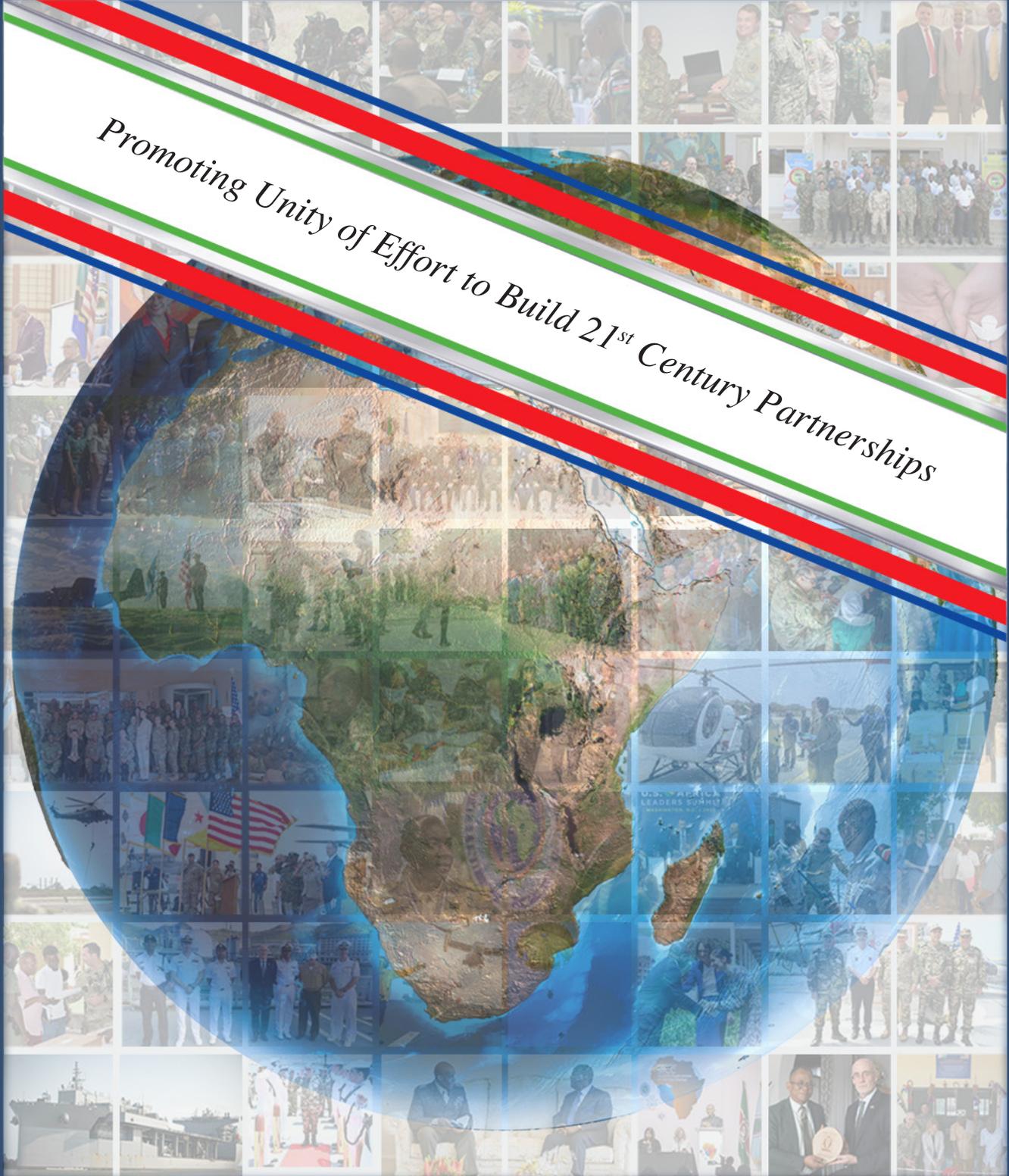




UNITED STATES AFRICA COMMAND THEATER STRATEGY 2024-2033

African Partner Led, U.S. & Ally Enabled

Promoting Unity of Effort to Build 21st Century Partnerships



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United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM), with our African Partners and our Allies, remains poised to safeguard the homeland, protect vital interests, and respond to crises across the African continent. Our method is clear: working together with our African

Partners, our Allies, and our interagency counterparts to enable security solutions that protect our shared interests. USAFRICOM remains committed to our African Partners and our Allies. We continue to move forward together to build the defense capacity, capability, and resilience necessary to face the many security challenges of this decisive decade.



