

U.S. Escalates Military Penetration of Africa

By [Glen Ford](#)

Global Research, June 14, 2012

[Black Agenda Report](#) 14 June 2012

Region: [sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

The Americans are preparing to establish a network of bases in Africa, initially to serve a 3,000-troop roving brigade to be deployed on the continent, next year. The brigade has all the markings of a permanent presence on African soil, while the bases are euphemistically called "safe communities." U.S. influence over African militaries is already pervasive. With the establishment of joint bases, "regime change will never be farther away than a drink at the officers club." All but a handful of Black African states routinely take part in military maneuvers staged by the Americans.

"Africa is to be dominated by military means."

According to the [Army Times](#) [7] newspaper, the United States will soon deploy a brigade of about 3,000 troops - "and likely more" - for duty "across the continent" of Africa. The "pilot program" has all the markings of a permanent, roving presence, joining the 1,200 U.S. soldiers stationed in Djibouti and the 100-plus Special Forces dispatched to Central Africa by President Obama, last October.

As always and everywhere, the U.S. is looking for bases to occupy - although the U.S. military command in Africa doesn't call them bases. Rather, "as part of a 'regionally' aligned force concept,' soldiers will live and work among Africans in safe communities approved by the U.S. government," said AFRICOM's Maj. Gen. David Hogg.

The First Black U.S. President, who in 2009 [lectured Africans](#) [8] that "corruption" and "poor governance," rather than neocolonialism, were the continent's biggest problems, has made the U.S. military the primarily interlocutor with African states. Functions that were once the purview of the U.S. State Department, such as distribution of economic aid and medical assistance, are now part of AFRICOM's vast portfolio. In Africa, more than anyplace in the world, U.S. foreign policy wears a uniform - which should leave little doubt as to Washington's objectives in the region: Africa is to be dominated by military means. Obama's "good governance" smokescreen for U.S. neocolonialism is embedded in AFRICOM's [stated mission](#) [9]: "to deter and defeat transnational threats and to provide a security environment conducive to good governance and development." Translation: to bring the so-called war on terror to every corner of the continent and ensure that U.S. corporate interests get favorable treatment from African governments.

"In Africa, more than anyplace in the world, U.S. foreign policy wears a uniform."

AFRICOM's array of alliances and agreements with African militaries already embraces virtually every nation on the continent except Eritrea and Zimbabwe. All but a handful of Black African states routinely take part in military maneuvers staged by Americans, utilizing U.S. command-and-control equipment and practices. The new, roving U.S. brigade will

further institutionalize U.S. ties with the African officer class, part of AFRICOM's mission to forge deep "soldier-to-soldier" relationships: general-to-general, colonel-to-colonel, and so forth down the line. The proposed network of "safe communities" to accommodate the highly mobile U.S. brigade is a euphemism for joint bases and the most intense U.S. fraternization with local African militaries. Regime change will never be farther away than a drink at the officers club.

According to the Army Times article, the composition of the new brigade, in terms of military skills, is not yet known. However, the brigade is conceived as part of the "new readiness model," which "affords Army units more time to learn regional cultures and languages and train for specific threats and missions." This sounds like special ops units - Rangers and Special Forces - which have been vastly expanded under President Obama (and are quite capable of carrying out regime-change operations on their own or in close coordination with their local counterparts).

In most cases, coups will be unnecessary. Regional African "trade" blocs like ECOWAS, the 16-member Economic Community of West African States, and IGAD, the six-nation Intergovernmental Authority on Development, in East Africa, have provided African cover for U.S. and French military/political designs in the Ivory Coast and Somalia, respectively. These blocs will doubtless become even more useful and compliant, as U.S. military commanders and their African counterparts get cozier in those "safe communities."

"The Americans are following a European chart in Africa that goes back centuries."

Americans, no matter how bloody their hands, have always liked to think of themselves as "innocents abroad." "As far as our mission goes, it's uncharted territory," said AFRICOM's Gen. Hogg. Not really. The Americans are following a European chart in Africa that goes back centuries, and their own long experience in the serial rape of Latin America, where the close fraternization of U.S. and Latin American militaries in recent decades smothered the region in juntas, dirty wars, torture-based states, and outright genocide.

