**COL Sheiffer, January 7, 2025, Stuttgart, Germany.**

Participant name: J39, AFRICOM

Five step plan.

**One - Assessment**

$10 million for a assessment. Cot’d – cable, stuff that French are doing, disinformation, combination of polling, focus groups, media monitoring, elite interviews. Paraton is running this. The sub is Orb International.

Magi, another sub. They have ability to look closely at media space, good breakdown of nodes and narratives.

PRC too, not doing bots/disinformation.

SETAF never asked us to look into the problem. Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB)

Exposing malign influence, the GEC is a key partner. They are doing a lot of initiatives. Department of public diplomacy is taking on the GEC portfolio. We are hoping the GEC continues. Regional bureaus, not in the counter disinformation business. Reorganization could be good, it could help regional bureaus become engaged.

National Defense University- Mark Dirkson is doing a lot of the assessmentsl

**Two – African resilience**

Step two. Increase African partner resilience. Mark doing workshops in Cot’d, Ghana, Kenya. Great program…. Working with Debunked.org, a Lithuania shop. Doing stuff. Cot’d they are doing practical things they could do. We are using ED64 (is that right) money for that. Connect with Mark.

Wish 10 Africa Centers and ten xxx

**SETAF could do more with security cooperation funding. I’d like to fund more workshops in west Africa. To give a tank a host nation has to be involved, with disinformation it is just training?**

Of 8 things, can use section 330 money. CT, WMD, training military intelligence but disinfo is not our priority. Would fund additional military intel training before doing more disinformation workshops. **Bc disinformation has no component lead.**  **OSDSTATE want bottom host nation requirements.** Cot’d asking for help, mali doesn’t want help, they control the information environment, they want Russia’s engagement.

**Three – Security cooperation**

Component help. They need to come with it**. I think SFAB should incorporate disinformation into squad training. I need soldiers in Africa to tell me. Nick went to either Ghana or Cot’d. Civil affairs teams could be brought in.**

**Soldiers are not experts, civil affairs do not know. They need help. (Training us soldiers?)**

**Four. Shaping environment for OEI.**

Public affairs, miso capability, could be civil affairs or cyber. **That is a capacity challenge. African lion a good example. Not always clear it is deliberate on what African generals are doing what (in terms of engagement**). Have they requested assistance. How does it all work together. Exercises shape host nation and means of strategic messaging. Exercise is a message. Are they crafting that message into exercises?

**Five. Options to disrupt adversary messaging.**

Going after Russia is hard. Have cyber capabilities. If setaf wanted to jam… Challenge **setaf** lane is poorly defined. They have priority countries. But not clear lanes in which they have the lead.

SFAB is more flexible. More focused on training. Foreign military sales are not so flexible. Great potential. Brigade commander is out of Liberty. He is active, has spoken about getting more involved into stuff. My lane is information operations.

**SETAF, I do not have a good sense they know what they want their role to be.** **Ideal, what messaging do I need to do it to support campaign plan. I need a demand signal to spend money.**

SOC-AF has two people in SETAF. One a general planner. Not clear everyone in the g39 knows they have the capabilities, have the authorities, would you like to desire MISO?

SETAF not doing these things. Why? No real requirements, don’t have to. So it becomes a judgement call. Medevac exercizes. Some random country. We can send everyong a text, messaging plan would be be yourself. Do I need a press event or a newsmagazine mention? SETAF is overwhelmed and can’t do everything. (so he is saying there is no messaging around the exercise).

Could do event in morocco where plan for hypersonic missiles, could even practice moving such missiles to the area. It would send a message to china. Turning ideas into exercises takes work.

African lion. One example. Could get additional support. Need to make sure information support but it takes a lot of meetings. Good information in exercise but not about exercise. Need balance between exercise and information about the exercise.

**For African lion. They can ask for information support. Resources and support is available. Want 30 PAs? Ask. Want a psychop team? But they are not reaching out to the J39. Need to ask for contract support. Want radio tower in Somalia but that would be suicide to install.**

They ask for changes in contract but that requires us to fail the contract, which we can do but want to avoid. Will be messaging about African lion but need to be involved.

**Public affairs, easy to show up and do a press conference. I am looking about what African say in supporting an exercise. We can take African media and amplify on paid media. That is SOP. But if no coordination it will be ok but better if people on the ground on are feeding him things.**

**Coordination?** Ops in info environment Working Group, meets weekly. One is counter PRC and one Russia. In WG, try to identify tier one operations, activities and investment (OAI) checklist. But people are busy. They should say, before the meeting, the j39 is wrong and go to slides and make edits. For important stuff is getting addressed in the meeting but not everything.

For Ops and Intel update, table top exercise about crisis response. Can’t message that type of operation. Africans doing stuff, I can message that. They have a stricter box. I am not in that box. They are doing what the 3 wants but not what the J39 wants, (higher hq staff can’t tell subordinates what to do). J39 not understand what the SFAB is doing.

SETAF sends tasker asking where SFAB will go but what they do what that input? What will you message about it?

SFAB high vis. Illegal fishing is high vis. Can’t say china is bad but can highlight illegal fishing, the audience knows this is about china.

USAID not like us messaging about them. But we can focus on “food and security” themes.

Mining,, I want to go there but it is difficult. Brought in DIA teams, we know the mines are exploited by Russia and PRC. Guy arrested after 12 bars of gold found.

Op Tanhauser, that is the unclassified name of op with UK/MOD and CPCO (the French joint staff agency). Africom making policy, French CPCO, same positions. He needs help. We do combined operation, lets work together and make messaging (as long as it is not too pro French).

Permanent Joint HQ, UK joint command that runs Joint ops. I work with their higher HQ (Mil Strategic Effects). Latest success is about Ukraine, they found Russians recruiting africans to work in drone factors, they received pretty bad treatment.

They did exposure and J39 supported J2; did awesome report that DoS highlighted.

Work with strategic effects cell, they have Africa cell.

I talk with strategic effects, they do policy, I do operations. Next face to face is in tampa. Invited setaf but their choice to attend.

One of us could attend.

At the Op Tanhauser meeting to be held in Tampa, Will start with assessments and then operational approach. But we can’t talk about specific operations.

77th? In appropriate for the J39 to talk directly. They are worth talking to, SETAF could justify a connection.

Who should we talk with? I like countries that matter

SOCAF working Cotd and Benin

At posts start with the Attache. Try to let them articulate need. Libya, SOCAF Jason Thomas.

Chis Meade PA

Mike Yeager, Peraton lead

**Hard to say in West Africa who is the lead for messaging. Not figtured out from the recent reposturing.**