LEADERSHIP

Ms. Kate Almquist Knopf has served as director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, an academic institution within the U.S. Department of Defense, since July 2014. Established by the U.S. Congress for the study of security issues relating to Africa, the Center serves as a forum for bilateral and multilateral research, communication, and the exchange of ideas. It aims to be an objective source of strategic analysis on contemporary and over-the-horizon security issues for African security sector professionals, policymakers, scholars, media, and civil society, as well as international partners.

Ms. Knopf has spent most of her career focused on the intersection of security and development in Africa. From 2001 to 2009, she held several senior positions at the U.S. Agency for International Development, including as assistant administrator for Africa, Sudan mission director, deputy assistant administrator for Africa, and special assistant and senior policy advisor to the administrator.

Ms. Knopf has also been a senior advisor for the Crisis Management Initiative, a conflict mediation organization founded by former Finnish President and Nobel Laureate Martti Ahtisaari, and a visiting policy fellow at the Center for Global Development. 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 nongovernmental organization. Ms. Knopf holds an M.A. in international relations with concentrations in African studies and conflict management from Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC, and a B.A. in international relations from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD.

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.


SPEAKERS (in alphabetical order)

**Brigadier General (ret.) Saleh Bala** was commissioned into the Nigerian Army on 15 December 1984. Served in various command, staff and training positions, which include company commander, 72 Parachute Battalion (1987-88), instructor at the Nigerian Army Infantry School, Airborne, Tactics and Special Warfare Wings (1988-93). Also served as an instructor at the Nigerian Defence Academy (1993-95), as well as a Directing Staff at the Nigerian Armed Forces Command and Staff College (2002-2004) and the National Defence College (2009-2011).

Bala had peacekeeping experience as a UN Military Observer at the United Nations Verification Mission in Angola (1995-96) and was Military Chief of Staff, United Nations Operations in Cote D’Ivoire (2011-2012). He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Literature, from the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria (1982) and a Masters Degrees in International Peace Studies, from the University for Peace, San Jose, Costa Rica (2006) and another Masters in National Security Strategy, from the National Defence University, National War College, Washington DC (2009). His last military assignment was as the Chief of Staff, Nigerian Army Infantry Corps Center (2012-13). He is an alumnus of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, Sanremo, Italy, International Refugee Law Course (2010) and a member of the institution’s Training Advisory Group. He is now the Chief Executive Officer of White Ink Consult; a Defence and security policy research and development, strategic communication and training company. At present, General Bala works in a consultant capacity, as the Senior Special Adviser (Policy and Strategy Development) to the Honourable Minister of Interior, Federal Republic on Nigeria.

**Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas** is the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). Prior to that, he held the position of Special Representative of the UN Secretary-
General for West Africa and Head of the UN Office for West Africa. He was previously the Joint Special representative (JSR) of the African Union – United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and Joint Chief Mediator (JCM) in charge of the Darfur peace negotiations. Prior to that, Mr. Chambas held various positions, including: Secretary General of the African Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP), President of the 15-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Executive Secretary of ECOWAS, Member of Parliament in Ghana, where he served at various periods as First Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Chairman of the Appointments Committee, Chairman of the Privileges Committee, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Member of the Select Committee on Education and the Committee on subsidiary Legislation. Mr. Chambas holds degrees in Political Science from the University of Ghana, Legon (B. A. 1973) and Cornell University, Ithaca New York (M. A. 1977; PhD 1980) and a law degree from Case Western Reserve University Cleveland, Ohio (J. D. 1984). He has been admitted to practice law in Ghana and the State of Ohio.

Honorable Tonguino Fatoumata Cissoko has served as a member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Guinea since 2013, where she serves a Member of the Bureau of the Institution, 2nd Parliamentary Secretary. She has been a member of the Central Committee of the Rally of the Guinean People (Rassemblement du Peuple Guinéen, or RPG)/Arc-en-ciel since 2009. She has earned her Master’s degree in French at Gamal Abdel Nasser University of Conakry, and a DESS in Youth Inspectorate Sport Culture and Popular Education at the University of Dakar. She was a statutory member of the National Transitional Council (CNT) in 2012-2013. From 2009-2012, she served as President of the National Party for Democracy and Equity (PNDE). An Africa Center alumnus, she attended ACSS’s Senior Leaders Seminar in Washington in 2016.

