

THE EASTERN AFRICA STANDBY FORCE

ENHANCING PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION

Dit artikel is tot stand gekomen onder regie van maj Johan Bouhuys. 'Zijn' team schetst in dit artikel de ontwikkeling van de EASF. De EASF op weg naar een volwassen en volwaardig veiligheidsinstrument voor het Afrikaanse continent in 2015.

by Force ready for deployment by 2015, with an initial operational capability by 2010.



Majoor Johan Bouhuys is werkzaam als Technical Advisor C4I bij het secretariaat voor vrede en veiligheid in de Oost-Afrikaanse veiligheidsregio. Op het Afrikaanse continent is dit secretariaat bekend onder de naam *Eastern Africa Standby Force Coordination Mechanism (EASFCOM)*. Een van zijn functionele bemoeienissen heeft uiteindelijk geleid tot de vorming van een *C2 CIS Support Team* ter ondersteuning van de *Eastern Africa Standby Force*.

EASF MISSION

To develop a fully operational and multidimensional integrated Eastern Africa Stand-

BACKGROUND

The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) is one of the five African Union regional security standby forces established as part of the Africa Peace and Security Architecture. The objective of the EASF is to carry out in a timely manner the functions of maintenance of peace and security, as mandated by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in accordance with the Constitutive Act of the African Union. In the conduct of its business, the EASF is guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, and other regional and international legal instruments. Ownership and manning of the EASF belong to the Member States without prejudice to their responsibilities and sovereignty.

The following Member States are contributing to the EASF Region:

The Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania (SADC and EASF), Comoros, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius and Burundi.

EASF VISION

To contribute to regional and continental peace through a regional conflict prevention, management and resolution capability able to respond effectively to crisis within Eastern Africa and across the African continent.



Opening Ceremony EASF FTX 2009

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The EASF Strategic Development Plan describes the following strategic objectives to be achieved in the time frame 2010 - 2015:

- OBJ 1: A solid and cohesive political decision making structure that can authorise, mandate and oversee the employment of regional capability, providing comprehensive strategic and operational level planning by the end 2015.
- OBJ 2: An Information Management and C2 CIS Support structure capable of preparing, planning and commanding deployed EA forces by the end of 2015.
- OBJ 3: Full Operational Capability (FOC) of a trained land force structure including a multinational brigade headquarters on standby and maintained in member states to the required readiness levels by the end of 2015.
- OBJ 4: A trained police element maintained on standby in member states to the required criteria by the end of 2015.
- OBJ 5: Adequately trained personnel for the civilian component available in the region documented in an up-dated roster supported through civilian focal points in the member states by 2015.
- OBJ 6: A Logistic System capable of supporting the deployment and sustainment

of regional capabilities, initially by 2013 and full operational by the end of 2015.

- OBJ 7: An integrated training system able to provide individual and collective training for regional forces by the end of 2015.
- OBJ 8: Efficient financial and administrative processes and structures including adequate resources to support EASF objectives.
- OBJ 9: Establish a regional maritime component for Maritime Peace Support Operations and other Maritime Safety and Security tasks by end of 2015.
- OBJ 10: Establishment of Initial Operating Capability (IOC) of a Regional air Capability by 2013 and

Final Operational Capability by the end of 2015.

Affected by the current peace and security situation in the Eastern Africa Region, the following objective has been added early this year:

- OBJ 11: Contingency planning and execution to support stabilizing occurring Peace and Security situations, when required.

SCENARIOS AND TIMELINES FOR MISSION DEPLOYMENT

Scenario	Description	Deployment Requirement (from mandate resolution)
1	AU/Regional military advice to a political mission	30 Days
2	AU/Regional observer mission co-deployed with UN Mission	30 Days
3	Stand-alone AU/Regional observer mission	30 Days
4	AU Peacekeeping force for Chapter VI and Preventive Deployment Missions (and Peace Building)	30 Days
5	AU Peacekeeping Force for complex multidimensional Peace Keeping Missions including those involving low level Spoilers	90 Days with the military component being able to deploy in 30 days
6	AU intervention, e.g. in genocide situations where the international community does not act promptly.	14 Days with robust military force

EASTERN AFRICA STANDBY BRIGADE (EASBRIG) HEADQUARTERS

The Eastern Africa Standby Brigade Headquarters is located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and is headed by a Brigadier General. It is composed of regional military and civilian staff on secondment from Eastern African Member States.

The function of the Brigade Headquarters is to serve as a command headquarters for force preparation and operational command of the Eastern Africa Standby Brigade. Upon deployment, the Brigade comes under the operational control of the African Union or the United Nations, as applicable.

THE LOGISTICS BASE (LOGBASE)

The Logistics Base of the Eastern Africa Standby Force is collocated with Brigade Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The function of the Logistics Base is to serve as the central regional base for sub-depots and for maintaining, storage and management of the logistical infrastructure of the EASF. Currently, the staffing of the LogBase is lean structure as the region continues in its endeavour to implement the EASF Force Support Concept which is also expected to be in harmony with that of the ASF continental Force Support Concept.

The LogBase receives personnel, material and other resources to be maintained and supplied for training and operations of EASF. The LogBase further coordinates all activities involving logistics of EASF, including, but not limited to, performing functions mandated by the African Union and/or the United Nations managing external assistance.

EASF ACHIEVEMENTS

Up-to-date achievements in a nutshell:

- A trained multidimensional force standby in Members states.
- Trained Civilians: 32 trained in election management and observation; 85 trained in basic PSO course, 24 Trainer-of-Trainers course, 25 in Mid-Level Management, 27 trained in Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), 30 in Early Warning and Disaster Management and 22 in Human Rights.
- A total of 176 Civilian Personnel already registered in the EASF Standby Roster.
- Trained Police: 635 officers. 209 of those officers were female. These trained officers are already contributing to several Peace Support Operations.
- Successfully conducted a full training cycle (CPX 08, FTX 09 and MAPEX '10).

