



Eastern Africa Standby Force **Annual Report 2016**

Beyond Full Operational Capability



EASF DIRECTORS



Dr Abdillahi Omar Bouh
2017 - 2020



Amb Chanfi Issimail
2014 - 2017



Maj Gen Cyrille Ndayirukiye
2010 - 2014



Col Peter Marwa
2009 - 2010



Simon Mulongo
2007 - 2009



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Burundi



Comoros



Djibouti



Ethiopia



Kenya



Rwanda



Seychelles



Somalia



Sudan



Uganda

EASF Member States

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Cover photos:



Lt Gen Prime Niyongabo, Chief of Defence Staff of Republic of Burundi in a press interview.

Also in the photo, Amb Issmail Chanfi (1st Right), Director of EASF, Maj Gen Tai Gituai (1st Left), Joint Chief of Staff and Brig Gen Domitien Kabisa (2nd Right), Force Commander.



Member States, EASF and AU flags at the EASF Secretariat, Nairobi, Kenya

Message from the Chair

Security challenges on the continent of Africa are becoming increasingly complex and difficult to respond to. This has created additional demand on African leaders to become more vigilant by constantly monitoring the security situation with a view to developing and implementing effective response mechanisms.

As a region, EASF is determined to fully support the call by continental leaders to support all efforts towards peace under the umbrella of the African Standby Force. EASF has continued to put in place systems and structures that facilitate progress and stability after attainment of Full Operational Capability (FOC). This will enable the multidimensional force to effectively participate in any Peace Support Operation (PSO).

EASF has posted very positive and encouraging results in various functions. African Heads of State and Government have expressed great confidence in the progress of EASF and its contribution towards the continental efforts for peace. This has translated into additional political support through policy development and implementation as well as resource mobilisation.

As EASF continues to reinforce its sustainability efforts, I wish to express appreciation to the leadership at all levels. I thank the African Union leadership for continuously playing an outstanding role in providing the guidance and direction necessary to develop EASF into a credible organisation. I also thank all EASF Member States for their continued dedication and commitment.

My special appreciation goes to the EASF Partners and Friends for the technical and financial support that have seen EASF grow to this level. Finally, I take this opportunity to thank the Director of EASF, Ambassador Issimail Chanfi for his exemplary leadership during this period and all EASF staff for the interest and hard work demonstrated in contributing to the peace and stability of our region.

Hon Major General Abdulkadir Sheikh Ali Dini (Somalia)
Chairperson, Council of Ministers of Defence and Security



EASF is determined to fully support the call by continental leaders to support all efforts towards peace under the umbrella of the African Standby Force”



As the reality to deploy draws near, EASF recognises the importance of working more cohesively with its stakeholders to build the synergy required to effectively drive the continental agenda for peace and stability”

Message from the Director

This report presents the progress made in the year 2016 in implementing the work programme of the EASF. It highlights key activities and results.

As the reality to deploy draws near, EASF recognises the importance of working more cohesively with its stakeholders to build the synergy required to effectively drive the continental agenda for peace and stability. In 2016, EASF concentrated its efforts on consolidating its position on the journey upon which it had embarked in 2015, after declaration of Full Operational Capability (FOC). This included reinforcing policy influence in support of the continental efforts towards a stable and peaceful Africa, maintaining readiness of the force through and improving operational effectiveness.

EASF adopted deliberate steps to work in close collaboration with its umbrella organisation, the African Union, and other regional organizations, by formalizing relationships through Memoranda

of Understanding and related legal instruments. All the activities were guided by the Strategic Plan 2015–2020 which is structured into four pillars: Political, Diplomatic and Advocacy; Maintenance of a Fully Operational Standby Force and Operational Capability; Institutional Capacity and Sustainability; and Regional Cooperation and Partnerships.

EASF embarked on a proactive process to consolidate post Full Operational Capability (FOC) to ensure the gains already realised during the development phases are sustained. EASF has laid a framework to maintain the integrated capacity of Military, Civilian and Police components by conducting refresher training in various areas, upgrading communication and technology systems, increasing staff to support deployment as well as enhancing the public information and advocacy campaigns. The EASF Logistics Centre was also upgraded to accommodate storage and maintenance of equipment and other requirements deployment.

As EASF continues to enjoy political support of the highest level and also from Friends and Partners, there is great hope that it is on the right track.

