

STATEMENT OF  
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BEFORE THE  
SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

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**AFRICAN SECURITY IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT**

## INTRODUCTION

Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Wicker, distinguished Committee members, Africa's impact on the world is greater now than at any point in recent history, so United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM) sees our mission through a global lens. The vast potential of African peoples to lead the way in worldwide growth is up against a rising tide of existential challenges. Threats from within the continent are transforming into threats to America's interests and allies. Terrorism, poverty, food and water insecurity, protracted conflict, climate change, and mass human migration disproportionately shatter African lives. Solutions to these colossal problems must be a shared burden, with African nations at the helm of concerted international efforts and a U.S. whole of nation contribution that produces sustainable outcomes. Since 2008, USAFRICOM has been proud to defend American interests and lead the U.S. Department of Defense's inclusive approach to helping African peoples achieve positive outcomes for all.

Crises in Africa set the stage for violent extremist organizations (VEOs) to grow, and for America's strategic competitors to bid for international allies. As the home of some of al-Qaeda's and ISIS's largest and most active branches, Africa is now the epicenter of international terrorism. Russia is expanding its African operations, including via the Kremlin-supported private military company Wagner; destabilization, democratic backsliding, and human rights abuses follow in their wake. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine impaired Africa's food supply, compounding the lingering challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the People's Republic of China's (PRC's) economic and military presence poses challenges for both African nations and American interests.

Climate change-related shocks drove a surge in African natural disasters last year, killing and displacing millions through protracted droughts, mass flooding, disease outbreaks and tropical storms. All of these crises combine with protracted regional conflicts to impede progress toward a stable continent and a prosperous planet where democracy, human rights, and the rule of law flourish.

The world needs a stable African continent of sovereign nations pulling together toward the universal goals of peace and prosperity. Africa's six maritime chokepoints carry a third of the world's shipping. Economic growth on the continent has accelerated in recent decades, and Africa is increasingly an engine of the global economy. This engine is partly fueled by vast deposits of rare earth minerals – critical ingredients of the world's transition to clean, sustainable energy – and by the human capital of a swelling population that will account for a quarter of humankind by 2050. Sub-Saharan Africa is the UN's largest regional voting bloc, and three of our African partners currently sit on the UN Security Council: Gabon, Ghana, and Mozambique. Africa's national voices increasingly harmonize in organizations like the African Union, regional economic communities, and multinational security forces that welcome American support. Africa is a continent of opportunity.

The service members and civilians of USAFRICOM are dedicated to helping our African counterparts seize that opportunity. USAFRICOM promotes security and prosperity in collaboration with the U.S. Departments of State (DoS) and Justice (DoJ), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others. By aligning our defense efforts with diplomacy and development, USAFRICOM teams with African and

international partners to campaign across the spectrum of diplomacy, development, and defense. By convening those partners in major multilateral exercises like AFRICAN LION, FLINTLOCK, and the ACCORD and EXPRESS series, USAFRICOM tests and shares institution-building best practices – including implementing the 2017 Women, Peace, and Security Act and advocating for strict adherence to the law of armed conflict. By working daily with U.S. embassies and units throughout the Joint Force, USAFRICOM stands ready to deliver life-saving rapid response to flashpoints in remote and unpredictable parts of the world.

America's tools for defense in Africa include military education, intelligence sharing, maritime and cyber domain awareness, medical training, DoS's foreign military sales, and – when warranted and authorized – lethal force to protect American lives and support partner-led counterterrorism missions. This toolkit of security cooperation and operational authorities helps African partners to fight 21<sup>st</sup> century terrorists and criminals, providing clear alternatives to unfavorable and opaque deals with Russia or the PRC. Whole of nation investments in Africa are opportunities for America to demonstrate global leadership while reinforcing the international rules-based system across all domains of commerce and defense. USAFRICOM is continually innovating fresh ideas with our partners and fielding new solutions for a peaceful and prosperous Africa – an outcome that will underpin America's long-term security.

Underinvestment in African security raises the risk of an unexpected crisis that would abruptly strip U.S. resources away from our top national security challenge of strategic competition. It has happened before. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, al-Qaeda grew

unchecked in Africa culminating in the 1998 bombings of our embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. More recently, the Benghazi, Libya attack in 2012, the Tongo Tongo, Niger attack in 2017, and the Manda Bay, Kenya attack in 2020 claimed American lives. These tragedies drew U.S. defense capital away from enduring strategic objectives.

