The institutions driving professionalism in UPDF

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KAMPALA. The road to professionalism has entailed either creating or beefing up training colleges under the armed forces.

National Defence College

The schools and colleges that have been created include the National Defence College (NDC), which was created for the purpose of providing advanced military education and training to high-ranking military and civilian officials.

The school, which was opened in 2022, with Col Edith Nakalema and Brig Flavia Byekwaso as some of its pioneer students, is located in Njeru Municipality in Buikwe District. The commandant of the College is Brig Alex Olupot.

Armoured Warfare Training School

Armoured Warfare Training School (AWTS) was created by the NRM government for the purpose of training and producing officers and men with the capability to operate armoured equipment as part of the process of creating an Armoured and Motorised Infantry Brigade.

It was opened in 1991 to produce armoured crews, technicians, and commanders. At the time it was known as a training school for the mechanised regiment and was based at Kaburangire in Mbarara District. However, in 1994 it was moved to Kalama in Mubende District before being renamed Armoured Warfare Training School in 1998.

Previously, it was under the Armoured Brigade Operations and Training Officer but was in 2001 assigned its own commandant. The commandant is Brig Peter Ongiya Candia.

According to the Ministry of Defence's website, it has held more than 35 intakes and offered courses in, among others, battalion, company and platoon command.

Senior Command and Staff College (SCSC)

The Senior Command and Staff College opened its doors to the first intake on August 30, 2004, with some of the top brass of the former rebel army, such as Gen Elly Tumwine, Gen Caleb Akandwanaho, and Gen David Tinyefuza, as some of its pioneer students.

The institution conducts operational-level training for mid-level military officers and men and women of the UPDF. The training is intended to equip them with skills in military science and peace support operations and equip them with analytical skills lest they be rendered irrelevant in a modern military environment.

The vision of the SCSC is to become an internationally recognised command and staff college with full-fledged centres for strategic studies and peace support operations. The commandant of SCSC, which is in Kimaka on the outskirts of Jinja, is Brig Michael Kabango.

Uganda Military Engineering College (UMEC)

The Uganda Military Engineering College (UMEC) was commissioned by President Museveni on January 29, 2009, with the initial home in Magamaga in Mayuge District.

The acquisition of the premises of the defunct Lugazi University in 2010 meant that part of it was moved to Lugazi, where the army's Engineers Brigade, School of Communication and Information Technology (SOCIT) and the School of Information Tech and Office Management (SITOM) are also located.

UMEC was created for the purposes of developing the engineering and technology capabilities of the army and also contributing to national development. The commandant is Col Charles Muhigirwa.

JUNIOR STAFF COLLEGE

The Junior Staff College (JSC) was established in 1989, with the first course conducted at Mbuya Military barracks in Kampala. The college, which was formed to prepare selected junior officers for command and staff appointments by developing, among others, their analytical, command and communication skills, was moved to its current home at Gaddafi Barracks in Jinja in 1990.

Oliver Reginald Tambo Leader School-Kaweweta

The school trains mainly perso from the UPDF, the Police and the U da Prisons Services. It hands them competencies to analyse aspects of tory and projections on the future a the idea of equipping them with t skills to manage human and materia sources in any setting.

This school is historically significa because it trained some African Natio al Congress (ANC) fighters for South Afri ca's liberation.

The commandant of the school is Bri Justus Rukundo.

Non-Commissioned Officers' Academy (NCOA)

Non-Commissioned Officers Academy (NCOA), which is in Jinja District, train lower military unit leaders, mostly i tactics and military procedures to ena ble them to not only manage, command and coordinate basic troop compos tions but also to enable themselves.

Some of the courses offered un der NCOA include one for the junior non-commissioned officers, the senior non-commissioned officers and the war rant officers.

The commandant of NCOA is Brig Mi chael Ssesanga.

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