

**2ND AFRICAN CONFERENCE
OF COMMANDANTS
ACCRA - GHANA**

Summary of the Proceedings: 27 – 31 October 2008

DAY ONE

ITEM FOUR: Official Opening

1. Honourable William Ofori Boafo, the Deputy Minister of Defence in Ghana, sent the Honourable Minister's sincere apologies for this absence. Honourable Boafo shared his appreciation for the invitation extended to him to attend the 2nd ACOC and all participants to the conference and more particularly to Accra, Ghana. Warm thanks were also extended to Her Majesty's Government for spear heading the organisation of the conference and for making funding available. Special mention of the Institute for Security Studies in their part in the organisation of this conference.
2. The Honourable Deputy Minister further recapped that at the 1st ACOC, which was held in South Africa in 2007, a landmark position was made that ACOC should be an annual event, rotating among AU member nations and to eventually become a network of African Staff College Commandants. The Honourable Deputy Minister congratulated South Africa for a successful 1st conference, and it was decided at that juncture to hold the 2nd ACOC in Accra, where the current theme was adopted.
3. The Honourable Deputy Minister expressed that this forum offers a valuable opportunity to various participants to share in your countries experiences and exposes us all to diverse case studies by enriching performance as institutional heads, and emphasised that towards a quest for African solutions to African problems, forums like this are vital to develop an approach to the teaching and training of our middle level officers for the command and administration of the components of effective African Standby Force.
4. The Honourable Deputy Minister expressed his hope that the objectives of the conference will be achieved and that the staff college will strive to develop innovative training modules to ensure the graduates of the college are better equipped to be responsive to the challenges of the times and challenges of respective countries and the continent. He once again extended profound gratitude to Her Majesty's Government for making ACOC possible, and noted that it was indeed a mark of commitment of Her Majesty's Government towards assisting African governments to develop their capacity to prevent, manage or resolve the myriads of conflicts that plague the continent. In same vain, he expressed gratitude to all and sundry, and officially declared the conference as duly opened.



5. The outgoing South African War College Commandant, Brig. Gen. Siphon David Mashobane expressed his hope that there will be more African countries participating in the African Conference of Commandants, and noted that it is an opportunity for all as Africans to work together, harmonise doctrines and training, and to standardise all procedures in terms of what we want to establish at the end of the day. All African countries are members and should have the same status in their participation in ensuring that this conference reaches the objectives it was made for.
6. The incoming and current Chairperson: Ghana Commandant of Ghana Staff College, Comdt R E Baiden expressed his expectation that by the end of the ACoC deliberations there would be a clearer way forward that would benefit the general African population. He lauded his predecessor, the South African War College, for initiating and hosting the 1st ACoC. He stressed the importance of not failing the people of Africa, and the need to ensure that there will be implementable recommendations for African Chiefs of Staff and other stakeholders.
7. A press on the official opening was released yesterday to the press as well as to the ACoC portal.
8. Dr Naison Ngoma summarised the proceedings of the 1st ACoC, which was held in South Africa last year while Col Mishio briefed participants on the programme for the next 5 days.

ITEM NINE: AU Constitutive Act, Peace and Security Protocols, Training and Doctrine of ASF

9. Col. Charles Debrah of the African Union gave a brief background of the events that gave birth to the idea of the AU Constitutive Act. He mentioned that the end of the Cold War led to the proliferation of African conflicts that have presented serious challenges to the notion of peace in Africa. The UN unfortunately was unable to assist Africa in this regard and he gave an example of the Rwandan genocide in which a great number of Rwandans were killed whilst the UN did nothing. The AU Constitutive Act signed at Lome provided for the establishment of An African Union to succeed the then OAU. It was agreed that the OAU needed to be revamped so as to be able to face the challenges of the day. Col. Charles Debrah indicated that the significant difference between the two organisations is that the AU is more pro-active and is able to intervene in the internal affairs of a state. Col. Charles Debrah went further to give a detailed presentation on the Doctrine of the African Standby Force. The ASF currently follows the UN DPKO Doctrine simply because there is 'no need to re-invent the wheel.'
10. The presenter explained that the establishment of the ASF is provided for in Article 13 of the PSC Protocol. The pillars of ASF are the five Regional Economic Communities; SADC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, EASBRICOM and NARC. Particular emphasis was made in respect of the following principles; training delivery in an economic way, adopted to ASF goals and objectives; training based on AU guidelines and on documentation prepared by AU; and training must be multi-disciplinary to cover the needs of multi-dimensional PSOs.
11. Capt. Johan Potgieter complemented Col. Debrah's presentation by stressing the need for the integration of the military, civilian and police components for the success of missions; the need for the ACoC to expand and grow bigger in order to gain more relevance; the

need for AU to provide clearer guidelines to the regional organisations and governments on ASF training and doctrine; and finally, the need for liaisons between the AU and ACOC.