As I end my three-year tenure of office as the Director, I thank the African Union for guiding EASF and other Standby Forces in the right direction. I thank all Member States for the commitment demonstrated in building EASF, and all EASF staff for the hard work. Finally, I wish to express my special gratitude to EASF partners and Friends for their outstanding support and for walking the path with EASF since inception.

Ambassador Chanfi Issmail
Director, EASF Secretariat

Message from

Chair, Friends of EASF



The Friends could continue to support among others, that the FOC will be further consolidated”

I allow myself to take a step back to my arrival in East Africa: EASF had not yet declared Full Operational Capability (FOC), a large number of key agreements and supporting documents had not been developed, let alone ratified by the parliaments of the EASF Member States, and a number of operational concepts, manuals etc. were only to a limited degree in place.

By the end of 2016 the picture is different: FOC was declared ultimo 2014; a majority of the needed documents and agreements have been agreed to; the Strategy Plan 2015 - 2020 is well under implementation. The approved 2017 Activity Plan will be guiding a well coordinated support to material, trainings and a number of, in particular, the Secretariat’s activities during 2017. The most important point remains, however, that almost all of the mentioned activities keep aiming at the great opportunity to demonstrate EASF’s capabilities - as a standby force - during the Field Exercise planned for November 2017.

Also 2016 showed that there is a need and a common wish for “the Friends” to engage with EASF. “The Friends” could continue to support among others that the FOC will be further consolidated, that EASF becomes more sustainable and that an effective training structure is build up based on EASF’s developing plan complex.

Indeed, the good relations between the EASF Secretariat and “the Friends” have grown. Therefore, I would like to finish by thanking Director, Amb. Issmail Chanfi and the Secretariat staff for the good cooperation. Without the direct and positive working relations between the seconded advisors in Karen and the Secretariat Staff, we would not have come this far.

Thank you again, EASF, and good luck!

Col Soren Knudsen
Chair, Friends of EASF, 2013 - 2016

EASF Executive Staff 2016



Mr. Benedeste Hoareau
Head of Political
Seychelles

Amb. Chanfi Issimail
Director
Comoros

Brig. Gen. Domitien Kabisa
Force Commander
Burundi



Brig. (Dr.) Ibrahim M.
Abdelrahim
Head of Liaison
The Sudan

Col. Salahuldin Osman Omer
Chief of Staff Logbase
The Sudan



Col. Peter Kalimba
Head of Administration
Rwanda

Col. James Kinalwa
Chief of Staff, Military
Uganda



Lt. Col. Jack Mugyerwa
Head of Finance
Uganda

ACP Kaysah Gebre
Weldeselasie
Head of Police
Ethiopia



Col. Mohamed Barkat Aden
EASF/AU Liaison Officer
Djibouti

Mr Abdirashid Mohamed
Head of civilian Component
Somalia



Maj. Gen. Tai Gituai
Joint Chief of Staff
Kenya

Col Alemseged Hadera
Commandant Logbase
Ethiopia



Highlights

2016

Working with EASF Member States

EASF has taken a more proactive position to monitor conflict situations in all its Member States. This is in support of the preventive function which constitutes part of the EASF mandate. In February 2016, EASF sent a high level delegation to express solidarity with one of its Member States, Republic of Burundi, at a time when there were mixed reports about rising tension in the country. In addition, during the elections in the Union of Comoros in April 2016, EASF was represented by Secretariat staff.



EASF Receives New Staff

The recent restructuring exercise has enabled the Administration and Finance, and the Peace Operations Departments to expand their functions political and conflict analysis, information and liaison, finance, human resource and ICT. This will reinforce the current capacity as EASF prepares for future deployment.

Establishment of Peace Operations Department (POD)

The newly established Peace Operations Department is directly responsible to provide political guidance on matters of Peace and Security, to carry out conflict analysis and early warning functions, and to develop policies and procedures relevant to planning, launching, directing and managing Peace Support Operations. EASF activated the (POD) under a new Departmental Head.





EASF Maritime Cell

EASF reactivated the Maritime Cell to play a major role in addressing the increasing concerns ranging from Maritime Domain Awareness (Situational Awareness) to Maritime Safety and Security concerns. This is in support of pillar 2 of the EASF strategic plan which calls for focus on Maritime Governance, Safety at Sea, Security, Law enforcement, Search and Rescue.