USAFRICOM's mission is to mitigate the risk of such tragedies while guarding NATO's southern flank and protecting the brave Americans who defend our great Nation.

### TERRORISM IN AFRICA

The most immediate threat to both American lives and our partners in Africa is terrorism. Al-Qaeda and ISIS sprouted in the Middle East but quickly transplanted onto the African continent where they flourished. Terrorist attacks in the Sahel region accounted for over a third of the world's terrorism deaths in 2021, up from just one percent in 2007.

Today, Africa's VEOs vary in their tactics, resources, and specific goals, but all aspire to target American interests and African governments. These VEOs are dynamic networks that hide in vast under-governed spaces and bustling population centers, creating immense challenges for surveillance and disruption. Their attacks leave countless civilians dead, maimed, and destitute while undermining governance and already struggling economies, which in turn contributes to mass migration into Europe. As VEOs grow, the risk of terrorist plots against U.S. citizens, embassies, and ultimately the Homeland are likely to rise.

USAFRICOM is on the job to counter VEOs in Africa.

Last May, President Biden directed USAFRICOM to move a small force back into Somalia to help its people fight al-Qaeda's biggest and richest franchise, al-Shabaab. Al-

Shabaab dominates swathes of territory that feed their coffers, replenish their ranks, and provide springboards to attack neighboring countries. Without relentless suppression and ultimate pacification, al-Shabaab will seek to attack U.S. embassies and eventually the Homeland itself. Somalia's government under President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud is waging a heroic war against al-Shabaab in collaboration with an array of local and foreign supporters, including the United Kingdom, Türkiye, the United Nations, the European Union, and the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). ATMIS is mandated to gradually draw down until its final exit at the end of 2024.

USAFRICOM plays a supporting role in the fight against al-Shabaab, but our contributions are unique and irreplaceable. Last year, we conducted 15 collective self-defense airstrikes against al-Shabaab, saving the lives of Somali soldiers engaged in combat with our mutual enemy. These airstrikes played a critical role in supporting Somali partners undertaking offensive operations. We also conducted a precision airstrike that resulted in the death of a high value al-Shabaab terrorist, demonstrating our commitment to acting decisively to degrade al-Shabaab's threat to U.S. persons in the region and beyond.. Alongside our DoS colleagues, we are providing financial, materiel, training, logistical and medical support to Somalia's counterterrorism forces. This support includes training and equipping Somali special operations via the Danab Advanced Infantry Brigade, which spearheads missions alongside other Somali and ATMIS forces to clear al-Shabaab strongholds. Enabled by USAFRICOM, a Somali-led offensive has slowed al-Shabaab's offensive momentum. Al-Shabaab has responded with a wave of reprisal attacks against Somali combatants and civilians alike, and Somalia's progress against the group is fragile.

To preserve their battlefield progress and degrade al-Shabaab on an enduring basis, Somalia needs U.S. governance and development support more than ever.

The need for USAFRICOM in West Africa is also acute. Associates of al-Qaeda's second-largest and fastest-growing branch in Africa—Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM)—kidnapped an American citizen in Burkina Faso last year. Her safe release was thanks to our African partners and a U.S. whole of government effort, but JNIM continues to hold another American kidnapped in 2016 and increasingly threatens Americans in West Africa. They are wreaking havoc with our regional partners as their reach outgrows rural havens in Mali and Burkina Faso and now projects into the Gulf of Guinea littoral states. JNIM has dramatically increased attacks on civilians and security forces alike and expanded territory under its influence. The outcome has been thousands of dead and millions of displaced West Africans along with acute political strain that fostered military takeovers of democratic governments in Mali and Burkina Faso. Wagner mercenaries have been quick to turn this turmoil into opportunity. Wagner's draconian operations with its partner in Mali both add to the human cost of terrorism and create more openings for terrorist groups. USAFRICOM is assisting our West African partners to limit JNIM's activity and prevent JNIM's expansion. We are ever vigilant in monitoring for plots against Americans or the Homeland. As JNIM grows, the likelihood of such plots emerging also grows.