Maj. Gen. Birame Diop is currently serving as the National Security Advisor in Senegal. Prior to that, he was promoted to Chief of Staff the Air Force in January of 2015. His previous role was as the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Senegalese Air Force. As a pilot of the Senegalese Air Force, he has accumulated a total of 7,000 flying hours. He studied at the Royal Air academy of Morocco before joining the University of Southern California, the Air University of Alabama and the College Inter Armées (CID) of Paris. General Diop is a scholar and a practitioner who has worked for several years with the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS), as a facilitator in a wide range of seminars. He was a fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and at the Woodrow Wilson Center (WWC) where he has undertaken, for 10 months, researches on Africa’s Security Sector Reform. Diop has published several articles on Strategic Airlift Capacities (SAC), Security Sector Reform and Civil Military Relations (CMR) in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Ms. Amanda J. Dory joined the National War College faculty in 2017. She is a career member of the Senior Executive Service. From 2012-2017 she served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). She served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy from 2008-2011 and as the Principal Director for Policy Planning in OSD. In both capacities her responsibilities included strategy development, force planning scenarios, and long-term trends analysis. She has worked on multiple Quadrennial Defense Reviews (QDRs), to include as the chief of staff to lead implementation of QDR execution roadmaps for Building Partner Capacity and Irregular Warfare in 2007-2008. In addition to strategic and Africa regional assignments, Amanda has also served
in OSD’s Homeland Defense office as the director for planning and integration. In 2002, she was selected as a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow and conducted an independent research project based at the Center for Strategic and International Studies on civil security. Amanda received the Presidential Rank Award in 2010 and 2015 as well as awards for exceptional and meritorious civilian service. She is an alumna of Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service and received a master’s degree with concentrations in international economics and African studies from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

**Dr. Adedeji Ebo** was appointed the first-ever chief of the Security Sector Reform (SSR) Unit at the United Nations in 2008. He is also co-Chair of the UN Inter-Agency Rask Force on Security Sector Reform. He served as Political Director of the United Nations Office in Mali in 2013. He has led the development of strategic partnerships with regional organizations, think-tanks and networks, in particular the African Union and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). He has contributed actively to the drafting and consultation of the Africa Union’s SSR continental policy framework, formally adopted by African heads of State and Governments in January 2013. Ade has played a leading role in the development UN Guidance Notes on Security Sector Reform.

Previously (2003-2008), Ade was the pioneer Head of the Africa Programme (and Senior Fellow) at the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), Switzerland. He established the DCAF Africa Programme and expanded DCAF’s operations into Africa. While at DCAF, Ade initiated and led the process for the drafting, consultation and formal adoption of the ECOWAS Code of Conduct for Armed Forces and Security Services. He also established Liberia DCAF SSR programme, including aspects of parliamentary oversight, defense budgeting, and national consultation on SSR. Before joining DCAF, Ade was an Associate Professor and Head of Department at the Nigerian Defence Academy. He is an alumni of the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Keele, England, and Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria. He is a Political Economist with specialization in International Relations and is widely published.

**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.

**Dr. Luka Kuol** is professor of practice for security studies with responsibility supervising curriculum and program planning. He specializes in national security strategy development, the security-development nexus, and security sector reforms. He is currently conducting research on the links between migration, food security, conflicts and youth in Africa; the link between military expenditure, military professionalism, human security, development and conflict in Africa; and the devolution of the security-development nexus to the national level in Africa.