- Achieved Initial Operational Capability (IOC) in 2009.
- On request of the African Union carried out a fact finding Mission to Somalia.
- Conducted a Force Generation workshop to augment the AMISOM¹ Forces in Somalia.
- Establishment of a Maritime Cell within the Military Planning Element.
- Memoranda of Understanding on cooperation in Peace and Security with regional organisations e.g. IGAD² are being concluded.
- EASF has been incorporated as part of the UNSOA/UNPOS³.
- Military Technical Working Group Meeting on Somalia.
- The EASF participated in the UN Training Needs Analysis Team for TFG Military Forces that visited Somalia in April by sending two officers.
- EASF is deploying 14 officers as part of a technical team that will support AMISOM.

DEVELOPMENT OF C2 CIS SUPPORT

Since its inception in 2004, EASF (formerly EASBRIG) most notable achievements include undertaking individual and collective training programmes for EASF staff both in EASF structures and Member States which culminated into conduct of a Command Post Exercise in Nairobi in 2008 and a Field Training Exercise in Djibouti in 2009. Other notable achievements include participating in as well as hosting the AU continental Command Post Exercise in Addis Ababa and conducting the Logistics MAPEX in Addis Ababa in 2010. These exercises have enabled the force to be better prepared to handle Peace Support Operations within the region and the continent at large. The activities are further in support of EASF Strategic Development Plan that comprises 10 key objectives, with critical milestones under each objective. Of importance is Strategic Plan Objective 2 that stipulates the need to *“Develop and implement an Information Management*



EAFCOM Building



Closing Ceremony EASF FTX 2009



and Command and Control Communications and Information Systems (C2 CIS) Support structure capable of preparing, planning and commanding deployed forces by the end of 2015”

Under this objective, a number of milestones were stipulated to ensure timely attainment of the objective as follows:

- Implementation of an Information Management system (Dec 2010).
- Finalization of the C2 CIS Concept of Operations to support the Command and Control of the EASF during peacetime and deployment (2010 - 2011).
- Implementation of personnel, facilities / equipment and doctrine / procedures to support the Command and Control of the EASF during peacetime and deployment (2011 – 2014).
- An Information Management and C2 CIS Support structure capable of preparing, planning and commanding deployed EA forces by the end of 2015 (Dec 2015).

To cope with the major tasks derived from objective 2 and its milestones, and due to the fact that not all CIS related personnel was organized within one entity, nor under the same “chain of command”, EASFCOM had to establish a functional working C2 CIS Support structure. Personnel from the Administration Section, J6 Branch and the Communications Centre were brought together to establish an efficient and effective functional working structure. This integrated multidimensional C2 CIS Support Team was key to the success of the milestones and consequent attainment of Strategic Plan Objective 2.

During exercises and mission deployment the team will be reinforced by a dedicated signal platoon for the Mission Headquarters and a dedicated signal squadron for the C2 CIS Support to the subordinate entities (military, police and civilian) in the sectors.

DAY TO DAY C2 CIS SUPPORT WORKING STRUCTURE

The C2 CIS Support Branch has made major strides over the years which has boosted its human and materiel capacity and capability development. The Government of the Netherlands has played a very instrumental role in the development of C2 CIS Support



C2 CIS Support Team EASF

capacities and capabilities since the year 2008 through provision of a Technical Advisor C4I to EASFCOM, who has always played a very central role in the coordination of direct support in areas of capacity building, capability development and funding for procurement of CIS services and equipment. The support was especially very critical in ensuring provision of CIS services in the EASF CPX 2008 held in Nairobi, Kenya and to an even larger extent the EASF FTX 2009 held in Djibouti. The experiences of these events have brought out lots of vital lessons that form the basis of further improvements for future events and any operations that require C2 CIS support.

Currently the C2 CIS Support Team is tirelessly working towards implementation of the C2 CIS Support Development Plan 2011, which includes among others the following:

- Preparation for the EASF CPX 2011 to be held in Khartoum in the Sudan in November.
- Participation in, and support to the CIS Interoperability Exercise “Africa Endeavor”.
- Developing a Unified Communications Platform for real time information exchange between all EASF structures and stakeholders within and out the continent that includes VTC Capability among others.

- Support in the development of Situational Awareness products that includes a Joint Multidimensional Coordination Centre/Situation Room, data collection, analysis, information production, etc., etc.
- Improving the organizations visibility through use of IT products such as websites and other web based products.
- Support to the EASF Communications Strategy through designing and development of media products, such as the EASF logo, booklets, brochures, banners, etc., etc.
- Constant improvement of the information system lifecycle processes.
- Periodic CIS training for EASF staff.
- Enhancement of CIS capacities and capabilities through evolutionary development where gaps exist among others and to comply with future requirements.

EASF TOWARDS FOC IN 2015

In the pursuit of these activities, the EASF C2 CIS Support Team highly appreciates all support provided by the Government of the Netherlands and hopes that the co-operation continues for the foreseeable future as the Eastern Africa Region strives to build its capacity to execute its mandate in line with the African Standby Force Roadmap. Like a swimming duck, the C2 CIS Support Team always postures itself as being very calm at the top of its waters, while at the same time paddling like hell underneath the waters in the pursuit of contributing towards ensuring that EASF attains Full Operational Capability (FOC) by the year 2015.

- 1 AMISOM = African Union Mission for Somalia
- 2 IGAD = Intergovernmental Authority on Development
- 3 UNSOA/UNPOS = United Nations Support Office for AMISOM/United Nations Political Office for Somalia

EASFCOM