Logistics Base – Maintaining the Start-up Kit

EASF set up a facility at the Logistics base in Addis Ababa, to maintain the Forward Force Headquarter kit which was acquired in 2015. The equipment is currently being maintained using state of the art technology, ready to be transferred to a mission area when need arises.



Communications and Advocacy

EASF continues to implement the Communications and Advocacy strategy. The strategy has enabled EASF to reach out to various stakeholders by using different channels and tools. This includes distributing advocacy material and engaging its audience on the website and social media platforms as well hosting potential partners. The strategy targets both the internal and external audience.

Legal

Underpinnings



Hon Major General Abdulkadir Sheikh Ali Dini (2nd left), Chair, Council of Ministers of Defence and Security who is also the Minister for Defence of Somalia, with 1st Lt Gen Yahia Mohamed Khair, Sudan (2nd right), Vice Chair and Amb Chanfi Issimail, Director EASF (1st right). Also in the photo is Amb Joseph Nourice (1st left (Representing the Rapporteur) from Seychelles.

EASF recognises the need to continuously strengthen its position as a key player in promoting peace and security in the Eastern Africa region. This is implemented by establishing and regularly reviewing the instruments that enable Member States to continuously work together in harmony. The 10 Member States have reaffirmed their commitment to the Agreement on Establishment of the EASF and also pledged Forces, equipment and other resources.

Currently, 60% of the Member States have ratified the Agreement on the Establishment of EASF. The remaining ones are at an advanced stage in the process. Completion of this process will further consolidate the relationship among all Member States and reaffirm their political will.

EASF conducted three meetings all aimed at addressing key policy issues for better management of the organization.

POLICY ORGANS MEETINGS (POM) 2016		
26 th January	14 th Extra Ordinary Policy Organs Meeting	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
18 th March	20 th Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Defence and Security	Victoria, Seychelles
28 th October	21 st Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Defence and Security	Bujumbura, Burundi

Enhancing Conflict Prevention through

EASF Early Warning Mechanism (E-Warn)

The newly created Peace Operations Department (POD) kicked off on a high note, to reinforce its vision of conflict prevention in the Eastern Africa region. One of the first activities was initialisation of a robust Early Warning Mechanism and establishment of a situation room to assist in early preparedness and mitigation of conflicts.

The POD is responsible to provide political guidance on matters of Peace and Security for EASF through carrying out conflict analysis, Early Warning and Strategic Mission Assessment. This includes conducting research, analysing information and forwarding recommendations to policy making organs for decision-making and appropriate action.

In the year 2016, the department carried out a pivotal activity that drew Early Warning experts from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The team developed the E-WARN Capability Development Plan (CDP) 2017 – 2018. The three “Development Areas” which are interdependent include ensuring adequate institutional capacity, development of a conceptual and operational early warning model and incorporating EASF Partnership to ensure the system is operational by 2018.

EASF demonstrated application of the Early Warning function in a mission conducted in Burundi in February 2016 to assess the security situation and to enable EASF prepare for intervention if need arose. EASF sent another team to Comoros, during the conduct of its highly disputed elections to collect real time information on the evolution of the crisis. The two missions demonstrate readiness for EASF to support Member States as and when need arises.



EASF staff led by Brig Albert Kendagor (2nd Left), Head of POD and Col Joern Rasmussen (3rd Left Technical Advisor, Denmark, with Early Warning Experts from ECOWAS, IGAD and COMESA during the Early Warning Planning Workshop in Nairobi in November 2016.

EASF

Study Week

EASF recognises the dynamic and ever-evolving nature of security threats in the region, and the need to continuously conduct research, monitor and analyse these threats and develop effective response mechanisms. EASF combines several approaches to build the appropriate capacity to respond.

The EASF Planning Element (PLANELM), has continued to actively coordinate all components activities related to peace and security in the region. PLANELM has made tremendous progress especially in training personnel to strengthen skills necessary to maintain Full Operational Capability and to respond to common threats. Major trainings include capacity building for commanders to undertake operational and tactical planning process.