ITEM TWELVE: Civil-Society and PSOs

12. Dr Cheryl Hendricks delivered a presentation of The Role of Civil Society in Peace Support Operations, in which she noted that previously, peace-keeping operations were seen as the prerogative of the military, but in more recent times however, multiple rebel groups are signing Comprehensive Peace Agreements containing political, economic, security, humanitarian and social dimensions, and trying to deal with the root causes of conflicts and often in situations where there is little peace to be kept. Dr Hendricks outlined the policy framework for the civilian dimension of the African Standby Force, in the form of the Peace and Security Protocol, and highlighted the fact that according to Article 13 of the PSC Protocol, the African Standby Force shall be composed of multi-disciplinary civilian and military components held on standby in their countries of origin, and be ready for rapid deployment at appropriate notice.
13. The presenter defined civil society and outlined the civilian components in mission support which included financial management, police forces, engineering, communications, political affairs, legal advice, human rights, and geographical information systems, to mention a few.
14. Dr Hendricks emphasized the point that although the case has been made for the civilian component and their roles are now clearly spelt out, civil society still have a dominant focus on the military component in the ASF, and more awareness needs to be raised around this issue and provision of the necessary training to make it a reality must be put in place. The presenter articulated that the role of civil society includes: policy advice and technical support, research and implementation support, enhancing local ownership and participation, play a watchdog role, facilitate dialogue and negotiation, raise awareness through advocacy, and to assist with service delivery for humanitarian interventions. The presentation was concluded when Dr Hendricks stated that if the local community do not participate in the design and implementation of peace processes – it will lack rootedness, depth, coherence and thus endurance, and that the civilian component in the mission are becoming indispensable to ensuring a smooth transition to post-conflict reconstruction.
15. Col Ladzekpo introduced his presentation entitled, Operating with Civil Society in the (West) African Battle Space, Training and Doctrine of ECOWAS Standby Force, with a number of startling but relevant facts surrounding the conflicts in Sierra Leone and Liberia, and briefly outlined the pivotal role of civil society organizations. The presenter briefly outlined the pivotal role of Civil Society Organisations. Col Ladzekpo highlighted the role of civil society organisations in ECOWAS conflicts, such as early warning mechanisms, observation/monitoring of conduct of elections, control of small and light weapons, promoting dialogue and mediation, post-conflict peace building, psycho-social counseling and healing, watch dog role, changing the status quo, fighting for human rights, provision of humanitarian assistance, and reconciliation and reintegration.
16. The presenter noted several challenges that civil society face in West Africa, in terms of lack of credibility, lack of co-ordination and coherence, lack of capability and capacity, inadequate funding and limited agenda setting, partisanship and politicizing, and finally, partnership gaps between CSOs and peacekeeping missions.

17. On the Doctrine and training of the ECOWAS standby force, Col Ladzekpo he surmised that framework of the training concept was based on providing training support for large population of stakeholders in conflict/PSO, including ESF. These training programmes have been divided into the categories of individual (basic, intermediate & advanced)-national/regional; specialist (basic, intermediate & advanced) -national; command & staff (junior, senior & advanced); collective (CPX & FTX) -national/regional and others (pre-deployment & continuation training).
18. In the discussion that ensued, Chief Instructor of the Kofi Anan International Peace Training Centre (KAIPTC), Col. Klobodu noted the importance of civilian participation in peace building and post-conflict reconstruction. He further alluded to the term 'integrated peace support operation' to include all dimensions meaning civilians, police and military to work together towards a peaceful Africa. Currently KAIPTC is involved with the ECOWAS Standby Force and runs courses open to civilians and members of the police forces. Brigadier-General E. Essien noted that the objective of KAIPTC is to develop capacity and suggested the possibility of African Colleges to commit a few of their members to take part in the peace support operations so as develop capacity and to share knowledge. The Chair responded indicating that the full house of the Ghana Armed Forces Command do attend the two-week courses offered by KAIPTC. Also, members of the African Peace Support Trainers' Association (APSTA) attend the training courses.

