

"AFRICOM: Rationales, Role, and Progress on the Eve of Operations"

On July 15, 2008, the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs conducted an oversight hearing to explore the rationale, roles, and stand-up of the U.S. Department of Defense' new Africa combatant command (AFRICOM). This hearing presented an opportunity to provide Members with an introduction to AFRICOM; the strategic vision behind it; and its progress and challenges in staffing, continental footprint, mission transition, and interagency coordination.

Witness List

- **Ms. Theresa Whelan**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense
- **Ambassador Mary C. Yates**, Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Activities, U.S. Africa Command
- **Major General Michael A. Snodgrass**, Chief of Staff, U.S. Africa Command
- **Ms. Lauren Ploch**, Analyst in African Affairs, Congressional Research Service
- **Mr. John Pendleton**, Director, Force Structure and Defense Planning Issues, GAO

Documents and Links

[Opening Statement of Chairman John F. Tierney](#)

[Prepared Testimony of Ms. Theresa Whelan](#)

[Prepared Testimony of Ambassador Mary C. Yates and Major General Michael A. Snodgrass](#)

[Prepared Testimony of Ms. Lauren Ploch](#)

[Prepared Testimony of Mr. John Pendleton](#)

[Transcript for "AFRICOM: Rationales, Role, and Progress on the Eve of Operations"](#)