

# U.S. Military Contractors Move into Africa

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Region: [sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#)

With the establishment of the [United States Africa Command \(AFRICOM\)](#) in 2007, the U.S. government decided to make security a key foreign policy objective for a continent that has long been plagued by civil war and other conflicts. But AFRICOM has no [U.S. Army](#) divisions or [Marine Corps](#) battalions supporting it. Instead, the U.S. is relying on private military contractors (PMCs) to provide logistical help and military training to African armies.

The [State Department](#) is reportedly spending nearly \$100 million a year on PMCs to train local forces through its [African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance](#) program. One of the companies hired is [DynCorp International](#), which has performed work for the U.S. in [Iraq](#) and [Afghanistan](#). DynCorp could be paid as much as \$20 million over two years for work in Liberia alone, providing operations and maintenance support at Edward B. Kesselly Barracks and Camp Ware.

A previous contract awarded to DynCorp was for recruiting and training Liberia's infantry. Other companies hired to work in the country include [PAE Government Services](#) (a subsidiary of Lockheed Martin) and [Protection Strategies Inc.](#), with each receiving contracts valued at \$375 million.

Former Halliburton subsidiary [KBR Inc.](#) was contracted to support three military bases in Djibouti, Kenya and [Ethiopia](#) used by the [U.S. Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa](#).

[Northrop Grumman](#) was awarded a \$75 million deal to train 40,000 African peacekeepers over five years.

And [MPRI](#), a division of L-3 Communications, has been paid by the State Department to train militaries in Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda and Senegal. The company also provided assistance to [South Africa](#)'s military.

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