COMBATING TERRORISM CENTER
at West Point

The Relationship Between Peace Support Operations and Counterterrorism in Africa

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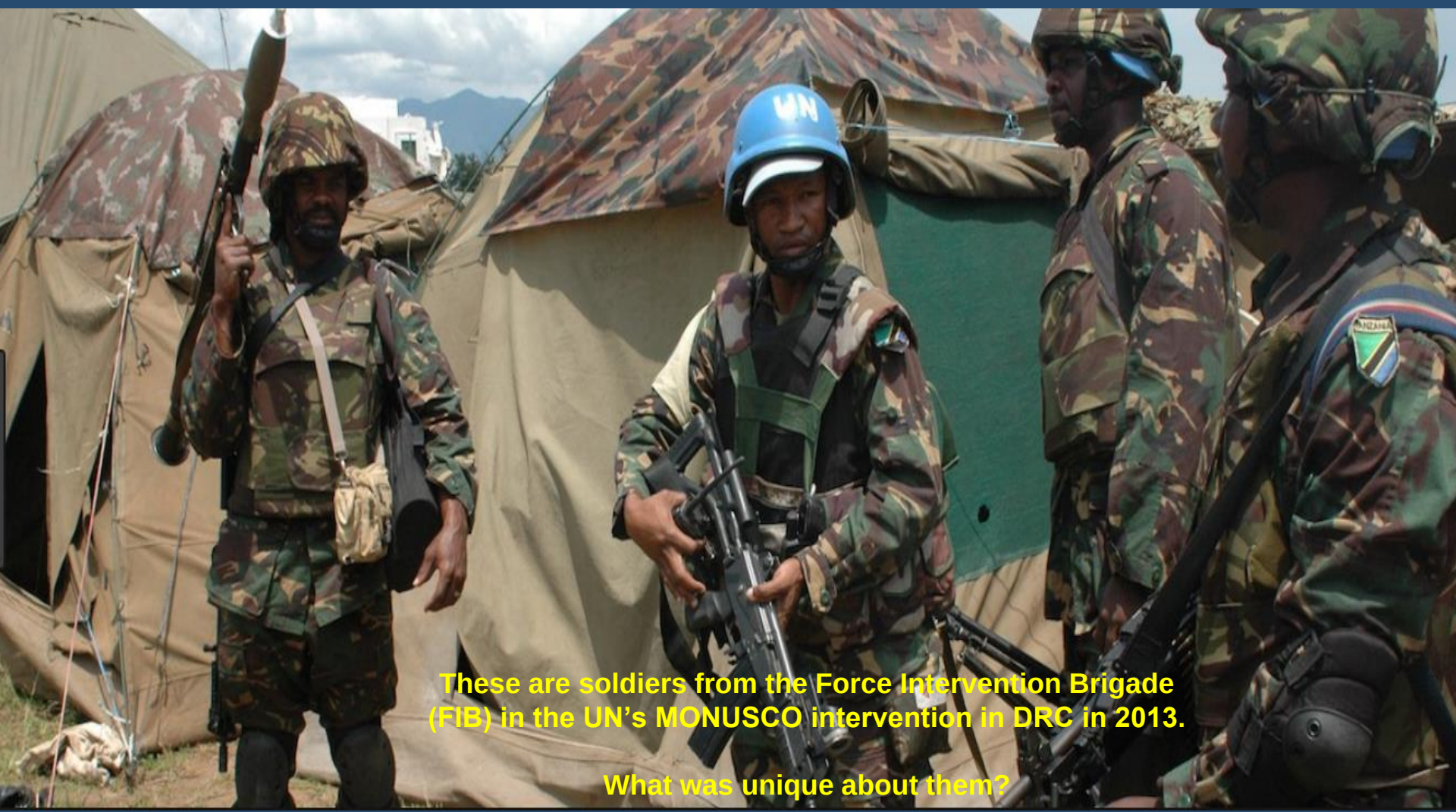

These are soldiers from the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) in the UN's MONUSCO intervention in DRC in 2013.

What was unique about them?

Question:

How has the rise of terrorism impacted peace support operations in Africa?

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Argument:

- The rise of terrorism in Africa has led both the UN and AU to increasingly move from defensive peacekeeping to offensive peace enforcement.

- This move towards offensive, counter-terrorist peace enforcement leads to positive and negative outcomes for the UN, AU, and “peripheral” member states.

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United Nations

African Union

	Use of Force?	Peace?	Consent from Government?	Impartiality?
Peacekeeping (Chapter VI)				
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Peace Enforcement (Chapter VII)	Offensive			

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Peace Enforcement (Chapter VII)	Offensive	Peace NOT established		

