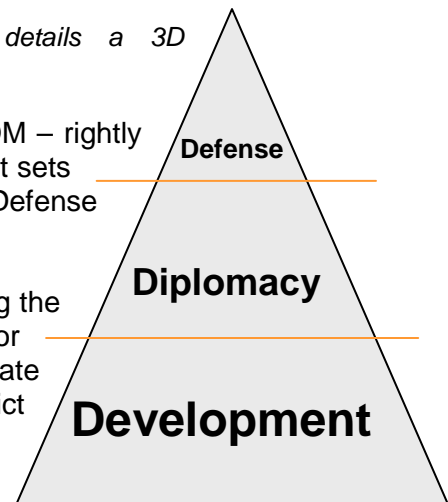


Human Security Options for Africa and AFRICOM

The Bush Administration's 2006 National Security Strategy details a 3D approach including development, diplomacy, and defense.

The Department of Defense's new Africa Command – AFRICOM – rightly recognizes that a secure, stable Africa is in U.S. interests. Yet it sets a distressing precedent for “3D” inter-agency efforts under Defense Department rather than State Department control.

This policy brief outlines broad U.S. policy options for addressing the root causes of insecurity in Africa, with emphasis on the need for greater funding for USAID's development programs and the State Department's diplomatic efforts and infrastructure for conflict prevention in Africa.



Development

Africa's security challenges share a common denominator: poverty. USAID support for good governance and economic development are linked to greater security across the continent.

- Address **critical health issues** by supporting efforts to ensure basic health care facilities and low-cost drugs.
- Support **sustainable development projects** that anticipate growing competition over scarce resources, aggravated by climate change.
- Promote **debt forgiveness** programs to free up needed capital into economic development while promoting positive messages to the African public
- Foster **transparent, accountable government** to combat corruption.

Diplomacy

Africa's security hinges on its capacity to prevent, manage, and resolve conflict. The U.S. State Department plays a key role in diplomatic, non-military solutions to deep-rooted conflicts triggering instability in Africa.

- Reform **international trade practices** which stymie African development inhibit the growth of African economies and punish African farmers.
- Support and strengthen **regional arms control** regimes in order to keep African capital focused on economic and community development goals.
- Support a vast infrastructure for **preventive diplomacy** to address the root causes of conflict in African countries.
- Strengthen the capacity for **civil society partnership** with governments to create a vast, multi-levelled infrastructure for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Defense

Africa's security depends on peacekeeping capacity and resources. The Department of Defense can best support security in Africa through these recommendations for the new U.S. military African Command.

3D Security Recommendations for AFRICOM

1. **Relate directly to and work through the African Union** when engaging with the continent, sub-regional organizations or individual states that form the building blocks of Africa's emerging peace and security architecture. The AU provides the only legitimate continental voice and democratic space for decision-making among African nations and is therefore the vehicle for building consensus and promoting transparency on sub-regional issues.
2. **Build clear firewalls between development, diplomatic and defense** sector activities in Africa - while *fostering interagency coordination* - to preserve the integrity of development and diplomatic goals. Defense activities should support and remain subordinate to diplomatic and development priorities. State Department leadership on a new human security approach to Africa would defuse some current criticism.
3. **Support robust Congressional funding for the State Department Office for Reconstruction and Stabilization (S/CRS)** for more effective partnering capacity with AFRICOM, and for ensuring long-term sustainable development, good governance, and human rights goals are balanced with shorter-term counter-terrorism concerns and U.S. business interests.
4. **Restrict the use of private military sub-contractors**, while eliminating "private security firms" altogether. Defense sector assistance activities such as Security Sector Reform (SSR) and building the peacekeeping capacity of African militaries must be conducted by active duty Department of Defense personnel.
5. **Defer to State Department leadership on non-military dimensions of SSR** such as enhancing community policing, rule of law, and human rights – according to the international community's OECD DAC guidelines for comprehensive SSR.
6. **Coordinate closely** with all relevant states and organizations including the UN, regional economic and security organizations, the EU, NATO member countries, and other countries that invest in peacekeeping capacity-building and Security Sector Reform in Africa.
7. **Develop broad-based, ongoing civilian-NGO-military exchange forums** where African civil society leaders and international humanitarian, human rights, and peacebuilding NGOs can develop relations, build trust and engage in dialogue with AFRICOM leadership.
8. **Foster greater transparency** about past (and where possible, ongoing) US military operations in Africa, as well as the development of the AFRICOM mission strategy --with African political *and* community leaders to allow for continuing exchanges, and to allay growing fears about the U.S. role in Africa.
9. **Provide specialized training to U.S. military personnel** posted in Africa in conflict prevention and resolution techniques, cultural awareness, environmental security and sustainable development.

This Policy Brief was developed in collaboration with African conflict prevention experts and organizations.