In September 2016, EASF organised a study week with the aim of examining and reflecting on the contemporary character of conflict in the region, the challenges and long-term impact on Peace Support Operations (PSOs). The study provided an opportunity to share knowledge and experience on issues related to emerging security threats such as disaster, pandemic and asymmetric threats. Highly experienced peace practitioners and experts from the African Union, Peace Training Institutions, Government Ministries and the Civil Society shared enriching discussions to help develop in-depth understanding of the functions of Mission Headquarters, Force Headquarters and Formed Police Units, Headquarters and other units, their interrelationships and impact on PSOs. The study also addressed issues related to good governance, political commitment and resources necessary for effective PSOs and the related challenges. Other areas

of focus included regional geostrategic and geopolitical issues that impact on regional security. The outcome of the study will contribute to better planning and execution of PSOs.

The session was organised by the PLANELM and incorporated all the three components of Police, Military and Civilian. It was sponsored by the Government of the United Kingdom.

Resource Personnel during the Study Week in Nairobi, in September 2016, with Maj Gen Tai Gituai (1st Left), Joint Chief of Staff leading the Study, Amb Chanfi Issimail (2nd Left), Director of EASF, Professor Mwagiru, (3rd Left), Col Joe Edkins (4th Left) and other panelists follow the Proceedings.





There are increasingly complex maritime security challenges in the Eastern Africa region. These challenges cause several concerns ranging from Maritime Domain Awareness (Situational Awareness) to Maritime Safety. EASF has revived the Maritime Cell to play an active role in addressing these issues as guided by Pillar two of the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020 which presents the Strategic Framework to develop a Maritime Safety and Security Coordination Mechanism by 2020. The main focus will be on

Maritime Governance, Safety at Sea, Security, Law enforcement, Search and Rescue, Training etc.

EASF Maritime Cell ambitions are: Establishment of Maritime Coordination Centre (MCC) including development of SOPs; Maritime Domain Awareness; specification of maritime force requirements; development of a regional maritime C2 concept; closer regional cooperation on maintenance and logistics; conduct maritime PSO-based training; establishment of a framework for non-military missions and tasks such as maritime governance, security, law enforcement etc.

At the moment EASF Maritime Cell is working on the Capability Development Plan (CDP) 2017 – 2020 which comprises three “Development Areas”, which are highly interlinked and interdependent. These are: Maritime Safety and Security Coordination Mechanism (MSSCM); Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA); and Maritime Capabilities (MC).

The Capability Development Plan includes articulation of relevant “Development Ambitions” (DA). In parallel to the overall goal to develop capabilities in accordance to the CDP, it is equally important that EASF eventually develops a capacity that enables the organisation to plan, execute and evaluate all operational and training activities.

The EASF Maritime Cell during a Maritime Training Exercise in Mauritius in 2016

EASF Strengthens Capacity for Public Information

EASF considers Public information very important as it helps connect the organisation with the rest of the world, particularly on security matters.

EASF conducted spokespersons training for senior management in May 2016 to enhance its current capacity and to develop a framework for Executives from all its components to communicate effectively. This training sought to establish a common process to effectively deliver time-critical information to various stakeholders as well as the general public. The participants developed common understanding on specific message development, working with the media, press conference management and answering questions and general representation of EASF.

The skills acquired during such trainings will help senior management to effectively represent EASF in various forums and also to relate with the media in a more professional manner.

Participants included the Director, Heads of Structures and Heads of Components (Military, Police and Civilian).

The Training was funded by the Danish Government under the EASF Communication Project.

Brig Gen Domitien Kabisa, EASF Force Commander takes an interview from the chief trainer, Mr. Andrew Boyd, during the spokesperson training, in Kenya in February 2016. Also in the photo, Col Joern Rasmussen (Right), Danish Technical Advisor and Col Salahudin Osman Omer, the Chief of Staff Logistics Base.



Mainstreaming Gender in EASF



ACP Dina Kyasimire,
Head of Police Component

Violence against women, girls and children in conflict and post conflict situations has been of great human rights concern all over the world. Consequently, a number of UN Security Council Resolutions (SCR) geared towards protection of women, girls and children such as 1325, 1820, and 1888 have been passed.

In conflict and post conflict situations, human rights are infringed upon the most, despite the existence of different legal instruments aimed at assuaging human suffering. The suffering is extensive and leads to lasting physical and psychological effects on conflict victims either directly and indirectly.

