



EASF AMANI MASHARIKI NEWSLETTER

Because the People of Eastern Africa Matter!



Amani Mashariki welcomes the new Director Dr Abdillahi Omar Bouh to the family of EASF. Dr Bouh, a Djiboutian national, takes over from Amb Issimail, who has headed EASF for three years, 2014 - 2017.

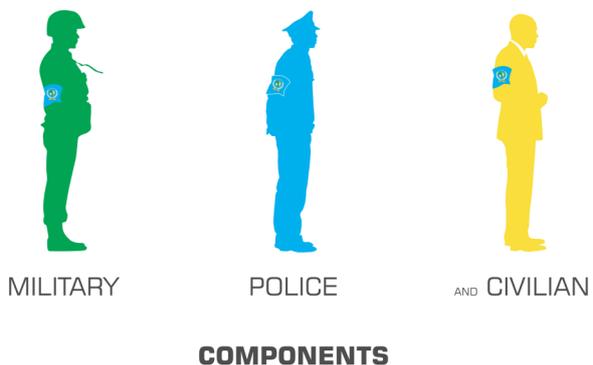
Dr Bouh joins at a time when EASF is undergoing structural changes that were recently introduced to steer EASF towards deployment. The strategic Plan 2015, which sets out the framework for all the functions and activities for EASF is at its peak.

EASF is also preparing for a major Exercise, the Field Training Exercise (FTX 2017) in Port Sudan, Republic of the Sudan, in November 2017.

Amani Mashariki is a quarterly newsletter which aims to provide regular updates on the status of development of EASF by highlighting key issues and activities that support the overall mandate of enhancing peace and security in the Eastern Africa region.

In this Issue:

- **New Director for EASF**
- **Staff Changes at EASF**
- **Farewell to Danish Technical Advisor**
- **Middle-level Management Course for Police Officers**
- **Steering the Maritime Planning Cell**
- **Child Protection Training Curriculum**
- **Civilian Foundation Training for Peace Support**
- **Civilian Roster Verification Exercise**
- **EASF Early Warning in Benchmark Exercise**
- **Regional and Continental Engagements**
- **EASF Meets with Friends**





STAFF CHANGES AT EASF



(Top Left) Maj Gen Tai Gituai, former Joint Chief of Staff, planting a tree on his last day in office in June 2017. It is a tradition for all staff leaving EASF to plant a tree as a symbol of appreciation for the service offered. Maj Gen Gituai has returned to the Kenya Defence Forces after success at EASF Secretariat for three years.



(Top Right) - Brigadier General (Dr) Charles Rudakubana from Rwanda, addressing EASF staff during his take-over ceremony at the EASF ceremonial grounds.



(Left) - Dr Abdillahi Bouh,(Right), Director EASF hands over the EASF flag to Brig. Gen. Alaadin Osman Mirghan, as he takes up his new position as Force Commander at the EASF Force Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Dr Abdillahi Bouh, Director EASF (3rd left) with Brig Gen Domitien Kabisa (2nd left), Col Salahuldin Omer (1st left), Brig. Gen. Alaadin Osman Mirghan (2nd Right) and Col. Godwin Karugaba at the EASF Force Headquarters in Addis Ababa.





DANISH TECHNICAL ADVISOR IN NEW ROLE



Col Joern Rasmussen, addressing EASF staff during his farewell session .

Amani Mashariki bids farewell to the Danish Technical Advisor, Colonel Joern Rasmussen after successfully completing four years of service at EASF.

Working under the Nordic Advisory and Coordination Staff – NACS, Col Rasmussen initiated and supported a number of projects which have contributed immensely to the development of EASF.

He played a pivotal role in the procurement of the Forward Force Headquarters Start-Up-Kit in December 2015. He is also one of the key architects of the EASF Communication and Advocacy Strategy 2015-2017, an initiative that has seen the visibility of EASF grow exponentially across the Eastern Africa region.

He initiated the procurement of the Forward Force Headquarters' Communication Information Systems (CIS) Equipment which will ensure that an EASF Force can communicate effectively in Peace Support Operations on the continent of Africa.

Other projects rolled out by NACS during his tenure include upgrading of the EASF Local Area Network Infrastructure (LAN), strengthening the Maritime Cell and support for Early Warning Systems under Peace Operations Department.

Col. Rasmussen was at the center stage of facilitating the a Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark and EASF in September 2016 under which the various projects are funded.

