THE BLACK ALLIANCE FOR PEACE

BAP FACT SHEET ON AFRICOM

What is AFRICOM ?

United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) is one of 11 of the US department of defense combatant commands with a geographic function and mission that provides command and control of military forces.

AFRICOM is responsible for all US Department of Defense operations, exercises, and security operations on the African continent, its island nations and surrounding waters. AFRICOM initially began in 2007 and became fully operational on October 1, 2008. In 2019 there were 44 African countries partnered with AFRICOM. AFRICOM's role is to support and work in tandem with US foreign policy in Africa to support its national interests.

How did AFRICOM come about?

In 2007 the US Department of Defense (DoD) came to a decision that US AFRICOM was necessary due to the increasing strategic importance of Africa and instructed then president George W. Bush to direct the creation of it.

What is the REAL purpose of AFRICOM?

The real purpose of AFRICOM however is to enable terrorism while at the same time prosecute the "war on terror" in Africa. This contradictory action ensures that Africa is in a constant state of war and instability. In doing so AFRICOM nurtures and justifies its own reason for being while developing a dependence of African states on AFRICOM for their defense. This is done to comply with the US (and its European allies) 'strategic interests' and objective which is the control of and unfettered access to Africa's natural resources via their comprador neocolonial "partners". Research data shows that since the founding of AFRICOM there has been a marked increase in terrorist groups operating in Africa. The dependency on AFRICOM by partner African states also facilitates the training of most of Africa's military by US or NATO forces thereby increasing their allegiance to US imperialist interests.

Why is BAP against AFRICOM?

As referenced in our principles of unity, BAP takes a resolute anti-colonial, anti-imperialist position that links the international role of the US empire, which

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is an empire based on war, aggression and exploitation, to the domestic war against poor and working class Black people in the United States.

What can we do ?

Join the **U.S. Out of Africa Network** **(USOAN)** which is the organizational arm of the shut down AFRICOM campaign designed to educate the public about the destructive US hybrid war and imperialist policies perpetrated by AFRICOM. Support the yearly International Day of Action on AFRICOM (October 1) which aims to raise the public's awareness about the U.S. military's existence in Africa, and how the presence of U.S. forces exacerbates violence and instability throughout the continent. Sign up to get regular updates on our work.