Human rights violations affect people differently but women, girls and children are the most vulnerable and disproportionately affected. Crimes such as rape have very devastating long term effects on the lives of the survivors, their families and communities. Protection of human rights faces unprecedented challenges and poses an essential dilemma, calling for concerted efforts to mollify their suffering.

The EASF Police component has taken an additional stride to develop the capacity of the pledged forces and to equip them with knowledge and skills to effectively and timely respond to the violations of rights of women, girls, children and men.

In that regard a Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) course supported by the German Cooperation (GIZ), was conducted by the Police component from 28th-November to 9th December 2016 at the Humanitarian Peace Support School (HPSS) in Nairobi. The course was the first in the life of EASF Police Component. The aim was to develop capacity of police officers in the field of SGBV to respond effectively when deployed in any AU/UN Peace Support Operation (PSO) and to handle cases of violence against women, girls and children.

The Police component plans to conduct more SGBV courses in 2017 that will combine Police, Civilians and Military participants in order to better protect civilians. This is to fulfil the multidimensionality and interoperability needs. To further galvanize the function, EASF recently appointed a female Head of Police component for the first time.

Brig Albert
Kendagor, Head
of POD presents
a certificate to
a participant at
the conclusion of
the SGBV Course
in Nairobi, Kenya.
Looking on is Col
Gitonga



Building Continental Standby Capacity



Mr. Joshua Kariuki, Civilian Rostering and Coordination Officer addressing participants during a verification exercise in Uganda. In the background is the Head of Civilian Component, Mr Abdirashid Mohamed.

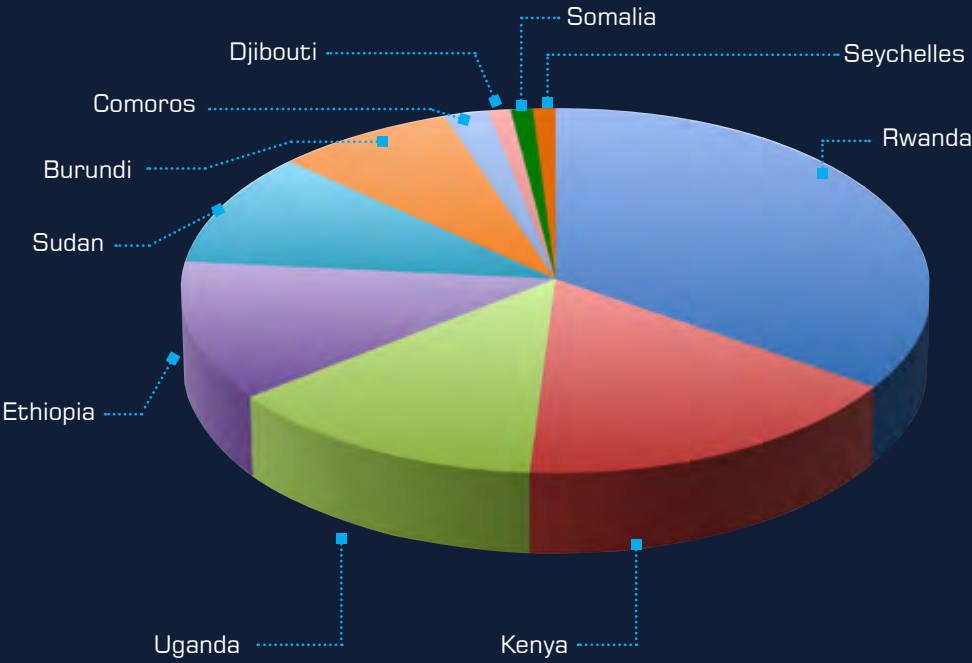
The initial establishment of EASF and other Standby Forces on the African continent authorized development of a roster that would facilitate tracking and rapid deployment of personnel to Peace Support Operations (PSOs). Rostering is an ongoing activity which enables the regions to identify, train and engage experts from Member States in relevant areas. EASF has taken the initiative to speed up the process, and has reached an advanced stage in rostering personnel in the three components of civilian, police and military.





In 2016, the EASF Civilian Component embarked on an exercise to verify rostered members. The purpose was to confirm their status, availability and commitment, and to introduce them to the AU's African Standby Capacity (ASC) Roster






The initial verification process for 2016 covered Comoros, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. It is currently being rolled out to the remaining countries. By end of 2016, EASF had trained and rostered 414 civilians in various fields. The exercise revealed that EASF is the biggest contributor to the African Standby Capacity, with 87 profiles in total, out of which 49 have been screened, interviewed and fully-rostered. EASF considers this exercise very significant, particularly after the African Union assigned it the responsibility to be the Standby Regional Force for the whole continent from January to June, 2017.

