



INFORMATION BRIEF ON OPERATION VIMBEZELA (CAR)

PRESENTED BY

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OPERATION VIMBEZELA: RSA TRAINING ASSISTANCE (SANDF) IN CAR (FACA)





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INTRODUCTION



- South African National Defence Force formalised the defence cooperation with Central African Republic Armed forces by means of a memorandum of understanding, concluded and signed in 2007
- Among the issues underpinned by the agreement was that SANDF would provide training assistance to FACA and the MOU was renewed on 31 December 2012 and the parties agreed that South Africa would continue to provide training to FACA, has a right to self defence and save human lives in CAR and shall assist in implementation of Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration(DDR) and Security Sector Reform(SSR).



LEGAL FRAMEWORK (1)



- MOU was signed in 2007
- MOU meant to be reviewed every five years
- CAB MEMO NO: 18 of 2007 authorised the deployment of 85 SANDF members for reason of training and the close protection of the CAR President
- Presidential Minute no: 436 dated 15 July 2008 authorised only provision of Military Training and Capacity building to the Armed Forces of CAR
- Implementation arrangement was in place on annual basis since 2010 in terms of training and does not cover the protection of the President



LEGAL FRAMEWORK (2)



NB: The close protection to the CAR President was not provided for by the SANDF



MANDATE



- The deployment in CAR was mandated:
 - To continue with training capacity programmes to the Armed Forces of CAR
 - To exercise self-defence to protect property and save human lives
 - To further send reinforcement to achieve the said mandate.
 - To assist the Government of the Central African Republic with Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) planning and implementation



PLANNING OBJECTIVES (PLANNING OUTCOMES)



- The following objectives were set to be achieved:
 - Streamlining the training capacity building programme in CAR to cover a period of five years and beyond
 - Plan for operational deployment plan and sustenance for the next five years, Sustenance will also have to factor in the processes for the establishment of the forward strategic sustainment hub, including timeframes
 - Appreciate, plan and produce a Strategic Master Plan for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration programme, Security Sector Reform Programme and continuous Capacity Building Programmes for the short, medium and long term engagement, including clear entry/exit strategy with milestones as benchmarks for the Mission deliverable



MISSION



- The SANDF must the deploy a protection force consisting of a strengthened subunit and other FSE and continue with training capacity programmes to the Armed Forces of CAR whilst exercising protection task namely self- defence, protection of property and human lives from march 2013 until 31 Mar 18



INTENT



- To deploy mission ready, credible and well balanced force to CAR in order to train FACA, defend itself, protect property and human lives and assist during DDR and SSR process



EXECUTION



This Operation was going to be executed in three stages

- Stage 1 Mobilisation of forces 18-22 March 2013
- Stage 2 Deployment to CAR by the end of March 2013
- Stage 3 Sustainment and Rotation (6months) basis



CONCEPT OF OPERATION



- SANDF to continue with training capacity programmes to the Armed Forces of CAR as from 2013 to 2018 rotating on a six month bases
- The contingent must be able to defend and to protect property and save human lives, furthermore, the SANDF must be able to react by means of sending reinforcements to achieve the said mandate and to assist the Government of the Central African Republic with Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) and Security Sector Reform planning and implementation



GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING (1)



- The following guidelines were given in order to help give direction to achieving the end state:
 - Appreciate and plan for the current force levels deployed with a proviso to expand to a level of a Battalion Group, should the security situation dictates to warrant such reinforcement within a shortest possible space of time
 - Appreciate and plan for a space in CAR to accommodate such a level of Force Structure Element (FSE)
 - Appreciate and plan to relocate the South African Protection Force element accommodated at the Police Training Centre in CAR by 2014
 - Appreciate and plan for inclusion of Recce Elements within the planned contingent



GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING (2)



- The following guidelines were given in order to help give direction to achieving the end state:
 - Appreciate and plan to sustain the deployed force for a period of five years with calculated rotations to be aligned with the current existing rotations
 - The Strengthened Sub-unit to include its inherent support weapons
 - Consider streamlining Command and control
 - Recce elements must withdraw by 01 March, and 1 Para Coy to be withdrawn by April 2013
 - Appreciate and plan for the withdrawal of C SANDF Strategic Elements currently deployed in CAR within the shortest possible time taking into consideration the current scheduled rotations



GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING (3)



- The following guidelines were given in order to help give direction to achieving the end state:
 - Appreciate and plan to work with other stakeholders and or role players for reasons to advance the objectives of pending Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of various factions in the CAR
 - Appreciate and plan for a drawn out strategic programme to deal with issues of Security Sector Reform and continuous Capacity Building Programmes beyond five years
 - Appreciate and factor in possible means to equip the trained force for long term defence to defence cooperation
 - Appreciate and plan for contingency measures for immediate withdrawal in CAR at short notice due to possible changes in the interim Transitional Administration