USAFRICOM's approach is African Partner led, U.S. and Ally enabled. Our African Partners are at the center of all we do, and we continue to promote that focus through this strategy. The security, stability, and prosperity of our African Partners remain vital to all of us. By promoting these imperatives, we yield dividends not only for our African Partners, but also for our Allies and the United States. The central theme in this strategy, therefore, is promoting unity of effort, which is paramount to our success. It is critical that USAFRICOM works together with our African Partners, our Allies, as well as our diplomacy, development, and interagency partners, because no one organization alone can tackle the growing challenges or capitalize on the immense opportunities we face in Africa.

At USAFRICOM, we will work together with our African Partners and our Allies to enable and reinforce African defense institutions that are effective and accountable to civil authority. This means we must deepen cooperation with our current African Partners while building new partnerships to advance and realize returns on investments across the African continent. We will remain connected across Africa with our African Partners and our Allies, coordinating our actions to have meaningful impact to our many shared interests. This means we must prioritize presence, transparency, and interoperability through our operations, activities, and investments. Last, but not least, we will expose, disrupt, and counter threats. This means we must safeguard shared interests across the African continent, as well as remain ready to work together to respond to crisis.

We are committed to unity of effort, and we will move forward together!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. E. Langley".

M. E. Langley
General, U.S. Marine Corps





A CONTINENT OF GROWING GLOBAL IMPORTANCE

Africa is a dynamic continent of growing global importance. Its nations collectively occupy more than 25% of the 193 seats in the United Nations General Assembly. With the world's second-largest population by continent, Africa boasts the largest youth demographic and rapidly urbanizing societies. Moreover, it plays a pivotal role in the global economy, supplying essential raw materials for 21st century technologies. African countries are at the forefront of change, harnessing their tremendous potential. As democratic institutions mature, stability strengthens, even as fragile states strive to enhance governance for their citizens. The United States has a rich history of positive defense relationships in Africa, rooted in shared values. It is imperative we build upon this legacy, recognizing Africa's escalating global importance as we forge stronger partnerships across the continent.

Africa's rising global importance means we must continue to safeguard its future by working together, through unity of effort, to address the threats to stability. Instability renders nations less resilient and more vulnerable to security threats. In Africa, these threats include the expansion of violent extremist organizations (VEO), transnational criminal organizations (TCO), non-state armed groups, and climate-induced risks. Threats also include the malign influence of external state actors, such as Russia and China, whose activities may actively challenge the security interests we share with our African Partners. We must continue to work together to enhance resilient security institutions, counter threats to stability, and disrupt malign influences to promote stability in Africa. With our African Partners and our Allies, we will do this by providing security, ensuring access to opportunities, and promoting openness so that societies can flourish.

AFRICA'S GROWING GLOBAL IMPORTANCE

"Africa's governments, institutions, and people are a major geopolitical force, one that will play a crucial role in solving global challenges in the coming decade." – 2022 United States National Security Strategy

Africa's population, as a share of the world's, will grow from 16% (2020) to 25% (2050).

The vast majority of this population is located along Africa's coasts and substantial inland waterways, while the continent itself is at the nexus of major global sea lines of communication, including the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, and Indian Ocean.

With its rapidly increasing population and expansive climatic, geographic, and geomorphic diversity, Africa is swiftly becoming central to the global economy – particularly for the raw materials necessary to power 21st century technologies and as a major export market for finished goods.

More than
25% of
193 seats



United Nations General Assembly



BUILDING 21st CENTURY PARTNERSHIPS

“USAFRICOM, with Partners and Allies, counters malign actors and transnational threats, responds to crises, strengthens African security forces, and supports U.S. Government efforts in Africa to advance U.S. national interests and promote regional security, stability, and prosperity.”

– United States Africa Command Mission Statement

Promoting Unity of Effort

Our approach is African Partner led, U.S. and Ally enabled. This partner-centric approach is our strength as we continue to work with our African Partners to enable and maintain the defense capacity necessary to ensure lasting 21st century security partnerships. Success in this approach requires prioritizing and promoting unity of effort. Unity of effort best enables USAFRICOM to advance shared security interests in Africa and achieve our common aims. Unity of effort emphasizes open communication and is rooted in shared understanding among the U.S. Government (USG), our African Partners, and our Allies. We must work together transparently to create the conditions that enable the Joint Force, through our approach, to face the challenges of today and tomorrow. We must also continuously promote unity of effort among our diplomacy, development, defense, and interagency teammates, as well as work closely with our adjacent combatant commands, to provide mutual security support. Unity of effort enables USAFRICOM to advance broader national security objectives and our shared values: support for democracy, the advancement of human rights, transparency, accountable governance, and anti-corruption efforts – all of which underpin security, stability, and prosperity.