The U.S. and its African allies perpetrated of the worst genocide since World War Two: the death of six million in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Uganda, which acts as a mercenary for the U.S. in Africa, is complicit in mega-death in Congo and Somalia. As Milton Allimadi, publisher of Black Star News, [reported](#) [10]: "In 2005 The International Court of Justice (ICJ) found Uganda liable for the Congo crimes. The court awarded Congo \$10 billion in reparations. Uganda's army plundered Congo's wealth and committed: mass rapes of both women and men; disemboweled pregnant women; burned people inside their homes alive; and, massacred innocents."

Naturally, as a henchman of the United States, Uganda has not paid the \$10 billion it owes Congo. Ugandan leader Yoweria Museveni, who became Ronald Reagan's favorite African after seizing power in 1986 with a guerilla army packed with child soldiers, and who for decades waged genocidal war against the Acholi people of his country, now plays host to the Special Forces contingent sent by President Obama, ostensibly to fight the child soldier-abusing Joseph Kony and his nearly nonexistent Lord's Resistance Army.

"Uganda, which acts as a mercenary for the U.S. in Africa, is complicit in mega-death in Congo and Somalia."

Rwanda, the Pentagon's other hit man on the continent, has been cited by a [United Nations](#)

[report](#) [11] as bearing responsibility for some of the millions slaughtered in Congo, as part of its ongoing rape and plunder of its neighbor.

Gen. Hogg says AFRICOM's mission is to combat famine and disease. Yet, the AFRICOM-assisted Ethiopian invasion of Somalia in late 2006 led to "the [worst humanitarian crisis in Africa](#) [12] - worse than Darfur," according to United Nations observers. The 2007 humanitarian crisis and the escalating U.S.-directed war against Somalia made the 2010 famine all but inevitable.

Ugandan soldiers, nominally working for the African Union but in the pay of the Pentagon, kept watch over western interests in the starving country, as did the 1,200 soldiers stationed at the U.S. base in neighboring Djibouti - a permanent presence, along with the French garrison.

There's nothing "uncharted" or mysterious about AFRICOM's mission. The introduction of the 3,000-strong mobile brigade and a network of supporting bases prepares the way for the arrival of much larger U.S. and NATO forces - the recolonization of Africa. Gen. Hogg swears up and down there are no such plans. "For all the challenges that happen and sprout up across Africa, it really comes down to, it has to be an African solution," he said.

That's exactly the same thing they said in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya.

BAR executive editor Glen Ford can be contacted at Glen.Ford@BlackAgendaReport.com [13].

Source URL: <http://blackagendareport.com/content/us-escalates-military-penetration-africa>

Notes

[1] <http://blackagendareport.com/category/department-war/us-bases-africa>

[2] <http://blackagendareport.com/category/department-war/us-military-maneuvers-africa>

[3] <http://blackagendareport.com/category/department-war/war-against-somalia>

[4] <http://blackagendareport.com/taxonomy/term/1292>

[5] <http://blackagendareport.com/category/africa/famine-somalia>

[6]

http://blackagendareport.com/sites/www.blackagendareport.com/files/africom_advisors03_1.jpg

[7]

<http://www.armytimes.com/news/2012/06/army-3000-soldiers-serve-in-africa-next-year-060812/>

[8]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/5778804/Barack-Obama-tells-Africa-to-stop-blaming-colonialism-for-problems.html>

[9] <http://www.africom.mil/getArticle.asp?art=1644&blog=all>

[10]

http://www.amsterdamnews.com/opinion/we-must-reject-kony-the-pro-africom-propaganda/article_813cb8a2-745d-11e1-8f08-001871e3ce6c.html

[11]

<http://blackagendareport.com/content/us-achieves-deep-penetration-african-armed-forces>

[12] <http://blackagenda.com/content/us-starves-children-somali-war>

[13] <mailto:Glen.Ford@BlackAgendaReport.com>

[1 4]

http://www.addtoany.com/share_save?linkurl=http%3A%2F%2Fblackagenda.com%2Fcontent%2Fus-escalates-military-penetration-africa&linkname=U.S.%20Escalates%20Military%20Penetration%20of%20Africa

The original source of this article is [Black Agenda Report](#)
Copyright © [Glen Ford](#), [Black Agenda Report](#), 2012

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Glen Ford](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca