



United States of America Embassy
Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

Press Release

March 18, 2014

The American and Congolese governments strengthen their bilateral relations by signing a military draft-agreement

On March 18, 2014, a military draft-agreement was signed between the governments of the United States of America and the Republic of the Congo. The two countries were represented respectively by the Deputy Chief of Mission for the United States Embassy, Mrs. Strother Murray, and by the Minister of Defense, General Charles Richard Mondjo.

This bilateral agreement, called Agreement 505, strengthens military cooperation between the United States of America and the Republic of the Congo. It falls under the 1961 United States law which aids foreign countries, particularly with the transfer of defense equipment, training, and other defense-related services. Agreement 505 will permit, among other things, the United States of America, which supports the actions taken by the Republic of the Congo and by the international community in the conflict resolution within the Central African Republic (CAR), to provide logistical support to the elements of the Congolese Armed Forces (FAC) deployed in CAR through MISCA.

Thanks to this Agreement, the Congolese troops leaving for the CAR will be able to benefit from quality training given by the African Contingency Operations and Training Assistance Program (ACOTA). This program provides training to regional organizations and to national soldiers who are part of the peacekeeping mission.

This action is consistent with American Secretary of State John Kerry's statement about the commitment of the United States in the CAR, when he said in January 2014, "*We are providing support for transportation, the equipment allocation, and training as well as logistical support to the personnel directed by the International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA) and we are committed to paying up to 101 million dollars to this end.*"

Locally, the American government will make an English language laboratory available to the Congolese Armed Forces in Pointe-Noire. This will strengthen language aptitudes for different elements of the FAC, in order to, not only allow them to communicate more easily when they are on a peacekeeping mission, but also to receive more training from the United States of America.

Please reach out to the U.S. Embassy for more information or email us at: PD Congo@state.gov