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African Air Force Chiefs seek more co-operation

AFRICAN Air Force Chiefs from North and West Africa have pledged to foster closer co-operation and trust between themselves in order to find practical solutions to their common problems. Meeting during the 2012 Regional Air Chiefs Conference held in Dakar, Senegal, in August this year, the military leaders from 10 African states passed several resolutions aimed at increased regional co-ordination.

The event was supported by the United States Air Force and hosted by Senegal's Minister of Defence, Augustin Tine. It focussed on four priority areas, namely, cross regional issues, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, a regional approach to airlift, and air/ground integration. The Commander of US Air Forces Africa, General Philip Breedlove,

delivered the keynote speech which high-lighted the concept of a multinational partnership to help improve regional stability.

Air Marshal M. D. Umar, Chief of the Nigerian Air Force, said that participation and co-operation amongst African countries is key to the improvement of their capabilities, personnel readiness and the multiple challenges in the region, including security.

According to Air Commodore Philip Ayisa of the Ghana Air Force, one of the main points made was: "The need to share information." The Tamale Air Force Base Commander added: "African countries need to come together to decisively co-ordinate and face these challenges together."

(Continued on page 2)

New Chief for South African Air Force

MAJOR GENERAL Fabian Zimpande (Zakes) Msimang takes over as the new Chief of



Major General Fabian Zimpande Msimang, Chief of the South African Air Force (SAAF).

the South African Air Force (SAAF) with effect from 1 October, 2012. He replaces Lieutenant General Carlo Gagiano, the second longest serving Chief of the SAAF, who has earned a sterling reputation for his dedication and forthrightness.

Maj Gen Msimang integrated into the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in 1994, after the country's first democratic elections, as a qualified pilot on the Russian Mi 8 and Mi 25 helicopters. He received his flying training at Frunze 1 Central Officers Training Centre, Kirghizstan, in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) from 1986 to 1991.

He graduated from the institution
(Continued on page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE:



Objectives of AFRICOM ... page 8



Aircraft orders and deliveries ... page 12



Denel Aviation bags MRO deal ... page 4