DAY TWO

Matters Arising From 1st ACoC Decisions

19. The conference began with reading of 1st ACoC **Decisions 2 and 3** on the general consensus and support for the 2nd ACoC and the requirement to consult with principals over the matter. The discussion that ensued largely focused on the latter part with questions being asked about the official acceptance of the entire dimension of ACOC notwithstanding the authorisation given by the principals to the commandants to participate in the endeavour.
20. The discussion centred on whether the **official recognition of ACOC** should be sought from the AU and such other structures such as the Chiefs of Defense Staffs. It was even suggested that some sort of regulations of association be drawn as a means of giving structure to ACOC which would then form the basis of such official recognition.
21. The discussion further examined the need for the **AUC to be consulted** over the matter. It was also suggested that **APSTA** be considered as a conduit to such recognition by the AU since it already has an official working relationship with the AUC. It was nonetheless pointed out that APSTA would be inappropriate for such an undertaking since it was only concerned with the narrow dimension of peace-keeping training while ACOC dealt with the much wider dimension of military education. The rest of the deliberations of the decisions were deferred to work group discussions whose feedback has been scheduled for this morning.

ITEM EIGHTEEN: Presentations on CJAX

22. The next agenda item was that of CJAX. Col Portia More delivered a presentation on CJAX: The Way Forward (Development of a Common Curriculum and Doctrine/Training to include Responsibility to Protect). Col More introduced the presentation by outlining the proposed concept of CJAX, in which she stated that a common exercise scenario and that CJAX should be **conducted regionally**, with learners from different countries within the regions to interact on problem scenarios.
23. The presenter further outlined that CJAX needs to enhance student **knowledge on the full range of Combined and Joint Operations**, practice **operational level planning** using United Nations (UN)/African Union (AU) Guidelines for Operational Planning, improve student's working skills in an inter-agency and international environment and address developments in African Security. The vision of CJAX was described as needing to break into regions, and a specific country should take **ownership for a year**, and this should be done on a rotational basis. Each region should appoint a workgroup that will be able to specifically look at how CJAX could be run.
24. The Col proposed the following attendance of **CJAX: the North- NARC, Centre- ECCAS, East- EASTBRICOM, West - ECOWAS, South - SADC**. Col More concluded with the recommendation that Regional Commandants are to be given an opportunity during the conference to consult with each other, so as to workout the modalities for the CJAX. During the discussion that followed, it was observed that **funding of CJAX** was going to be a matter of great concern since there was clearly an urgent need for African countries

to wean themselves from donor financing considering that such sources of finance could not be sustainable. However, it was revealed that CJAX will be funded for the next to years.

25. The discussion also moved to the related matter of the **AU Doctrine** with such observations as the tactical relevance of the doctrine at operational level for the ASF. In this regard, it was further observed that some staff colleges are using different doctrines when in fact they should be using a common doctrine as provided by the AU. During Captain Potgieter's intervention in the matter, he stressed that the AU Doctrine is the fundamental document, which gives broad guidelines to Member States.

ITEM TWENTY-TWO: Group Discussions

26. The last agenda item of the day was group work. Here, three groups were formed with and dedicated to the deliberation of 1st ACOC decisions 4 to 13; 14-22 as well as on the concepts, component and funding of CJAX. For record purposes, the groups were listed as follows:

GROUP 1: DECISIONS FOUR TO THIRTEEN OF 1ST ACOC

In Attendance: Maj Geb Ahmed Abd Allah Muhammed (Egypt), Brig Gen Mustapha Sayyid Ismail (Egypt), Maj Gen RE Baiden (Ghana), Col DK Mishio (Ghana), Maj Gen Abdullai (MATTS), Capt (CN) Joseph Tchoutat (Cameroon), Brig Gen Jeff Chisenga (Zambia), Col David Kauseni (Zambia), Col Amadou Kane (Senegal), Rumbidzai Chidoori

GROUP 2: CONCEPTS, COMPONENTS AND FUNDING OF CJAX

In Attendance: Brig Gen Siphon Mashobane (South Africa), Brig Gen E Esseini (Nigeria), Col Brynjar Nymo (NATO), Capt Johan Potgieter (South Africa), Dr Cheryl Hendricks (South Africa), Tarrin-Rae Oxche (South Africa), Col Portia More (South Africa), Col Ladzekpo (ECOWAS), Col MWL Theobald (BMATT), Lt Col R Hills (BMATT) and Tim (British Staff College), Col SM Minja (Tanzania)

GROUP 3: DECISIONS FOURTEEN TO TWENTY-TWO OF 1ST ACOC

In Attendance: Brig LM Ngondi (Kenya), Col RM Kinuthia (Kenya), Brig Gotsileene Morake (Botswana), Col Gilbert Magare Dithupa (Botswana), Col Charles Debrah (African Union), Lt Col L Nghishoongele (Namibia), Col HS Kamunde (Tanzania), Irene Ndung'u (South Africa)

