



AFRICA

Center for Strategic Studies - Newsletter

ACSS Alumni Chapter Holds Conference in Senegal

Military officers, high-ranking civilian government officials and members of the diplomatic corps gathered on November 19, 2011, in Dakar, Senegal, to discuss promoting a culture of peace and development in West Africa. The Africa Center for Strategic Studies' Senegal chapter, led by 2008 ACSS Visionary Award recipient General Lamine Cissé, sponsored the event. The Chief of Staff to Senegal's Defense Minister M. Birane Niang led the conference, which was the first held by the country's chapter since its July 2011 re-launch.

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Members of the Senegal Alumni Chapter discuss promoting a culture of peace and development in West Africa

New Class of Defense Attachés Receive Briefing at ACSS



Deputy Director Michael E. Garrison briefing U.S. military attachés

Five new U.S. military attachés assigned to African countries visited the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) on Dec. 2, 2011. They will soon be deployed to Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Ghana, and Nigeria.

ACSS staff and faculty briefed them on the Center's mission, annual program plan and the well-established working relationships the center has cultivated with attachés already assigned to Africa.

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ACSS Counterterrorism Professor Benjamin Nickels Assesses Threats to Africa: Part 1 of a 2 Part Interview

Dr. Benjamin P. Nickels, Assistant Professor of Transnational Threats and Counterterrorism at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS), has been studying terrorism and effective ways to counter it for years. He has produced case studies on countermeasures against al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the rise of al-Shabaab in Somalia, and other groups that could present a transnational threat. In this interview, the ACSS scholar breaks down the complex world of violence committed by non-state actors and other transnational threats facing Africa, and examines possible linkages between terrorist groups operating on the continent.



Dr. Benjamin Nickels Assistant Professor of Transnational Threats

[Read Interview](#)

ACSS Welcomes New Communications and Community Outreach Chief

The Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) is pleased to announce that Mr. Brad Minnick is its new Director for Communications and Community Affairs. He will spearhead the center's efforts to engage thousands of alumni around the world and expand the global audience that looks to ACSS as a leader on African security issues.



*Mr. Brad Minnick
ACSS Director for Communications
and Community Affairs*

Brad comes to ACSS from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, where he was the project director for its Public Diplomacy initiative. He brings a tremendous amount of public relations experience, working with government officials, NGO leaders, political activists, and businesspeople around the globe in management and communications strategy and tactics.

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Africa Center Holds Horn of Africa Task Force Training



Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) experts helped prepare new members of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) core staff for their coming assignment during an October 2011 training held in Norfolk, VA.

Speakers from ACSS and other organizations focused on political, diplomatic, economic, and security histories and trends at play in the Horn of Africa. They spoke to 48 military officials from a range of services and specializations.

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Colonel de Vathaire Bringing the Next “French Touch” to ACSS

Colonel Patrick de Vathaire became the Senior French Representative to the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) in August 2011. He comes to ACSS with extensive operational experience and a thorough knowledge of Africa, thanks to his degree from France's military academy (EMIA), class of 1983, and his many missions across the African continent. In his previous post, Colonel de Vathaire monitored the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and oversaw French forces' operations to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia and the redeployment of French troops in Africa. He has agreed to share his first impressions of his new job with us and look back on a few of the defining moments in his career.



*Colonel Patrick de Vathaire
ACSS Senior French
Representative*

[Read Interview](#)

ACSS Community News



Central African Republic

Colonel **Romain Guintizia** was promoted to Brigadier General and currently serves as the Head of the Universal Hospital of Bangui.

Bigadier General Guintizia participated in the Senior Leaders Seminar in 2008.



Democratic Republic of the Congo

After his participation in the Africa Center's seminar on small arms and light weapons in 2008, Mr. **José Inkongo** was appointed to Permanent Secretary of the National Commission on the Control of small Arms and Light Weapons and the Reduction of Armed Violence in the Republic of Congo.



Gabon

Lieutenant Colonel **Jean-Claude Ogouliguende** was recently promoted to Colonel and a new position as Chief of Staff for Army Logistics and Equipment. Colonel Ogouliguende attended the Enhancing Civil Military Relations in Central Africa Workshop in 2010.



Mauritius

Mr. **Chandan Ramkeelawon** has been promoted to Superintendent of Police in the Mauritius Police Force. He also completed a degree in Legal Studies and Management from the University of Mauritius. Mr. Ramkeelawon participated in the 2006 Next Generation of African Military Leaders Course. He is a member of the Mauritius Community Chapter.



Republic of Seychelles

Mr. **Selby Pillay** has been posted from the Seychelles Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Seychelles to the United Nations in New York, New York where he is now the Minister Counselor. Mr. Pillay attended the 2007 Golden Spear Symposium and he is an active part of the ACSS community.

ACSS Visits and Happenings

16 Nov 2011 — Mr. Tim Hitchens, Director Africa, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, visited ACSS.

2 Dec 2011 — Joint Military Attaché School recent graduates visited before deploying to African Embassies.

7 Dec 2011 — Ambassador William M. Bellamy, Director of the Africa Center for Strategic studies joined Ambassador Johnnie Carson at the United States Institute for Peace event, to discuss U.S. policy towards the Lord's Resistance Army.

9 Dec 2011 — Captain Robert A. Sanders, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Director DILLS (Defense Institute International Legal Studies) met with ACSS leadership, faculty and community outreach specialists to discuss ongoing and upcoming projects in Africa.

12 Dec 2011 — Dr. Thomas Gurtner, UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator from Chad visited with leadership, faculty and outreach specialists to learn about ACSS programs and previous and upcoming visits to Chad and the region.

Upcoming Events

- **AFRICOM Advanced Area Studies**
Stuttgart, Germany — January 2012
- **Preventing Terrorism Workshop**
East Africa — January 2012
- **Transnational Threats: Illicit Commons**
Washington, D.C. — February 2012
- **African Defense Attache Course**
Washington, D.C. — February 2012

Please contact our [Registrar's Office](#) should you have a question about a particular program.



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