In his new position as the Defence Attache at the Embassy of Denmark in Nairobi, he will also concurrently be the Chairperson of Friends of EASF. He has been replaced by Col Claus Pedersen as the new Danish Technical Advisor at EASF

MIDDLE LEVEL MANAGEMENT COURSE FOR POLICE OFFICERS



Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Dinah Kyasiimire with Participants Police Mid-Level Management Course

The Police component plays a lead role in maintaining law and order in any Peace Support Operation (PSO). Over the years, EASF has made continuous effort to develop police officers at various levels, to equip them with the knowledge and skills required to effectively support any multinational/multidimensional Peace Support Operation (PSO) should need arise.

In a training that was organized to further enhance these skills in June 2017, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Dinah Kyasiimire, the Head of Police Component reflected on the gains made by the Component ever since EASF attained its FOC, and stressed the importance of maintaining high level practices in operational scenarios and continuously maintaining readiness to better respond to crises.

The course was fully supported by the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark. It attracted participation from Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan and Uganda, five trainers from the region and one from Denmark.

STEERING THE MARITIME PLANNING CELL



EASF Staff during the Maritime Task Force Command (MTFCC) course in May 2017

EASF conducted a Maritime Task Force Command (MTFCC) course in May 2017 in Mombasa, Kenya to further enhance skills necessary for maritime officers to command a maritime task force during Maritime Peace Support Operations (PSOs) in particular the Maritime Safety and Security (MSS).

Col Thomas Persson TA NACS read the Director's remarks. He informed participants about the primary objective of the course; to learn and use the EASF Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 530 Maritime Planning Process both theoretically and practically. SOP 530 is a mixture of all the levels of war in one.

He emphasized the importance of sharing experiences with other maritime personnel and applying best practices that would enable EASF to respond effectively to the maritime threats facing the region. This includes mission planning skills to operate in a combined planning staff set up at operational level.

The course content included the United Nations and Africa Union Peace and Security Architecture, Mission Analysis, Maritime Task Force Planning Procedure, functions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and Communication Plans among other areas.

LAUNCH OF THE CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING CURRICULUM



Dr Abdillahi Omar Bouh, Director EASF (2nd left) with Mr Ben Aliwa, (2nd Right) Director for Regional and Multi-Country Programming, Save the Children International (2nd Right) lead participants in a photo during the launch at EASF.

EASF works in partnership with several organisations to discharge its mandate of enhancing peace and security in the Eastern Africa region.

On 26th April, 2017, EASF and Save the Children International launched the Child Protection Training Curriculum in Peace Support Operations (PSOs). The curriculum is the first harmonised child protection curriculum in Africa, and is designed to protect the welfare of children during conflict. It is developed under the framework of the African Union and forms part of the capacity-building programme for EASF and across the continent.

The curriculum provides a training toolkit for personnel serving in PSOs on issues related to vulnerability of children during conflict. It comes in the wake of the urgent need to protect children from various forms of danger and to enhance capacity to support them. Often children are killed and maimed during violent attacks, while other grave violations such as recruitment and use as child soldiers, rape and sexual violence, abduction, denial of humanitarian access and attacks against their schools and hospitals become commonplace. An estimated 12 million children are internally displaced throughout the continent.

The event was officially opened by the newly appointed Director of EASF, Dr Abdillahi Omar Bouh from the Republic of Djibouti. The Save the Children International team was led by Mr Ben Aliwa, Director for Regional and Multi-Country Programming.

The launch attracted several institutions currently involved in capacity building and training on child protection issues, namely the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) in Nairobi, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA), Ethiopia Peace Support School, Rwanda Peace Academy, Sudan Peace Support Training School, Uganda Peoples Defence Forces and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

CIVILIAN FOUNDATION TRAINING 2017



EASF Member States in a Practical Session at the Amani Police Station, Humanitarian Peace Support School, Nairobi

EASF Director, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh officiated the opening session of the Peace Support Operations (PSO) Civilian Foundation Course.

The Course is the first capacity building step for professional civilian African Standby Force (ASF)/EASF PSO personnel who are eligible and interested in serving in a PSO carried out by the African Union or EASF.

The Course is a mandatory prerequisite for the inclusion of successful participants in the EASF Civilian Roster database, a tool which captures data of personnel from EASF Member States who have been trained for PSOs. This admission allows a trained civilian to attend further specialization trainings which enhance his/her skills and capabilities deemed necessary in enabling the expert accomplish any tasks he/she may be assigned during a PSO engagement.

and was attended by 30 participating civilian trainees from EASF Member States, Officers from the United Kingdom, course facilitators and other invited guests. The course has been funded through the Government of the United Kingdom.



