



U.S. Defense and Security in Niger: Enhancing Our Partner's Capacity

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The Department of Defense (DoD), working through U.S. Africa Command, partners with the Government of Niger to bolster and maintain its ability to provide for the security and safety of Nigeriens. The U.S. Embassy's Defense Attaché Office (DAO) and Office of Security Cooperation (OSC) coordinate U.S. security assistance with Niger through joint training exercises and operations. Our goal is to enable the Nigerien security forces, primarily the Forces Armées Nigériennes (FAN), to develop and sustain a professional security force, counter regional threats and criminal activities, and contribute to peacekeeping operations.

Since 2012, the DoD and the Department of State have provided Niger more than \$350 million in military assistance equipment and training programs – one of the largest security assistance and training programs in sub-Saharan Africa. The U.S. considers the FAN a professional partner and valued ally in our common fight to improve the security of Nigeriens. In support of our partnership with the FAN and assistance in the region, the U.S. Air Force is building an 1,800-meter runway in Agadez at Nigerien Air Base 201 (AB 201) from which the Nigerien Air Force will conduct regional support operations along with the DoD. The American presence at Nigerien Air Base 101 (AB 101) in Niamey and AB 201 provides an opportunity for Nigerien and U.S. armed forces to train and work side-by-side.

To further assist the Nigerien people, we work with civilian partners in the community. Together with Nigerien Agence Civil-Militaire, U.S. Civil Affairs Teams at AB 101 and AB 201 have complemented more than 1,000 civil engagements with local schools, women's groups, and civilian leadership, helping improve public understanding and appreciation of our joint security operations.

Our flagship partnerships include:

- **Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA):** Since 1990, more than \$25 million has been provided to help Nigerien police, gendarmerie and National Guard forces improve law



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enforcement, border security, and civilian safety through counter-terrorism training, mentorship, and equipment.

- **Aviation Capacity Building:** The United States provides training and maintenance support for the Nigerien Air Force's \$52 million C-130 and Cessna 208 aerial medical evacuation programs. In addition, the United States has arranged for professional Nigerien military aviation training (including opportunities to attend Air War College in the United States).
- **Command, Control, Computers and Communications/Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR):** The United States has contributed \$16 million for development of the FAN Command and Control Node, as well as the operation of two Cessna 208s aircraft specifically dedicated to expand Niger's military intelligence and surveillance capabilities.
- **Logistics and Maintenance Capacity Building:** The United States provided communication and maintenance equipment, training and support for two US-provided armored personnel carriers dedicated for use during Nigerien participation in UN Peace-Keeping Operations.
- **Professionalizing the Force:** Funding since 2016 for international military education and training has allowed 123 Nigerien FAN officers to attend advanced professional training in the United States. Our military-to-military engagements focus on basic training, logistics, maintenance, and ISR. The Security Governance Initiative (SGI), a long-term capacity-building program, is also helping the FAN deepen its professional capabilities by assisting the development of a national security framework and improved logistics, financial management, and personnel management programs as well as improved communication of security policies to the public. Besides improved capacity, SGI seeks to promote transparency and accountability in the FAN's management.
- **Counter-Improvised Explosive Devise (C-IED) Techniques:** US Army Africa training has enhanced the FAN's C-IED explosive ordnance disposal and humanitarian mine action abilities through a train-the-trainer program making the program self-sufficient..
- **Flintlock:** The United States supports Niger's participation in annual joint exercises with other western and northern Africa, Europe, and North America countries developing the capacity of and collaboration among African security forces to protect civilian populations.



Additionally, the U.S. supports training exchanges programs through our International Visitor Leadership Program and the State Partnership Program (SPP) with the Indiana National Guard (INNG).

Through these and other programs, the United States continues to be a strong and committed partner conducting joint and regional operations to counter terrorism, sustain peace, and enhance security in the Sahel.



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