



# AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

N E W S L E T T E R

## ACSS Welcomes Next Generation of African Security Sector Leaders

The Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) welcomed 42 military officers representing 37 African nations during the opening ceremonies of its Next Generation of African Security Sector Leaders Program on March 12, 2012. ACSS conducted the annual three-week program on March 11-30 for some of the continent's most talented military leaders.

The course focused on enhancing professionalism, ethics, and leadership in African militaries. Throughout the program, participants examined Africa's contemporary and emerging security threats. They analyzed civil-military relations on the continent to determine the role and place of professional military officers in advancing national security in democratizing states. Attending officers, mostly at the ranks of major and lieutenant colonel, were selected by their countries to take the course because of their significant command experience or staff responsibilities as well as their recognized leadership potential.

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Next Generation of African Security Sector Leaders Program participants pose for group photo in Washington, D.C.



Brigadier General Guys-Pierre Garcia, the lead planner for the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) delegation, co-signs a Communiqué along with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

## ECCAS, ECOWAS Take Steps to Counter Piracy, Robbery at Sea, and Illegal Maritime Activities

More than 250 representatives from more than 20 African nations attended the official opening ceremony of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Maritime Safety and Security Conference held on March 28, 2012. The U.S. Africa Command and Africa Center for Strategic Studies organized and facilitated the conference.

The conference was held to charter a way for cooperation between both African communities to provide regional maritime security in the central and western African regions and among member states to combat piracy, robbery at sea, and other illicit activities at sea in the Gulf of Guinea.

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## Security Issues and Regional Stability in Africa: The Experience of Burkina Faso in Conflict Mediation, Prevention and Management

In his only major address during an official visit to Washington, D.C., His Excellency Djibril Bassolé, Foreign Minister of the Burkinabe government, devoted most of his remarks to the recent military coupe in neighboring Mali.

Following an introduction by Ambassador (ret.) William M. Bellamy, Director of the Africa Center, Bassolé told a packed lecture hall of diplomats, scholars, and journalists that he could understand the grief of the mutineers now in power in Mali, but could not support the path they have taken.

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## Liberian Defense Minister Challenges African Security Professionals to Protect Civilians, Use ACSS Network for Good

Brownie Samukai, Jr., Liberia's Minister of National Defense, offered insights gained while helping his country rebuild from its long civil war. He spoke at the conclusion of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies' (ACSS) Next Generation of African Security Sector Leaders Program.



*Liberian Minister of National Defense Brownie Samukai, Jr. addressing participants at the Next Generation of African Security Sector Leaders closing ceremony*

"Please do not use the knowledge you've gained here to enter onto the political stage in your home countries," Samukai told an audience of 42 military, police, and government officials representing 37 African countries. The participants took part in the three-week ACSS program in the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

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*Burkina Faso Foreign Minister, His Excellency Djibril Bassolé*

## Experts Discuss Food Insecurity in the Horn of Africa

Government, academic, and civil society speakers presented a range of insights into the human, political, and military implications of food insecurity in the Horn of Africa during a conference at National Defense University (NDU) in Washington, D.C., on March 8, 2012.



*ACSS Director Ambassador William M. Bellamy (ret.) facilitating a round table discussion at the Horn of Africa Food Insecurity Crisis seminar*

The Center for Technology and National Security Policy hosted the "Horn of Africa Food Security Crisis: Implications for U.S. Africa Command" event, whose goal was to understand better how USAFRICOM can improve interactions with NGOs, international organizations, and other nontraditional stakeholders. More than 180 military and civilian personnel, journalists, and experts from nonprofits and academia attended the full-day conference.

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## Ask the Expert: The Growing Threat of Oil Pirates in West Africa's Gulf of Guinea



*Dr. Assis Malaquias, ACSS Academic Chair for Defense Economics*

When it comes to modern-day piracy, much of the world's attention has focused on Somalia's murderous maritime plunderers. But pirates are also a serious and growing problem off Africa's West Coast, where a dangerous upsurge in vessel-based marauders is being fueled by a wealth of crude oil and cargo in transit.

For the Africa Center's occasional "Ask the Expert" series, we interviewed Dr. Assis Malaquias, the ACSS Academic Chair for Defense Economics. Dr. Malaquias is an expert on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, an arm of the tropical Atlantic Ocean below Africa's western hump where most of the crimes occur.