EASF staff with other participants in a practical Exercise during the Civilian Foundation Training at the Humanitarian Peace Support School, Nairobi

CIVILIAN ROSTER VERIFICATION EXERCISE



Mr Steve Lalande, EASF Head of Civilian Component (in spectacles) , with Mr Severin Mbarubukeye, Planning, Training and Evaluation Officer, in an interview session in The Sudan in April 2017

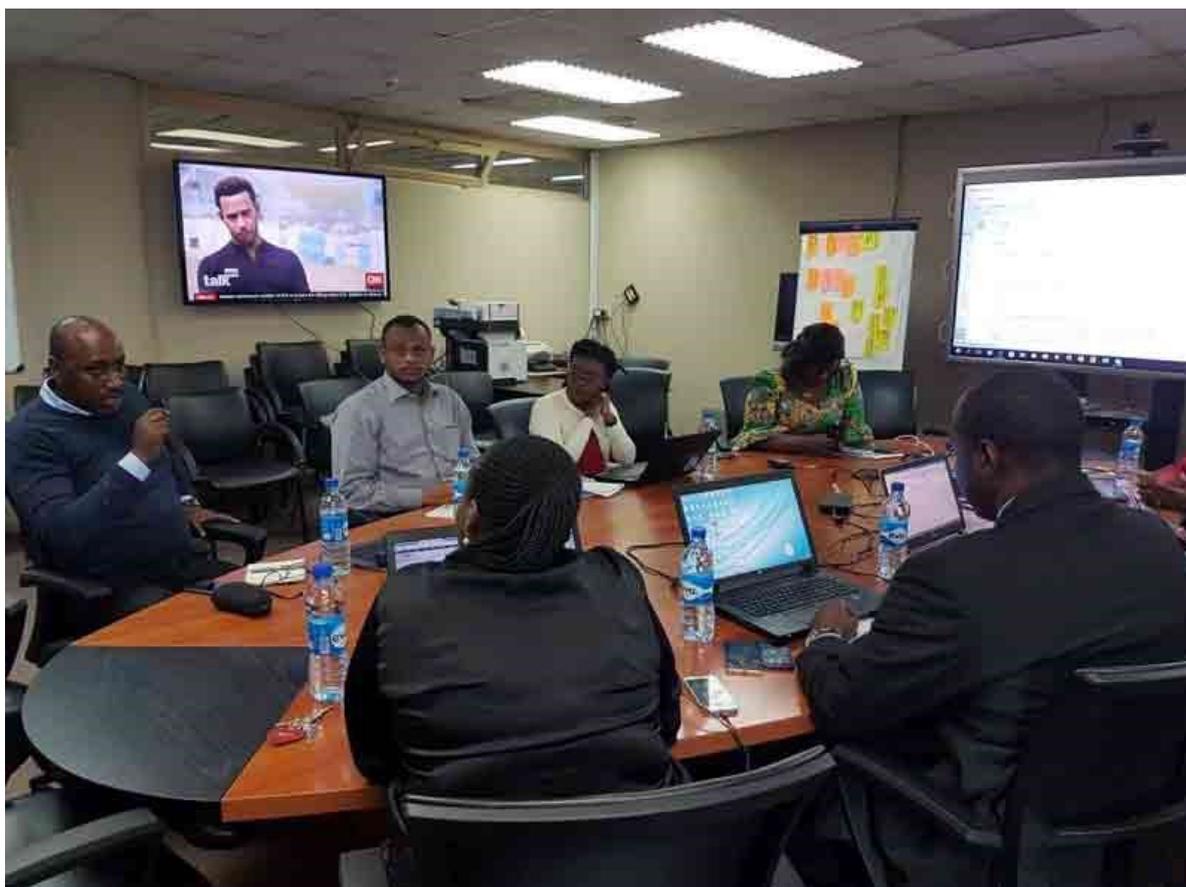
The Civilian Component of EASF boosted the Rostering of the Civilian Experts during a roster verification exercise that was conducted from 5 – 7 June 2017 in Khartoum, Sudan. The Exercise is conducted to ensure rostered civilian experts meet the criteria ascribed for both the substantive and mission support functions for Peace Support Operations (PSOs) in line with the approved Recruitment Policy and the African Union staffing guidelines.

The verification exercise was graced by Ambassador Mohammed Eisa - Director General African Department. In attendance was the Ambassador for AU Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who affirmed Sudan's commitment, cooperation and support of EASF.

Regular updating of the roster is organised to confirm availability and qualifications of all rostered personnel in preparation for possible deployment. This exercise is aligned to the AU's continental framework that ensures common processes for selection, training and recruitment of the civilian rosters at the regional and the continental level. It included competency based interviews to ensure future training is aligned to both individual needs and organizational training needs. A total 54 civilian experts were interviewed.

Mr Steve Lalande, Head of Civilian component, led the EASF technical team which also included Joshua Kariuki – Rostering and coordination Officer, and Col Viator Niyogabo, Human Resources Officer.

EASF EARLY WARNING TEAM IN A BENCHMARKING EXERCISE



EASF Early Warning Team during the Benchmarking Exercise in Abuja, Nigeria

The EASF Early Warning team conducted a benchmarking Exercise at the Headquarters of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Abuja, Nigeria from July 18 – 19th, 2017.

The benchmarking Exercise was organized to share ideas and experiences on the status of operation of the ECOWAS Early Warning System (ECOWARN), and to identify best practices for EASF. The ECOWAS Early System (ECOWARN) is one of the most comprehensive systems in Africa. It contains facilities for capturing a broad range data items, analyzing and presenting reports that facilitate rapid decision-making on conflict prevention and intervention at various levels.

The session was officially opened by the Dr Cyriaque Agneketon, Director, Directorate of Peacekeeping and Security (DPKRS), ECOWAS.

The EASF Early Warning function falls under the Peace Operation Department which forms part of the overall EASF strategy to develop a fully integrated and functional EASF early warning and response system capable of detecting potential threats and conflict, and enabling appropriate response mechanisms. The Exercise comes at a time when EASF is strengthening capacities to support the ongoing peace initiatives in the Eastern Africa region.

The EASF team comprises one political analyst and two conflict analysts who are responsible for monitoring and analyzing conflict in the Eastern Africa region and providing information that can facilitate response mechanisms.



MEETING WITH FRIENDS OF EASF



Dr Abdillahi Bouh, (seated, 3rd left) with Col Joern Rasmussen (2nd left), with Friends of EASF and EASF staff during the meeting

On the 27th April 2017, the joint EASF-Friends forum convened at the 21st Ordinary meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting sought to share the key decisions of the 22nd Ordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers of defence and security which conducted in Kampala Uganda in March 2017 and to identify areas of cooperation that will further enhance the participation of EASF in strengthening the regional and continental peace efforts.

Col Joern Rasmussen chaired the meeting in his first meeting as Chair, Chair of Friends, reiterated the commitment of Friends to continue supporting EASF particularly in capacity building and building the resource base necessary for the force to effectively deploy. He also confirmed support for the forth-coming Exercise, which, he said, would go a long way in strengthening the skills already acquired and confirming the readiness of EASF.

Participants of the meeting received an update on the latest development within EASF.

The focus for this meeting was the 2017 Field Training Exercise (FTX) which is scheduled for November 2017. The Exercise will bring together participants from the ten EASF member states in a set up similar to a Peace Support Mission, to apply the knowledge and skills that they have so far acquired and to test their readiness to deploy in missions. Other highlights included the EASF Early Warning (E-warn) capacity which has recently been boosted with additional human resource capacity to help address the growing needs in the area of conflict prevention and management, and the EASF Strategic Lift capacity development which is also picking momentum in EASF.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Netherlands, Norway, UK, USA, Japan, Ambassador of Djibouti, EASF Technical Advisors and EASF Staff.



Dr Abdillahi Bouh, Director of EASF with Col Joern Rasmussen (centre), Chair of Friends and Col Claus Pedersen, Danish Technical Advisor, during the Friends Meeting

REGIONAL AND CONTINENTAL ENGAGEMENTS

29th AU SUMMIT

27 June - 04 July, 2017 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investments in Youth

#29thAUSummit



Dr Abdillahi Bouh (in the foreground) , Director of EASF with Brigadier General (Dr) Charles Rudakubana, Joint Chief of Staff during the AU Summit in Addis Ababa

Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh, Director of EASF, led the EASF Delegation to participate in the 29th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government from 30th June to 4th July 2017 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Assembly was convened under the theme, “*Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth.*” Focus was on the status of peace and security in Africa as well as practical steps that can be taken to silence the guns on the continent by the year 2020.

H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AUC, maintained that the Commission will emphasize on humanitarian action in solidarity with victims of drought, famine and forced displacement through its strategic development programmes.

The status of implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) was one of the central items on the day's agenda. In this area, Dr. Bouh updated the participants on the progress of EASF in implementation of the APSA Roadmap 2015-2020. This includes the strategy on working in close cooperation with other Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (REMs) that enhance sharing of information, capacity building and advocacy.

Dr Bouh also provided an update on the status of implementation of the EASF Early Warning System which is making progressively; it is now possible to monitor real time situations as well as conduct Conflicts' Analysis within the region. Such information is of critical importance in conflict mitigation.

The EASF delegation also included Brigadier General (Dr) Charles Rudakubana from Rwanda EASF Joint Chief of Staff and Col Abdirashid Mohamed Ali, the EASF-AU Liaison officer.