



FACT SHEET



U.S. AFRICA COMMAND COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE–HORN OF AFRICA

Mission

Through unified action with U.S. and international partners in East Africa, CJTF-HOA conducts security force assistance, executes military engagement, provides force protection, and provides military support to regional counter-violent extremist organization operations in order to support aligned regional efforts, ensure regional access and freedom of movement, and protect U.S. interests. Be prepared to execute and/or provide support to crisis response and limited contingency operations in order to protect U.S. military, diplomatic and civilian personnel, facilities and interests.

The CJTF-HOA area of operations is nearly half the size of the continental United States, and includes the countries of Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda. The CJTF-HOA area of interest includes Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Mauritius, Madagascar, Mozambique, Sudan, South Sudan, and Yemen.

A prime component of the CJTF-HOA mission is to help build the defense capability and capacity among its East African partners. The command conducts military-to-military engagements (e.g. training, sharing of best practices, military exercises, and advising), key leader engagements, and civil-military operations; provides enabling support; and uses outreach and communication to enable security and stability and to counter violent extremism in the region. CJTF-HOA supports African states and regional organizations so that they possess the will, capability and capacity to combat transnational threats, are able to execute effective peace operations and respond to crises, and are able to promote regional stability and prosperity.

Means

Approximately 2,000 U.S. service members from each branch of the U.S. military, civilian employees and representatives of coalition and partner countries serve on behalf of CJTF-HOA. The command is privileged to have a strong contingent of embedded staff and foreign liaison officers from partner-nation militaries assigned to its headquarters at Camp Lemonnier. With representation from Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, France, Italy, Japan, Kenya, South Korea, Spain, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and Yemen, the embedded staff and foreign liaison officers' unique perspectives and contacts help to ensure that military-to-military training is meeting legitimate needs in a manner appropriate for its intended audience.

Background

CJTF-HOA was established at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 19, 2002. In November 2002, service members embarked on a 28-day training cruise aboard USS Mount Whitney, and arrived in the Horn of Africa Dec. 8, 2002. CJTF-HOA operated from the Mount Whitney until May 13, 2003, when the mission transitioned ashore to Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, as one of several tenants. The CJTF-HOA mission has evolved from an initial focus on using civil-military operations as the cornerstone of countering violent extremism to the current focus on strengthening partner military capacity and building strategic partnerships with African militaries. As one component of the United States' whole-of-government approach in East Africa, CJTF-HOA personnel employ their defense expertise in close cooperation with the efforts of other U.S. government agencies, such as the diplomatic initiatives of the U.S. State Department and the development projects of the U.S. Agency for International Development.