Rostering is an ongoing activity which enables the regions to identify, train and engage experts from Member States in relevant areas”

Contribution to the African Standby Capacity (ASC) Continental Roster



	Rwanda	34
	Kenya	16
	Uganda	13
	Ethiopia	12
	Sudan	10

	Burundi	8
	Comoros	2
	Djibouti	1
	Somalia	1
	Seychelles	1

Reflections on EASF

As I reflect on the last three years of my appointment as the Joint Chief of Staff from April 2014 to April 2017, I feel gratified that EASF has made tremendous progress and has become an internationally recognized capability ready for Peace Support Operations (PSOs) in the region and beyond. EASF has managed to put in place the legal framework of its recognition, Member States have pledged Forces and ratified the Agreement on Establishment of EASF in their respective Parliaments.



Maj Gen Tai Gituai, Joint Chief of Staff (JCOS), 2014 - 2017

As I look into the future of EASF, I see a stable organization that can be further harnessed to focus beyond the traditional Peace Support Operations”

In the three years of my appointment key milestones have been achieved. At the level of the Planning Element (PLANELM), the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the three Components have been developed, and training has continued for the multinational and multidimensional force. The capacities

developed have been fully rostered and forwarded to African Standby Capacity of the African Union (AU). EASF became fully operational as exemplified by a very successful Command Post Exercise (CPX) in Nov 2014 in Adama, Ethiopia; EASF also participated in Amani Africa II Exercise organised by the African Union (AU) in South Africa in Nov 2015, culminating into fully operational status for the African Standby Forces (ASF); This year 2017, EASF is in the process of planning a massive pledged forces Exercise in Sudan, a demonstration of continuous capacity development.

EASF is ready to fulfill its mandate and the region can now appreciate its ability to deal with potential conflicts that may arise suddenly where swift action and preventive deployment could save lives and contain a potential crisis anywhere in Africa, before AU or UN engages.

Looking into the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), it would be prudent to mention that EASF remains focused in continuous capacity development, as it implements the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. PLANELM leads Pillar 2 of the

Plan. The EASF multidimensional approach has been the underpinning factor of force development. The success of this approach has seen the ten Member States undertake training exercises and in the process share their security concerns, develop rapport, interoperability and genuine enduring friendship, thereby creating an enabling environment for partnership in peace and security.

The comprehensive approach to peace and security in the region is further exemplified by the fact that the regional Chiefs of Defence and the Defence Ministers sit together in the Policy Organs meetings and discuss matters of peace and security in a more amiable and convivial atmosphere.

As I look into the future of EASF, I see a stable organization that can be further harnessed to focus beyond the traditional Peace Support Operations. The dynamics of security threats have become very fluid and therefore require flexibility and re-engineering to focus beyond 2020 to enable EASF position itself to deal with the emerging security threats of asymmetric warfare, disaster and climate change. The emerging protectionism dynamics in Europe and America could lead to Africa being isolated especially on matters of peace and security. It is therefore fundamental that regional organizations like EASF devise means to address their security affairs without necessarily waiting for international support. It is during the three years of my tenure that EASF Peace Fund was formulated; This is an important area that EASF Member States need to pursue to support full implementation.

EASF Strategic Plan 2015-2020 pillars number 1 and 4 drive the political and diplomatic approach as a pro-active measure on preventive diplomacy. The Peace Operations Department was established to support this function particularly considering that EASF as a Regional Mechanism is not anchored on a Regional Economic Community (REC). EASF will need to strengthen mechanisms to work more closely with RECs to move the Continental Peace Agenda ahead.

Finally, let me commend the distinguished support from partners of EASF who have contributed tremendously towards the success of EASF. Indeed this is a clear manifestation of their commitment to ensure EASF succeeds as a regional mechanism, for peace and security as part of the Global community in a more interdependent world.

As I exit EASF, I am proud to have been part of the EASF success story. The teamwork, camaraderie and diverse experiences shown by all EASF Staff especially in PLANELM will be an enduring memory. I will continue to collaborate with EASF as an alumni and hope to keep the candle burning.

