



EASF AMANI MASHARIKI NEWSLETTER

Because the People of Eastern Africa Matter!



INTRODUCTION

EASF is pleased to release the March 2017 issue of the Amani Mashariki Newsletter. Amani Mashariki 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.

The year 2017 has begun with renewed impetus to further drive the development of EASF especially in the wake of the ever-evolving security challenges in the Eastern Africa region. EASF is focusing on reaffirming its position as a key player in matters of peace and security, alongside Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Mechanisms (RMs) and other institutions working for a more peaceful and stable Africa.

This issue covers activities related to regional cooperation, communication and advocacy, enhancement of technology as well as the staff expansion exercise to meet the expanding needs. EASF continues to operate under the framework of the strategic plan 2015 -2020 which was designed to support maintenance of the multidimensional force in preparation for future deployment.

In this Issue:

- AU Summit
- EASF Welcomes New Staff
- Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2017
- EASF Open Day in Uganda
- CIS Workshop
- Launch of EASF Intranet
- EASF Promotion Team
- FTX - Concept Development Conference and the Exercise
- Interview with SADC Standby Force Head of Delegation



AU SUMMIT

The recently concluded AU Summit has further enhanced recognition and support for EASF as it moves closer to its vision of contributing to regional and continental peace, security and stability. The Summit was held from 22nd to 31st January 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia against the backdrop of renewed commitment for peace and unity in the continent.

The event was convened under the AU theme: "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth". In recognition of the youth as future leaders, several speakers committed to mainstream youth in all socio-economic activities.



Participants follow proceedings during the AU Summit in January 2017 in Addis Ababa

The EASF team joined delegates from other Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to participate in the Summit. Ambassador Issi-mail Chanfi, Director of EASF, led the EASF delegation which also included Brig Albert Kendagor, Head of Peace Operations Department (POD) and Col Abdirashid Mohamed Ali, the AU Liaison officer to EASF.

Issues related to peace and security dominated several presentations. Heads of state and government reflected on the progress made so far made in the continent and some of the challenges that Africa faces, and came up with concrete proposals on the way forward on future prosperity for Af-

rica. The Summit reaffirmed the vital position held by EASF and other African Standby Forces in implementing the Peace and Security Council Decisions. This political commitment and reassurance will go a long way in encouraging EASF to reinforce its efforts for peace and stability in the region.

EASF BIDS FAREWELL TO UK TECHNICAL ADVISOR AND WELCOMES NEW STAFF



New staff during the official welcome function

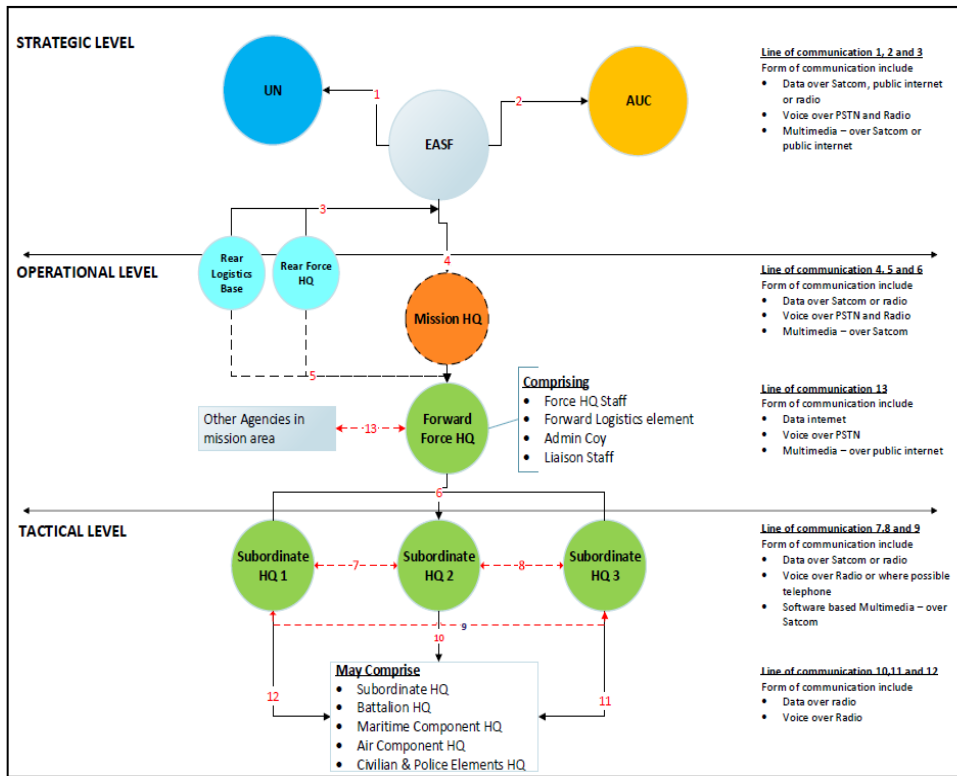
EASF bid farewell to one of the Technical Advisors, Lt Col Joe Edkins from UK. Col Edkins joined the UK support functions for EASF in 2015 which include military and police components. He was instrumental in organizing the study week which was also sponsored by the UK.

