

**Public Affairs Section**

**U.S. Embassy, Gaborone, Botswana**

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### **Press Release**

#### **Commander of the United States Africa Command, General Carter F. Ham to Visit Botswana**

The United States Embassy is pleased to announce that Commander of the United States Africa Command General Carter F. Ham will visit Botswana August 15 – 16. General Ham will meet with senior Government of Botswana and Botswana Defence Force officials and he will participate in the closing ceremony for the ongoing joint military training exercise *Southern Accord 12*. The closing ceremony for *Southern Accord 12* will take place at Thebephatwa Air Base at 3:30pm on August 16. Members of the press are invited to attend.

The joint training activities conducted under *Southern Accord 12* have enhanced the capabilities of military personnel from both countries in a variety of areas, including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, anti-poaching, peacekeeping, and convoy operations, and aero-medical evacuation. The Exercise included both classroom instruction and field exercises. The United States has in the past two years conducted similar Joint Military Training Exercises with African countries such as South Africa, Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In addition, BDF and U.S. personnel conducted outreach programs in several rural communities, including Malwelwe, Mantshwabisi, Serinane, and Monwane. These outreach activities included dental and medical examinations, veterinary assistance, and support for safe male circumcision.

The United States Africa Command, also known as U.S. AFRICOM, is one of nine Unified Combatant Commands of the U.S. Department of Defense. As one of six that are regionally focused, it is devoted solely to Africa. U.S. AFRICOM is responsible to the Secretary of Defense for U.S. military relations with 54 African countries. It enhances the ability of the Department of Defense to work with other elements of the U.S. Government and others to achieve a more stable environment where political and economic growth can take place. U.S. AFRICOM is committed to supporting U.S. Government objectives through the delivery and sustainment of effective security cooperation programs that assist African nations to build their security capacity and to enable them to better provide for their own defense. The command was created by presidential order in 2007 and was officially activated October 1, 2007.

#### ***Biographical Information***

General Carter F. Ham became commander of U.S. Africa Command headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany on March 9, 2011. U.S. Africa Command is one of six unified geographic commands within the Department of Defense unified command structure.

General Carter F. Ham served as an enlisted Infantryman in the 82nd Airborne Division before attending John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. He was commissioned in the Infantry as a Distinguished Military Graduate in 1976.

His military service has included assignments in Kentucky, Ohio, California, Georgia, Italy and Germany to name a few. He has also served in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Macedonia, and Iraq.

He has held a variety of positions to include Recruiting Area Commander; Battalion Executive Officer at the National Training Center; Advisor to the Saudi Arabian National Guard Brigade; Commander, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry; Chief of Staff, 1st Infantry Division; Commander, 29th Infantry Regiment; commander, Multi-National Brigade, Mosul, Iraq; Commander, 1st Infantry Division; Director for Operations, J-3, The Joint Staff, Washington, DC.

His previous assignment was Commanding General of U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army.

His military education includes the Armor Officers Advanced Course, Naval College of Command and Staff, graduating with distinction, and the U. S. Air Force's Air War College.

General Ham's awards and decorations include Army Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

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