



# AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

## 2017 MSS INTER-REGIONAL COOPERATION CENTERS

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### BIOGRAPHIES

#### LEADERSHIP

**Ms. Kate Almquist Knopf** is Director at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. As Director, she provides executive leadership of ACSS's programs, outreach, and evidence-based research to build strategic level analysis and capacity on security issues within Africa and to elevate the policy dialogue on contemporary security challenges across the continent. Ms. Knopf was most recently a senior adviser for the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), a conflict mediation organization founded by former Finnish President and Nobel laureate Martti Ahtisaari. She has also been a visiting policy fellow at the Center for Global Development (CGD), where she focused on the intersection of security and development, U.S. foreign assistance reform, and development interventions in fragile and conflict-affected states. Ms. Knopf has been a member of the adjunct faculty of the Africa Center since 2010. Ms. Knopf previously held several senior positions at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), including as assistant administrator for Africa (2007-2009), Sudan mission director (2006-2007), deputy assistant administrator for Africa (2004-2006), and special assistant and senior policy adviser to the administrator (2001-2004). She also represented the U.S. Government on the international Assessment and Evaluation Commission charged with overseeing the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended the 22-year civil war between Sudan and South Sudan. Prior to federal service, she was chief of staff for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority and for the Executive Office for Administration and Finance of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She began her career at World Vision, an international non-governmental organization.

Ms. Knopf holds a Master of Arts degree in international relations with concentrations in African studies and conflict management from Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, D.C., and a Bachelor of Arts degree in international relations from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. She is the author of several policy papers and articles on Sudan and South Sudan, including *Fragility and State-Society Relations in South Sudan*, Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Research Paper No. 4, September 2013; *Getting to Normal with the Two Sudans*, Center for Global Development, February 28, 2013; and *Renewed Conflict in South Sudan*, Council on Foreign Relations, March, 2010.

**Dr. Raymond Gilpin** is the Academic Dean at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. In this capacity he directs the design, development and implementation of the Center's programs, and provides leadership on all academic matters. Prior to joining the Africa Center he served as director of the Center for Sustainable Economies at the United States Institute of Peace (*in which capacity he also chaired the taskforce on business and peace, managed the web-based International Network for Economics and Conflict, and taught courses on economics and conflict at the USIP Academy*); academic chair for defense economics at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies; director for international programs at Intellibridge Corporation (now part of Eurasia Group); senior economist at the African Development Bank Group; research director at the Central Bank of Sierra Leone; and economist at the World Bank.

His research interests include Africa's security challenges, energy and security, resource management and conflict dynamics, financial management in Africa's security sector, and public-private partnerships and peace. Dr. Gilpin is a regular blogger and featured media commentator on African affairs, US-Africa policy, energy and security, and economic dimensions of peace. Recent publications include: "Economic Drivers of Conflict," in Conflict Management and Global Governance in an Age of Awakening, edited by Pamela Aall, Chester Crocker and Fen Hampson (forthcoming 2013); "Tackling Energy Infrastructure Vulnerability in Violence-Prone Zones" (2013); "Using Entrepreneurship to Promote Stability in Fragile Regions" (2012); "Trade and Resource Management: A Development Perspective," in Nexus Between Security and Development, edited by Joanna Spear and Paul Williams, (2012); "China in Africa," in African Security and the African Command: Viewpoints on the US Role in Africa, edited by Terry Buss, Joseph Adjaye, Donald Goldstein and Louis Picard (2011). Dr. Gilpin holds a doctorate in development economics from Cambridge University in the United Kingdom and an executive certificate in international finance and capital markets from Georgetown University.