DAY THREE

ITEM THIRTY& THIRTY-ONE:

27. Presentation and Discussion by Subject Groups

Group One began the morning's proceedings, with a presentation on Decisions Four to Thirteen on the 1st ACoC. The group members agreed that the portal was a very good initiative in terms of serving as a communication tool for ACoC. Members wishing to make contributions would be required to obtain approval from Chair, who in turn will send the information to portal manager for posting. Once again the principle of CJAX was endorsed and members expressed the need to follow a common doctrine. It was observed that Africans should be encouraged to take ownership of the concept of CJAX. Members further proposed that the secretariat complement the participant's reports by sending the decisions arrived by 2nd ACoC to their respective principals. The concept of DS and student exchange must be guided by MOUs in bilateral arrangements; however these may be expanded to multi-lateral agreements depending on those countries. Such exercise encourages cross-culturalisation of ideas. Col Mishio pointed out that credit must be given to ISS in their role as secretariat, for the significant contribution made towards the success of the 2nd ACOC.

28. Maj Gen Muhammed suggested that perhaps all African states with Staff Colleges be invited to the next ACoC. He indicated that should Egypt host the next ACOC, participants would have to pay for their own ait tickets only. Ghana acknowledged the assistance it received from South Africa in planning for this 2nd ACoC and commended the idea that in future the former hosts continue to guide the new host in preparing for the next ACoC. In conclusion it was decided that future ACOCs should be all- inclusive, giving equal recognition to all participants.

29. Group Two delivered a presentation entitled, Concepts, Components and Funding of CJAX. Several recommendations were proposed including the formation of working groups at a regional level that will develop modalities for implementation, doctrine, methodology, scenarios, location, budget, etc. TOR, and target date; countries with similar curriculum can get together and sign an agreement that they will work together; CJAX curriculum is to be incorporated into the syllabus of the staff colleges ; the target audience must be students at the staff colleges; syndicate-sized groups to be exchanged between colleges; a lead college is to be designated and this must rotate on a yearly basis; peacekeeping training centres need to be actively involved in the planning processes; each institution should have a nominated focal person; ACoC Secretariat to draft an Action Plan for the implementation of CJAX; and that CJAX should start with two regions.

30. It was noted by the group that the important components of CJAX comprise of Regional Peace Support Training Centres, as well as Military (staff college students)/ Police/ Civilians.

31. Finally, on the subject of funding, it was noted that UK donor funding can cover the cost of two small regional CJAXs, and that this funding will be made available till FY2011/FY 2012 and also to cover initial working groups from FY2008/2009. Member states will have to fund CJAX from FY 2012/2013. This is deemed to be limited to transport and subsistence. The session concluded by explaining that CJAX is dependent on ACoC, and will need funding for a work group to market ACoC in the region and to solicit a patron for ACoC, and that a UK donor will need to be approached to assist in this regard.

Questions & Comments arising from Group Two Presentation:

32. It was suggested that subject areas, time deadlines and responsibilities should be set before the next ACoC. It was accepted that one person from each of the five regions should brief their respective regions. A decision was taken to package the minutes, background notes and formal invitation for the next ACoC, and should be sent out to the commandants of all the staff colleges on the continent so that the commandants are aware that ACoC has accepted these proposals.
33. Group Three delivered a presentation on Decisions Fourteen to Twenty-Two on the 1st ACoC. On **Decision 14: Multidimensional training to be considered by staff colleges** the participants in the group agreed that the issue of integrated missions is inevitable and is the way forward. They also cited that the UN is encouraging integrated missions and it is inevitable therefore to integrate police and civilian components in PSO training. They also agreed that the civilian and police components training should be included only during the period when the PSO module is being offered.
34. They endorsed **Decision 15 (The AU PSOD website will be populated with lessons learnt for use by staff colleges)**. They additionally suggested that in the ACOC website, further links be provided to the AU website. Furthermore, they suggested that when the AU website is complete, ACOC should establish links to it.
35. Concerning **Decision 16 (Africa Peace-Support Training Association (APSTA) to be approached to give consideration to their engagement with the ACOC in a secretariat)**, the group suggested that the ISS should continue to serve as the interim secretariat. The group further agreed that one of the staff colleges be nominated to serve as a secretariat and the association should fund it. They however raised the concern that the challenge of such a permanent secretariat would be funding.
36. The group also endorsed the 17th **Decision on expanding the attendance of future ACOCs by widening the invitation list to other African Staff colleges**. Group participants suggested that invitations be extended to all African countries including all those that do not have staff colleges.
37. **Regarding Decision 18 on the Standardisation of curriculum and PSO Doctrine**, group three suggested that a group of experts be constituted to look into this issue and provide recommendations on how to synchronise and harmonise curriculum. They further recommended that the expert recommendations be considered at the 3rd ACOC. They further suggested that staff colleges at the level of the RECs discuss this decision at their individual regional levels as well.
38. The group suggested the recommendations of **Decision 18 on Decision 19 on the Synchronisation of the flow of courses or programmes**. Regarding **Decision 20 on the establishment of an African Staff college. Possible name Pan African College**, the group requested the conference for further information/ details in order to come up with a more informed decision.
39. The group endorsed **Decision 21 on The establishment of a portal to enhance communication between staff colleges** and further agreed that such a portal should be user-friendly and provide useful information, provide useful linkages and resources for colleges. For instance library resources, addresses etc.

