



**AFRICA CENTER
FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES**

Violent Extremism in Somalia and the Horn of Africa

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Africa's Contemporary Security Challenges
12 September 2018

OVERVIEW

I. BACKGROUND

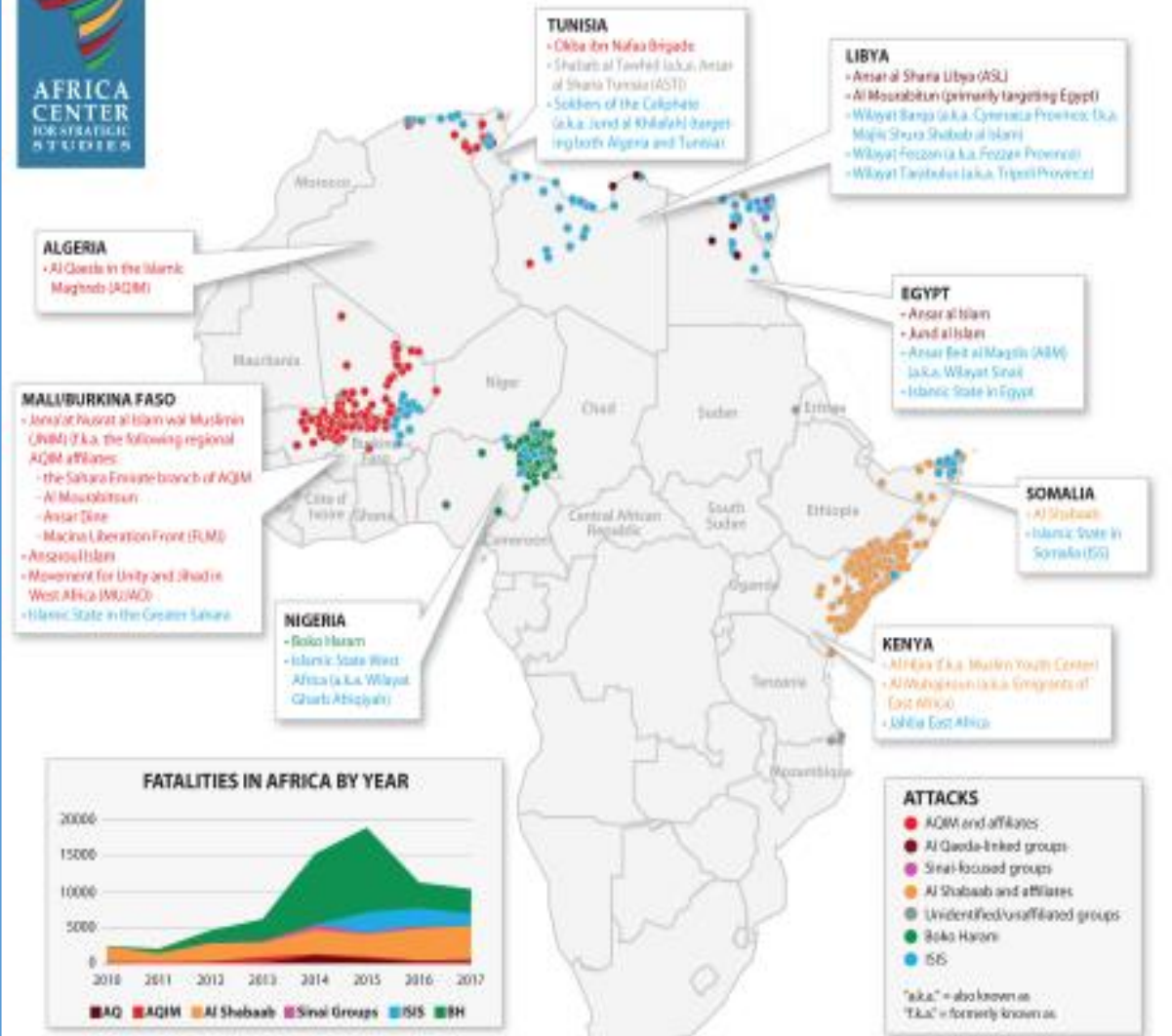
II. STATUS

III. PROSPECTS

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS



AFRICA'S ACTIVE MILITANT ISLAMIST GROUPS



Updated: April 2018

Notes: Compiled by the Africa Center, this graphic shows violent incidents involving the listed groups over the 12-month period ending March 31, 2017. Data on fatalities is based on attempts to identify all representations of the events. Group listings are intended for informational purposes only and should not be considered official designations. Due to the fluid nature of many groups, the listed affiliations may change.

Source: Africa Center's Conflict Data Project (CCDP); Global Terrorism Database; United Nations and Emergency Centre; Thomson Reuters; SIPRI Intelligence Group; The Sudan Group; Stanford University's Mapping Militant Groups Project; BBC; Reuters; Reuters & Analytics Center from (TRAC) last April 7, 2018.