ISIS's seven branches on the African Continent also aspire to attack American interests and partners. From the Mediterranean Sea to Mozambique Channel, ISIS cells heed the call of Middle East-based leaders to kill Africans, destroy Africans' infrastructure,

and spread violent jihadist ideology. This ideology feeds off government instability and human rights violations, but our partnership has enabled incremental progress against ISIS. Governments in North Africa and their professional militaries have succeeded in limiting ISIS expansion and crippling the recruitment and outflow of ISIS foreign fighters; U.S. security cooperation has been key to those efforts, and we must maintain these critical partnerships to prevent ISIS and other VEOs from reemerging. In east, west, and southern Africa, a combination of multinational counter-VEO operations and ISIS's competition with rival VEOs is stymying their growth. At President Biden's direction, in January USAFRICOM took down global ISIS finance leader Bilal al-Sudani, which has already yielded new intelligence insights into ISIS's global operations and its plans and intentions in Africa. The credit for successes against ISIS goes to the local peoples, but USAFRICOM has been a crucial partner in this progress by providing training, funding, and intelligence.

However, ISIS cells throughout Africa are finding ways to adapt and reconstitute. ISIS continues to kill and displace thousands in West Africa, Mozambique, and the Great Lakes region. Former ISIS franchise Boko Haram is wreaking similar damage in Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin. In concert with national, multilateral, multiregional, and UN forces, USAFRICOM is America's eyes and ears to provide warning and options to disrupt ISIS developments before they threaten the Homeland or U.S. citizens.

#### STRATEGIC COMPETITION IN AFRICA: RUSSIA

As a producer of food, fossil fuels, and military hardware, Russia has the opportunity to join with the international community in helping African nations overcome



terrorism and poverty.

Instead, the Kremlin tramples African interests by leveraging Wagner, a U.S.-designated transitional criminal organization, to aggravate weak governance and feed instability. The Kremlin's motives are power and profit. Recent coups d'état have triggered U.S. restrictions that hinder USAFRICOM engagement, forcing those military regimes to double-down on their dependence on Wagner. Although well intended, U.S. coup restrictions can inadvertently incentivize the most at-risk African countries to dig themselves deeper into the mire of militancy and corruption.

The Kremlin disregards African interests by withholding fuel and food to create political leverage, under-delivers on military hardware and security commitments, and exploits existing friction points to spread Russia's influence. Wagner exploits political fractures in Libya, where Russia seeks to threaten NATO's southern flank. Wagner benefits from Libya's fragmentation, and its interference in parts of Libya risks hindering efforts to form the unified national government and security forces that the Libyan people want and deserve. Wagner lacks accountability to the rule of law and norms of ethics and human rights, making them a deceptively attractive option for some regimes. Wagner's short-term promises can be enticing, but the long-term outcome for African clients are nations mired in corruption and crime that stunt economic growth. Wagner's financial price tag is exorbitant. The full Wagner bill is even worse: the failure of government institutions, the withdrawal of stalwart security allies, the extraction of mineral wealth, and long-term resource concessions and debt that chips away at Africans' future.

In addition to Wagner's damage, Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine sent African food markets into a crisis. Food prices skyrocketed as grain and fertilizer shipments from Eastern Europe dropped. Without doubt, Africans are victims of the Kremlin's ongoing aggression in Ukraine.

### STRATEGIC COMPETITION IN AFRICA: PRC

In contrast to Russia's overwhelmingly harmful influence in Africa, the PRC's deep and diverse investment on the continent is a mixed bag. All sovereign nations are free to evaluate and choose their security and trade partners, and the PRC sees the same promise in Africa's future that the whole world recognizes. The PRC has prioritized Africa for years –and that will not change anytime soon. In January, the PRC's new Foreign Minister used his first overseas trip to visit several African countries – just like every PRC Foreign Minister has done annually for the past three decades. Last year, the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) made its inaugural port call at the PRC's first overseas base: Doraleh, Djibouti. Also in Djibouti, the PRC is planning to construct a permanent spaceport. The PRC seeks to establish additional military and space facilities in multiple African countries, notably on the West Coast. This could sustain PLAN combatants in the Atlantic and secure unimpeded circumnavigation of the continent.

