

# General Stephen J. Townsend

## U.S. Army Commander



U.S. Army Gen. Stephen J. Townsend became the fifth commander of the United States Africa Command on July 26, 2019.

General Townsend leads a command responsible for building defense capabilities, responding to crises, deterring and defeating transnational threats in order to advance U.S. national interests and promote regional security, stability, and prosperity, all in concert with interagency and international partners. U.S. Africa Command is one of six U.S. Department of Defense geographic combatant commands.

Townsend previously served as the commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. Raised in an Army family, he commissioned as an infantry officer upon graduating from North Georgia College in 1982. Townsend has led and commanded troops at every echelon from platoon to corps and combined joint task force, to include leading all U.S. and multi-national forces fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria as the commander, Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve.