COMMAND POST EXERCISE
EASF CPX “MASHARIKI SALAM 2014”

9th – 22nd November
Adama, Ethiopia

Burundi
Comoros
Djibouti

Ethiopia
Kenya
Rwanda
Uganda

Seychelles
Somalia
Sudan
1. BACKGROUND

For the past ten years, EASF has focused on building capacity to respond to security needs using an integrated approach that brings the three components (military, civilian and police) together to train in various areas of Peace Support Operations (PSOs). The Civilian component undertakes substantive and supportive civilian functions in PSOs including political affairs; public information; human rights; electoral management and observation. Civilians from EASF Member States receive the requisite training to enhance their existing professional skills and expertise.

In a PSO, the police unit is responsible to support the local police and the population, and to restore law and order. Capacity-building programmes for the Police component are two-fold: Individual Police Officers (IPOs) and Formed Police Units (FPUs). EASF has trained FPUs in areas such as public order management, General Service Unit (GSU), VIP protection, protection of property, protection of civilians and electoral support. IPOs training includes mentoring, advising local police, correctional institutions, judiciary mentoring, training security sectors, intelligence awareness, border patrol, small arms and light weapons, integrated counter-terrorism, transitional crimes and international police.

The military role in a PSO is normally to create the necessary conditions to create a stable, self-sustaining secure environment for the longer term. EASF has trained a number of military personnel in areas such as cordon and search, road blocks, civil military issues, protection of civilians, handling prisoners of war. In addition, EASF has also developed maritime capacity, whose personnel have undergone training in interdiction operations, search and rescue, vessel protection detachment and maritime task force commanders courses among others.

EASF’s approach is to hold trained staff on standby in their respective countries ready for deployment in peacekeeping missions. EASF maintains a roster database of highly-experienced personnel to facilitate follow-up for further training and access when required.

EASF Training Exercises

As part of preparations for operational capability EASF has also organised major Exercises in different Member States to provide an opportunity for interaction, to demonstrate the inherent potential compatibility of the Forces to work together as well as help to assess their readiness for deployment. This includes a Command Post Exercise (CPX) 2008 which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, followed by a Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2009 in Djibouti; EASF achieved its initial operational capability (IOC) in 2010. A second CPX 2011 took place in Khartoum, Sudan and a second Field Training Exercise “FTX Mashariki Salaam 2013” was conducted in Jinja, Uganda.
Encouraged by the successes from these Exercises, the Council of Ministers of Defence and Security expressed confidence that EASF was at the doorstep of declaring Full Operational Capability and, in a Policy Organs Meeting (POM) in February 2014, directed that EASF works out modalities to fast-track FOC to December 2014, one year ahead of the AU target of December 2015. The Council subsequently decided that a third EASF CPX be conducted in November 2014 in Ethiopia as the last major Exercise to validate the readiness of EASF before declaration of FOC.

Thereafter, EASF Member States further demonstrated outstanding commitment to actualize the Force in a pledging conference which was successfully conducted in August 2014 in Kigali, Rwanda, under the chairmanship of Hon James Kaberebe, the Minister of Security for Defence of the Republic of Rwanda, in which they confirmed their respective pledges. The Republic of Kenya illustrated its strong will in a Field Training Exercise code-named “ENEZA AMANI” which took place in Samburu Kenya in September 2014 where the Kenyan forces were validated in an event graced by His Excellency Hon Uhuru Kenyatta the President of the Republic of Kenya. The Force validation exercise will be replicated by all the other Member States.

2. EASF CPX “MASHARIKI SALAM 2014”

The aim of the CPX 2014 is “To exercise a multidimensional Mission Headquarters in planning, preparation and execution of a peace-keeping mission.” EASF adopted the code name “EASF CPX MASHARIKI SALAM” carried over from the last Field Training Exercise, “FTX MASHARIKI SALAM”. This is a representative expression in most official languages of the Member States.

‘Mashariki’ is a Kiswahiili word for Eastern, while ‘Salam’ is Peace.

The code name is further complemented by the theme of the Exercise:

Promoting Peace and Security

The main objective is to practice the training audience in the integrated mission planning, command, control and execution of a complex peace support operation. The Exercise will provide an opportunity for EASF to validate its readiness for Full Operational Capability (FOC).

3. EXERCISE ROADMAP

CPX 2014 was designed to be executed in four phases: Preparatory Phase, Confirmation Phase, Execution Phase and Recovery Phase. The preparation phase included three Planning Conferences: The Initial Planning Conference (IPC), the Main Planning Conference (IPC) and the Final Planning Conference (FPC) where EASF staff and Member States held detailed discussions on the organization and execution of the Exercise. The core planning team also visited the Exercise location in Adama, Ethiopia, to conduct a CPX recce which confirmed the suitability of the location and the related facilities.

Following the Opening Ceremony, there will be 5 days of the Exercise play, culminating in a Distinguished Visitors (DV) day and End of Exercise (ENDEX). Whilst Forces prepare to leave, there will be a Closing Ceremony and Hot Debrief, after which Forces will recover. After Action Review (AAR) will be organized at a later date.
4. **EXERCISE SCENARIO**

CPX will replicate, as far as possible, an EASF Mission composed of multi-dimensional and multi-national force elements from all EASF components. The scenario is based on the fictitious Republic of CARANA, which is normally used by the AU for purposes of simulation in its Exercises dubbed “Amani Africa”.

This ‘Road to Crisis’ aims at summarizing events that have taken place in CARANA since the Presidential and National Assembly elections were held in December 2011 to early March 2013 that caused deterioration of peace and security in CARANA. Whereas the elections were largely certified as free and fair by the International Community and the Independent Electoral Observers, the situation in CARANA nosedived early in January 2012 and has inexorably plunged the country back into a period of uncertainties and despair. Under the circumstances, few of the aspirations of delegates to the pre-election Conference of GALASI held in June 2011 have materialized. Tribal, sectoral and inter-political party animosities have flourished to alarming proportions with all the attendant threats to normalcy and social stability.

The Eastern Africa Region Member States as well as the International Community having noted the events unfolding in the Republic of CARANA did not want the violent events in LEPPKO Province to spill over beyond CARANA and destabilize the entire region. Therefore, an Extraordinary Session of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) was convened to discuss the situation in CARANA on 15 Feb 2013. Following this a Communiqué was released, condemning the deteriorating security environment in CARANA and called for all conflicting parties to desist from activities that might aggravate the already fluid situation. The PSC further authorized the deployment of an Africa Union Mission in CARANA (AMIC I) with the broad mandate of restoring stability in CARANA and tasked the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) with the implementation of the 7,000 strong AMIC mandate for the initial 6 months duration.

5. **PARTICIPATION**

EASF has ten active Member States which have shown great commitment to own and to support the Exercise by participating actively in the entire preparation and execution process. A total of two hundred and ninety nine (299) participants consisting of military, police and civilian components, are expected to participate. The Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of Tanzania will participate in observer capacity.

6. **THE CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION (CIMIC) PROJECT**

As part of Civil-Military Cooperation, interaction with the local communities in Adama, and to leave behind a memento with the community and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for hosting the Exercise, EASF has initiated a project to construct a mini-health clinic which will be handed over to the Government on completion.