



*Remarks by General William E. Ward
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Universidade Politécnica
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Greetings, everyone. I would like to thank Vice Rector, Dr. Ines Costa Nogueira for the kind introduction and permitting us to use these wonderful facilities today; and Dr. Rodolfo for serving as moderator today -- being a partner with us once again. I also want to thank the Government of Mozambique for being superb hosts during my visit. I greatly appreciated the warm welcome I received during every stop on my itinerary here in Mozambique. My visit to your nation, an important partner, is a success because of your hospitality.

Let me acknowledge the presence of my close teammate from the Department of State, Chargé d'Affairs Todd Chapman, who is here with us this afternoon. Everything we do in U.S. Africa Command is done in coordination with and approval of the Chargé, just as it should be.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to talk to you about the United States Africa Command, its mission, and how we can work together to further the goals that your nation has set for your military. I welcome your ideas and counsel on how U.S. Africa Command can assist you in achieving your goals.

Opportunities for dialogue, such as this, are important – important for both partners to better understand each other. A continual dialogue is essential to improving our cooperation. Security, stability, peace, hope, partnership, development – these cannot be achieved without it. Face-to-face meetings and discussions provide for our mutual understanding and allow us to reach consensus on ways ahead.

Two weeks ago today (April 30, 2009) U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton appeared together to testify before our Senate Appropriations Committee. This was a significant event, in my mind. It demonstrated the growing integration and coordination of our departments' of State and Defense missions and activities. The foreign policy of the United States is built upon the **3-Ds: defense, diplomacy, and development**. Across the globe, each day, the men and women of the U.S. armed forces perform their duties alongside their counterparts from the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID. We complement each others' work. Our security assistance efforts provide for, support, and reinforce the U.S. Government's diplomatic and development efforts. While they in-turn build upon our military's efforts in conflict areas of the world and utilize their diplomatic and development tools to build stable and peaceful societies – activities which are far less costly in lives and dollars than any conflict resolution activity would be in the future.

In this 3-D context, I am pleased to follow the visit to your country by my civilian deputy, AMB Mary Yates, U.S. Africa Command's Deputy for Civil-Military Affairs, this past December. She told me how much she enjoyed her visit and her discussions with you about African security challenges and the U.S. Africa Command vision. I rely heavily on her expertise forged from her

diplomatic work on the continent as a State Department official. I am indebted to her for her service, sage advice, and support to this command and the people of Africa. Our professional relationship reflects the guidance and vision of our civilian leaders, and that is largely why U.S. Africa Command is different, and I must say, better for it!

In this, my first official visit to Mozambique, I am meeting with senior leaders of your country to reinforce our strong partnership, and to talk to you about U.S. Africa Command – some background, our mission, our purpose, and our approach toward fostering greater peace and stability in Africa. I want to hear from you and take your questions, so I will keep my remarks short.

I would like to start by talking about what the U.S. Government calls a “Geographic Unified Command”; U.S. Africa Command became the newest of these on 1 October 2008. As an example, U.S. European Command and U.S. Central Command are also Geographic Unified Commands. What we ARE isn’t important; what IS important is WHAT we do, and HOW we work with you and your military institution.

Let me talk about that for a minute. U.S. Africa Command is a regionally-oriented command, with responsibility for practically all U.S. military activities in a designated region – which for us is the continent of Africa, its island nations, and much of the surrounding waters, such as the Mozambique Channel and portions of the Indian Ocean. U.S. Africa Command coordinates and leads the U.S. Department of Defense activities on the continent of Africa and we do this in support of U.S. foreign policy. Our goal is to contribute to the peace and stability within our region and do our best to help deter and prevent conflict. We do this in a manner that fully respects the sovereignty of the nations within that region, so anything we do has the support and acceptance of that nation. In other words, we provide security assistance that you ask of us.

The command’s mission is “**sustained security engagement**”, with the primary focus on building the security capacity of our African partners in manners consistent with U.S. foreign policy objectives established through our Department of State and in concert with each country’s objectives.

With that, let me offer what I call my vision for U.S. Africa Command. This comes from my traveling around the continent for several years and speaking with leaders from all over Africa. I believe this to be a shared vision, one that serves both the nations’ of Africa interests and those of the United States. I believe we are all striving for an Africa:

- that bolsters and promotes legitimate and professional security institution,
- whose military elements perform professionally and with integrity,
- that has the will and means to dissuade, deter, and defeat transnational threats from within and outside its borders,
- and whose militaries and governments are increasingly able to support international peace efforts.

