



EASF AMANI MASHARIKI NEWSLETTER

Because the People of Eastern Africa Matter!



INTRODUCTION

EASF is delighted and proud introducing its own newsletter called the **EASF AMANI MASHARIKI**, which will be distributed frequently.

AMANI MASHARIKI aims to provide regular updates about important events and on the progress of EASF by highlighting key issues and activities that support the overall mandate of enhancing peace and security in the Eastern Africa region. The newsletter forms part of the EASF communication strategy 2015 – 2017, which seeks to enhance visibility and understanding of EASF across the globe. EASF AMANI MASHARIKI will target a cross section of audience including member states, partners and Friends of EASF, academic institutions, peace training

STRATEGIC REFOCUS



Burundi Minister for Defence (2L), Director, EASF (1 L) and Chairperson of the Council (2 L) during the Policy Organs Meeting, October 2016 in Bujumbura.

and identified strategies to support ongoing efforts in the region. Over the years, EASF has built capacity in the areas of force preparation within its three components (military, police and civilian), conflict assessment, dialogue, mediation, election monitoring among others, and is well placed to intervene.

The year 2016 has seen EASF shift its strategic focus from capacity-building to maintaining readiness of the multidimensional force. The mandate of EASF encompasses the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. A recent assessment of the prevailing conflicts in the region revealed a need to pay closer attention to the preventive function. The Policy Organs meetings extensively deliberated on this function and

identified strategies to support ongoing efforts in the region. Over the years, EASF has built capacity in the areas of force preparation within its three components (military, police and civilian), conflict assessment, dialogue, mediation, election monitoring among others, and is well placed to intervene.

In this Issue:

- EASF Strategic Refocus
- EASF Conflict Early Warning Initiative
- Establishment of the Peace Operations Department
- EASF conducts Planning Workshop in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2016
- EASF Study Week
- Enhancing Regional Capacity through Staff Rotation
- Strengthening Civilian Capacity
- EASF Local Area Network (LAN) Infrastructure Upgrade



EASF CONFLICT EARLY WARNING INITIATIVE



EASF Staff with participants from RECs in the Early Warning Planning Workshop

Warning experts from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa States (COMESA). A key output from the workshop was a logical framework and a multi-annual capability development plan for institutional capacity for the Early Warning system for the period 2017 – 2020.

During the last quarter of 2016, EASF set out to enhance the conflict prevention function by scaling up the EASF Early Warning System (E-Warn). The Early warning initiative aims to develop in-house capacity to detect conflicts in the Eastern Africa and to enable appropriate response mechanisms.

To facilitate the E-Warn development and implementation, EASF has established a collaboration network, which brings on board Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to a common platform to share knowledge and experience, which will facilitate adoption of best practices in terms of processes and technology. EASF recently conducted a planning workshop with Early

ENHANCING REGIONAL CAPACITY THROUGH STAFF ROTATION



the requisite skills to enable them serve in peace support operations. They also participate in integrated exercises such as the Command Post Exercise (CPX) and the Field Training Exercise (FTX) and other regional activities aimed at preparing them to effectively work in a multidimensional set up.

EASF received new staff in the peace operations department, finance and administration department and legal advisory section and greets all a warm welcome. Furthermore, EASF wishes the outgoing staff all the best for

In the last quarter of 2016, EASF welcomed a new set of staff from its member states to serve in various capacities that support preparedness of the force to respond to the multi-faceted conflicts in the region.

The new staff joined the three EASF components, namely, military, police and civilian, under the staff rotation system which grants equal opportunity for personnel from all member states to work in departments for a specified period. Upon expiry of this period they return to their home countries and are held on standby on the EASF roster database, ready for deployment. During this period, personnel undergo training to build

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEACE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT



The new Liaison Officer (left) and Information Manager (right) at work

In a bid to move the agenda for deployment forward, EASF actualized the Peace Operations function by staffing the recently established Peace Operations Department (POD) which is a department in the Secretariat. The department is set to consolidate efforts for deployment by providing strategic and technical guidance on matters of peace and security including conflict analysis and early warning, mission assessment and management, communication and public relations. The management of POD is in the process of positioning the POD within the framework of its counterpart department at the African Union, the Peace Support Operations Department (PSOD) to facilitate coordination and to effectively prepare for future deployment. The Head of POD is overall in charge and is assisted by conflict analysts and information officers.

