2017 EMERGING SECURITY SECTOR LEADERS SEMINAR

CONCEPT PAPER

WHAT: The Africa Center for Strategic Studies will conduct a three-week program for mid-level African security sector professionals that focuses on enhancing professionalism, critical thinking, ethics and leadership. The program will: (a) discuss professionalism, ethics, and leadership, particularly as they pertain to the security sector; (b) examine Africa’s contemporary and emerging security threats; and (c) explore best ways to enhance relationships between civilians and the security sector to advance good governance and democracy on the continent.

WHERE: Washington, D.C.

WHEN: 23 October - 9 November 2017

WHO: Approximately 60 mid-level security professionals from eligible African countries are expected to attend. Participating countries will be invited to nominate two (2) participants, one uniformed and one civilian (Major to Lieutenant Colonel, or equivalent). Uniformed participants should be drawn from across the security sector (e.g. military forces, police, gendarmerie, border guards, etc.). Civilian participants should be drawn from relevant security sector government ministries/departments (e.g. Defense, Foreign Affairs, Interior, etc.), or from governmental oversight bodies (i.e. Ombudsman, Auditor General office, Inspector General office, Parliamentary committees, etc.). All nominees must have a firm grasp of Africa’s security challenges and should have demonstrable leadership potential. Regional organizations (African Union, ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC, Arab Maghreb Union, etc.) will each be invited to nominate one (1) participant.

WHY: This program aims to provide the next generation of African security sector leaders with practical and effective tools upon which they can draw to contribute to their nations’ security and development. Since the turn of the century, African states have been democratizing at an unprecedented rate, yet, instability still threatens some states—including a few once thought to be stable—and the security forces must be capable of responding to a wide range of threats. Strengthening professionalism within the security sector can safeguard reforming governments; conversely, relatively unprofessional security forces may undermine stability. This program addresses the roles and responsibilities of professional security sector officials in democratic societies, and enhances leadership skills to more effectively address current and future security challenges.
HOW: This program focuses on leadership, critical thinking, ethics and governance in the context of security challenges facing the African continent. This interactive program also integrates the importance of productive civil-military relations, and the development of appropriate strategies and effective partnerships with international partners. A spirit of academic inquiry and debate guides the program, and will follow the well-tested Africa Center format of plenary sessions followed by discussion group sessions. Knowledgeable speakers will frame the key issues and engage participants in a question-and-answer during the plenary sessions. Plenary sessions will be followed by breakout discussion groups in which participants will have an opportunity to address the issues raised in plenary in more detail and to share experiences.

Participants will be required to write a short paper that explores a theme to be disclosed by the faculty lead during the program overview. Field trips and topical working-lunch sessions will provide further access to subject matter experts.

All discussions and activities will be conducted under a policy of strict non-attribution, a cardinal principle of the Africa Center. The entire program will be conducted in English, French and Portuguese, and participants are required to have working knowledge of one of these languages.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

1. Enhanced appreciation of the linkages among professionalism, ethics and leadership to achieve security for all Africans.
2. Increased understanding of strategic approaches to addressing current, emerging, and future security threats in Africa.
3. Enhanced grasp of the importance of planning for national security, with special focus on the development of national security strategies, policy implementation, and resource allocation and management.
5. Sustainable peer-to-peer networking.

SUPPORT FOR UNITED STATES POLICY:

This program is consistent with the US government’s ongoing efforts to support the professionalization of Africa’s security sector. It also supports the broader U.S. policy objectives as outlined in the U.S. National Security Strategy by promoting democratic values, good civil-military relations, and a stable security environment conducive to sustainable development in Africa.