

Telephone: +27 (0)12 392-3255
 Fax: +27 (0)12 392-3254
 Enquiries: Lt Col GM Motlhabane



SANWC/BPST/001

SA National War College
 Private Bag X160
 Pretoria
 0001

April 2007

Dear Commandants,

AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF COMMANDANTS – EDUCATION & STAFF COLLEGES

**Invitation: 'The Role of African Staff Colleges in support of ASF Harmonisation'
 Symposium at the SA National War College, Pretoria, RSA, 06-08 November 2007.**

1. I have the honour to inform you of 2 exciting proposals we would like to garner your support for in reinforcing ASF Harmonisation: an African Conference of Commandants and a Combined Joint African Exercise.

AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF COMMANDANTS

2. The African Conference of (Staff College) Commandants (ACoC) will aim to enhance harmonisation – interoperability, commonality, standardisation and co-operation – between African Staff Colleges in order to contribute to joint multi-national and multi-agency cross governmental ASF peace support operations. The Conference would potentially be an annual event, rotating between AU member nations, and would in time be expected to become a network of all African Staff College Commandants.

3. The Conference will be similar in concept to the NATO Conference of Commandants. The NATO Defence College (NDC), who organise the NATO event, has kindly invited myself to their Conference in Croatia, 23-24 April 2007. As a result, I will be better placed to understand the roles and outputs of such a Conference, as well as the potential implications of the ACoC towards the ASF. The NDC may be able to offer assistance in supporting the delivery of our initiative in Africa.

4. The ACoC is targeted at the senior military levels of education within the AU/ASF militaries (eg Commandants and Chief Instructors/COS of staff colleges); ASF representatives from AU and regional levels (eg: AU's ASF Harmonisation Workshop and AU Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD)); peace, security & defence related NGOs and educational institutions; and, possibly national/international donors.

5. Furthermore, the ACOC will endeavour to reinforce work that already takes place for example at the African Peace Support Training Centres (APSTA) Meetings and International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) Conference. The ACoC would, however, deal with pan-defence education as well as focusing on the delivery of peace missions and Military Operations Other Than War education.

COMBINED JOINT AFRICAN EXERCISE (CJAX)

6. It is proposed that some of the key military nations within the AU and larger force providers to both AU/UN Peace Missions investigate organising a Combined Joint African Exercise (CJAX) between staff colleges. The CJAX would reinforce interoperability, commonality, standardisation and co-operation between staff colleges as well as further enhancing the AU Peace Support Operations Doctrine. Interestingly, a number of European countries already run a successful Combined Joint European Exercise.

SCOPING LETTER

7. There is clearly much that would need to be discussed. Both ventures could be relatively easily developed during the next few years towards 2010. This scoping letter seeks to gain your tentative support for both ventures and to invite you, or your deputies, and a lead member of your staff (Colonel/Captain Navy or Lieutenant Colonel/Commander rank) to visit the RSA for a symposium: 'Role of African Staff Colleges in support of ASF Harmonisation' at the SA National War College, Pretoria, between 06-08 November 2007. The draft programme will be as follows, and I would welcome your advice in developing a suitable agenda:

Day 1 - African Conference of Commandants (ACOC).

Day 2 - Combined Joint African Exercise (CJAX).

Day 3 - African Staff College's Harmonisation.

8. These two exciting proposals, the African Conference of Commandants and Combined Joint African Exercise, would significantly reinforce our ASF capacity building endeavours through education, especially for ASF Peace Missions in the African Battle Space. Separately, we are also staffing these proposals through our military chain of command to the AU. The UK has kindly offered to financially support both initiatives in the short term as part of their support towards ASF harmonisation; therefore, there will be no cost implications to you if you decide to accept my invitation, and we will facilitate the funding for your trip.

I look forward to hearing from you and the opportunity to welcome you to RSA.

(W. NKONYENI)

COMMANDANT SA NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE: BRIGADIER GENERAL

Distribution:

Commandant
Egyptian National Staff College
c/o Brigadier Ashraf W Eskander Assad
Military Attache
Egyptian Embassy
PO Box 1779

Groenklof, 0027
egyptdef@mweb.co.za
 012 460 7621

Commandant
 Kenyan Armed Forces Staff College
 c/o Colonel V N Loonena
 Defence Attache
 Kenyan High Commission
 PO Box 35954
 Menlo Park, 0081
kenulinzi@mweb.co.za
 012 347 6603

Commandant
 Armed Forces Command & Staff College
 Accra
 Ghana
 +233 21 715682 (office)
 + 233 21 766008 (fax)
 + 233 244 315920 (cell)
dkmishio@yahoo.uk.co

Air Vice Marshal E R Ejeh
 Commandant
 Armed Forces Command & Staff College
 PMB 2124
 Jaji – Kaduna
 Nigeria
 +23 480 3629 0653 (office)
erlemmy@yahoo.com
 + 23 462 249 426 (fax)
 (via Group Captain B A Adekoya babatunde5@hotmail.com)

Brig Gen F.N. Ulomi
 Commandant
 Command and Staff College
 P.O. Box 7205
 Arusha
 Tanzania
 +255 272 538242
cscarusha@yahoo.com

Copies To:

SANDF Training Command	(Att: General Officer Commanding)
SANDF Defence Foreign Relations	(Att: Director)
British Peace Support Team (South Africa)	(Att: Commander)
SANWC	(Att: Chief Instructor, Chief of Staff)
ACCORD	(Att: Director)
ISS	(Att: Director)
NUPI	(Att: Cedric de Coning)