40. Finally, on **Decision 22 over Communications, which includes media, will have to be investigated to enhance effectiveness of the ACOC and Staff colleges**, the group stressed that publicity of ACoC was very important. An example was cited of Ghana's media involvement in this ACOC. Publicity and communication was further considered as important not just for raising national public awareness but also regional awareness of ACOC activities. Other participants were also urged to publicise ACOC in their respective countries and journals.

Questions & Comments arising from Group Three Presentation:

41. During the discussions that proceeded after the Group 3 presentation, it was mentioned that the **ISS act as the secretariat for the interim period** and assist with the ACoC portal. Dr. Ngoma clarified that links as suggested by the 3rd group already do exist citing ACSS as an example. It was also suggested that colleges that are not already linked to the portal avail their websites for uploading by the ISS. While discussing decision 20, on the idea of establishing a Pan-African College, a proposal was put forward by the ISS of availing this information to the chair by providing a draft document on it. It was also added that on the ACoC portal, there would be set up a restricted area that could only be accessed by the commandant and made unavailable to the general public. It was however added that the suggestions that the group had made on the decision of the portal arose to avoid limiting the ACOC portal by its linking it with the AU PSOD website.
42. Further discussion followed on decision **18 and 19 of synchronising and harmonising curriculum**. It was noted that harmonisation and standardisation of curriculum is a challenge. It was stressed that harmonisation rather than standardisation of curriculum is more relevant and that from the harmonisation it would be easier to standardise the curriculum. It was however reiterated that it was important to standardise issues of curriculum such as on operations and procedures. It was further added that if PSO can be harmonised then it would be easier to standardise curriculum.
43. Finally, it was suggested that the host of the third ACoC consider inviting influential people from the AU to participate in the conference since this will contribute towards getting ACoC noticed by a broader audience and as a result contribute towards addressing the challenge of getting recognition of ACoC.
44. After some discussion the possibility of a Pan-African College, it was decided that the ISS would provide a draft document for consideration by commandants.

ITEM THIRTY-THREE:

Establishment of 3RD ACOC

45. The Secretariat proposed the following theme for the 3rd ACoC: "Developing and Transforming Education: A Contribution to Africa Human Security, and proposed 4 conference sub-themes, namely: human security, peace support operations, post-conflict reconstruction, curriculae for development. It was mentioned that the theme being proposed, is the theme that was used for the 1st ACo. Comdt Baiden proposed to use sub-themes, for example, examining the role of ASF and ACoC and discuss how to

- implement it. It was suggested that it is essential to explore a theme that attaches ACoC to ASK, and ASK to AU. Dr Ngoma acknowledged that similarities, but also stressed the differences stating that 1st laid groundwork, and that it needs to be build upon it.
46. Col Portia stressed that it is the duty of the chair of 3rd ACoC to decide on the theme in consultation with the secretariat. Which was followed by a suggestion that the chair pick a theme for two days of the conference, and the remainder of the days left to discretion of the staff colleges involved.
 47. Maj Gen. Abdullah stated that he hoped to integrate peacekeeping, and suggested that we study that subject and exercise. Second point he made was that we need to make it a point to invite all countries which have staff colleges to the next ACoC. Maj Gen. Abdullah then extended a formal invitation for Egypt to host the 3rd ACoC in 2009, stating that all expenses will be covered, except airfare. The Secretariat's costs will be covered by BMATT for one more calendar year, as well as the sub-committee for marketing and co-ordination of ACoC. After some discussion it was decided that the theme for the 3rd ACoC would be "To Facilitate and Improve Understanding Amongst African Staff Colleges for Coherent Support to African Security."

