

Security Assistance in Focus: Somalia's Danab Brigade



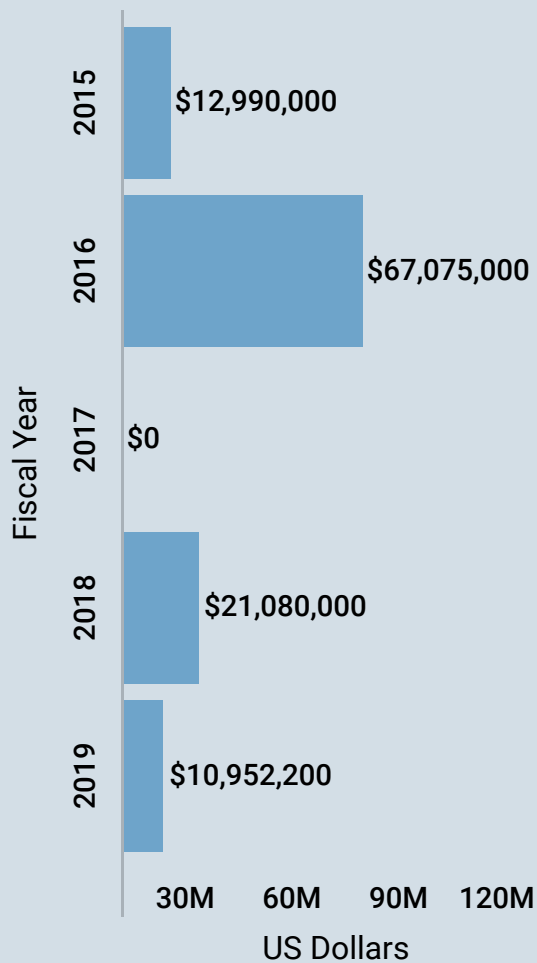
Country Profile: Somalia

PROGRAM: FY 2019 Department of Defense Section 333 Building Partner Capacity

UNIT TRAINED & EQUIPPED: Danab Brigade

JUSTIFICATION: To deter, degrade, and counter violent extremist organizations in Somalia, and to strengthen Somalia's Ministry of National Defense and National Army (SNA) capacity to prevent and respond to terrorism and violent extremism and to contribute to strengthening regional peace and security.

U.S. Train and Equip Funding for Somalia Over the Last Decade



Snapshot of the Defense Equipment Provided to the Danab Brigade Section in FY19



\$3,915,000

Ammunition and Explosives



\$3,700,000

Vehicles and Ancillary Items



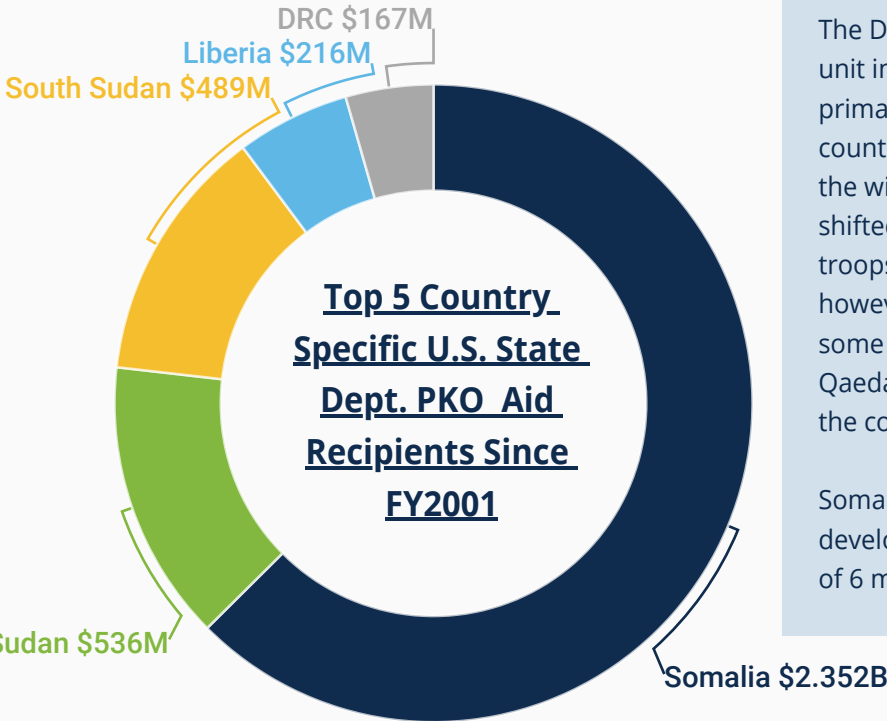
1,605,000

Operational Training and Services

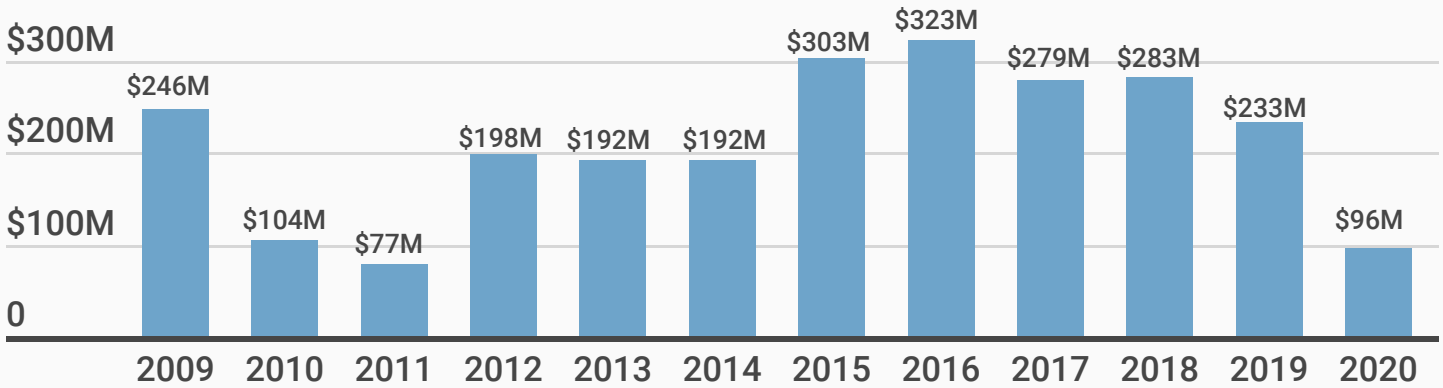
Somalia's Lightning Brigade

The Danab, or "Lightning", Brigade is an elite commando unit in the Somali National Army (SNA) that has become a primary recipient of U.S. security assistance in the war-torn country. Frustrated by efforts to improve the capabilities of the wider SNA, in recent years the U.S. government has shifted its strategy to focus more directly on specialized troops. Beginning as a pilot platoon, their numbers now however around 3,000-4,000. The commandos have had some success in wresting territory from Al-Shabaab, an Al-Qaeda aligned militant group that controls large swaths of the country.

Somalia remains a key area of operation for AFRICOM, and developing security in the country is the command's 3rd out of 6 main lines of effort.



U.S. Security Assistance to Somalia Since FY2009¹



Top 5 Country U.S. Security Aid Recipients Africa Since FY2001 Excluding Egypt¹



- Somalia
- Tunisia
- Kenya
- South Sudan
- Sudan

1. These figures likely partially inflated and difficult to discern because assistance to AMISOM troop-contributing countries is also included under funding for "Somalia". Nevertheless, funding for Somalia remains significant and illustrates the level of priority given to the country by the US.