



United States Embassy Lilongwe, Malawi U.S.-Malawi Military and Security Collaboration



Executive Summary:

The United States and Malawi enjoy close military and security collaboration. Building on the 2016 Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), cooperation includes joint exercises, training and equipment for Malawi's peacekeeping battalion, educational exchanges, efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and co-hosting several regional military exercises and events. Reflecting one of the busiest military relationships in southern Africa, in 2016, the United States opened the Office of Security Cooperation (OSC) at the U.S. Embassy in Lilongwe to coordinate our growing military partnership. Joined by a common belief in the rule of law, the U.S. Mission maintains a strong collaborative relationship with Malawi's law enforcement entities.

Strategic Collaboration, Educational Exchanges and Training

Together with the UK, the U.S.-funded Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) assisted Malawi to create its first National Security Strategy. The U.S. African Military Education Program (AMEP) and U.S. Armed Forces Africa helped develop the curriculum for and trained instructors for Malawi's Senior NCO Academy, which recently graduated its fifth class, including students from several nations. Since 2015, under the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program, 16 Malawian officers attended courses in the United States on subjects including strategic and tactical intelligence, defense acquisition, HIV/AIDS, Gender-Based Violence, and the Law of Armed Conflict. At the same time, Malawi hosted three groups of U.S. Army cadets with plans to host two more later this year.



U.S. Ambassador Virginia Palmer (center) attends the 2015 NCO Academy graduation

To boost Malawi security sector skills, the United States sends Malawian law enforcement officers to the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana. Most recently, the

Malawi Police Service sent eight officers to receive specialized skills training in post-explosion investigations, evidence collection, and analysis. In April, several officers from multiple agencies will attend training on border interdiction and interviewing.

Peacekeeping Support

The U.S. DOD uses funds from the State Department-managed Global Peacekeeping Operations Initiative (GPOI) money to train-and-equip previous and current Malawian peacekeeping battalions (MALBATs 1-8) deployed to Cote D'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of Congo. At the conclusion of the current training for MALBAT 9, Malawi will qualify for Full Training Capability, becoming one of the first African nations certified to train its peacekeeping forces to international standards. The United States supports Malawian military forces participation at multilateral exercises, UN staff officer courses, the regional peace support training center in Kenya and AFRICOM/UN workshops to increase MDF proficiency on humanitarian support and protection of civilians, particularly women. In 2017, U.S. peacekeeping funds will support refurbishment of MDF aircraft and construction of a peacekeeping operations warehouse.



U.S. and U.K. soldiers instruct MDF soldiers on detainee search methods (L) and terrain analysis during MALBAT 9 pre-deployment training in March 2017.

High-Level Visits

Since 2012, Malawi has hosted 8 U.S. flag officers or equivalents, including AFRICOM Commander General Ham, USARAF Commander Major General Williams, and new USARAF Commander Major General Harrington. In that time, at least two Malawian general officers have traveled annually to the United States to attend conferences or summits alongside U.S. Military leaders. Most recently, General Griffin “Spoon” Phiri, the Chief of the Malawian Defense Forces, presented to U.S. and African military alumni at the Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Multilateral Exercises and Conferences

Since 2013, the United States and Malawi have held three joint and multilateral exercises. The 2013 EPIC GUARDIAN, an interagency counterterrorism exercise, involved more than 700 MDF and 300 U.S. Military. In 2014 and 2016, Malawi hosted the SOUTHERN ACCORD

Exercise, the largest military exercise in southern Africa, with over 200 participants from the United States, almost all SADC nations, and several European partners. In May 2017, Malawi will host the AFRICAN LAND FORCES SUMMIT, the largest single gathering of African military chiefs. The following month, Malawi will host an event sponsored by ACSS focusing on southern Africa security resource management with participants from a dozen nations. In August, the United States and Malawi will jointly host AFRICAN ENDEAVOR 17, which will bring top communications officers from over 40 countries.



MDF Commander, General Griffin "Spoon" Phiri discusses the role of PKO troops and the rule of law as USARAF Commander, Major General Joseph Harrington listens.

HIV/AIDS Prevention Program (DHAPP)

Through DHAPP, the U.S. DOD contributes over \$2 million per year into health services for the MDF and surrounding communities. The program supports training of MDF health workers, support for AIDS testing, counseling and treatment, voluntary male medical circumcision (VMMC) and the purchase of laboratory equipment. DHAPP programs and facilities can be found in military locations across Malawi.