***USAFRICOM seeks lasting security, stability, and prosperity in Africa.
Through our approach, we will work toward:***

Safety and Security at Home

Violent extremist organizations, transnational criminal organizations, and malign actors are unable to export destabilizing activities across the continent, regionally in a manner that impacts other combatant commands, or globally to threaten U.S. and Ally national interests.

Strengthened Defense Institutional Capacity

Our African Partners have effective, legitimate, and accountable defense institutions, militaries, and other security forces with the capacity to manage threats to stability and deliver the security conditions necessary for sustained prosperity.

Enduring U.S. Partnerships
The USG retains the ability to engage and operate throughout Africa through a whole-of-government approach that supports the mutual benefit of our African Partners, our Allies, and the United States.



Continuing diplomatic relations across Africa.



Leaders working together to promote enduring partnerships.



HOW WE GET THERE TOGETHER

To promote unity of effort, USAFRICOM's strategic ways focus on building enduring security relationships rooted in equality, transparency, and mutual respect.

Together, We Will:

Enhance African Partner Defense Resilience

We will work with and in support of U.S. Embassy country teams to build African Partner defense institutions that are accountable to civil authority. Our efforts will enable African Partners to manage threats within their borders, and collectively counter regional threats via resilient security forces.



Working together to enhance African Partner defense resilience.

Coordinate with African Partners and Allies on Shared Security Interests

We will remain connected across Africa with our African Partners and our Allies. Our security relationships necessitate enduring presence, shared responsibility, transparent communication of goals and interests, and the interoperability of security infrastructure. The decisive advantage over our competitors is our enduring network of African Partners and Allies.



Promoting enduring connections and coordination across the African continent.

Expose and Counter Threats

With African Partners and Allies at the center of this effort, we will expose, disrupt, and when necessary, counter threats to regional and continental stability. We will safeguard shared security interests to promote and protect a thriving, transparent, and just international system that can overcome VEO, TCO, and malign influence throughout the African continent.



Allies and Partners working together to safeguard shared security interests.



SAFEGUARDING AFRICA'S FUTURE TOGETHER

Africa's global importance means we must continue to safeguard its future by working together, through unity of effort, to address threats to stability, including violent extremist organizations, transnational criminal organizations, malign influence and exploitation of natural resources, climate change and natural disasters, and challenges to maritime security.

We must continue to work together to enhance resilient security institutions, counter threats to stability, and disrupt malign influence. We must continue to promote stability in Africa.

Across Africa, diplomacy, development, and defense agencies work together to safeguard Africa's future with...



Diplomatic Engagement

57 diplomatic missions across all regions of Africa, and unity of effort with 22 global Allied nations and 4 international alliance organizations.



Development Investments

Over 4,500 development operations and activities and \$11 billion in annual development investments across 50 nations in Africa.