EASF has also brought on board new staff to reinforce the current capacity. The recent restructuring exercise has enabled the administration and finance, and the peace operations departments to increase functions in political and conflict analysis, information and liaison, human resource and Information and Com-

puter Technology (ICT) as well as finance sections. The recruitment drive is based on the staff rotation system which enables personnel from different member states to train and work together on various assignments in EASF. This helps to build the integration necessary to collectively respond to conflict and other security challenges. The addition will go a long way in responding to the recent call by AU, the umbrella organization for EASF to standby for possible deployment. The move is aligned to the strategic plan 2015 – 2017 which calls for institutional building to support the growing needs and to prepare for participation in on going Peace Support Operations (PSOs).



CIS WORKSHOP 23RD - 27TH JANUARY 2017



This figure depicts the "Information Exchange Requirement" (IER), which informs the design of the CIS package.

A workshop on the CIS design (Communication and Information System) to the EASF Forward Force Headquarters (FFHQ) took place at EASF premises in Karen, Nairobi during late January. The purpose of the workshop was to develop all needed papers and documents – the so-called "Scope of Work" (SOW) – which will make it possible to launch the tendering process with relevant firms and to procure the relevant communication and information system.

The workshop was chaired by the Danish expert, Mr. Kurt Refsgaard, who was strongly supported by the able EASF staff. A "Process Action Plan" (PAP) has been developed in combination with the project in order to implement the equipment in such a way that will allow for the CIS to be deployed and tested with the FFHQ in November in conjunction with the FTX in Sudan.

LAUNCH OF EASF INTRANET



The figure illustrates the set up of the EASF intranet serving EASF staff from different locations.

The month of March 2017 sees EASF launch its Intranet; a platform designed as an integration of four basic elements – information services, an internal web server, communication links and users. The webserver contains databases and other repositories of diverse files such as documents in text form and multimedia content. The platform will use the now improved Local Area Network (LAN) thus ensuring more efficient and faster transfer of huge files from the files' server to end-users.

The essence of the intranet infrastructure is to store and avail this content, provided as on needs basis, to authorized personnel within the EASF itself. The organization will be reviewing the content regularly so as to ensure that it is accurate, current and relevant to the needs of EASF. This information is accessible through the use of a normal web-browser for example, Mozilla Firefox, Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Safari, Opera and so forth. Any authorized end-user with a gadget which can access the internet will be able to access files on the local intranet.

The EASF Intranet-Portal is expected to grow in course of time as more users, including the organization's Alumni, embark on sharing information from their home countries. Such personnel are crucial in maintaining valuable networks as well as ensuring smooth flow of information between EASF and Member States/ Partner Countries.

EASF PROMOTION TEAM

As a part of EASF Communication and Advocacy Strategy 2015 – 2017, the concept on EASF Promotion Team was introduced. The purpose of the “Promotion Team” is to offer EASF visits to interested and relevant target groups such as universities, secondary and high schools, international organisations and NGOs, national authorities such as ministries, departments and other institutions, peace research institutions, “Interest Groups”, etc. with the aim to raise awareness and understanding for the being of EASF. The first contacts with interested groups have been conducted.



EASF is reaching out to the youth to encourage dialogue that facilitates peace initiatives.

EASF OPEN DAY IN UGANDA



Gen David Muhoozi (left), Chief of Defence Forces, Uganda Peoples Defence Forces, Maj Gen Tai Gituai (centre), EASF Joint Chief of Staff and Col Letebraham Kahsay (holding a bottle), with other participants during the Peace Walk on EASF Day in Kampala in March 2017.

