



IN BRIEF

East Africa and North and West Africa Counterterrorism Operations

This is the 9th and final report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for the East Africa Counterterrorism Operation and the North and West Africa Counterterrorism Operation. This report summarizes the quarter's key events and oversight of the U.S. mission to degrade and contain violent extremist organizations (VEO)—including al-Qaeda, ISIS, and their associated forces—in designated areas of Africa.

Lead IG Reporting Sunsets

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- In 2019, the DoD **rescinded the overseas contingency operation (OCO) designation** for the East Africa Counterterrorism Operation and the North and West Africa Counterterrorism Operation.
- Lead IG reporting responsibilities **sunset** at the **end of FY 2020** since none of the appropriated funding for the operations was associated with an OCO.
- While Lead IG reporting on these operations concludes with this report, U.S. **counterterrorism operations continue**.
- The DoD, DoS, and USAID OIGs will **continue to provide oversight** of U.S. Government activity in Africa under their respective authorities.

Al-Shabaab “Adaptive, Resilient, and Capable”

pp. 11-15



- Al-Shabaab **shifted its focus** in recent months toward **U.S. interests** in the region as it continued attacks against U.S., Somali, and AMISOM forces.
- U.S. forces conducted **7 airstrikes** in Somalia against al-Shabaab and ISIS-Somalia—a decrease from earlier this year—and supported Somali ground operations.

Somali Forces Behind on Development Milestones

pp. 18-19

- Somali security forces **have not met milestones** toward the development of capabilities needed to assume security responsibilities by 2021.
- The U.S. supported Somalia's efforts to revise its security transition plan, which USAFRICOM recommended should include **more realistic expectations**.
- The DoD and the DoS continued to **advise, train, and equip** Somali security forces during the quarter, including the **Danab Advanced Infantry Brigade**.
- Preparations for Somalia's 2021 elections have **slowed its security sector reform**.

North Africa VEOs Disrupted, Degraded

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- The threat posed by AQIM and ISIS-Libya **neared its lowest point** in a decade.
- U.S. counterterrorism activities were limited to monitoring VEOs for **indications of resurgence** and providing support to partner forces in the region.

Tentative Ceasefire in Libyan Civil War Holds

pp. 35-39

- Fighting between the UN-backed GNA and the LNA nearly stopped as both sides agreed to continue UN-led **peace negotiations**. The DoS supported the negotiations.
- **Foreign fighters** remained in Libya, complicating efforts to demilitarize the conflict.
- Local armed militias on both sides of the conflict jockeyed for influence, resulting in further **instability, violence, and risk** to civilians.

West Africa VEOs Not Contained

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- JNIM **expanded operations in Mali**. ISIS-West Africa **escalated violence in Nigeria** and stated that it would target aid workers.
- The U.S. Government **suspended security assistance** to Mali following a military coup in August. **Intelligence sharing** continued.
- USAID expected a majority of its programs in Mali to continue.

USAID Adapts to COVID-19

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- USAID enhanced abuse prevention programs, as **COVID-19 restrictions** have negatively impacted women and girls.
- USAID obligated nearly **\$75 million** for the COVID-19 response in West Africa, though only **\$9 million** had been reported as expended.

Oversight

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- The Lead IG agencies released **11 reports**, including a report about USAFRICOM's response to COVID-19.
- A DoS OIG audit identified several **challenges for interagency cooperation** in West Africa.