So how do we conduct our mission? We do this through programs, activities, exercises, and other missions. We provide programs to help build security capacity that meets your requirements and **adds value** to those efforts.

Mozambique recently participated in one of these programs - **Africa Partnership Station**, or APS. This ship and shore-based cooperative training program represents one of U.S. Africa Command's most visible and robust capacity-building programs. It assists our African partner navies in improving their Maritime Domain Awareness; a military term for knowing who is sailing in, fishing in, or using your territorial waters. In conjunction with improving awareness, APS also assists in increasing maritime safety and security. This program is a great example of our Command's insistence on including a diverse array of entities in our programs to ensure we provide the best possible assistance. African Partnership Station includes U.S. and international navies and security organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and other agencies working and supporting one another to achieve a common goal – in this case, regional maritime security capacity improvement.

Just this past February, a U.S. Navy frigate (the USS Robert G. Bradley) visited Maputo to work with the Mozambican Marines forces to review maritime techniques for combating piracy, smuggling, and terrorism in your coastal waters. This event was beneficial to all the partners involved and we look forward to similar engagements with your security forces.

As I've mentioned, U.S. Africa Command is about programs; programs that meet your needs and improve your security capacity.

It is about security forces like JOINT TASK FORCE – HORN OF AFRICA which builds effective indigenous security forces to combat terrorism and counter violent extremism. It is in response to requests from participating nations across eastern Africa.

We also have medical programs. Our **Medical Civil Action Programs and Veterinarian Civil Action Programs** – MEDCAPS and VETCAPS – bring goodwill by curing the sick and healing people, preventing the spread of disease, and building medical capacity in accordance with what a particular nation requests – such as field hospitals and clinics or emergency response training.

The Command is about supporting programs like the Department of State sponsored **Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance**, ACOTA, another program in which the armed forces of Mozambique have participated. ACOTA builds African partner security capacity by training African soldiers, and more importantly, trains African military members as “trainers” to support their own capacity-building and peacekeeping efforts. Mozambique's participation in the African Union's 2005 peacekeeping operations in Burundi displays its interest to contribute increasingly to the peacekeeping operations in the region.

The Command's array of programs include **Africa Deployed Assistance Phased Training**, ADAPT. This program helps African military logistics officers and non-commissioned officers learn how to properly deploy and redeploy in support of disaster response and peacekeeping operations.

Our Command is about programs like **International Military Education and Training**, IMET, which enables African nations' military members to receive professional education and development through a variety of military education and training activities. These educational

opportunities include 2,000 courses taught at approximately 150 military schools and installations; on-the-job training; orientation tours for key senior military and civilian officials; and mobile education teams which take the curriculum to the host country.

And, U.S. Africa Command is about exercises to improve our and our partners' capacities. **NATURAL FIRE**, a multi-lateral exercise designed to train U.S. and African security forces in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response, as well as peacekeeping operations. NATURAL FIRE is scheduled for this fall with participants from partner nations of East Africa.

I would like to emphasize that U.S. Africa Command is about **sustaining** and enhancing those programs we conduct. "Sustaining" means that we will follow through the programs to ensure that they achieve the results that you want. "Sustaining" means we will actively look for ways to improve upon those programs as the situation changes or as the requirements change. "Sustaining" means that we are available to you when you need us.

I could talk to you at some length about the number of programs we conduct and the specifics behind them, but that is not why I am here. I am really here to hear from you and gain a better understanding of your perspective. So, I do want to get to your questions. But, before we do that, I want to mention just one more item.

U.S. Africa Command headquarters is located in Stuttgart, Germany, and will be for the foreseeable future, but we have a team already working on the continent. These are my teammates on the continent – Defense Attaches, Offices of Security Cooperation, and liaison officers. They are here to work with our country teams in the embassies to listen to you, to understand your requirements, and to help turn those requirements into programs, if that is your request.

Now, I've finally come to an end and I want to open the dialogue by asking you...

How does Mozambique see itself partnering with U.S. Africa Command? What are your security priorities?

Do you seek to continue efforts to increase your own security and peacekeeping capacity through programs like ACOTA? Are programs like APS useful to you in increasing maritime security capacity? In what other ways can we, U.S. Africa Command, contribute assistance?

We are a listening and learning command. We seek to develop relationships with our African partners to understand how you see your security environment. Thus, we are better postured to understand the interests and complexities of the diverse countries and cultures across the continent, and therefore be better able to "add value" to existing programs or design new ones to meet our partners' security capacity desires.

You know the Mozambique security challenges and opportunities best...let me know what you know.

Thank you again for letting me join you today. I will now take any questions.