Asanteni sana na kwaherini.

EASF Logistics and Training Centre



EASF Staff receiving the Start-up Kit at the Logistics Base in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in September, 2016

One of the key functions of EASF is to maintain its capacity by continuously training personnel, developing capabilities and strengthening all the supporting institutions.

EASF acquired a mission Start-up Kit in 2015 which contains the basic requisite facilities for rapid deployment into a Peace Support Operation (PSO).

The Logistics Base serves as the central regional logistics centre to stock the Kit and to manage the Logistics infrastructure for the region. It is also responsible to ensure that all equipment and facilities are maintained in good condition, ready to be transferred when need arises. The Kit is a self-sustaining Force Forward Head Quarters (FFHQ) with a separate accommodation area for seventy personnel. The accommodation section includes dormitories, ablutions, a laundry area, a mess hall, and storage units. It also contains an electrical system comprising two generators, industrial distribution units, and double insulated flexible cables; and a plumbing system comprising water bladders, a bespoke cage mounted pump & filter set, and fully demountable pipework. EASF has also trained the personnel responsible to maintain the equipment and the entire facility.

Left to Right: Brigadier Mark Christie, UK Defence Attaché, Amb Mette Knudsen, Danish Ambassador to Kenya and Amb Chanfi Issimail, Director EASF signing documents during the hand-over ceremony for the Start-up Kit in Nairobi; Looking on, Lt. Gen. Robert Kibochi, (Standing, 1st left), the Kenya Army Commander, Col Joern Rasmussen, Danish Technical Advisor (2nd Right) with EASF staff.



Training Activities in 2016

Military

Military Roster Database Workshop

Stabilization and Civil-Military Practitioners' Course

Training of Trainers course

Battle Group Commanders Course

Force Headquarter Staff training

EASF Integrated Study Period

EASF Integrated Mission Planning Course

Training of Combined Military personnel

Drawing future military Peace Support Operation (PSO) plans

Maintaining of an updated Roster of all trained military personnel.

Coordinating Pre Mission training and In Mission training

Police Training

United Nations (UN) Trainers Workshop

Three United Nations Police Officer Course (UNPOC)

Two Middle-level Management Courses

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) course

Police Point of Contact (PPOC) Workshop

Civilian

Civilian Roster Verification Workshops in Comoros, Rwanda and Uganda.

Child Protection Curriculum Development Workshop

National Focal Point Workshop

Protection of Civilians Course

Extending Partnership

Blocks for Peace



Amb Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary of Defence for Kenya addressing participants during the International Day of Peace in Nairobi

The International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21st September of every year. EASF marks this day with celebrations aimed at expressing solidarity with efforts towards a peaceful world. The theme for 2016 was “The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace.”,

EASF opted to share the day with school children from two institutions, the Silver Springs Secondary School and St Nicholas Good Samaritan Children’s home, both based within the sub-county location of the EASF Secretariat in Nairobi. The event was graced by Her Excellency Amb Raychelle Omamo, the Cabinet Secretary of Defence for Kenya.

To demonstrate institutional social responsibility, EASF extended a gesture of peace and unity by donating gifts and other requirements to the needy children. Activities for the day included a symbolic peace walk, poems, dances, skits, entertainment and talks, all bearing messages of peace.

EASF is committed to continue working with various organisations to support peace initiatives in the Eastern Africa region”

Amb Omamo recognised and appreciated the participation of the youth in peace initiatives, and encouraged them to play an active role in promoting peace on the continent of Africa as future leaders. Other participants included Senior Government Officials, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, University Students and Lecturers, Civil Society and Members of the Press

EASF is committed to continue working with various organisations to support peace initiatives in the Eastern Africa region.



The EASF team presents gifts to St Nicholas Children home in Nairobi during the International Day of Peace on September 21st 2016

Maintenance of Full Operational Capability



EASF from a

Journalistic View



Fred Oluoch
Regional Political Analyst,
The East African

Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF)—as part the bigger African Union Security Architecture—came as a relief to conflict-prone Horn of Africa and The Great Lakes Region.

It was good news to the region that EASF attained its Full Operational Capability (FOC) in December 2014, one year ahead of the AU target of 2015, because of the numerous security challenges facing Eastern Africa. Indeed, some of us in the media were fairly excited that the region would have a rapid-response force that could intervene in Somalia, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at a moment's notice.