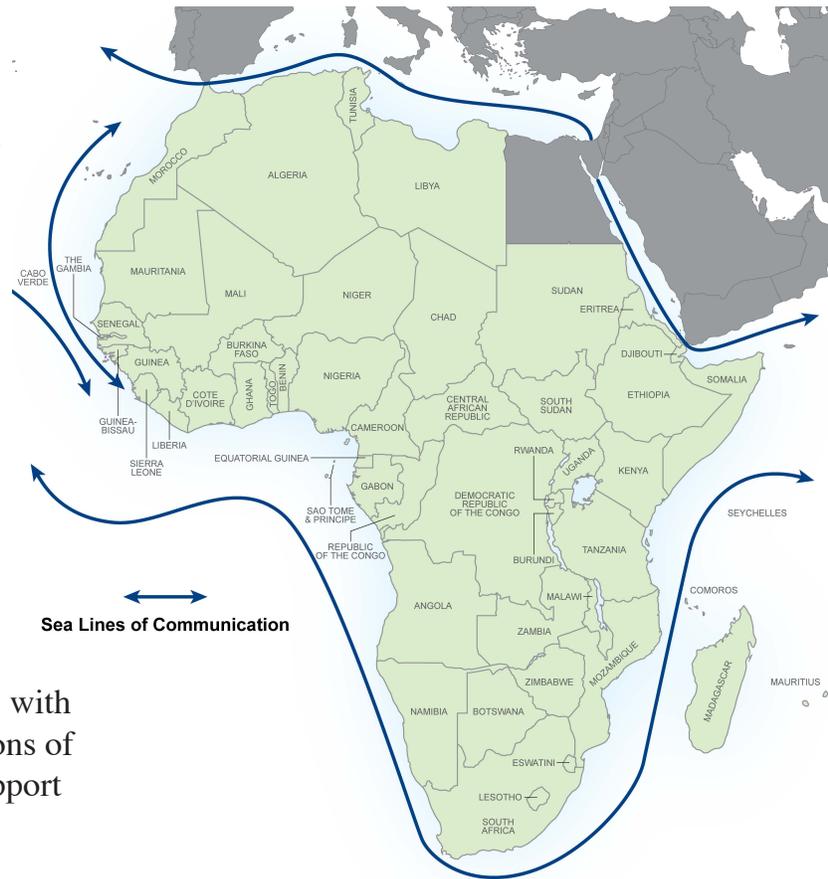
Defense Security Cooperation

7 major joint and combined annual exercises with our African Partners and our Allies across all regions of Africa, as well as component participation and support in other multilateral exercises and training.



The National Guard State Partnership Program

21 partnership states with the United States National Guard, including long-running and newly secured partnerships.



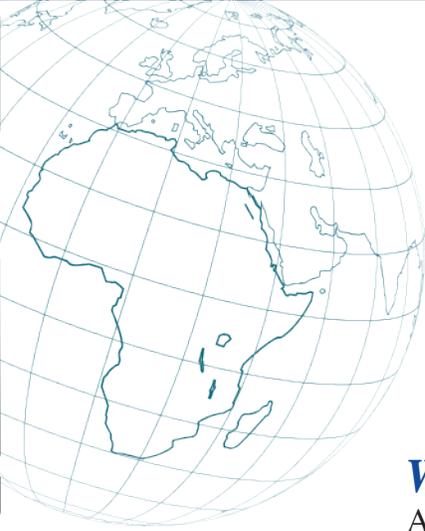
The United States Africa Command Area of Responsibility

Across Africa, we also continue to maintain unique access and relationships with our African Partners and our Allies from multiple **posture** locations across multiple nations. Additionally, we continue to grow our list of diplomatic, development, and defense **annual conferences and key leader engagements** that address building relationships and partner capacity across Africa, including conferences and engagements that address the growing effects of climate change.



OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

USAFRICOM must make objective-based and resource-informed decisions across the continent, with unity of effort and force protection in mind in each region. We will advance regional efforts through campaigning and make informed decisions that address challenges to our objectives, identify opportunities on which to capitalize, and support globally integrated approaches.



North Africa. In North Africa, we will focus on enhancing African partner defense resilience, as well as coordinating with our African Partners and our Allies on shared security interests. We will continue to build upon partnerships at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa – some of which have endured for centuries. Our shared opportunity is to promote unity of effort between the Department of State (DOS), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and our global network of Allies to help improve stability and security in this critical region.



West Africa. In West Africa, we will fortify our partnerships to enhance African Partner defense resilience and support USG efforts that expose and counter threats, including challenges in the maritime domain. To do so, we will continue to prioritize security cooperation activities and investments that meet African Partner needs and support shared security interests. Our strategic engagements must also generate a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the region and promote USG diplomatic and humanitarian investments.



East Africa. In East Africa, we will continue to coordinate with our African Partners and our Allies on shared security interests, including support of multinational and USG interagency security initiatives. We will continue to prioritize operations, activities, and investments that promote cooperation, interoperability, and professionalism. We will continue to work together to counter the spread of violent extremism and alleviate the effects of smuggling, piracy, and illegal fishing. We will also continue to work together to mitigate the security implications of climate change in the region.



Central and Southern Africa. In Central and Southern Africa, we will continue coordinating with our African Partners and our Allies on shared security interests, as well as support USG efforts that expose and counter threats. We will continue to prioritize security cooperation, strategic engagements, and the conduct of exercises in these regions to promote durable, mutually beneficial partnerships. USAFRICOM will seek opportunities to support DOS, USAID, Ally, and African Partner efforts to help foster African solutions that promote stability. In Southern Africa, we also see immense opportunity to increase military exercise participation with our emerging African Partners.



“We campaign to advance mutual interests and promote stability and prosperity on the African continent.” – General Michael Langley



MOVING FORWARD

TOGETHER

USAFRICOM remains committed to our African Partners and the many opportunities we share in the future. Through unity of effort, we will build 21st century partnerships that yield mutually valuable and enduring benefits for our African Partners, our Allies, and the United States. We will protect U.S. interests, alleviate the effects of instability, strengthen defense institutions, and improve security governance through our partner-centric approach in Africa.

WE WILL GO FORWARD TOGETHER!