**Dr. Ian Ralby** is Adjunct Professor of Maritime Law and Security at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, as well as an expert advisor to the United Nations and NATO on security matters, a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council and CEO of his own consultancy, I.R. Consilium. He has substantial expertise in international and maritime law, international relations, and transnational security issues. In particular, he is a recognized expert on maritime law enforcement; matters relating to the regulation, governance and oversight of both land-based and maritime private security companies; and the global issue of downstream oil theft. His practice centers on advising and assisting governments and organizations with developing and implementing legally-grounded policy, often pertaining to matters of security and stability. He has worked with clients around the globe on complex problem-solving including: extensive work on maritime domain issues in Africa, the Caribbean, and South East Asia; troubleshooting complex littoral problems in the Middle East; horizon scanning for future security concerns; and drafting and implementing legislation with security implications. Dr. Ralby has also spent time embedded as an international law advisor to a government in the Balkans, served as an advisor on the development of various national and international codes, standards and oversight mechanisms for the private security industry, and provided support to the Iraqi Judges on the trials of Saddam Hussein and his top lieutenants. He remains an active advisor to several allied Western Governments on matters relating to both private security and maritime affairs and is considered a ‘Key Opinion Former’ on maritime security in NATO. He also speaks and publishes widely on topics relating to international affairs and law. Dr. Ralby earned a B.A. in Modern Languages and Linguistics and an M.A. in Intercultural Communication at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; a J.D. at the College of William and Mary; and an M.Phil. in International Relations and a Ph.D. in Politics and International Studies at St. John’s College of the University of Cambridge.

## FACILITATORS (in alphabetical order)

**CDR Cyrille Serge Atonfack Guemo** is the Technical Adviser to the Minister of Defense, Republic of Cameroon. Since July 2013 he has been the Officer in Charge of CIC Implementation for the Cameroonian Navy. In 1994 he earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science at the University of Yaoundé II. He is also a 1998 graduate of the Higher Navy School of Management and Maritime Law in Toulon, France. In 2007, he obtained a master's degree in Maritime Law from the European Institute of Marine Studies in Brest, France, and concomitantly completed a full cycle of training on International Humanitarian Law offered by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy. He was Cameroon's representative in the International Group of experts mandated to develop a strategy for the implementation of the "Africa Maritime Integrated Strategy 2050", the AU's guiding document in the maritime domain. He was also a team member and Cameroon representative in the Group mandated for the conception and drafting of the African Charter for maritime safety, security and development, now the Lome Charter. His current project is drafting the Cameroon National Maritime Strategy. CDR Atonfack has published many articles on maritime security, and has been awarded a number of national and foreign decorations.

**Mr. Benjamin D. Crockett** serves as associate dean of academic affairs and professor of practice. He partners with military and civilian stakeholders to maximize academic program effectiveness and explore feasible solutions to Africa's security challenges. His areas of expertise include security cooperation, political-military affairs, national security strategy, and peace support operations. Prior to joining the Africa Center, Mr. Crockett was the principal advisor at the U.S. State Department for the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership, a peace operations capacity building program for six African countries. Mr. Crockett concluded a 27-year career in the U.S. Army in 2015, retiring as a colonel. He served for over 20 years as a regional specialist in Middle East and African affairs, advancing U.S. defense strategy and security cooperation. His final assignment was as the regional director for East and Southern Africa in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, directing U.S. defense policy and relations with 15 countries and the African Union. Mr. Crockett's military career also included positions on the Joint Staff and at the Defense Intelligence Agency. His overseas assignments included tours at the U.S. embassies in Egypt, Lebanon, Burkina Faso, and Sudan, the latter two as defense attaché. He began military service with postings in South Korea and Germany, and a deployment to Operation Desert Storm. He also deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mr. Crockett holds an M.A. from Princeton University in Near East studies and a B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley in political science. His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Bronze Star Medal among other military awards and decorations.

**Dr. Miguel Ferreira da Silva** became the Senior Portuguese Representative at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies in March 2012. Following his graduation in Law from the University of Lisbon he completed post graduate studies in Juridical-Political Sciences, at the same University, and in Political Science and International Relations at the Portuguese Catholic University. He also holds specializations in Security and Intelligence, as in Terrorism. After developing a career in Legal Advising to the Public Sector, both at local and national levels, Miguel returned to academia where he taught Portuguese language and culture at the University of Nottingham, where he also completed his PhD. in cultural studies (legitimacy discourse of international criminal courts). Still a Senior Legal Advisor with the Portuguese Media Authority, he also became an advisor to the Portuguese Government, particularly in matters related to Africa. His main research interests are linked to Democracy, the rule of law, freedom of the press and post conflict cultures. Miguel is also a member of the International Consortium for the Study of Post Conflict Cultures. Born in Porto, Portugal, he fluently speaks Portuguese, English and Spanish; he also speaks French.

