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U.S. surveillance targets in Africa

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Surveillance targets

U.S. officials have said that al-Qaeda affiliates and other militant organizations are expanding their presence in Africa. Some of the key groups:

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

Originally based in Algeria, the group has shifted south and found a home in northern Mali. Kidnaps Westerners for ransom.

Boko Haram

Nigerian insurgents seeking to impose Islamic law are forging links with other al-Qaeda groups, U.S. officials say.

Lord's Resistance Army

Ugandan guerrillas have destabilized central Africa for two decades with mass rapes and enslavement of child soldiers.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

The Yemen-based group has emerged as a primary terrorist threat to the United States, intelligence officials say.

Al-Shabab

The militant Islamist group controls much of southern Somalia and declared a merger with al-Qaeda in February.

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