

Congressional Hearing to the  
Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights  
House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC)  
“AFRICOM: Promoting Partnership for Global Security in Africa”  
July 26, 2011

Testimony of  
Vicki Huddleston, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs, DoD

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Payne, honorable members of the Committee, thank you for the invitation to speak to you today about cooperation between U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), the State Department, and USAID on the African continent. I also want to extend my thanks to my colleagues from State and USAID and other witnesses today who are sharing the dais with me.

Since its stand-up in 2008, AFRICOM has brought long-needed integration to the security dimension of our Africa policy. Up to that time, DoD had partitioned Africa among three other COCOMS – EUCOM, CENTCOM, and PACOM. As a result, Africa did not receive the attention it needed. The lack of one Command focused exclusively on the continent meant that DoD lacked a coherent, consistent approach to and understanding of this region’s vast complexities. Thanks to AFRICOM, we at DoD are now much better at considering Africa on its own terms, not as an appendage to Europe, the Middle East, or Asia.

One immediate and fully expected outcome of the creation of AFRICOM has been expanded DoD engagement in the U.S.-Africa policymaking and implementation process. This should have come as no surprise. Secretary Clinton has spelled out the three legs of national security: diplomacy, development, and defense. Strong diplomacy and a robust development program have served as hallmarks of U.S. Africa policy for the half century since the end of colonialism. Less prominent in that formulation was the third leg – defense. The embassy bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam and 9/11 brought home to all of us that we could no longer afford to place Africa on the periphery of national security policy. Today, Africa is part of the struggle against violent extremism, notably against al-Shabaab in Somalia and al-Qaeda in the Maghreb (AQIM) in the north and west of the continent. Instability on the continent affects the U.S. homeland directly, whether threats of terrorism, economic disruptions, refugee flows, or any of a host of other ways. We now all recognize the need in Africa to focus equally on that third “D” of Secretary Clinton’s formulation – Defense.

### **Staff Coordination and Collaboration**

We in the Pentagon work closely with AFRICOM and our interagency partners at the State Department and USAID to ensure that our nation’s goals in Africa are well defined and our activities are closely coordinated from planning through implementation. This close coordination occurs at all levels. I meet weekly via secure video link with my counterpart on the Joint Staff and senior generals at AFRICOM, including the J-2 Intelligence & Knowledge Directorate, the J-5 Strategy Directorate, and the J-3 Operations & Logistics Directorate. The State Department’s Africa Bureau leadership meets bi-weekly with my office to coordinate

policy, the National Security Staff's Africa Director hosts weekly meetings that I attend along with Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, USAID, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI). These recurring sessions ensure that we stay closely linked—from Washington to Stuttgart to our embassies in Africa—for policy development, oversight of priorities and requirements, concept development and planning, and program implementation.

Coordination extends much deeper than myself and senior staff. Every day, action officers in my office -- colonels, lieutenant colonels, commanders, -- are on the phone, emailing, and attending meetings on both side of the Potomac River. Such is the frequency of these interactions that they are on first-name bases with their State and USAID counterparts. There is extensive cross-fertilization among agencies, the concrete results of years of planning. I have a permanent State Department position assigned to my office, filled currently by a veteran Foreign Service Officer. Likewise, the Regional Security Affairs Office in the Africa Bureau at State has two military active-duty officers. AFRICOM not only has a civilian Deputy Commander who is a Senior Foreign Service Officer, it has a several other positions held by senior and mid-level FSOs.

### **Leveraging Title-10 and Title-22 Authorities and Resources**

DoD works closely with the State Department to implement broad security cooperation efforts, leveraging the complementary authorities and funding streams available to each Department. The State Department, under its Title-22 authority, manages security assistance programs to promote U.S. foreign policy through diplomacy by building professional militaries that respect international law and human rights. These programs include the following well known examples: Foreign Military Financing (FMF), International Military Education and Training (IMET), Regional Security Initiatives (RSI), and Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) capacity building. DoD plays a crucial role in the implementation of these programs. USAFRICOM personnel assist in the delivery of equipment purchased through security assistance funds and train and mentor African militaries with Title 22 resources. In our embassies, Defense Attachés and other DoD officials, under Chief of Mission authority, administer Title 22 bilateral programs.

