

COMMAND POST EXERCISE (CPX)
2022

Newsletter

MASHARIKI SALAAM III



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Promoting peace & security through the enhancement of EASF capacity



Message from the Director

This year, we have a very important event scheduled for 21 March to 31 March, here in Nairobi, Kenya, and that is the EASF Command Post Exercise (CPX) code named "Mashariki Salaam 2022". It is one of the key activities that have been planned by the EASF. All EASF activities are geared towards maintaining the Force's Full Operational Capability (FOC) and towards further development of its capacity.

In this respect, this exercise is of critical importance to EASF as it is going to test the readiness of our regional force to respond to emerging threats to peace and security. Accordingly, the main objective of the exercise can be articulated from two angles.

First, this activity brings together all our personnel and our forces from all our Member States, in a bid to develop the capability to respond to peace and security threats as a single unit/force. As such, it is a way of developing and maintaining our force's and

our personnel's interoperability, meaning the ability to work together either as mission headquarters personnel or force headquarters personnel during deployment.

Secondly, the exercise is aimed at validating the capacities that have been developed over the last one and a half decade and to identify the gaps in order to inform future EASF capacity building endeavors, and in order to maintain the readiness of the Force to respond to regional threats.

This exercise is therefore a key instrument for ensuring our readiness to respond to our regional threats.

Thank you

Brig Gen Getachew Shiferaw Fayisa,
Director, EASF Secretariat.



Message from the Exercise Director

I first of all wish to express my sincere gratitude for the honour accorded to me by being appointed as Exercise Director for the EASF Command Post Exercise (CPX) Mashariki Salaam 2022.

The Eastern Africa region is one of the regions in Africa that is faced with a myriad of complex security challenges ranging from terrorism, poverty, cross-border conflicts, electoral disputes amongst others all leading to loss of lives and property. It is against this background that the Eastern Africa Standby Force, which is mandated to maintain and promote Peace and Security in the region, has been working tirelessly over the years, putting various structures in place in order to fulfill its mandate.

As such, the EASF has been doing continuous training of its Forces, drawn from the three components (Military, Police and Civilian), on how to respond to conflict situations and other emerging threats. The training process is not complete without testing and evaluation to identify the existing gaps and devise means of bridging them.

This Command Post Exercise therefore, is aimed at exercising EASF Staff and Member States' Pledged Personnel, who are on standby in their respective countries, in a bid to test their ability in integrated

mission planning, command, control and execution of a complex Peace Support Operations.

I believe that the three Planning Conferences organized by the EASF Secretariat have been able to set the right pace for the exercise. Through them, various documents have been prepared including the exercise design and many others which are very crucial in guiding the conduct of the exercise. I am therefore confident that besides the planning process, the coordination between the Organizers and various stakeholders, the collaboration and commitment of the exercise participants, have all set the exercise for great success. I believe the exercise objectives will be achieved despite the ongoing challenges posed by the global health pandemic.

Lastly I register my special appreciation to our Member States for availing the pledged personnel to undertake the training, and to the Partners and Friends of EASF, who have availed financial and technical support towards the conduct of this exercise.

Thank You

Brig Gen Dickson Chivatsi
Exercise Director





Mission Planning & Management Section (MPMS) Workshop

EASF conducted a two-weeks-long Mission Planning & Management Section (MPMS) workshop in January 2021, at EASF Premises in Karen, Nairobi.

The workshop was a major part of EASF's preparation for Command Post Exercise (CPX) 2022. The MPMS workshop was closed officially by the EASF Director Brig

Gen Getachew Shiferaw Fayisa. In his closing speech, the Director thanked all participants for their active participation and highlighted that the exercise showcases EASF's efforts to maintain its Full Operational Capability (FOC) and readiness for future peace operations.

Prior to the Director's speech, the Joint Chief of Staff, Brig Gen PSC Dr. Osman Mohamed Abbas also made remarks briefing on the process and outcomes of the workshop.

The Head of Mission of the CPX 2022, Brig Gen Dickson Chivatsi, from Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) was present in the closing ceremony. Also in attendance was Mr. Peter Zartsdahl from the International Advisory and Coordinating Staff (IACS). The MPMS workshop has come up with a comprehensive plan for the CPX.



Main Planning Conference

EASF conducted a five-day Main Planning Conference for the Command Post Exercise (CPX 21) in Nairobi, Kenya, in July 2021. The Conference, which was officially opened by EASF Director, Brigadier General Getachew Shiferaw Fayisa on 26 July 2021, aimed to make an in-depth analysis and validation of the working documents prepared during the Initial Planning Conference which was held in the Union of Comoros in March 2021.

