

Peace

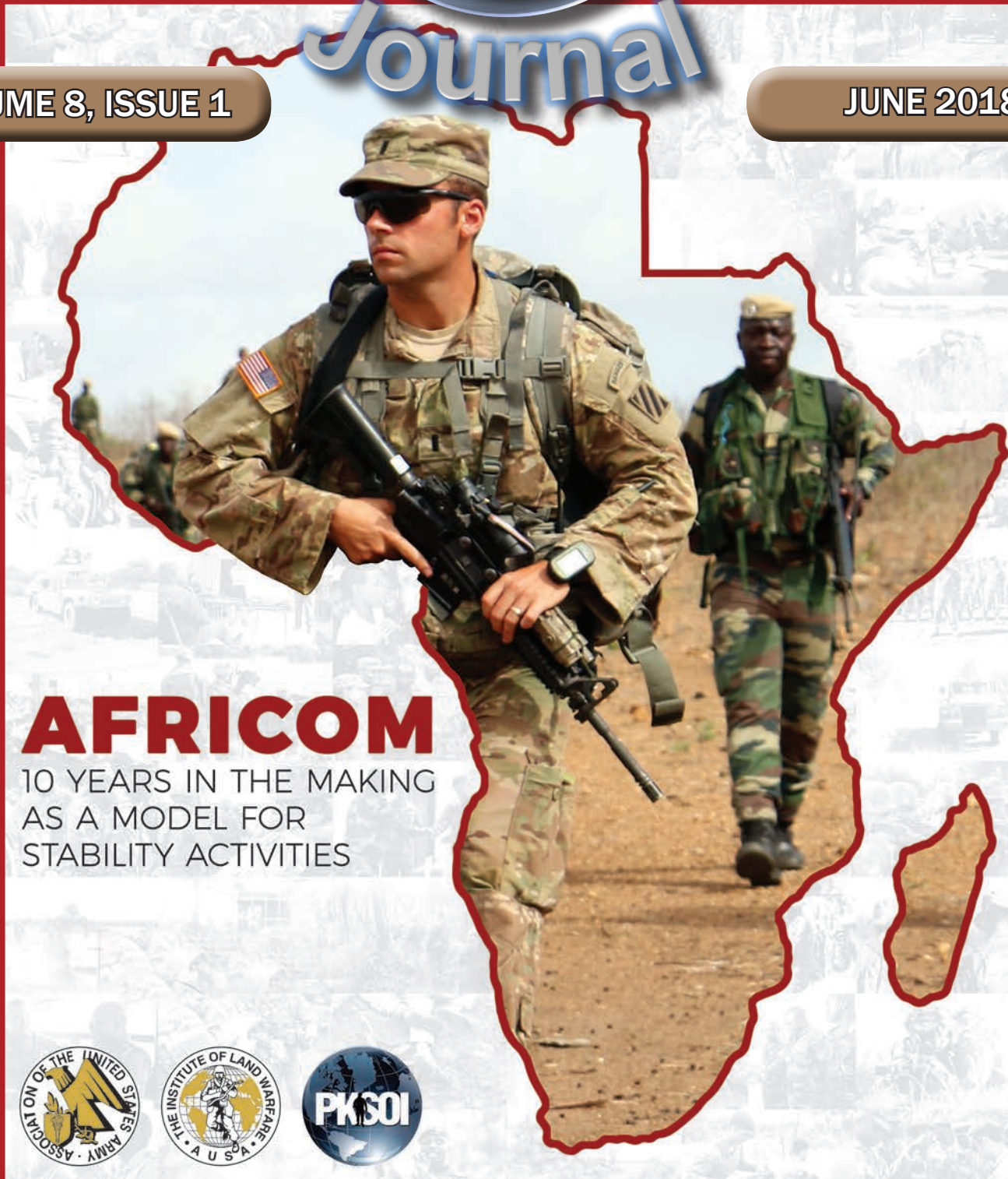


Stability

Journal

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

JUNE 2018



AFRICOM

10 YEARS IN THE MAKING
AS A MODEL FOR
STABILITY ACTIVITIES



Supporting the Peace – U.S. Contributions to Peacekeeping Operations

by PKSOI's Whitney Grespin

From 14-15 November 2017, over 500 delegates from more than 70 countries and international organizations convened in Vancouver for the 2017 UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial conference. Alongside representatives from the African Union, the European Union, NATO, and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, these delegates worked to coordinate and improve UN peacekeeping operations, as well as secure new pledges from Member States.

While there has been no shortage of commentary about U.S. contributions to United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions since the transition to the new administration, much of this discussion has been at the level of strategic engagement and governmental commitment to fulfilling the expectation of the US as a UN member. However, when it comes down to brass tacks, there is less public awareness of who, rather than what, the US dedicates to these peacekeeping missions.