DoD's Title-10 activities expand and compliment Title 22 activities thereby furthering USG policy objectives set by the Department of State and the National Security Council. Title-10 programs fund exercises that give African militaries the opportunity to work together and to provide services to their citizens. In addition, Section 1206 authority allows State and DoD to build the counterterrorism capacity of our African partners. These Title 10 activities reflect our over arching goals of assisting African militaries to protect and defend their border and their citizens. The proposed new Global Security Contingency Fund would further this collaborative approach by allowing DoD and State to pool resources, thereby facilitating the USG response to complex crises that require a range of military and other assistance in the security sector.

### **AFRICOM's Security Strategy**

USAFRICOM's security strategy ensures that our national interests are protected from potential threats on the African continent, while contributing to stability and security for the people of Africa. USAFRICOM achieves these objectives by building partner nation capacity to counter extremism, provide for the security of their citizens and contribute to peace keeping.

In the Horn of Africa and North and West Africa, USAFRICOM builds capacity of local militaries so that they can effectively counter extremist threats. The State Department's regional program – Partnership for Regional East African Counterterrorism (PRACT) provides the framework for AFRICOM's activities throughout the Horn of Africa. AFRICOM provides military trainers to the State Department's African Contingency Operations Training & Assistance (ACOTA) program that trains Ugandan and Burundian contingents that make up the bulk of AMISOM peacekeepers in Somalia. In West Africa, AFRICOM's Special Forces are building the capacity of Malian and Mauritanian forces to counter al Qaeda in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). These efforts are conducted under the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP) – the State Department's regional counter-terrorism program.

AFRICOM enhances the capacity of our key African partners to provide a secure environment for democratic governance and development. State contractors and USAFRICOM trained battalions in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the new army of Liberia. By training professional military units that respect civilian control, these militaries become important contributors to stability and respect for the rule of law. AFRICOM's exercises provide opportunities for our African partners to test their abilities and improve their cooperation and coordination with their neighbors. These exercises which often provide health services to poor and isolated communities and are carried out in close coordination with our embassies and the country teams.

The State Department and DoD are committed to helping African armed forces prevent and deter tragedies that result in humanitarian disasters. In response to Congressional legislation State, DoD, and USAID have developed a strategy to assist the governments and the armed forces in Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Central African Republic to counter the atrocities that are being committed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). AFRICOM's activities will improve the regional armed forces ability to defeat the LRA. In parallel, USAID and State are working with local NGOs.

Today we are facing a vast humanitarian crisis as a result of the severe drought in the Horn of Africa. While State and USAID are leading a significant humanitarian response on behalf of the US government, USAFRICOM has set up task forces and is prepared to assist in any appropriate when requested to do so by State and USAID.

In Libya, USAFRICOM worked closely with State and USAID to return thousands of Egyptians stranded in Tunisia to their homes. This air bridge complimented USAFRICOM's leadership of Odyssey Dawn – a coalition of 10 nations that, in accordance with UNSCR 1973, stopped the advance of the Libyan Army on defenseless civilians in Benghazi, put into place a no-fly zone over Libya, and a sea embargo.

### **Closing remarks**

Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss interagency security cooperation efforts in Africa. I believe that AFRICOM's success as a Command will depend on its ability to coordinate its activities with State and USAID and with its AFRICOM partners. Over the past two years as

AFRICOM has matured as a Command this cooperation and communications has deepened and broadened AFRICOM's ability to build partner capacity, respond to the needs of the continent, and defend our nation's interests. USAFRICOM is proving the wisdom of establishing a single command for Africa that can provide rapid and appropriate assistance for a continent with many challenges and great possibilities.