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PRESS RELEASE

MILITARY COOPERATION AFRICA / UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**SECURITY FORCES JOINT EFFORTS FOR SECURITY AND STABILITY IN
THE TRANS SAHARAN REGION**

Flintlock 10, a multinational military exercise including forces from African and European nations and the United States, will get underway in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on May 2, and will continue through May 23, 2010.

The goals of the exercise are to foster professional relationships and cooperation among the military forces and to increase security and stability in the Trans-Saharan region. The tenth in a recurring series of exercises supported by the U.S. Africa Command, Flintlock 10 will also focus on capacity-building and military interoperability among the forces of the partner nations.

A Multinational Coordination Center (MCC) will be established in Burkina Faso to serve as a focal point for information sharing, as well as the planning of synchronized operations. The MCC staff will conduct academic training for all participants, culminating in a command post exercise (CPX). The CPX will enhance the participants' ability to work collaboratively toward solving a shared regional crisis involving illegal activities which disrupt stability and security.

The tactical portion of Flintlock 10 will consist of small-unit combined training and activities involving U.S. and partner nations' forces. Various military elements will also conduct civic action programs to provide health information and basic medical care to people in rural communities.

Through exercises such as Flintlock, the U.S. Africa Command furnishes military training opportunities to further relationships of peace, security and cooperation among all Trans-Saharan nations, in support of the U.S. Government's efforts to combat transnational security threats.

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