The US currently contributes 55 personnel to United Nations peacekeeping missions, including 4 UN Headquarters (UNHQ) staff, and 51 peacekeepers from the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. These personnel are deployed to 8 countries within 3 Combatant Command AORs, with representation outside of New York in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), Israel (UNTSO), Liberia (UNMIL), Mali (MINUSMA), South Sudan (UNMISS), and Tunisia/Libya (UNSMIL). U.S. contributions to the United Nations are primarily supported by two DoD entities, the U.S. Military Observer Group out of Arlington, VA, and the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute, out of the U.S. Army War College at the Carlisle Barracks in Pennsylvania.

The U.S. Military Observer Group (USMOG) is a joint organization that provides oversight of all DoD personnel assigned or allocated to the UN and Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) to ensure that mission requirements are met. USMOG provides command oversight and administrative control over all DoD personnel serving with the UN as well as administrative and logistical support before and during their assignments. They also coordinate with the U.S. Permanent Mission to the UN (USUN) to process nominations and coordinate Mission



PKSOI's Dr. Karen Finkenbinder provides policing expertise to the United Nations African Military and Police Adviser Community (AMPAC). They visited PKSOI on Friday 4 May 2018. They belong to their own country's permanent missions to the UN, and are assigned as military and police advisors for the peacekeeping efforts of the UN. The visitors today represent Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria Senegal, Zambia and Zimbabwe, headed by BG Reginald Odoi, the Dean of AMPAC from Ghana. This meeting also was an unexpected reunion for PKSOI's COL Brian Foster and BG Solomon Udounwa from Nigeria, AWC grads of 2013

placement, while also providing comprehensive pre-deployment training for all personnel before deploying to their assignments.

The Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute (PKSOI) has resided at Carlisle Barracks for over two decades. PKSOI promotes the collaborative development and integration of peace and stability capabilities across the United States Government (USG), international organizations, and the community of interest in order to enable the success of peace and stability activities and missions. PKSOI focuses on peace and stability operations (PSO) at the strategic and operational levels, and supports PSO via policy development, the design and review of civilian and military training programs and education, collection and dissemination of lessons learned, and advises the development of requirements and capabilities to plan prepare, and execute PSO. With a footprint of 50 interagency personnel

and contractors, PKSOI offers a breadth of subject matter expertise including Protection of Civilians (PoC), Mass Atrocity Prevention and Response, Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), Security Sector Reform, Rule of Law, Governance, and Foreign Humanitarian Assistance, amongst other topics.

In early 2017, USMOG and PKSOI executed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to cooperate on a number of efforts to improve the overall effectiveness of the United States' peacekeeping capability. USMOG and PKSOI support mutual leader education development via visits of foreign troop contributing countries (TCCs) and UN officials. They also cooperate on shared training support for UN staff officers and Regionally Aligned Forces (RAF) peacekeeping pre-deployment training. While USMOG focuses on preparing DoD personnel to serve in UN Missions through both classroom instruction and tactical training, PKSOI provides academic and operational resources through the execution of high-level research and the provision of subject matter experts (SMEs).

Most recently, USMOG undertook a 4-week pre-deployment training session to prepare 31 future peacekeepers to deploy to the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, and South Sudan. These troops – including 4 females, for a total of 6 female peacekeepers deployed, just shy of the UN goal for Troop Contributing Countries to field 15% female peacekeepers within missions – are prepared for deployment via both UN-mandated classes and briefings, as well as USMOG/DoD specific training and Mission-specific preparation.

In addition to providing subject matter expert Staff Officers to enhance the effectiveness of UN Missions, the U.S. also offers logistics and technology support to enhance the capabilities of its military trainers and subject matter experts. The U.S. also offered specialized expertise to strengthen the counter-improvised explosive device (C-IED) capabilities of UN missions – a particularly valuable offering to the MINSUMA and AMISOM peacekeepers. Further, the commitment of \$2 million to augment pre-deployment training for African police peacekeepers facing violent extremist threats across the Sahel and the Horn of Africa will help enhance the operational effectiveness of these forces.

Contributing more than \$1 billion since 2005, the United States is the largest contributor to policing and military capacity building efforts in support of international peacekeeping, including both support to the United Nations and other complementary training initiatives. In FY2017 alone, the U.S. also funded over \$160 million to the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership (APRRP) and the Department of State's Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) and International

Police Peacekeeping Operations Support (IPPOS) programs. These concerted efforts, represented by Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick M. Shanahan at the Canadian Defence Ministerial, seek to use all instruments of U.S. national power to contain conflict, redress the peace, and shape environments to support reconciliation and rebuilding and facilitate the transition to legitimate governance. With no shortage of complex environments emerging across the globe, the skills and capabilities of the USG in building peace will continue to be a key contribution of the United States to global order.