USAFRICOM works with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) to discern the long term outcomes of PRC activities in Africa, which are intensive despite temporary decreases in financial lending and military engagement due to COVID-19. In itself, Chinese basing in Djibouti – or any future basing project – poses a marginal threat to U.S. interests on the continent. In the event of armed conflict, however, the PRC may leverage

its expanded military footprint to project power against the United States, our allies, or global commerce. They already leverage their economic power in Africa to influence UN policy and protect their access to natural resources like minerals and fisheries. At least a third of the world's ships engaged in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing – a problem that disproportionately harms African communities – are Chinese. Too often, Chinese companies harm African environments and peoples through irresponsible mining and harvesting operations that ignore sustainability and shun local stakeholders and job seekers.

USAFRICOM does not offer any nation an "us-or-them" ultimatum. The PRC is on the continent to stay, and they fill a role in Africa's modernization. USAFRICOM does not seek to block the benefits that the PRC can bring to the continent's nations. Yet all nations must take a clear-eyed approach to dealing with the PRC. African nations must be equipped to enforce laws that protect their fisheries and mineral resources, ensuring the benefits of these national assets accrue first and foremost to their own peoples and economies. The long term outcomes of PRC activity in Africa will be an uneven mix of much-needed infrastructure, equipment, and trade alongside depleted natural resources, polluted ecosystems, corruption and deficient military hardware.

#### HUMANITARIAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES IN AFRICA

Climate change-related crises and conflicts rank alongside Russia's war of choice in Ukraine as top catalysts of suffering for millions of Africans. Africa contributes a small fraction of the total greenhouse emissions, but changes in global temperature, combined with highly erratic precipitation, disproportionately hurt the continent. Climatic changes are

accelerating the weather processes that create environmental disasters in Africa - partly by raising ocean temperatures. These rising temperatures are pressuring Africa's coastal fisheries, a crucial food source that is already pressured by overfishing. Rainfall patterns are also shifting. Last year, East Africa's current drought – its worst in 40 years – destroyed crops and livestock, displacing millions. Central and West Africa, by contrast, suffered deadly flooding that displaced millions more. The Lake Chad region saw its most intense rainfall in three decades. Flooding in southern Africa was largely due to a series of tropical storms from the Indian Ocean early last year, and we're seeing that trend continue this year. Desertification is constraining water and food resources in many parts of the continent, exacerbating interethnic fighting and interstate friction.

Tragic in their own right, climate-related shocks in Africa also foster broader population vulnerabilities. The protracted drought in East Africa exacerbated suffering amid a two year civil war in Ethiopia. Climate-related shocks in places with weak infrastructure lead to deadly infectious disease outbreaks, like the cholera outbreak Malawi is currently battling in the aftermath of a devastating cyclone. VEOs like al-Shabaab and Boko Haram have become adept at exploiting the consequences of humanitarian crises to recruit new members and degrade the legitimacy of African governments. The costs of climate change in Africa are numerous, devastating, and often unpredictable, but one thing is predictable: the price tag – in both human suffering and in dollars – will only grow in coming years.

### WHAT USAFRICOM NEEDS

The security challenges of Africa are complex and dynamic. Only a whole-of-government strategy can maximize USAFRICOM's effectiveness and efficiency in

securing American advantage and promoting African development. Therefore, the requirements of our three whole-of-government tools – diplomacy, development, and defense – are intertwined and mutually supporting. One tool cannot succeed without the whole toolkit.

Diplomacy is the first tool. Fully staffed and resourced diplomatic missions in Africa would multiply USAFRICOM's opportunities. Therefore, USAFRICOM appreciates Congress's work to confirm ambassador nominees and increased staffing for embassies. This boosts our collective ability to implement development and counterterrorism programs under the U.S. Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability. Congressional and Cabinet-level delegations to Africa go a long way to reassuring our partners of American commitment, as did the U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit in December and two Cabinet member visits in January. USAFRICOM is a key node in protecting U.S. facilities in Africa, and out of the State Department's 31 designated high threat/high risk posts, 16 are under USAFRICOM's purview. Protecting our diplomatic engagements in conflict areas and preparing for short-notice military assisted departures of our diplomats is vital insurance for America's work on the continent. USAFRICOM lowers risk to American diplomatic missions by maintaining operational readiness to conduct hostage rescue, personnel recovery, and rapid response to large-scale emergencies. Yet the DoS-USAFRICOM tie runs far deeper. Our diplomats, defense attachés, and USAFRICOM military leaders work together daily to pursue a seamless policy on the continent.