That the AU picked EASF as the first continental standby Force from January to June 2017 is an indication that it is capable of being summoned at any time and it is one of the most prepared out of the five regional brigades.

But the media all over the world has expressed concern about the envisioned AU strategy — African solutions for African problems—since the continental body continues to draw significant support from its international Friends and Partners. Nevertheless, EASF has several advantages that give hope that the region can in future nip potential conflicts in the bud, though it is yet to be tested. The 10 partner states have set aside Special Forces within their military, police and civilian components that can be mobilised at a moment's notice. EASF, with 5,200 troops has been designed to respond to diverse security situations within 14 to 30 days depending on the situation.

The fact that these troops have had joint training has contributed to regional integration and nurtured close military ties, which ensures that countries in the region do not go to war with each other.

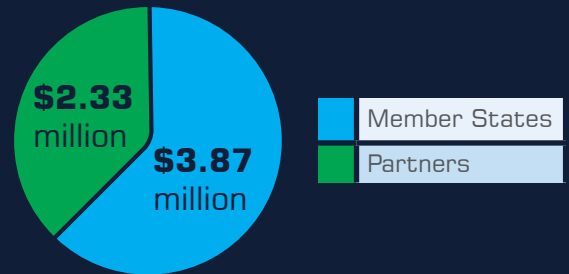
Financially, Member States have responded positively. They contributed \$3.88 million against the \$6.2 million for the 2016 budget, while development partners pumped in \$2.33 million.

All these show a combat-ready force, but can EASF actually deploy if called upon now? From the journalistic perspective the bottom line is: although EASF has posted impressive progress in terms of capacity building and joint exercises, it needs a faster decision-making process, financial muscle and freedom from the vested regional geopolitical interest for it to make an impact in the conflict-prone Eastern Africa.

Appreciation for Partners' Support

Financial Contribution 2016




















EASF extends its heartfelt appreciation to the Partners for their continued generosity. With their support, EASF received \$2.33 million as contribution of the total budget of \$6.2 million. In addition, EASF continues to receive professional technical support from the team of Friends. This has contributed immensely to the development of the three components and the preparedness of the Force.




Technical advisers:

 Military	 Japan	 Sweden	 Police	 Denmark	 Norway	 Civilian	 Germany
	 Denmark	 United Kingdom		 Germany	 Germany		

Friends of EASF:

 Australia	 Belgium	 Canada	 China	 France	 Germany	 Japan		 Denmark	 Finland
 Netherlands	 Switzerland	 Thailand	 Turkey	 United Kingdom	 United States	 Denmark		 Norway	 Sweden

Other support:

 Japan through UNDP	 EU through AU	 Save the Children	 UNDP
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Looking Ahead

Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2017



EASF with Member States strategizing for an operation during a past FTX

EASF is gearing up for yet another major Exercise, the Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2017, to be held in late 2017 in Port Sudan, Republic of the Sudan.

The Field Training Exercises (FTX) aims to test preparedness of the Force to effectively respond to conflict. It is designed to closely resemble a real life peace support mission. It is structured into a mission headquarters and three mission sectors. The Exercise takes place in a location that permits practical exercising of all functions of a multidimensional mission. FTX draws participants from the ten EASF Member States and includes the three components of Military, Civilian and Police. The Exercise brings the multi-dimensional Force to a common ground to perform mission roles which, together, constitute a collective mechanism to respond to a conflict.

The functions demonstrated in an FTX are multifaceted and include military operations, governance, maintaining the rule of law, protection of civilians, child protection, conducting negotiations, signing of peace agreements and management of the electoral process, etc.

This will be the third FTX that EASF will be conducting since its inception in 2004. The first one was held in Djibouti in 2009 and the second one in Uganda in 2013.



Amb Issimail Chanfi (2nd left), Director of EASF, with EASF staff participate in a management exercise during the management retreat in March 2016 in Naivasha, Kenya. EASF considers retreats an integral part of the management programme. Sessions included reflections on past performance and future plans,



Friends of EASF with EASF staff during an EASF-Friends meeting in April 2016 in Nairobi.

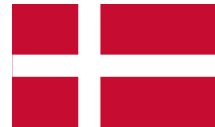


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