

## OVERVIEW OF THE AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

### **Objective:**

- Provide an overview of the Africa Center.

### **Background:**

The Africa Center for Strategic Studies advances U.S.-Africa policy by strengthening African states' strategic capacity to identify and resolve security challenges in ways that promote civil-military cooperation, respect democratic values, and safeguard human rights. The Africa Center pursues its mission by engaging African partner states and institutions through rigorous academic and outreach programs that build strategic capacity and foster long-term, collaborative relationships.

Since its inception in 1999, the Africa Center has provided academic-style programs for security-related professionals working in (or on) Africa to identify and evaluate current and emerging security challenges across the continent. We also explore remedial strategies for national and regional security. Using a peer-learning model we seek to reinforce internationally-recognized sound practice. The Africa Center's community chapter program promotes productive networking among former participants, affording them an opportunity to continue dialoguing and collaborating on key security issues after returning to their home countries. Publications from the Africa Center's research program expand analysis and understanding of Africa's security challenges.

The Africa Center achieves its objectives by adhering to five core values in its programing: an academic approach, partnership, consultation, academic freedom, and non-attribution. We believe that security challenges can be resolved only by asking difficult questions and searching sincerely and creatively for solutions that are appropriate, effective and sustainable. The Africa Center's vision statement, "Security for all Africans championed by effective institutions accountable to their people," underpins our educational philosophy. It helps us focus on building capacity, strengthening institutions, promoting accountability and improving the lives and livelihoods of every African citizen. In doing so we rely on evidence-driven approaches, peer-learning and an applied focus.

Information about the Africa Center is available at our website: [www.africacenter.org](http://www.africacenter.org)

### **Required Reading:**

Africa Center Overview Presentation:

<https://africacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Africa-Center-Welcome.pdf>