Development is the second tool. Three of the five designated beneficiaries of the U.S. Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability are in Africa – Libya, Mozambique, and Coastal West Africa – but all of Africa needs development assistance. In contrast to Russia and the PRC, nearly 95 percent of America's annual assistance to Africa is delivered through grants to both government and non-governmental organizations, not debt. Expanded funding flexibility would enable USAID to review, reorient, and respond to the ever-changing constellation of African needs. USAFRICOM appreciates the support from Congress to USAID through its \$11 billion per year purse focused on Africa. However, this funding is hamstrung by targeted allocation. In FY21, over 95 percent of USAID's non-humanitarian assistance funding was directed towards a specific allocation. Years in advance, no one can foresee and allocate funding for fleeting windows of opportunity to provide aid where Africans are most in need. USAFRICOM and its partners must be able to act quickly and decisively in response to rapidly changing security concerns and constraints; a sluggish response is harmful to both victims and America's standing as Africa's external partner of choice. Adversaries like al-Qaeda and Wagner are fast and flexible in responding to opportunities, and USAID must have the agility to optimize its budget in ways that maximize America's decisive advantage. U.S. investments focused on stabilization, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, democracy, governance, economic growth and public health attack the roots of terrorism and tyranny more than bullets and air strikes ever will. Working together with DoS and USAID, we ensure America gets the credit for the U.S. tax dollars that flow to African needs. These dollars are a testament to the generosity of the American people and a critical piece of our informational competition with adversaries.

Defense is the third tool in our whole-of-nation approach. The first key to defense is security cooperation because this is how we win against VEOs and strategic competitors alike. USAFRICOM engages in direct military-to-military engagement and collaborates on U.S. support to UN peacekeeping operations. USAFRICOM drives partner capacity building via train and equip programs and working closely with the DoS International Military Education and Training program. USAFRICOM administers DoS programs like Excess Defense Articles, Foreign Military Sales, and Foreign Military Financing. USAFRICOM is the face of U.S. security cooperation in Africa. If we do not continue to strengthen our African security cooperation, our partners on the continent will be more likely to pivot towards Russia and the PRC to meet their defense needs.

The second key to defense is operational readiness, which USAFRICOM achieves by providing physical and informational spaces for African, international, and U.S. interagency partnerships to grow. USAFRICOM's headquarters is a hub of interconnectivity linking representatives from 13 U.S. government departments and liaison officers from 18 countries. That number is even larger on the continent, where USAFRICOM's activities through Joint Task Forces in Djibouti, Somalia, and Niger bring even more nations together. Protecting these deployed troops is a sacred duty. To succeed in this duty, USAFRICOM needs the resources to provide timely rescue response and defend against the full spectrum of threats, including the alarming proliferation of weaponized unmanned aircraft systems. Last year, this Command deployed or put forces on alert over 20 times, and with unrest on the rise in West Africa, the demand for crisis response will also trend upwards.

USAFRICOM works in concert with the U.S. State Department to facilitate direct training through Security Forces Assistance Brigades, the State Partnership Program (SPP) and health programs. All these efforts show high return for the investment in Africa and USAFRICOM stands ready to scale them up. This training works to modernize and professionalize African security forces that are desperately under-resourced. All USAFRICOM training for partner forces emphasizes respect for human rights, law of armed conflict, avoidance of civilian casualties, and civilian control of the military. Our commitment to African forces will span decades. The U.S. National Guard Bureau's SPP connects Americans and Africans in ways that create long-term ties of mutual benefit. Africa is fertile ground for SPP growth; we're seeing strong demand from both African partners and U.S. States. Sixteen partner nations currently pair with 14 State National Guards. Most recently, New Hampshire joined forces with Cabo Verde last year, and more partnership are in the works. These partnerships in Africa will yield long-term benefits in advancing our shared security and prosperity.