STRENGTHENING CIVILIAN CAPACITY



EASF staff in a preparation session for civilian's interviews

The civilian component of the EASF forms a key part of the multidimensional regional force. EASF conducted personnel verification exercises in 4 member states i.e., Kenya, Uganda, Comoros and Rwanda during the year. The aim of the verification visits is to evaluate the capacity of civilian experts to the African Standby Capacity database, verify suitability of civilian experts through the AU-mandated interviews and promote work of the National Focal Points (NFPs) within the member states' EASF hierarchy.

During this activity, EASF briefed civilian experts drawn from the database, on the transfer process. A total of 156 civilian personnel were interviewed for suitability of this process. Out

of the 156, 101 qualified and have since then been rostered in the Continental Database. The activity will be rolled out in other member states in the next few months. This activity is expected to continuously provide up to date information on the status of all civilians in the database.

EASF CONDUCTS PLANNING WORKSHOP IN COPENHAGEN, DENMARK IN DECEMBER 2016



Hopefully the participants in the EASF Planning Workshop will not experience such a cold weather in Denmark. Picture depicting Nyhavn, Copenhagen.

Participants from EASF Planning Element and EASFs partner countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the UK) will get a flavour of the Nordic winter when they gather in Copenhagen, Denmark during 5th – 9th December 2016 for attending an important Planning Workshop. The purpose of the event is to prepare a comprehensive and detailed “Planning package” for the annual cycle of headquarters training of EASF’s various headquarters. The annual cycle for 2017 includes the Logistic Map Exercise (MAPEX), Battle Group Commander’s Course (BGCC), Integrated Mission Planning

Course (IMP), Force Headquarters training (FHQ) and the EASF Field Training Exercise (FTX) – the latter will constitute the culmination and “examination” of the annual training efforts. The activity is funded by the Nordic countries through the Nordic Advisory and Coordination Staff (NACS).

EASF LOCAL AREA NETWORK (LAN) INFRASTRUCTURE’S UPGRADE

The EASF Secretariat and Planning Element have seen the upgrading of its Local Area Network’s infrastructure in order to address its growing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) needs. The forward looking improvements focused on providing more efficient ways of data transfer, storage and retrieval. Specifically, an entirely new cabling system was rolled out, storage servers were upgraded and state of the art network access gadgets were installed. The new storage system comprises reliable back-up tools and equipment thus providing a fallback platform should need arise. The entire internal telephone system has been overhauled and video conferencing has been greatly improved. Finally, the security of the server room will also be enhanced by implementing physical access control, CCTV, fire suppression system, etc.



The EASF LAN is now robust and more efficient

The new infrastructure which has been implemented with the support of the Nordic Countries (NACS), ensures that the Secretariat can be able to address most of its ICT needs in the foreseeable future. The upgrade will serve as a springing board for the Early Warning System and will also have a positive impact on the Secretariat’s operations in an age where information management is key to the progress of any institution.



EASF STUDY WEEK



EASF Staff and Facilitators during the Study Week

Maintaining readiness to partake peace operations missions demands continuous training and exercises to improve skills.

In September 2016, EASF brought together trained commanders and staff at various levels to a forum to assess the contemporary conflicts in the Eastern Africa region and their impact on EASF operations. Specific areas addressed included emerging security threats including disaster, pandemics and asymmetric wars. .

Participants reflected on the conflict situation in the Eastern African region, the ongoing interventions and the challenges. They further refined their knowledge and skills on security threats and the conduct of peace

support operations at the Mission headquarters, and Brigade headquarters levels .

Participants included researchers, academicians, facilitators and peace practitioners from the African Union, AMISOM, peace training institutions, government ministries, representatives from EASF member states, and EASF staff. Discussions covered all three components of mission support, military, police and civilian. The session provided impetus to review and address the approaches and methodologies for peace support operations. The study was funded by the Government of the United Kingdom.

Upcoming:

- December Holidays
- Launch of the EASF Intranet in Early 2017