[Read Interview](#)

## ACCS Op-Ed On Narco-States Featured in New York Times

Narcotics trafficking has increased across Africa, growing into a roughly \$6 billion to \$7 billion illicit industry that amplifies security threats and threatens democracy and economic growth, wrote ACSS Research



Assistant Mr. Davin O'Regan in an op-ed published March 12, 2012, in the online edition of The New York Times. In the article, titled "Narco-States: Africa's Next Menace," Mr. O'Regan noted that trafficking in heroin, amphetamines, and cocaine has expanded dramatically across Africa. Narco-corruption imperils the continent's recent unprecedented economic boom, which averaged 5 percent annually over the last decade and is projected to outstrip all other region in the next five years. Likewise, roughly 60 percent of African countries are now on a democratic path, a trend that could easily be reversed with the instability brought on by drug networks. Trafficking also threatens to destabilize an increasingly vital supplier to global oil and gas markets, including a fifth of U.S. oil imports.

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## Africa Center's Dempsey Discusses Mali Crisis on BBC

Thomas Dempsey, assistant professor of security studies at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, analyses the crisis in northern Mali during an interview April 2, 2012, with World Today, a breakfast program of BBC World Service radio. Dempsey argued that beyond the Tuareg's rebellion, the northern region exemplifies the total collapse of government services, and no one can predict what comes next. He was also reluctant to draw any strong relationship between the insurgency in the North and the recent coup in Bamako.



*Mr. Thomas Dempsey, ACSS Assistant Professor of Security Strategies*

[Listen to Interview](#)

## ACSS Releases Security Brief On Boko Haram's Evolving Threat

A surge in large-scale attacks over the past year by Nigerian Islamist terrorist organization Boko Haram presents a serious threat to stability in West Africa's most populous state and the world's sixth largest oil exporter. The group has successfully expanded its geographic reach, mastered new sophisticated tactics, and targeted symbols of international presence in Nigeria. In this Africa Security Brief, J. Peter Pham assesses the significance of this upsurge, examines the origins and goals of this opaque group, and puts forward priorities for responding to this threat.



[Download Brief](#)

## ACSS Community News



### Botswana

Brigadier General **Gotsileene Morake** attended the annual meeting of the African Conference of Commandants 10-13 April in Ghana. Brigadier Morake is currently serving a two-year

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term as the Chairman of the African Conference of Commandants of Staff Colleges. Brigadier Morake is Commandant of the Botswana Defence Command and Staff College and he also serves as the Vice-President of the community chapter in Botswana. He attended the Africa Center's inaugural African Executive Dialogue in 2011.



## Lesotho

Lesotho Defence Force Commander Major General **Phatoli Lekanyane** retired in March after serving in the army for 28 years. Major General Lekanyane participated in the 2008 Senior Leaders Seminar and is a member of the community chapter in Lesotho.

Major General **Tlali Kamoli** has been promoted to Lieutenant General and now serves at the Commander of the Lesotho Defence Force. Kamoli participated in the 2005 Next Generation of African Military Leaders Course and is a member of the community chapter in Lesotho.

## Upcoming Events

- **African Defense Forces Joint Warrant Officers Seminar**  
Washington, D.C. — April 2012
- **Topical Outreach Program Series - Illicit Commons & Narcotrafficking**  
West Africa - April 2012
- **Security Sector Reform and Transformation Country Program**  
West Africa — April & May 2012
- **Topical Outreach Program Series - Civil Military Relations & Health and Security**  
West Africa — May 2012
- **Senior Leaders Seminar**  
Washington, D.C. — June 2012
- Please contact our [Registrar's Office](#) should you have a question about a particular program.

## ACSS Regional Offices

### General Sekouba Konate visits with the Africa Center for Strategic Studies



General Sekouba Konate and ACSS Regional Program Manager Brad Anderson

His Excellency, General Sekouba Konate from The Republic of Guinea visited with Mr. Brad Anderson (Regional Program Manager for the Africa Center for Strategic Studies) on March 21, 2012 at the Africa Center's Regional office in Addis Adaba, Ethiopia.



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