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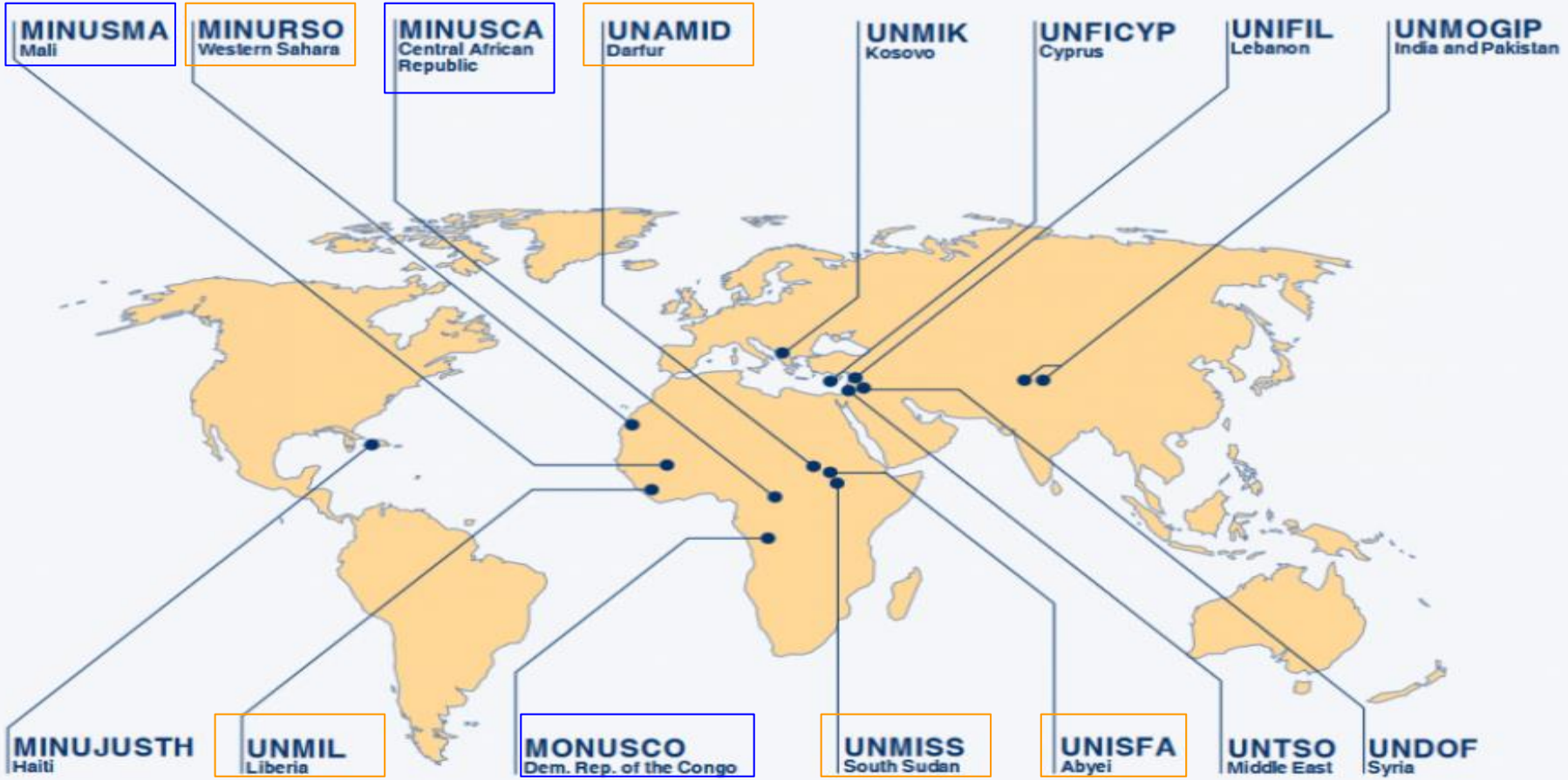
Peace Enforcement (Chapter VII)	Offensive	Peace NOT established	No	Not impartial

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS



Current African Union Peace Support Missions in Africa

- **AMISOM:** African Union Mission to Somalia
- **UNAMID**: United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur
- **AU RCI - LRA:** Africa Union-led Regional Cooperation Initiative Against the Lord's Resistance Army

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- **MNJTF:** Multinational Joint Task Force in Lake Chad Basin

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History in peacekeeping	

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Positives?	Negatives?
UN has global responsibility for peace and security	Could lead to UN losing legitimacy
History in peacekeeping	Lack of UN standing army / artillery / airlift
	Could put other civilian UN workers at risk
	Could create new insecurity

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Legislative agenda to promote CT	
Quick reaction capability	

What are the positives and negatives of the African Union undertaking operations to fight terrorism?

Positives?	Negatives?
Willingness to undertake kinetic CT	Lack of funding
Legislative agenda to promote CT	Inconsistent airlift
Quick reaction capability	Politicized fight by neighbors
	Weak coordination among members

What are the positives and negatives of so-called “peripheral countries’” participation in UN and AU operations to fight terrorism?

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Could allow your country to anticipate threats	
Could allow your country to protect your economic interests	
Could offer your country reputational benefits	
Could offer your military training and expertise	

What are the positives and negatives of so-called "peripheral countries'" participation in UN and AU operations to fight terrorism?

Positives?	Negatives?
Could allow your country to anticipate threats	Could bring your country into a long, expensive fight
Could allow your country to protect your economic interests	Could lead to domestic political opposition
Could offer your country reputational benefits	Could make your country a target of terrorist reprisals
Could offer your military training and expertise	Could pull military away from domestic challenges

Question:

How has the rise of terrorism impacted peace support operations in Africa?

Argument:

- The rise of terrorism in Africa has led both the UN and AU to increasingly move from defensive peacekeeping to offensive peace enforcement.

- This move towards offensive, counter-terrorist peace enforcement leads to positive and negative outcomes for the UN, AU, and “peripheral” member states.

Thank you.