I - II - III - IV

BACKGROUND

❖ 1990s

- ❖ Global Politics
- ❖ Turmoil in Somalia

❖ Early 2000s

- ❖ Global War on Terrorism
- ❖ Islamic Courts Union

❖ Al-Shabaab Era

- ❖ c2005 – 2011: Rise to (hollow) victory
- ❖ 2012 – 2015: Cross-border terrorism
- ❖ 2016 – present: Renewed insurgency



I - II - III - IV

STATUS

❖ Organization

- ❖ Structure
- ❖ Membership

❖ Resources

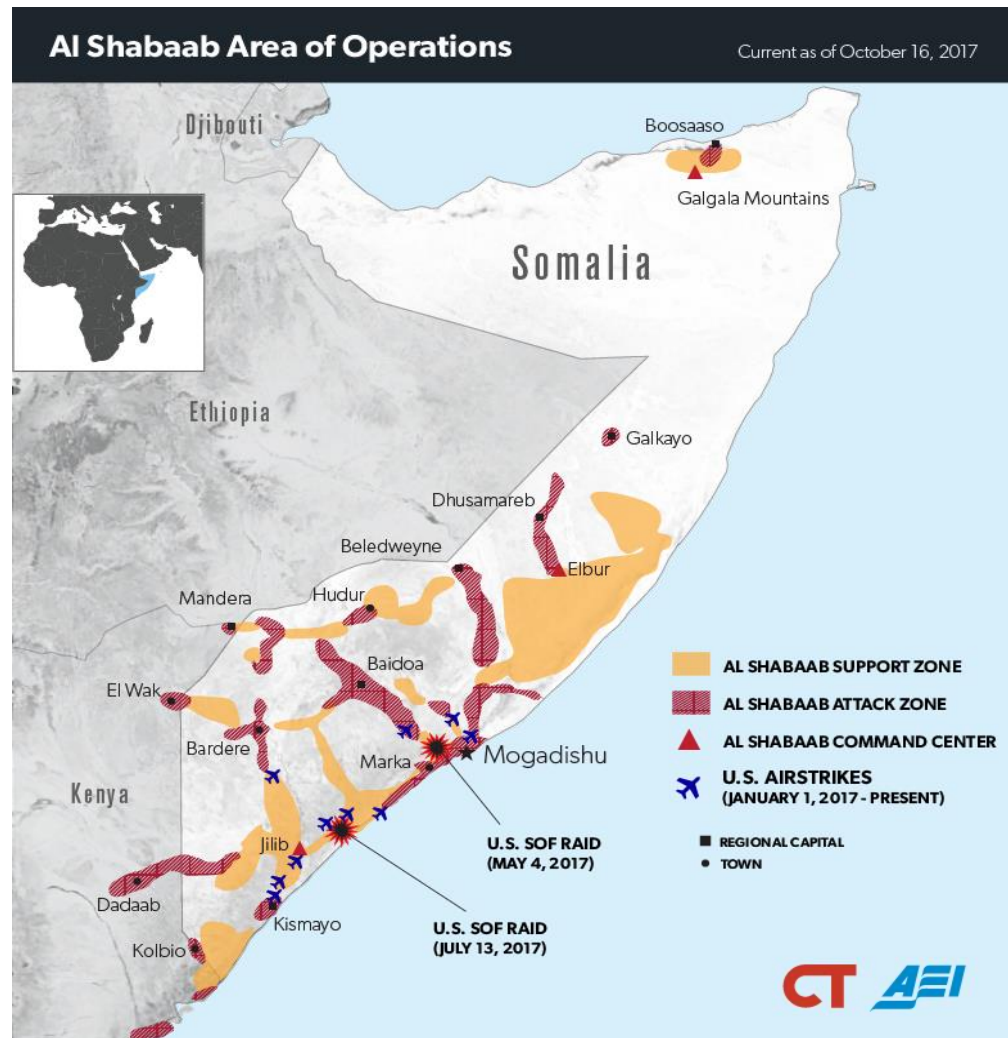
- ❖ Territory
- ❖ Financing
- ❖ Networks

❖ Violence

- ❖ Weaponry
- ❖ Targeting

❖ Influence

- ❖ Messaging
- ❖ Recruitment



I - II - III - IV



STATUS *Challenges*

- ❖ Rivals
- ❖ Internal Violence
- ❖ Unpopularity
- ❖ Stalemate



I - II - III - IV

PROSPECTS

❖ Against Al-Shabaab

- ❖ Stabilizing government
- ❖ Regional realignments
- ❖ New partners for Somalia



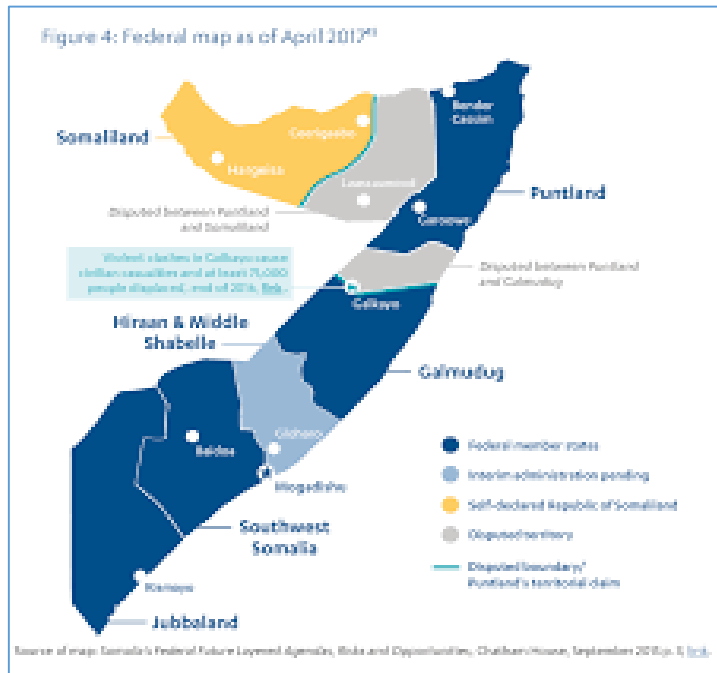
❖ Favoring Al-Shabaab

- ❖ Western fatigue
- ❖ Growing African terrorism

I - II - III - IV

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Focus on political reconstruction
- ❖ Find off ramps for terrorists
- ❖ ‘Rightsize’ aerial strikes
- ❖ Be selective in training and CVE programs





THANK YOU

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