THE AFICAN STANDBY FORCE

QUO VADIS?

EDITORS

Francois Vreÿ

Thomas Mandrup

SUN PRESS

The African Standby Force. Quo Vadis?

Published by AFRICAN SUN MeDIA under the SUN PReSS imprint.

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First edition, October 2017

ISBN 978-1-928357-56-8
ISBN 978-1-928357-57-5 (e-book)
DOI: 10.18820/9781928357575

Set in 11/15 Minion Pr

Cover design and typesetting by AFRICAN SUN MeDIA

SUN PRESS is an imprint of AFRICAN SUN MeDIA. Academic, professional and reference works are published under this imprint in print and electronic format. This publication may be ordered directly from www.sun-e-shop.co.za.

Produced by AFRICAN SUN MeDIA.

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List of Abbreviations

AAR	After Action Review
ACCORD	African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes
ACIRC	African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis
ADF	Allied Defence Force
AFISMA	All African led International Support Mission to Mali
AGA	African Governance Architecture
AGF	Anti Government Forces
AMIB	African Union Mission to Burundi
AMISOM	African Union Mission to Somalia
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APSA	African Peace and Security Architecture
APSTA	African Peace Support Trainers Association
AQIM	Al Qaeda Organisation in the Islamic Maghreb
ASF	African Standby Force
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUC	African Union Commission
BRICS	Brazil Russia India China South Africa
CAR	Central Africa Republic
CCCPA	Cairo Regional Centre for Training and Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping
CEAMDS	Council of Eastern African Ministers of Defence and Security
CEWS	Continental Early Warning Systems
CIMIC	Civil Military Coordination
CISS	Chief of Integrated Support Services
CMO	Chief Medical Officer
CNT	National Transitional Council
COIN	Counter Insurgency
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and South Africa
CONOPS	Concept of Operations
CPX	Command Post Exercise
CR	Combat Ready
CRM	Crisis Response Mechanism
CSSG	Civilian Strategic Support Group
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DSRCC	Deputy Special Representative of the Chair of the AU Commission

EAC	East Africa Community
EACDS	East African Chief of Defence Staffs
EASF	East Africa Standby Force
EASFCOM	EASF Coordination Mechanism
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOMOG	Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EPS	Exercise Planning Staff
ESF	ECOWAS Standby Force
EU	European Union
FIB	Force Intervention Brigade
FID	Foreign Internal Defence
FLS	Frontline States
FOC	Full Operational Capability
FOMAC	Economic Community of Central African States Standby Force
FTX	Field Training Exercise
GOJ	Government of Japan
GWOT	Global War on Terror
HL	Human Rights Law
HLU	Humanitarian Liaison Unit
HMS	Head of Mission Support
HOM	Head of Mission
HRDDP	Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (United Nations)
ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IED	Improvised Explosives Device
IGAD	Intergovernmental Agency on Development
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IPI	International Peace Institute
IU	Investigation Unit
JLOC	Joint Logistics Operations Centre
KAIPKTC	Kofi Anan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
MICEMA	ECOWAS Mission in Mali
MICOPAX	Mission for Consolidation of Peace in the Central Africa Republic
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central Africa Republic
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali
MINUSMA UN	Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MISCA	African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic

MNLA	National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad
MONUSCO	United Nations Mission to the Congo
MOOTW	Military Operations Other than War
MORW	Military Operations Related to War
MPT	Military Psychological Team
MUJAO	Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa
NARC	North African Regional Capability
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NUPI	Norwegian Institute for International Affairs
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
ONUC	United Nations Operation in the Congo
ORBAT	Order of Battle
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PD	Psychological Debriefing
PLANELM	Planning Element
PMC	Private Military Company
POC	Point of Contact
PPU	Personal Protection Unit
PSC	Peace and Security Council
PSCAU	Peace and Security Council of the African Union
PSO	Peace Support Operations
PTSD	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
QIP	Quick Impact Project
R2P	Responsibility to Protect
RDC	Rapid Deployment Capability
REC	Regional Economic Community
RISDP	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
RM	Regional Mechanism
ROL	Rule of Law
RPTC	Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADCBRIG	Southern Africa Standby Brigade
SADCC	Southern African Development Coordination Conference
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SHIRBRIG	SIGLA Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa
SIOU	Security, Information and Operations Unit
SIPO	Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SADC)
SMLT	Senior Mission Leadership Team
SOP	Standing Operations Procedure

SRCC	Special Representative of the Chair of the AU Commission
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary General (UN)
SSF	SADC Standby Force
SSR	Security Sector Reform
STCDSS	Special Technical Committee on Defence Safety and Security
STEPP	Strategic Education Planning and policy
TCC	Troop Contributing Countries
TOE	Table of Organisation and Equipment
UN	United Nations
UNAMSIL	United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone
UNEF	United Nations Emergency Force
UNOSOM	United Nations Operation in Somalia
UNITAF	United Task Force
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
WARN	West Africa Early Warning Network
WHAM	Winning Hearts and Minds

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Introduction

Francois Vreÿ[1] & *Thomas Mandrup*[1]

The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) has been undergoing constant development since the establishment of the African Union (AU) itself officially in 2002 in Durban. The results have thus far been mixed in the sense that, whereas the AU was deemed successful in establishing institutions like the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) only two years after the establishment of the AU in 2002,[2] the implementation of the other elements of the APSA has been slower, and less convincing.[3]

Different attitudes to the nature and roles of the AU in African conflicts continue to characterise the slow and differential progress of the APSA and brought about its own set of tensions in how to merge the human security and state or regime security agendas. In essence one finds laudable goals of being liberal and human rights driven pitted against leaders with security and interest driven agendas more often than not dominating the agenda. AU member states persistently argue for "African solutions to African problems", but continue to rely on international actors to finance and facilitate the preferred "African solutions". Whether this is a mere consequence of global responses to global threats to international security is a question of opinion, but one also open to academic inquiry. Difficulties facing the AU's Rapid Deployment Capability[4] pathway, alternative thought and competing institutions, as well as slow progress or regression in the regional communities, collectively call for closer scrutiny in the aftermath of repeated failures to meet AU instituted time-lines.

In spite of calls for Full Operational Capability (FOC) of the AU's rapid reaction forces, and setting of repeated time-frames, non-compliance with the corresponding operational goal posts set by the AU persists and still constitutes a challenge. Competitive and exclusionary agendas hinder the desired progress towards combat ready African Standby Forces (ASF) for the AU. The discussions offered here frame and explain important inconsistencies operating at the institutional, regional and