



CALLING NOTICE FOR THE 5th AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF COMMANDANTS (ACoC)



27 NOVEMBER TO 01 DECEMBER 2011

REF: DECISIONS OF THE 4TH ACoC, JINJA, UGANDA

INTRODUCTION

1. Established in 2007, the African Conference of (Staff College) Commandants (ACoC) aims to enhance harmonization, interoperability, commonality, standardisation and co-operation – between African Staff Colleges. This is done in order to contribute to joint multi-national and multi-agency cross governmental African Standby Force (ASF) peace support operations. The Conference is an annual event, rotating between AU member nations and would in the future become a network of all African Staff College Commandants.

2. The Conference is similar in concept to the NATO Conference of Commandants and it targets the senior military levels of education within the African Union (AU) / ASF militaries (Commandants and Chief Instructors / COS of Staff Colleges); ASF representatives from the AU and regional levels (the AU's ASF Harmonisation Workshop and AU Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD)); peace, security and defence related Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and educational institutions; and, possibly national / international donors. The ACoC, however, deals with pan-defence education as well as focusing on the delivery of peace missions and Military Operations Other Than War education.

THE 5TH ACoC - GABORONE, BOTSWANA

3. The Botswana Defence Command and Staff College will host the 5th ACoC in Gaborone (Gaborone Sun Hotel), Botswana from **27 November to 01 December 2011**. The theme of the Conference is: **“Globalisation and Human Rights in Africa.”**

PREVIOUS CONFERENCES

4. The 4th ACoC was held in Jinja, Uganda from 01 to 04 November 2010, and was hosted by the Senior Command and Staff College, Uganda. The Conference deliberated on the development of a common, continental force for better efficiency in a multinational environment. Some of the key achievements of ACoC were noted at the Conference. These include, the operationalisation and development of the decision on the CJAX at regional and Member States levels, particularly the achievement of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in this regard. The Conference also welcomed the conducting of ‘Exercise Uhuru’ in Gaborone, Lusaka and Pretoria and ECOWAS CJAX in Ghana.

5. The 3rd ACoC was held in Cairo Egypt, at the Egyptian Command and Staff College and was aimed at conferring on developments of the Conference since the 1st and 2nd ACoC meetings.

6. The 2nd ACoC was held in Accra, Ghana and was hosted by the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College from 27 October to 31 October 2008 and was poised to enhance some of the following issues:

- a. The AU Constitutive Act, Peace and Security Protocols, Common African Defence and Security Policy (CADSP) and Training and Doctrine of the African Standby Force.

- b. The role of civil society in PSO.
 - c. CJAX.
 - d. Funding of ACoC; and
 - e. ACoC Secretariat and Establishment of ACoC Website (Portal)
7. The 1st ACoC, was held in South Africa under the auspices of the South Africa National War College from 06 to 08 November, 2007 under the theme “**Developing and Transforming Education in the Military, a Contribution to African Security**”, and it continues to build the character of ACoC.

AIM OF ACOC

8. The aim of ACoC is to enhance harmonisation, interoperability, commonality, standardisation and cooperation between African Staff Colleges, its contribution to the ASF and Peace Support Operations (PSOs) and thereby to the following **objectives**:
- a. To contribute to African Security through the Development and Transformation of Education and Training in the Military Environment.
 - b. To facilitate and improve understanding and general coordination amongst the African Staff Colleges, in order to develop the ASF Concept within the context of African Chiefs of Defence Staff (ACDS).
 - c. To evaluate the feasibility of transformation in the current operating environment.
 - d. To explore the commonality of the curricula with the intention to facilitate Combined Joint African Exercise (CJAX).
 - e. To develop cooperation amongst African Staff Colleges by enhancing benchmarking, college curriculum best practice, DS exchange programmes, academic accreditation and exploration of the feasibility of an annual Combined Joint African Exercise (CJAX).

TARGETS FOR ACOC

9. The membership of ACoC, like its philosophy, is a matter that is still evolving. Arising from the thinking of the 1st ACoC, it is evident that it is targeting the senior military levels of education within the AU/ASF militaries such as Commandants and Chief Instructors/COS of staff colleges as well as ASF representatives from AU and regional levels such as those of the AU’s ASF Harmonisation Workshop and AU Peace Support Operations Division. Others include peace, security & defence related non-governmental organisations and educational institutions. National and international donors have been identified as valuable partners of ACoC.
10. The ACoC’s broadness of mandate is further seen in its embarking on reinforcing the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centres/Centres of Excellence, African Peace Support Training Association (APSTA), as well as Pan-defence education and the delivery of peace missions and military Operations Other than War (OOTW) education.

FUTURE ISSUES

11. The ACoC is committed to working towards achieving key goals identified below:
 - a. Harmonisation of curriculum and PSO doctrine.
 - b. Synchronisation of the flow of courses or programmes.
 - c. Establishment of an African Staff College.
 - d. A continental ownership of ACoC and its processes

HOSTING OF THE 5TH ACOC

12. The Botswana Defence Command and Staff College (DCSC) will be responsible for accommodation arrangements for delegates from the Staff Colleges. However, delegates from Staff Colleges will be responsible for their own travel arrangements.

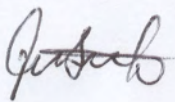
The ACoC Secretariat will be responsible for the travel and accommodation costs for the sponsored delegates. These include invited speakers and observers from the African Union, Regional Economic Communities and Centres of Excellence.

All other non-sponsored observers will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

Meals for ALL the delegates will be provided by Botswana Defence Force. Detailed administrative arrangements have been attached but the Programme will be availed in due course.

13. On behalf of the Government of Botswana, I would like to warmly welcome each one of you to the 5th Conference of the African Commandants and sincerely hope that we will have meaningful and fruitful discussions. I welcome you!

Sincerely,



JE Seelo
Colonel
Acting Commandant
Defence command & Staff College