Explaining the purpose of the exercise, Director Brigadier General Shiferaw said,

"The aim of the Command Post Exercise (CPX) code named 'Command Post Exercise Mashariki Salaam III' is to develop, consolidate, maintain and test the capability of EASF in planning and conducting multidimensional operations both in operational and strategic levels.

The Main Planning Conference which drew participants from EASF was sponsored by the African Union through the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) program.



Final Planning Conference

The Eastern Africa Standby Force conducted a four-day Final Planning Conference (FPC) for the EASF Command Post Exercise (CPX) 2022, codenamed "MASHARIKI SALAAM 2022" at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Hurlingham, Nairobi, Kenya, from 14 – 17 February 2022.

The participants were drawn from EASF Structures including facilitators, experts and representatives from the EASF Member States. The Conference finalized the plan for CPX-2022 refining and confirming the following key areas:

- The Exercise Planning Instructions (EXPI) that includes the exercise scenario, training package, manning list, Real Life Support (RLS) plan, press/media plan, evaluation plan and other arrangements
- Setup of the Exercise location
- The Exercise Budget and Host Nation support requirements.
- The MP&MS draft Integrated Mission Plan (IMP).

The conference was officially opened by the Guest of Honour, Maj Gen. Alphaxard Kiugu, the Assistant Chief of Kenya Defence Forces in charge of Personnel and Logistics who underscored the role of EASF in bringing together ten member states working for peace and security in the Region.

The EASF Planning Element (PLANELM) Joint Chief of Staff, Brig. Gen. PSC Dr Osman Mohammed Abbas on behalf of the EASF Director, Brig Gen Getachew Shiferaw Fayisa, thanked the People and Government of Kenya for hosting the Conference and for the hospitality accorded to the participants. He expressed appreciation to the EASF Member States for their commitment in availing participants to the Conference which is crucial towards successful planning and conduct of the exercise that will further enhance the readiness of EASF in addressing threats to peace and security.

On behalf of the EASF International Advisory Committee Staff (IACS) Coordinator Mr. Peter Zartsdahl, the Technical Advisor (TA) to the EASF Police Component, Deputy Chief Superintendent Bjarne Askholm, noted that conduct of the upcoming exercise has been postponed severally from the year 2020 and 2021 due to challenges arising from the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic. He commended the tireless efforts by EASF and other stakeholders for the preparatory work that has been done to ensure the exercise becomes a success through conducting a series of meetings and training activities.



Brig. Gen. Osman Mohamed Abbas
Joint Chief of Staff EASF

A Brief Description of Preparation and Major Activities of CPX 2022

The aim of the Command Post Exercise (CPX) code named "MASHARIKI SALAAM III" is to develop, consolidate maintain and test the capability of EASF in planning and conducting multidimensional peace support operations both in operational and strategic levels.

In order to achieve the aim of the exercise, several activities have taken place as preparation for the CPX. We began with an Initial Planning Conference whereby we came out with the main plan, EX structure and the timeline for the EX.

After that we conducted the Main Planning Conference where we drafted most of the documents needed for the EX and we did recce visits to the EX location alongside with HN support requirements.

After the MPC, we conducted some preparatory trainings such as the FHQ training whereby representatives from all EASF MS participated, we also conducted MPMS training which was done by EASF staff where we produced the IDMP.

In February 2022, there was the FPC where all the documents and requirements were confirmed by the conference.

So from now on, we are fully ready to conduct the EX as it has been planned for to begin on 21 March, 2022.

Brig Gen (PSC) Dr Osman Mohamed Abbas
Joint Chief of Staff, EASF

Administrative Preparations for CPX 2022

The Finance and Administration department has participated in all Planning conferences (Initial, Main and Final). Furthermore, the Real Life Support (RLS) plan has been developed for efficient sustainment of the exercise- CPX 22 -Mashariki Salaam III. In addition to that, a medical support plan and a movement and transportation plan from Member States (MS) to the exercise area that will cover all participants have been realized in consultation with HN. Furthermore, a personnel accommodation and a CPX catering plans have been done and we are still waiting for a complete list of participants from MS for rooms distribution. By the same token, an administration and security & safety plans have been prepared and finalized for implementation during the exercise.

