AFRICA: Vital to U.S. Security?

Terrorism &Transnational Threats-Causes & Enablers

Briefing for NDU Symposium

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Outline

Sub-Saharan Threat Environment

Problem of Ungoverned Space

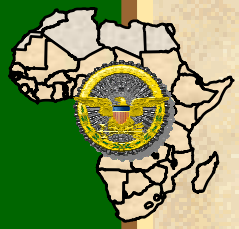
- **Ungoverned and Exploitable Areas**
- **CT Capacity vs. Governance Capacity**

Strategic Elements Defined

DOD's Security Cooperation Examples

Sub-Saharan African Threat Environment

- **Sub-Saharan Africa continues to face constant security, political and economic crises**
- **Government corruption is a major problem**
- **Many countries have limited or unreliable capacities for internal security, law enforcement, and border protection.**
  - **This lack of governance capacity makes them attractive venues for the development of violent extremism, terrorism, and criminal activities.**



Ungoverned and Exploitable Areas

Ungoverned and exploitable areas have physical and non-physical dimensions:

Physical

Non-Physical

Ungoverned territories: **Rugged, remote, maritime, or littoral areas not effectively governed by a sovereign state**

Competing governance: **A sovereign state's inability or unwillingness to exercise authority over part or whole of a country, e.g.,**

- **Conditions where a government has made the political decision to relinquish authority over territory or the provision of essential functions (e.g., education, health) to actors that potentially threaten domestic or international order**

- **Situations in which incapacity or, in extreme cases, government collapse has allowed actors that potentially threaten domestic or international order to fill the governance void by controlling territory or providing basic governance functions**

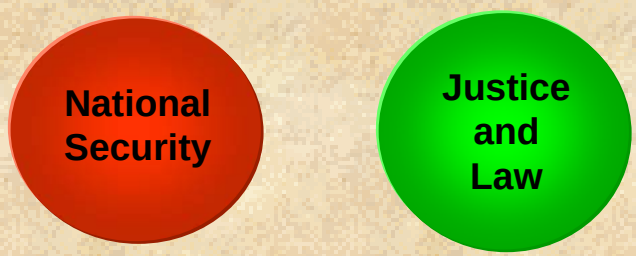
Exploitation of legal principles: **Areas in which legal norms and processes can be exploited by actors who threaten domestic or international order (e.g., speech and assembly rights, immigration and asylum laws)**

Opaque areas of activity: **Areas created by the inability of a government to monitor or control certain illicit or facilitating transactions when they are conducted in a certain way (e.g., within cyber or financial systems)**

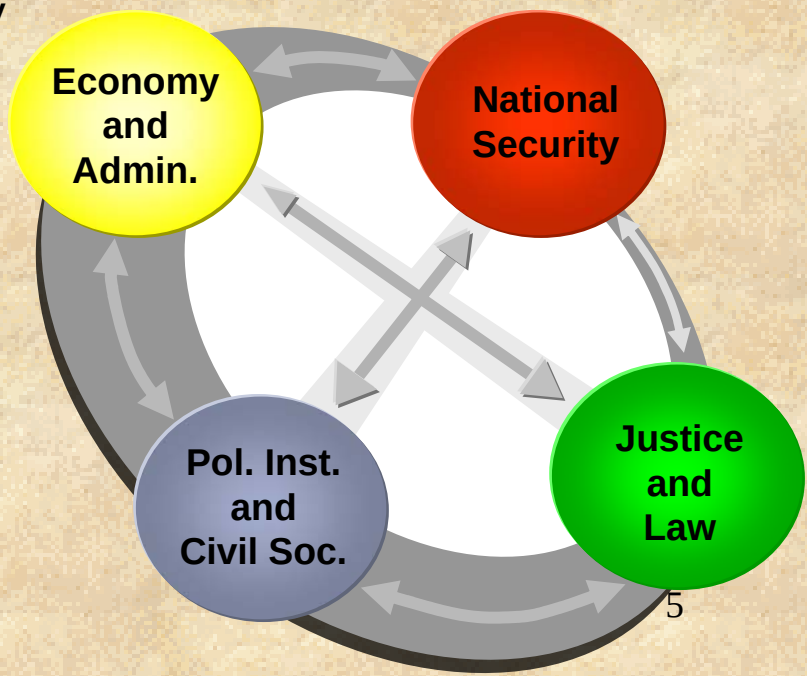
CT Capacity vs. Governance Capacity

- Building partners' CT capacity generally refers to improving police, military, administration of justice, financial regulation, intelligence, and border security
  - Example: Bolstering economic and administrative capacity is needed to sustain security capacity
- Depending on context, focusing on only one area without regard for others may produce unintended and self-defeating consequences
  - Example: Building CT capacity without concern for political institutions may contribute to repression
- Building governance capacity requires understanding how various components of governance interact to be mutually reinforcing

Elements of CT Capacity



Elements of Governance Capacity



Strategic Elements Defined

- **Civil Control & Defense Reform**
  - **Civil subordinated/appropriately sized and funded militaries with improved transparency and accountability for national security.**
- **Military Professionalism**
  - **Institutionalization of training to develop and maintain a disciplined force, with a professional ethic, conducting legitimate national security missions with respect for law and human rights.**
- **Capacity Building**
  - **Skilled, appropriately equipped and well-led African militaries that can help reduce ungoverned space by contributing positively to combating terrorism, controlling land and maritime space and work to prevent and to respond to crises, at both the national and sub-regional level.**

CONCLUSION

African Security Cooperation Tools

SECURITY ASSISTANCE
IMET & E-IMET
Foreign Military Financing
Foreign Military Sales
Excess Defense Articles
Direct Commercial Sales
Counter-Terrorism Fellowships

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES
Peacekeeping Operations
Humanitarian Relief Ops
Counter-Narcotics Ops
Sanctions Enforcement
Contingency Ops
NEOs
MIOs

REGIONAL PEACEKEEPING TRAINING & EXERCISES
PKO Exercises
ACOTA
EPIC

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
HAP-Excess Articles
HAP-Civic Action
Humanitarian Demining

COMBINED EDUCATION
ACSS
Military Academies

MIL-MIL CONTACT
Multi- & Bi-Lateral Staff Talks
Ship & Port Visits - WATCs
GO-FO Visits
Counterpart Visits
Chaplain Program

COMBINED TRAINING & EXERCISES
JCET & FLINTLOCK
Natural Fire Exercise
Multi- & Bi-Lateral Exercises
MEDFLAGs
Disaster Assistance Training
Maritime Training

OTHER DOD ACTIVITIES
Demobilization
Civic Affairs
Environmental Security