Dr. Kuol is a global fellow at Peace Research Institute Oslo and a fellow at Rift Valley Institute. He is also South Sudan Alumni Ambassador of the Institute of Development Studies in the United Kingdom. Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Kuol served as director of the Centre for Peace and Development Studies and associate professor of economics at the College of Social and Economic Studies at the University of Juba in South Sudan. He was also on the teaching staff of the Faculty of Economics and Rural Development at the University of Gezira in Sudan. He was a fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard Kennedy School and a visiting fellow at the Institute of Development Studies in the United Kingdom. He served as Minister of Presidential Affairs for the Government of Southern Sudan and as National Minister of Cabinet Affairs for the Republic of Sudan. He has also worked as a senior economist for the World Bank in Southern Sudan.

He received his BSc with honors from the Faculty of Economics and Social Studies at the University of Khartoum, an M.A. in Economics, an M.B.A. from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and a Ph.D. from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex.

**COL (ret) Tim Mitchell** is an Adjunct Faculty with the Africa Center for Security Studies, the Institute for Defense Analyses and the Joint Special Operations University. Tim is a former Infantry and Army Foreign Area Officer (FAO) with a focus in sub-Saharan Africa (48J). COL (ret) Mitchell is a French speaker with eight years of experience serving as the U.S. Senior Defense Official/Defense Attaché (SDO/DATT) in three African countries: Chad, with non-resident accreditation to the Central African Republic, (2004-2007); Tanzania (2007-2010) and most recently Liberia (2013-2015) where he played a lead role in the international efforts to stop the spread of Ebola in West Africa. COL (ret) Mitchell also served as the Chief, Security Cooperation Division at U.S. Army Africa in Vicenza, Italy, where he was responsible for coordinating all U.S. Army security cooperation activities in Africa. COL (ret) Mitchell finished his Army career serving as an assistant professor of National Security Studies at the National War College in Washington, D.C. COL (ret) Mitchell earned a Master’s degree in Public Policy from Duke University and a Master’s degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. Tim began his military career in 1987 after graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point.
Hon. Mamadou Ndiaye was elected as MP in 2001 and re-elected in 2007, and served as Deputy Mayor of the city of Dakar from 2002 to 2009. He was elected in 2009 President of the Defence and security Committee of the National Assembly of Senegal. He also serves as the Rapporteur of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union (APU). Close associate of Mamadou Dia, former Chairman of the Senegalese Government and founder of the Movement for socialism and the unit (MSU), he was the leader of the MSU between 1997 and 2001 and as such one of the actors of the political change occurred to the Senegal on March 19, 2000. He broke with Mamadou Dia in 2001 and animates a current of the MSU called MSU/CAP 21, close to the presidential majority. He founded the Socialist Popular Movement MPS/SELAL in September 2006. He had written many publications, including "The defence and security committees and parliamentary mechanisms applied to the security sector: the case of Senegal," in the context of his collaboration with the Centre for the democratic control of armed forces (DCAF), or with the African sector network the Security (ASSN) of which he is a member.

Ms. Michelle Ndiaye is the Director of the Africa Peace and Security Program in collaboration with the African Union Commission at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) and the Head of the Tana Forum Secretariat. Ndiaye has worked on a variety of projects with various local and international organizations and brings on-board a wealth of experience in the field of democratic and local governance, post-conflicts and community recovery, sustainable development and environmental issues, transitional justice, communication and research. She has an extensive political and administrative managerial background and experience in large scale multi-donor program management. She has worked with the United Nations development program (UNDP), the African Union and international development actors on many projects. She published several articles and papers on the democratization and political processes and development issues in Africa.

Before joining IPSS, she was the Managing Director of the Mandela Institute for Development Studies (MINDS). Prior to joining MINDS, she consecutively headed several African and international organizations as Executive Director of Greenpeace Africa, CEO of the African Institute for Corporate Citizenship (AICC), Founder and Manager of Africa Projects for Akena Research and Consulting and Regional Director of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters. Michelle started her career in 1995 as program officer at the African Institute for Democracy (IAD), a nongovernmental organization and UNDP project based in Dakar, Senegal that promotes democracy and governance in Africa and particularly in 16 West African countries. Mrs. Ndiaye graduated in political science (B.A.) from Quebec University in Montreal, Canada. She holds a Master’s degree in public law and a post graduate degree in Political Science (DEA) from University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal. She is a Doctoral Candidate at the University Leipzig, Germany.

