compass.

#### East Africa:

- In the East, the threat from al-Shabaab to partner and U.S. interests in HOA remains a concern.
  - AMISOM has made some critical inroads against al-Shabaab, but the group is resilient and attacking TCCs in addition to threatening the security of the Somali people.
  - FGS making slow progress to “hold” and “build” in locations cleared by AMISOM. Need to turn attention to elections in 2016.
- Also working across the East to build the CT capacity of our regional partners, to include with Kenya, Ethiopia, and Uganda.

#### North Africa/Maghreb:

- Continued struggle to deal with after-effects of Qadafi’s ouster and the Arab spring.
- Varying degrees of political reform – Tunisia is farthest along (but is paying dearly); more modest adjustments in Morocco, Algeria, Egypt.
- Libya struggling with competing governments and the addition of ISIL to VEOs seeking and finding a relatively safe haven.
  - *VEOs able to insinuate themselves in locations characterized by weak governance and lack of economic development.*

#### Sahel:

- In the Sahel and further south, DoD remains very concerned about the threat posed by AQIM and affiliated groups.
  - The 4<sup>th</sup> Tuareg rebellion and coup in Mali in March 2012 created opportunities for VEOs to exploit instability.
  - French intervention in January 2013 was a game-changer, speeding up the slow mobilization of the international community.
    - U.S. support to French; MINUSMA UN PKO follows initial ECOWAS response
- *Complex set of intermixed problems: political, humanitarian, borders/trafficking, VEOs, and weak security institutions.*

#### West Africa/Lake Chad Basin:

- Mano River Union countries public health fight against Ebola disease over the last year; Liberia and Sierra Leone are close to ending, while Guinea is not.

- In Lake Chad Basin, threat from Boko Haram has spilled over Nigeria's borders and neighbors have mobilized militarily in response as a MNJTF.
  - BH attacks have grown in number, range, sophistication, and lethality; allegiance to ISIL a concern.
- Role of press, public in pressuring regimes for accountability have yielded success in Burkina Faso (Compaore exit) and Nigeria (election led to change in ruling party).

#### Maritime (Gulf of Aden/Red Sea, GoG, Mediterranean):

- Let's shift to the maritime domain and its importance, why it matters:
  - The maritime sector is fundamental to a State's national defense, law enforcement, economy, and social goals and objectives.
  - Africa's seas, lakes, and rivers are crucial sources of livelihood, as well as food and water security for many communities.
  - These water sources also serve as a platform for trade and commerce (including landlocked countries), as a theater for potential conflict, and, if poorly governed, as an area that transnational criminal network can exploit with impunity.
  - The absence of effective maritime governance dissuades capital investment, discourages growth, threatens food security (as seen in East Africa), and hinders a State's ability to improve conditions that contribute to its citizens' quality of life.
  - This leads to increases in other areas of maritime crime, such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; human trafficking; the smuggling of narcotics; and circumventing sanctions through shipment of contraband goods and weapons.
- Our approach:
  - This leads me to our strategy. Our maritime engagement is not only tailored to support our African partners' ability to address the threats, but also for them to maximize the opportunities to leverage the maritime sector for economic development. Maritime security (to include energy) and economic prosperity are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.
  - Maritime crime and piracy are global challenges with region-specific and vastly different characteristics. A one-size-fits-all approach to international engagement in Africa to combat piracy and maritime crime will not work.
- In the Gulf Aden and Horn of Africa:
  - Somali piracy has declined dramatically these past three years. The presence of naval forces, best business practices, combined with armed security teams have broadly contained the threat.
  - However, the situation is reversible.

- Conditions ashore in Somalia which contributed to the escalation have not appreciably changed – this is a major line of effort for the international community.
- DoD will continue to support the coalitions.
- In the Gulf of Guinea:
  - Maritime crime in the GoG is a different problem set. Although there was an overall reduction of incidents in 2014 from 2013 (18%), piracy and related maritime crime in the region is still prevalent.
  - Hijackings for fuel and cargo oil theft constitute the majority of the incidents, though there are also significant numbers of robberies at sea and kidnappings for ransom.
  - To combat this, regional partners are gradually building their capacity to address the maritime security challenges.
  - U.S. programs and combined operations like the Africa Partnership Station and African Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership are supporting this progress.
  - For example, in 2014 the Senegalese Navy detained and seized a Russian-flagged on charges of illegal fishing, and more recently in January 2015, the Ghanaian Navy interdicted a hijacked tanker and arrested eight pirates, demonstrating capacities we have helped to strengthen through our maritime security initiatives.
  - Beyond providing training and equipment (boats, coastal radar, communications), we are investing heavily in supporting implementation of regional agreements and regional cooperation, namely the Yaounde Code of Conduct. The nature and scope of our exercises and conferences, reflect that.
  - Our EXPRESS series exercises has grown and developed significantly in the past 4 years, more participant, more robust, greater focus on operations, and more realistic scenarios.
  - All our efforts are part of a maritime capacity building continuum (bilat training; regional training; exercise participation, combined operations; and African operations)
- Conclusion:
  - Assisting our partners to increase maritime capability and capacity in order to secure the maritime domain is a long-term commitment.
  - Targeted and persistent security assistance coordinated across the USG with our international partners is a major focus area for the DoD.
  - We will continue to look for opportunities and innovative ways to improve maritime domain awareness and thus security.

- The years ahead will undoubtedly present challenges, but also opportunities.