**Dr. Mathurin (Matt) Houngnikpo** is the Security Sector Reform Advisor to the Secretary of the National Security Council of Côte d'Ivoire. Until July 2013, he was the Academic Chair of Civil-Military Relations at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, at the National Defense University, where he oversaw curriculum and program development in the area of civil-military relations focusing on Africa's military history, democratic civil control of the security sector, and issues of accountability, transparency and good governance. He has held various teaching positions both in the U.S. and in Benin. His recent publications include **“Repressing or Protecting? The Security Sector and Society in Africa,”** in *The Fabric of Peace in Africa: Looking beyond the State*, edited by Pamela Aall and Chester A. Crocker (2017); **“Eroding Democracy: Competitive Authoritarian Drift in Benin,”** in *Democratic Contestation on the Margins: Regimes in Small African Countries*, edited by Claire Metelits and Stephani Matti (2015); *Historical Dictionary of Benin* (2013); *L’Afrique au Futur Conditionnel* (2011); *Guarding the Guardians: Civil-Military Relations and Democratic Governance in Africa* (2010); *Elections and Democratization in West Africa: 1990-2009* (with A. Saine and B. N’Diaye, 2011); *Africa’s Elusive Quest for Development* (2006); *Economic Integration and Development in Africa* (with H. Kyambalesa, 2006); and *Not Yet Democracy: West Africa’s Slow Farewell to Authoritarianism* (with A. Saine and B. N’Diaye, 2005). He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Paris VIII, Saint-Denis, France and another Ph.D. in International Studies from the University of Denver.

**CAPT Loïc Moudouma** is a maritime strategy expert and until recently was the Director of Operations, Gabon Navy. He joined the Navy in 1987 and served there continuously. He has been the Gabon fleet commander. After a degree in Industrial Maintenance at the University of Science and Technology in Gabon, he joined the Navy and attended the Royal Naval Academy of Morocco for four years. Captain Moudouma is a U.S. Naval War College graduate (Naval Command College 2007). He holds a master of arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies (Joint Operations, National Security and Decision Making); he spent five years (2008-2013) at ECCAS where he was in charge of Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea. He just got promoted a few months ago at the Armed Forces Joint Staff as the General Director of Operations. He is currently national focal point on the implementation of the Gabon Integrated Maritime Strategy.

## SPEAKERS (in alphabetical order)

**CDR Derrick Godwill Attachie** is the head of training at the Inter-Regional Coordination Center (CIC) in Yaoundé. Commissioned into the executive branch of the Ghana Navy 22 years ago, he has held several appointments including: acting Director of Operations at the Naval Headquarters, Accra; Principal Warfare Officer to Commanding Officer of a Ghana Navy patrol vessel; Base Operations Officer at Naval Base, Tema, and Director, Counter Intelligence at the Ghana Armed Forces General Headquarters. On the regional and international scene, he served with ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in 1995 and 1999, as well as the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) from July 2009 to August 2010. CDR Attachie holds a Master of Arts Degree in International Affairs from the University of Ghana and a Master of Science degree in Defense and Strategic Studies from the University of Madras. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Psychology, and a Post Graduate Certificate in Public Administration.

**CAPT Emmanuel Bell Bell** was the interim director of the Inter-regional Coordination Center (CIC) in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Tasked with helping the CIC transition from its original set-up to its current configuration, CAPT Bell Bell has been an important voice in the discussions of how to make inter-regional cooperation a functional reality. He now serves as director of information sharing within the rebooted CIC. He was a participant in the April 2015 Gulf of Guinea Maritime Security and Law Enforcement Workshop, the May 2016 Streamlining Interagency in Maritime Security Workshop, and the July 2016 MSS Zone D Maritime Security Workshop. He also served as a resource specialist in the March 2016 Maritime Safety and Security Seminar.

