

PRESS RELEASE FROM SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE (*insert Botswana / Zambia / Malawi / as appropriate*)

COMBINED JOINT AFRICAN EXERCISE (CJAX) 24-31 AUGUST 2013

As part of the South African National Defence Force's (*or insert Botswana / Zambia/Malawi's*) commitment to greater integration within African Union (AU) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) military structures, the South African National War College (SANWC(*or insert Botswana / Zambia/Malawi*)) is taking a leading role in the execution of the third Combined Joint African Exercise (CJAX) taking place between 24-31 August 2013.

BACKGROUND

The concept of the Combined Joint African Exercise (CJAX) emerged at 1st African Conference of Commandants (ACoC) in November 2007. It is modelled on the Combined Joint European Exercise (CJEX) that is directed by the NATO Conference of Commandants (CoC). Similarly, CJAX is directed by the equivalent African structure.

CJAX 2011 saw SANWC continue as coordinating authority for the participating Southern African colleges. Coordinating authority switched to the Zambia Defence Services Command and Staff College in Lusaka in 2012. CJAX 2013 sees increased participation, with the inclusion of Malawi who will send delegations of Learners and Directing Staff to the 3 colleges where CJAX takes place (Zambia, RSA and Botswana) and Namibia and Zimbabwe who are sending observer delegations to both South Africa and Zambia.

CJAX

CJAX 2013 is a classroom based exercise that will be run concurrently in the 3 host countries and will present senior military learners with the problems associated with planning an African Standby Force (ASF) complex Peace Support Operation in a notional country that is troubled by civil war and humanitarian strife.

Learners from the South African National War College, Botswanan Staff College, Malawian Armed Forces and Zambian Staff College will be taking part, with each college exchanging students and instructors with the other partner countries.

This is the fourth time that this exercise has been run and is now firmly established as an annual event drawing support from additional SADC and AU countries. Forging common understanding and interoperability is key to the exercise with the added benefit of sharing best practice.

The exercise is designed to test the skills of senior military learners, police and civilian mission staff in planning an ASF operation and develop wider knowledge of the challenges facing military personnel in working with civilian and Police components as well as NGOs and International Organisations..

Media Visit

Interested members of the media community are invited to visit the exercise to learn more about this exciting initiative. Interested editors and journalists should contact *(insert POC details here)* to register to attend the press day. Members of the media will be briefed in detail on the exercise, see the learners as they conduct the exercise and have the opportunity to ask questions to the key instructors.

Notes to Editors:

Building on the success of CJAX 2012, CJAX 2013 is one of the most important aspects of participating Command and Staff Colleges' Programmes. Not only will it develop a greater understanding of the Joint, Multinational and Interagency environment in order to promote a better understanding of the challenges involved in planning and coordinating a complex, multinational Peace Support Operation (PSO). It will also serve to promote understanding of AU and ASF procedures, and forge the critically important professional and social links between SADC military personnel. In this regard it will have a positive effect on the operational capability of the African Standby Force, SADC Brigade.

The development of this exercise has been with the assistance of our partners in the British Peace Support Team (South Africa) and clearly demonstrates the determination of the partner countries to build on and improve Peace Support Operations planning capacity.