

## **Ethiopia Post-Conflict Recovery**

**by CAPT Danny King**

In a location of the world where we are witnessing both China and Russia's increased interest/influence, the United States Africa Command's (USAFRICOM) number one line of effort is strengthening partner capacity within various African nations, by focusing on strengthening mutually beneficial networks between the U.S. and key partners. These improved and expanded relationships solidify the U.S. and European allies' position as the preferred regional security partners in Africa. "AFRICOM is focused on strengthening mutually beneficial relationships, such as the one we have here in Ethiopia," said USAFRICOM Commander, U.S. Marine Corps General Thomas D. Waldhauser during a recent visit to Ethiopia on 28 November 2018. "Alongside our Department of State counterparts and our international allies, we seek to improve and expand upon these relationships to further the security, stability, and prosperity of our African partners." <sup>1</sup>

At the request of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Peace Support Training Centre (FDRE-PSTC) via the United States Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute (PKSOI) under the U.S. Army War College, has participated in both the centre's Conflict Management Course and Post Conflict Recovery Course over the past several years. The Conflict Management Course is regularly held in the spring/summer timeframe and the Post Conflict Recovery Course in the fall/winter timeframe. Both courses are attended by senior level students from the civilian, military, judicial, and police sectors of the African Nations.

PKSOI, as well as experts from Japan and the United Kingdom participated in the Conflict Recovery Course held 5-16 November 2018, which had participants from 8 African Nations including Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Tanzania. The students came from the Diplomatic, Military and Policing communities, as well as the Judicial Branch. PKSOI's Senior Naval Advisor, CAPT Danny King, provided an overview of Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Disarmament Demobilization Reintegration (DDR) that included an "all hands on deck" table top exercise. The table top exercise provided an opportunity for the students to collaborate and out-brief the class on various aspects of SSR, to include DDR, Rule of Law, Police/Security Reform, and Defense (Military) Sector Reform.

In addition to the course material, CAPT King also provided an overview on the mission of PKSOI and highlighted the institute's Stability Operations Lessons Learned and Information Management System (SOLLIMS), as a research tool and repository for the students' experiences in peacekeeping mission support. The students were fully engaged and expressed a desire to sign up for a SOLLIMS account immediately. PKSOI's published materials were depleted by the first break, prompting the students to inquire as to the best approach to receive additional PKSOI material and engage with the institute for future academic endeavors.

Our close ally and partner Japan, along with Ethiopia, realizes the vital importance and necessity of these courses, so both invest significant resources into making each course a success. This was evident by the involvement of newly assigned Ambassador Daisuke Matsunaga (Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia), COL Elias Seyoum (Acting Head of FDRE-PSTC), and LTC Norihisa Urakami (International Consultant and former PKSOI international officer staff member), as they observed and actively participated in the final table top exercise. The table top exercise validated the exceptional negotiation skills acquired throughout the Post Conflict Recovery Course.

PKSOI's participation in future courses will only enhance our partnership with the countries of Japan, the United Kingdom, and various African Nations. In addition, it will provide continued support to the USAFRICOM mission by promoting regional security, stability and prosperity, while demonstrating the U.S.'s enhanced presence to our major competitors China and Russia.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.africom.mil/media-room/article/31379/assistant-secretary-nagy-gen-waldhauser-meet-with-ethiopian-leaders>