Dr. Emile Ouedraogo (retired Burkina Faso Army Colonel) is an Independent International Consultant. He works on issues related to security in general, and on the African security sector reform and governance in particular. In this capacity, he was involved in more than 20 activities and events with the Washington DC-based National Defense University (NDU/USA) Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) and is currently working with US AFRICOM (United States), Partners for Democratic Change (United States), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Germany), Friedrich Erbet Stiftung (FES, Germany), the ECOWAS Parliament and the Association of
European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA, European Union). He is a Member of the African Security Sector Network (ASSN) and founding President of the Fondation pour la Sécurité du Citoyen au Burkina Faso (Burkina Faso Citizen’ Security Foundation – FOSEC). Dr Ouedraogo left Burkina Faso Army active duty in 2012, after thirty (30) years of service. He served as Aide to the Prime Minister, Commanding Officer, Chief Military Intelligence Division at the Army General Staff before being appointed Minister of Security of Burkina Faso from 2008 to 2011. As a Minister of Security, he initiated and developed a Homeland Security Strategy for Burkina Faso and operationalized the concept of community policing and community participation in the management of security issues.

Dr. Ouedraogo was also a parliamentarian in the National Assembly of Burkina Faso and ECOWAS Parliament where he sat on the Political Affairs, Peace, Defense and Security Committees. In this capacity, he carried out informative and investigative missions in most ECOWAS countries and is therefore fully conversant with security issues which affect the subregion.

Dr. Ouedraogo earned a PhD with honors from the Center for Diplomatic and Strategic Studies, Paris, France on “Security Sector Reform and Governance in the ECOWAS Region: Issues and Prospects” (CEDS, 2011-2014) and published a research paper with the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS/NDU/Washington DC) in July 2014 entitled « Advancing Military Professionalism in Africa ». He conducted two surveys in 2016, including “Security Dialog in the Sahel-Sahara Region (FES, Germany) and “The State of Intelligence Services in West Africa: A Case Study on Burkina Faso” (FKA, Germany).

Hon. Brownie J. Samukai, Jr., served as Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Liberia for 12 years (2006 – 2018) under H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. As Minister, he led efforts to rebuild from scratch, a new Armed Forces of Liberia that was professionally trained, regimented, disciplined, accountable and subservient to civilian rule. Between 2001 and 2004, Mr. Samukai served as Deputy Minister of Defense for Operations, where he formulated appropriate strategies to reestablish civilian control of the Armed Forces of Liberia, and coordinated the Interim Government’s security/military assistance to the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) against insurgents.

He has served in high level portfolios within the Liberian Government including Deputy Minister for Administration at the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs (1995 – 1997); Director (or IGP) of Liberia National Police (1994-1995) during the civil conflict, where he spearheaded efforts to restore public confidence in law enforcement, initiated institutional and structural reforms and strengthened community policing and countering related armed violence. Minister Samukai is a 1986 graduate of the United States Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, Texas, and a graduate of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Officer Basic Course at Fort Lee, Virginia (Class 86-10, Outstanding Achievement Award). Hon. Samukai is a Fulbright Scholar with a Master of Science Degree (1990) in Applied Economics from The American University in Washington, DC. He obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics (Class of 1984) from the University of Liberia. He is a graduate of the Economics Institute (Class of 1988) at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado USA.
Dr. Miguel Ferreira da Silva is the Director of the Commission for Strategic and Governance Studies of the Sea, Energy, and Environment (CEEGMEA). Dr. Ferreira was previously appointed as political attaché to the Portuguese Embassy in Washington D.C and the Senior Portuguese Representative at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. 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 specializes in security, intelligence, and terrorism. After developing a career in Legal Advising to the Public Sector, both at local and national levels, Miguel returned to academia to teach 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.