



AFRICOM: 10 years in the making as a model for Stability Activities

An All-Day Event hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) and sponsored by the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute (PKSOI) September 18, 2017, in Arlington, Virginia

The United States has a compelling national security interest in promoting stability in select fragile and conflict affected states. The operating environment is complex, requiring a whole of US government response coupled with non-governmental and international partners supported by the affected nation to achieve national goals. Numerous reports reveal a persistent gap in several critical areas: civilian capacity; interagency education, planning and collaboration; cross-organizational understanding of roles and responsibilities; unified assessments and shared understanding; and adequate statutory authorities and funding.

Ten years ago, the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) was purposefully designed to enhance inter-agency collaboration, while ensuring the efficacy of a whole-of-government approach toward addressing complex challenges in Africa. AFRICOM also endeavored to improve U.S. security relationships with African nations, which are critical partners in addressing global and regional security challenges. However, many African nations also present impending conflict environments that require Peacekeeping and Stability Operations (P&SO) planning, strategies programs, and operations.

This panel discussion will address whole-of-government progress in P&SO environments with a focus on AFRICOM. To kick off the discussion, PKSOI will present their findings from a U.S. Army War College integrated research project (IRP) on improving whole of government approach to crisis using AFRICOM as a case study. A panel of experts will use the IRP findings as a template for comparison with some of the emerging challenges within the AFRICOM theater and applying a whole-of-government approach to fulfilling national interests.

A second panel will apply the principles from the IRP project to a Lake Chad Basin case study to determine whether they would alter the existing strategy for that region. A third panel will explore the opportunities and challenges that await AFRICOM and its partners in the coming decade – and beyond.