**CDR Rob Bulatao** is a native of San Diego, California. He is a 1999 graduate of the University of Southern California, where he received a commission in the U.S. Navy via the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and a Master of Science degree in Management from the University of Central Michigan. A qualified surface warfare officer, CDR Bulatao served aboard the USS *Makin Island* (LHD 8), the USS *Pelleliu* (LHA 5), the USS *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6), and USS *Jarrett* (FFG 33), all of which deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom and conducted maritime security operations in the Arabian Gulf, the Gulf of Aden, and the Red Sea. Aboard the USS *Valley Forge* (CG 50), he participated in counternarcotics operations during a deployment to the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific. Aboard all of these ships, he served in Combat Systems and Training related billets. Ashore, CDR Bulatao served on the staff of Expeditionary Strike Group THREE as an exercise planner. He also attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas and completed Joint Professional Military Education Phase One. At the Navy Operational Support Center Los Angeles, CDR Bulatao served as operations and training officer. CDR Bulatao currently serves as Maritime Programs Officer in the Counternarcotics and Transnational Threats Programs division of the U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

**Ms. Elizabeth Choge-Nyangoro** is an expert on regional mechanisms from the African Union. A Kenyan lawyer by background, she has recently taken on the portfolio for implementing the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 (AIMS 2050). She holds a bachelors in law (LLB) and a masters in international studies from the University of Nairobi. She also attended the National Defence College. She practiced law for seven years before joining the diplomatic service in 2003 as a legal advisor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She served as a legal advisor in the Embassy in Addis Ababa from 2006-2008. Since 2008, she has worked at the African Union where she has developed expertise in regional cooperation regimes including extensive work with the regional economic communities.

**Dr. Henri Fouché** is a Senior Researcher at Stellenbosch University, Security Institute for Governance and leadership in Africa (SIGLA), Faculty of Military Science. He graduated from the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) with a Masters in 2003 (dissertation entitled: Partnership policing in the Wierda Bridge policing area) and Doctors in 2006 (thesis entitled: Policing piracy and armed robbery of ships in South Africa's territorial waters and contiguous zone). He lectured at Technikon Pretoria and TUT for nine years, and UNISA for five years on the investigation of crime and contemporary crime issues. He is a National Research Foundation (NRF) C1-rated researcher in Humanities/Social Sciences and is internationally recognized as a proponent of the law enforcement approach to dealing with crime in the maritime domain.

**CDR Emmanuel Ngonge Sone Ajang** is an operational commander in the Cameroonian Navy in charge of one of the main districts in Cameroon. A graduate of both the US Naval Academy and the Naval War College, he has provided operational insight to many strategic-level discussions about maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea in recent years. Importantly, his role as a district commander provides him with day-to-day experience of the Zone D cooperation born of its 2009 Technical Accord. He has been helpfully involved in the process to upgrade that Accord into a full-fledged legal agreement between the four states.

**RADM Adeniyi Adejimi Osinowo** is a senior officer in the Nigerian Naval Staff, the former Director of Transformation Nigerian Navy. Previously he served as deputy commander of Africa Partnership Station on board the USS *Gunston Hall* (LSD-44). He holds master's degrees in electronic engineering and international affairs and diplomacy and a PhD in international relations from the Commonwealth Open University. He is the author of the ACSS publication *Combating Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea* and has been involved in the development of key maritime security initiatives at all levels including playing an important role in the drafting of the African Union's Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 (AIMS 2050) and in establishing the ECOWAS Pilot Zone E.

**Mr. Hassani Ahamada Soilihi** holds a degree in Public Law from the University Sidi Ben Abdellah in Fez, Morocco. He was subsequently trained at the Bar Training School in Paris, then graduated from the International Maritime Law Institute in Malta. He served as the legal advisor to the vice president in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment and Transport. He was also trained at the World Maritime University and other Swedish institutions. He was detached to the Comoros Defense Force and worked with the National Development Army and the Coast Guard and at the civil component of East African Standby Force for peacekeeping. He has been assigned to the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) by the Government of Union of Comoros, joined the Anti-Piracy Unit (APU) based in Seychelles since 2012.

**Dr. Eninam Massia Christian Trimua** of Togo is the newly-appointed director of the CIC in Yaoundé, Cameroon. He holds a doctorate in public law and served as a professor at the University of Kara. In 2013, he was appointed Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice and in February 2017 was tasked with taking over the CIC in order to implement the Gulf of Guinea Code of Conduct of June 2013.