

# More instructors aid Mozambique

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By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A team of 14 British Army instructors will help to train elements of the Mozambique armed forces to combat the threat of cross-border raids by South African commandos after a request for more military assistance.

They will be based at the training camp at Inyanga in Zimbabwe near the Mozambique border, and will be responsible for basic weapon training and infantry skills.

According to sources, none of the instructors to be sent to Zimbabwe will be from the Special Air Service (SAS). Last year Botswana, a member of the Commonwealth and also a victim of commando action by the South African defence forces, arranged for a large number of their army instructors to receive training from the SAS.

An SAS squadron of 90 men went to Botswana for six weeks. However their principal purpose was to take part in an exercise, although it was

agreed that while they were there, they would give instruction to as many officers from the Botswana defence force as possible.

There is already a British military assistance team in Zimbabwe, and last year it was agreed with Mr Robert Mugabe, the prime minister, that eight of the officers and non-commissioned officers could begin to train sections of the Mozambique army. The extra six who have now been sent to Inyanga, to bring the total number of British military instructors for Mozambique to 14, will remain in Zimbabwe.

Both the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office denied yesterday a report that British troops were to be sent to Mozambique. However, it has been agreed that, for the first time since the country won independence, a British military attache will be posted to the capital, Maputo, to advise the government