

# COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE - HORN OF AFRICA

## Fact Sheet

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### **U.S. Central Command COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE-HORN OF AFRICA Mission**

The Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa is a unit of United States Central Command that conducts operations and training to assist host nations to combat terrorism in order to establish a secure environment and enable regional stability. The mission is focused on detecting, disrupting and ultimately defeating transnational terrorist groups operating in the region—denying safe havens, external support and material assistance for terrorist activity. CJTF-HOA counters the re-emergence of transnational terrorism in the region through civil-military operations and support of non-governmental organization operations, enhancing the long-term stability of the region.

CJTF-HOA provides short-term assistance by providing clean water, functional schools, improved roadways and improved medical facilities. Long-term goals include working with host nations to improve national security. Regional stability is built through capacity building operations such as civil affairs and military-to-military training; engineering and humanitarian support; medical, dental and veterinarian civil action programs (MEDCAP, DENCAP, VETCAP); security training for border and coastal areas; and maritime training with host nations.

### **Philosophy**

The CJTF-HOA command philosophy is to provide for host nations a stable, secure environment where all people have the freedom of choice—a place where education and prosperity are within each person's grasp and where terrorists, whose extremist ideology seeks to enslave nations, do not infringe upon the right to self-determination. CJTF-HOA's focus is regional, and centered on ensuring host nations have the capacity to secure their homeland and can contribute to the Horn of Africa's future.

### **Background**

More than 1,500 people from each branch of the U.S. military, civilian employees, coalition forces and partner nations make up CJTF-HOA. The area of responsibility for CJTF-HOA includes the countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

CJTF-HOA was established at Camp Lejeune, N.C., on Oct. 19, 2002. In November 2002, personnel embarked on a 28-day training cruise aboard USS MOUNT WHITNEY, arriving in the Horn of Africa on Dec. 8, 2002. CJTF-HOA operated from the WHITNEY until May 13, 2003, when the mission transitioned ashore to Camp Lemonier in Djibouti. Since then, CJTF-HOA personnel have built numerous schools, clinics and hospitals; conducted dozens of MEDCAPs, DENCAPs and VETCAPs; dug over 20 wells; and trained with most host nation militaries. Additionally, members of the task force have assisted with at least 11 humanitarian assistance missions, including recovery efforts after the collapse of a four-story building in Kenya in 2006 and the capsizing of a passenger ferry in Djibouti in 2006.

### **Point of Contact**

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