



# GLOBAL SECURITY

## Preempting terrorism on the Horn of Africa

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**SCOTT AFB, Ill.** — Most of the focus of recent operations supporting the Global War on Terror has been on Iraq and Afghanistan, but the Combined Joint Task Force — Horn of Africa is also contributing to this mission.

**Where's the Horn of Africa?** It consists of the six East African nations of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Eritrea, Sudan, Yemen and Somalia.

**Why the Horn of Africa?** Many terrorist organizations set up camp in Africa due to the lack of strong integrated governments throughout the region. CJTF-HOA stepped up as a catalyst to preempt and eliminate terrorist safe havens in the region by creating a coalition among the nations. Camp Lemonier, Djibouti hosts the CJTF-HOA, whose primary goals are twofold: Develop the coalition into a group of nations that work together to disrupt and defeat international terror-

ist organizations using their own resources, and let Africans know that the United States is there to promote global security. CJTF-HOA does some direct counterterrorist operations, but not as its primary focus.

CJTF-HOA is working to develop and strengthen the coalition by providing military-to-military training on force protection, border and port security and general anti-terrorism skills to several of the militaries in the region. This enables the HOA nations to begin their own counterterrorism operations. The U.S. also transformed its Joint Operations Center into a Combined Joint Operations Center, where the coalition liaison officers take an active role in the planning and execution of CJTF-HOA operations. Including the LNOs in the planning and execution further enhanced the participation of the HOA governments.

The CJTF-HOA is working to accomplish the first goal through a series of nation-building activities,

such as providing medical and veterinary care in rural villages, building schools, roads, hospitals and drilling wells in areas where water is scarce. CJTF-HOA also produces a large amount of informative materials that spread the word about the positive things done throughout the area.

CJTF-HOA/J6 is actively working to extend a network to the U.S. embassies and HOA Ministries of Defense. This major expansion is in the planning phase, but will ultimately enable the coalition nations and embassy representatives to get closer to the action and collaborate on counterterrorism operations.

Gen. John Abizaid, U.S. Central Command commander, said on multiple occasions that CJTF-HOA is the model joint task force, because if the U.S. had the opportunity to do what it's doing in the HOA in Iraq and Afghanistan 10 years ago, the current situations may have been prevented. There is an opportunity in the HOA, and the coalition is aggressively working to eliminate terrorist safe havens in those countries and increase global security.

*Editor's note: For more information about CJTF-HOA, contact 1st Lt. Teresa Sullivan, CJTF-HOA public affairs officer, at [SullivanTL@hoa.centcom.mil](mailto:SullivanTL@hoa.centcom.mil).*