

Ugandan paper profiles new army chief

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Abstract

Before being appointed commander of the Land Forces in June 2013, Muhoozi served as Base Commander, Entebbe Air Force Base; Brigade Commander, Motorised Infantry Brigade - Nakasongola; Chief Of Staff, Uganda Air Force; Commander of Air Defence Division - Nakasongola Air Force Base and also commander of the Armoured Brigade - Masaka Although in the past, like most senior army officials, he was not so much in the public eye for the most of his career, Gen Muhoozi made a number of headlines following the outbreak of a civil war in neighbouring South Sudan in December 2013.

Full Text

Text of report in English by Sam Waswa entitled "Who is the new CDF Gen David Muhoozi?" published by Ugandan privately-owned Chimp Reports news website on 10 January

President and Commander in Chief of the armed forces Gen Yoweri Museveni has appointed Maj-Gen David Muhoozi the Chief of Defence Forces of the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF).

Gen Muhoozi, who has been serving as the commander Land Forces, replaces Gen Edward Katumba Wamala, who has now been deployed to cabinet as the junior minister for works.

The person in charge of the 45,000 strong national army, Gen Muhoozi, does not only boast of an extensive military training in and out of the country, but also has a wealthy background in law.

At the age of 52, he has under his belt a Bachelor degree of Laws (LLB), from Makerere University, a Diploma in Legal Practice, from the LDC and also a Master of Arts in International Affairs.

Having joined the National Resistance Army toward the end of the protracted armed struggle in 1985, Muhoozi has gone to numerous military training schools including the Uganda Military Academy, back when it was still located in Jinja [eastern Uganda], for his Officer Cadet course.

He then attended the Company Commander course at Monduli, Tanzania in 1998 and later the Senior Command and Staff College course in Ghana before being admitted to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Over the years, he has also attended different courses that include: A Professional Security Course in Israel, An Executive Course for Senior African Military Leaders in Beijing, China; An Internal Crisis Management Course in Ghana; An International Peace Support Operations (IPSO) Course at Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Training Centre in Ghana; A Defence Management Course in Ghana; A Senior International Defence Course at the Naval Postgraduate School, California, US.

Gen Muhoozi has also served as Defence Counsel for the General Court Martial. In 1997, he was assigned to the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence (CMI), as Staff Officer General Duties, serving in that role for the next four years.

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Although in the past, like most senior army officials, he was not so much in the public eye for the most of his career, Gen Muhoozi made a number of headlines following the outbreak of a civil war in neighbouring South Sudan in December 2013.

As commander of the Land Forces, Muhoozi strongly supported Uganda's two-year military intervention to stabilise the young nation, often times angering some of the critics of the military invasion.

He is reported to have once defended the deaths of South Sudan civilians and blamed the conflict war on President Salva Kiir, remarking during one of his visits to the ground troupes in South Sudan, "War is war, we also lost soldiers at Palek and scores were wounded. But that's the results of war, we lost soldiers and we lost them because of Salva Kirr"

As the army prepared to retreat from South Sudan in October 2015, Muhoozi described the mission as largely successful.

He told Chimpreports in an interview, "We were never meant to be guarantors of their security but only there to reinforce it and we have done that. We can never substitute the security."

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