To avoid spread of the new pandemic, guidelines and instructions for Covid-19 pandemic have been developed in conjunction with a Medical Officer (A Doctor) from HN. Cultural considerations and Host nation support requirements for the CPX 2022 have been issued and 3 coordination meetings between HN and EASF have been conducted for better coordination and support. Finally, Handling of VIPs and a detailed budget plans to support the exercise plans in coordination with HN are available as well for implementation.



Ms. Lina Hoareau
Head of Administration and Finance



The Roles Placed to EASF Staff and Participants from Member States

As we all know, the aim of CPX-2022 is to test the Full Operational Capability (FOC) of EASF that was declared years back and to train the participants for better performance in the future Peace Support Operations (PSO).

As the name "CPX" indicates, the exercise focuses on the command post structures, the political decision organ including the African Union, the EASF as a mounting organization and the MHQ & FHQ in the field.

Hence, the EASF staff play the role of liaising and bridging the two structures (the Political decision organ and the command structure in the field) in addition to its main tasks of planning, preparing, deploying, employing, sustaining and exiting the force in the pretended PSO in the ideal country, CARANA.

The participants from the Member States, multidimensional in nature (Military, Police & Civilian), mainly play the role of the various posts in the MHQ & FHQ in the field.

There is a third group that creates the mission environment, namely: exercise controllers, evaluators, mentors, advisors, in which both EAFS staff and participants from the Member States involve.

Despite different roles we play, all our endeavors are geared toward ensuring and maintaining the FOC of the EASF as one entity.

Kedir Ababulgu Ali
HOC, EASF

Command Post Exercise (CPX) 2022

For its Command Post Exercise 2022, EASF adopted the code name “MASHARIKI SALAM III” carried over from the last Field Training Exercise (FTX) “MASHAIKI SALAAM II”, held in Gietbet, Sudan. This is a representative expression in most official languages of the Member States. ‘Mashariki’ is a Kiswahili word for Eastern, while ‘Salaam’ is Peace.

Aim

The aim of EASF’s Command Post Exercise (CPX) 2022 is to conduct a multidimensional Mission Headquarters exercise in planning, preparation and execution of a peace-keeping mission. Theme of the CPX



Col. Abdallah Rafick

Chief of Staff, Military Component

Promoting Peace and Security through the Enhancement of EASF Capacity’

The main objective is to practice the training audience in the integrated mission planning, command, control and execution of a complex peace support operation. The Exercise will provide an opportunity for EASF to validate its readiness for Full Operational Capability (FOC).

Exercise Roadmap

CPX 2022 is designed to be executed in four phases: Preparatory Phase, Confirmation Phase, Execution Phase and Recovery Phase. The preparation phase included three planning conferences: the Initial Planning Conference (IPC), the Main Planning Conference (IPC), and the Final Planning Conference (FPC) where participants from EASF staff and Member States held detailed discussions on the organization and execution of the Exercise.

Resources

EASF has mobilized resources from Member States, EASF Friends and Partners to support the financial requirements of the Exercise, an extension of the commitment that they have demonstrated to the development of the organization over the years. In particular, the Host Nation has illustrated outstanding commitment by taking up some of the major expenses and logistical arrangements. EASF extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to all.

Exercise Scenarios

CPX will replicate, as far as possible, an EASF Mission composed of multi-dimensional and multi-national force element from all EASF components. The scenario is based on the fictitious Republic of CARANA, which is normally used by the AU for the purposes of simulation in its exercises dubbed “Amani Africa”

This ‘Road to Crisis’ aims at summarizing events that have taken place in CARANA since the Presidential and National Assembly elections were held in December 2011 to early March 2013 that caused deterioration of peace and security in CARANA. Whereas the elections were largely certified as free and fair by the International Community and the Independent Electoral Observers, the situation in CARANA nosedived early which has inexorably plunged the country back in to a period of uncertainties and despair. Under the circumstances, few of the aspirations of delegates to the pre-election Conference of GALASI held in June 2011 have materialized. Tribal, sectoral and inter-political party animosities have flourished to alarming proportions with all the attendant threats to normalcy and social stability.

The Eastern Africa Region Member States as well as the International Community having noted the events unfolding in the Republic of CARANA did not want the violent event in LEPPKO Province to spill over beyond CARANA and destabilize the entire region. Therefore, an Extraordinary Session of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) was convened to discuss the situation in CARANA. Following this, a communique was released, condemning the deteriorating security environment in CARANA and called for all conflicting parties to desist from activities that might aggravate the already fluid situation.