Institution-building is central to the USAFRICOM contribution to our partners' defense. Through various engagement channels we assist African security forces and defense ministries establish and strengthen processes for logistics, financial reporting, and communications. Not only does this capacity building help our partners secure their borders, coastlines and vulnerable populations, it also enables many to take on the role of regional security anchors, providing security assistance to other partners and peacekeeping operations on the continent. USAFRICOM invests in a growing cadre of states that leverage U.S. military training to, in turn, train fellow African partners, multiplying



USAFRICOM's efforts. USAFRICOM is doing this through multilateral exercises and USAFRICOM's Africa Distribution Network Forum, which enables the community of African and external partners to pool airlift logistics capabilities, creating financial efficiencies in supplying missions across a continent that is over three times the land mass of the continental United States.

This Command is not alone. Our international partners – including Brazil, the European Union, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, and the United Nations – bolster African partner forces maritime awareness and enforcement capabilities. African sea lines of communication are the highway of world commerce, but illicit income from IUU fishing, piracy, arms smuggling, wildlife trafficking, and human trafficking bankroll VEOs and enable narcotics flows through Africa to Europe and the Americas.

Our partners in the Gulf of Guinea and the Horn of Africa need robust and interoperable maritime security infrastructure to protect their borders and marine resources. USAFRICOM engages and trains with coastal forces by leveraging two naval assets: the USS Hershel "Woody" Williams and the USNS Trenton. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) augments these vessels with temporary cutter deployments; the USCG Cutter Mohawk made numerous port calls and patrols last year, and this year USCG Cutter Spencer flew Old Glory off Africa's West Coast. Our naval and coast guard ships in the USAFRICOM AOR reinforce America's friendship with littoral countries, bolster food security, and deter crime, including PRC-linked IUU fishing.

USAFRICOM's challenges go beyond the African continent. Our headquarters staff stretches over two overseas locations: Kelley Barracks, Germany and RAF

Molesworth, United Kingdom. USAFRICOM's component commands base in multiple European countries and in two enduring Forward Operating Sites in Africa: Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, and Ascension Island. The Command also operates out of twelve other Posture Locations throughout Africa. These locations have minimal permanent U.S. presence, and have low-cost facilities and limited supplies for these dedicated Americans to perform critical missions and quickly respond to emergencies. With the exception of Special Operations Command-Africa, USAFRICOM's components are dual-hatted, dividing their time and assets between USAFRICOM and United States European Command (USEUCOM). USEUCOM's role in Ukraine's defense draws from the same resource pool as USAFRICOM requirements.

To expand reach, USAFRICOM relies on developing deeper partnerships; National Guard involvement through the SPP; naval assets, including USCG deployments. Most of all, USAFRICOM needs to maintain funding and training for African partners that are poised to becoming regional security drivers in their own right. These partnerships have track records of producing consistent return on investment for America's security objectives in Africa.

#### CONCLUSION: THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES

USAFRICOM's priority is maximizing America's global advantage. The dangers in Africa- terrorism, strategic competitors, climate change, political conflict, and infectious disease - threaten the international community as much as they threaten our partners on the continent. These threats merge into a symbiosis that generates outcomes of violence, resource scarcity, state fragility, and unrealized economic potential. The only way to

counter this toxic alliance is through the collaboration of a team of partners: sovereign African nations, the international community, and U.S. government institutions. Africa remains a continent of opportunity. Its nations and peoples want freedom and democracy and a level economic playing field. These shared values underpin our ocean-crossing ties.

The ties between Africa and our nation date back to the Founding Fathers. After the Revolution, Morocco and Tunisia were among the first countries to sign treaties of friendship and trade with the United States, and today they are Major Non-NATO Allies and critical security partners for AFRICOM. Societies on both sides of the Atlantic continue to grapple with the painful past of a vast African slave trade. USAFRICOM seeks to secure a bright future by fostering positive outcomes for Africans and Americans alike. To keep terrorists out of the Homeland, we must fight them in Africa. To compete effectively with strategic adversaries, we must do it in Africa. To protect the flanks of our neighboring Geographic Combatant Commands, we must do it in Africa. To energize the world's struggle for human rights, individual liberty, the rule of law, democratic governance, and free commerce, we must do it in Africa. In this struggle, USAFRICOM and our partners are on the job.