

Public Affairs Section

U.S. Embassy, Gaborone, Botswana

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Press Release

**U.S. Embassy Response to *Botswana Guardian* Article Claiming
AFRICOM is Planning a Base in Botswana**

The August 16, 2012 *Botswana Guardian* article on purported plans by the U.S. Africa Command to establish a base in Botswana is wrong. No plans exist for establishing a U.S. military base in Botswana.

The U.S. relationship with Botswana is based on mutual respect and a shared vision for the future, and that includes strong military to military ties.

U.S. Embassy Chargé d’Affaires Michael Murphy said today, “The United States, like Botswana, has an interest in a safe, secure and stable Africa. We want to see Africans able to address African security challenges. Our military engagement in Botswana and elsewhere on the continent is designed to build defense institutions capable of contributing to regional and international security, and when called upon, to support humanitarian assistance effort. The latter was an important focus of Southern Accord 12. When President Obama visited Ghana in 2009, he laid out a vision for America’s relationship with the Africa – he promised a genuine partnership. Southern Accord 12 and the U.S.-BDF relationship that made it possible demonstrate what partnership looks like. I am proud of it.”

The *Botswana Guardian* manufactured a headline based on unsubstantiated claims with no basis in fact or reality. The U.S. Embassy values its relationship with all media outlets in Botswana, but when a mistake of this magnitude occurs, we must seek its correction. In this case, we have requested a prominent and a prompt correction from the *Botswana Guardian*.

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