EASF has organised an Open Day to be held in Kampala, Uganda in March 2017. An Open Day is an event that brings together various contributors to peace initiatives in the Eastern African region. This includes parliamentarians, senior government officials, local government, university lecturers and students, civil society, peace practitioners and the media.

In a fairly informal set up, participants share experiences and debate on the development of conflict in the Eastern Africa region, the existing initiatives, challenges experienced as well as potential response mechanisms. Speakers include eminent persons from the host nations such as academics, politicians, university lecturers and experienced peace practitioners who are currently participating actively in peace initiatives in the region. University students studying political science, peace and conflict studies, international

relations and law constitute a large component of participants. The day enables EASF to show case its progress in supporting peace and security functions in the region and to affirm its position as a credible contributor to peace matters.

EASF Day in Uganda was the sixth one following similar events conducted in Kenya, Djibouti, Ethiopia, the Sudan and the Seychelles. It is organised by the communication department of EASF. These promotion events are supported by the Nordic Advisory Coordination Staff (NACS) under the EASF Promotion. Project.

FTX CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



Amb Issimail Chanfi (2 L), Director EASF follows proceedings as Col Fathelrahman Hamad Ali Hamad (2 R), from the Republic of the Sudan, chair of the conference, addresses participants.

EASF is planning to conduct a Filed Training Exercise (FTX) in November 2017.

As part of the preparations EASF organised a Concept Development Conference (CDC) from 15th to 17th February 2017 in Nairobi. The conference was anchored on the focus to consolidate Full Operational Capability (FOC) by validating the regional post FOC readiness through planning and conducting of a regional Field Training Exercise (FTX).

The conference discussed the outline concept, including the aims and objectives, participation, Exercise structure, planning phases, command and control, logistical arrangements as well as final evaluation.

One of the key outcomes was a concept development document which will serve as a reference point for the planning process for FTX. The conference attracted participation from Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, and Uganda.

FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE (FTX 2017)

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 aim of a Field Training Exercises (FTX) is to test the preparedness of the force to effectively respond to conflict. It is designed to closely resemble a real life peace support mission and 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 from the three components of military, civilian and police and brings them 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 might 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 on 2004. The first one was held in Djibouti in 2009 and the second one in Uganda in 2013.



EASF Medical staff attend to civilian patients in a local medical clinic during the FTX in Jinja, Uganda in 2013



INTERVIEW WITH SADC STANDBY FORCE HEAD OF DELEGATION



Brig. Michael M. Mukokomani

EASF Peace Operations Department (POD) conducted an interview with Brig. Michael M. Mukokomani, the Chief of Staff from the Planning Element of the Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC) Standby Force. This was during a visit by a delegation from SADC from 2nd to 3rd February 2017. The aim of the visit was to benchmark EASF achievements with SADC and to share a wide spectrum of experiences.

Q. What were your main expectations from this benchmark visit and did you achieve them?

Well, we came here from the SADC Force Planning Element in order to benchmark with our brothers and sisters in the Eastern Africa Standby Force and also to learn from their experiences ever since they started their operations in 2004.

Looking back at our journey in Southern Africa, we inaugurated SADC Standby Force in 2007, but have not achieved as much as EASF.

As far as our expectations are concerned, we can now say that the goals of this trip have been accomplished. We have learnt a lot.

Q. What similarities and differences do the two organizations share in common?

Brig. Michael M. Mukokomani.

We have a lot of similarities really; our differences may be fewer. There are a lot of similarities between East Africa and Southern Africa. The first similarity is that we all have basically the same kind of concept. Our approaches to operation are the same and our organizations are basically more or less the same.

Q. What is the main advantage of this benchmarking visit?

Brig. Michael M. Mukokomani.

More than anything the advantage of this benchmarking visit is that it is going to close gaps between East Africa and Southern Africa. The big advantage is that EASF is currently on ASF Standby until mid-2017. We in Southern Africa Standby Force are going to be on standby from January 2019. So we are going to be learning, benchmarking and getting good lessons out of what East Africa Standby force is doing.

Q. What comments and advice or observation do you have for EASF?

Brig. Michael M. Mukokomani.

The EASF has done a lot to operationalize itself. My humble advice would be to request the organisation to continue enhancing its operational capability by ensuring that the issue of inter- interoperability ability within itself is achieved.

End of Interview.

Upcoming:

- **EASF Day in the Union of Comoros.**
- **Initial Planning Conference for the upcoming Field Training Exercise (FTX 2017) in Khartoum.**
- **Easter Holidays.**