



OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM-TRANS SAHARA

Program Overview

U.S. Africa Command's Operation Enduring Freedom Trans Sahara (OEF-TS) is the Department of Defense (DOD) support to the Trans Sahara Counter Terrorism Partnership (TSCTP) program, which focuses on overall security rather than solely on Counter Terrorism. The partnership comprises the United States and ten African countries: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Tunisia.



TSCTP is the State-led traditionally moderate populations in the Trans-Sahara region to combat the spread of extremist ideology and terrorism in the region. The initiative is an integrated, multi-year approach that draws resources and expertise from multiple agencies in the U.S. Government (USG), including the Department of State (USDOS), the Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Department of Defense (USDOD).

OEF-TS is the USG's 3rd priority counter terrorism effort and supports the TSCTP mission by forming relationships of peace, security, and cooperation among all Trans Sahara Nations. OEF-TS activities foster collaboration and communication among participating countries. Furthermore, OEF-TS strengthens counterterrorism and border security, promotes democratic governance, reinforces bilateral military ties, and enhances development and institution building. U.S. Africa Command, through OEF-TS, provides training, equipment, assistance and advice to partner nation armed forces. This increases their capacity and capability to deny safe haven to terrorists and ultimately defeat violent extremist organizations in the region.

Building Partner Nation Capacity

Through OEF-TS, U.S. Africa Command trains, equips, assists and advises partner nations through activities including, but not limited to:

- *Military information sharing*
- *Communications systems interoperability*
- *Joint, combined, and multinational exercises enhancing cooperation*
- *Countering extremist ideology*
- *Sustaining regional operations*
- *Building upon mutual military professionalism and accountability*
- *Airlift and logistical support*
- *Ground and aviation training and maintenance support*

Developing Partner Nation Capability

OEF-TS extends previous efforts to train and equip company-sized partner nation forces to help deter the flow of illicit arms, goods, and people, and to preclude terrorists from establishing sanctuaries. Under the program, training, equipment and specific units are focused on counter terrorism. In addition, U.S. forces provide mentorship focused on leadership and responsibility.

Other OEF-TS Efforts

OEF-TS also provides military support to public diplomacy, information programs, humanitarian assistance, and infrastructure development focused on resolving regional issues related to counter terrorism. The Multinational Information Sharing Initiative (MISI) provides training and equipment to build information sharing capability with, and between, the Trans-Sahara partners. Sharing information empowers nations to attain and maintain a regional focus, which will lead to successful operations.

Engagement Activities

U.S. Africa Command will engage OEF-TS nations and support TSCTP through a variety of activities, such as:

- *Joint Planning Assistance Teams (JPAT)*
- *Mobile Training Teams (MTT)*
- *Civil-Military Support Elements (CMSE)*
- *Military Information Support Teams (MIST)*
- *Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET)*
- *Foreign Military Financing, Foreign Military Sales, and International Military Education and Training*
- *Senior Leader Engagement to gain perspective and build regional cooperation*
- *Counter-Terrorism Train and Equip (CTTE)*

Multinational Support

As a top priority, increasing multinational partner support for TSCTP to enhance and promote African regional coalitions, such as the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). U.S. Africa Command will actively engage other countries and organizations and invite them to become a part of OEF-TS.



What is OEF-TS?

Operation ENDURING FREEDOM-TRANS SAHARA (OEF-TS) is the US Military regional plan against terrorist and violent extremists. OEF-TS is the military component to Trans Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP), together with other USG organizations, OEF-TS will help enhance stability and deter terrorist activity on the African continent, with an emphasis on greater security in North Africa. U.S. Africa Command is working with international partners in a regional approach to common areas of concern such as commerce, education and economic development. OEF-TS works with the partner nations to expand military-to-military cooperation, ensure adequate resources are available to train, advise, assist regional units, and establish mechanisms to promote better regional cooperation, communications, and intelligence-sharing.

What is TSCTP?

TSCTP is a State Department-led initiative specifically developed to address potential expansion of operations by terrorist and extremist organizations across West and North Africa. Interagency coordination is critical to its success. The partnership comprises: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Tunisia, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal and the United States.

What has U.S. Africa Command done so far to support TSCTP?

U.S. Africa Command has worked on programs that expand military-to-military cooperation between the US and partner nations by ensuring there is adequate resources available to train, advise, and assist regional units with the hope of promoting better regional cooperation, communications, and intelligence sharing. U.S. Africa Command has conducted train and equip missions to build Company level units that are capable of providing sustained border security. Also U.S. Africa Command has facilitated partner national staff information training and mentorship programs, conducted JPAT and MIST trainings, and held JCET events in all nine countries. To build regional cooperation, an annual regional CT exercise involves all countries as well as mentors and observers from European partners. OEF-TS is currently building an information sharing portal and standing up regional communications infrastructure to improve connectivity between partner countries.

What is a JPAT?

A Joint Planning and Assistance Team is a four- to six-man element that advises and helps partner nation forces on a wide variety of military missions.

What is an MTT?

A Mobile Training Team is tailored to conduct specific military training to increase the capabilities of nations.

What is a CMSE?

A Civil-Military Support Element (CMSE) assesses partner nation capacities to develop and sustain government and local institutions, including infrastructure development, that address the population's basic humanitarian needs.

What is a JCET?

Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) events provide special opportunities to enhance training, foster communication and cultural exchanges between militaries.

What is a MIST?

A Military Information Support Team (MIST) is a tailored package that supports State Department and U.S. embassy public diplomacy and information programs. It provides advice and assistance to a partner nation to promote good governance activities, and in the TSP region, to counter terrorist and extremist ideology and recruiting efforts.

What office within U.S. Africa Command do I contact for OEF-TS Program information and issues?

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