



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

AFRICA'S CONTEMPORARY SECURITY CHALLENGES

INFORMATION NOTE

WHAT: The Africa Center for Strategic Studies will conduct a seminar providing an overview of the African security landscape, take stock of national and regional responses to Africa's security challenges, and discuss the actors and partnerships necessary for enhancing peace and prosperity on the continent.

WHERE: Marshall Hall, National Defense University, Washington, D.C.

WHEN: 14-16 September 2022

WHO: Approximately 30 participants comprising a mix of executive agency, legislative, and other U.S. Government (USG) personnel who have responsibilities related to U.S.-Africa policy, programs, or relationships. No formal experience or training in African issues is required.

WHY: As African security challenges evolve, the USG needs personnel with current and in-depth understanding of the continent's complex security environment and the key actors, policies, and programs that influence it. This seminar will provide participants with an analytical and strategic framework for their work, an understanding of current and emerging security challenges, and access to a wide array of subject matter experts, as well as key primary and secondary source materials. It will also foster more robust peer networking across the USG interagency.

This three-day seminar will also prompt thinking about future trends and the strategies necessary to overcome implementation challenges. Throughout this interactive seminar, participants will be encouraged to share their experiences and departments' perspectives and approaches.

HOW: The program will consist of discussion-based plenary sessions – which will prioritize a robust exchange between participants and speakers -- and one simulation exercise. Each of the plenary sessions will begin with brief presentations by subject matter experts and be followed by a question-and-answer session. The simulation exercise will allow participants to use the

knowledge gained during the seminar and their experiences to understand the drivers of unrest and political instability in Africa, and analyze the challenges and opportunity the United States, the international community, and local factors face in response. The syllabus will be sent in advance to participants to enable them to read ahead. The seminar will also operate under a strict policy of non-attribution, which allows a free and open sharing of ideas.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

1. Improved understanding of current, emerging, and future security threats in Africa;
2. Enhanced appreciation of the complexities of Africa's security environment and the roles that local, national, regional and international actors play in addressing Africa's security challenges;
3. Expanded awareness of the policies, programs and challenges U.S. agencies and departments face operating in Africa;
4. Peer-to-peer networking and learning.