



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

MSS: SHARED CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

BIOGRAPHIES

Leadership

Ms. Amanda Dory is the Director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, located at the National Defense University in Washington, DC. Prior to this appointment, she held the position of Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs. Ms. Dory is a career member of the Senior Executive Service. Ms. Dory has served in multiple leadership roles in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy, including Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, and acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Plans and Posture. She also served on the National War College faculty and as associate dean for outreach. 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.

As Academic Dean, Dr. Assis Malaquias oversees curriculum and program development at the Africa Center. This includes lines of effort in Advancing Military Professionalism; Countering Transnational Organized Crime; Countering Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism; Cyber Domain Awareness, Cybersecurity, and Information/Disinformation; Maritime Safety and Security; National Security Strategy Development; Peace Support Operations and Crisis Response; and Rule of Law and Security Sector Governance. Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Malaquias served as Professor and Chair in the Department of Global Studies and Maritime Affairs at the California State University Maritime Academy. Dr. Malaquias' previous positions include: Professor and Chair of Defense Economics and Resource Management at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies; Associate Dean of International and Intercultural Studies and Professor of Government at St. Lawrence University; Extraordinary Associate Professor of Political Studies at the University of Western Cape in South Africa; and a Visiting Professor at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. Dr. Malaquias holds an M.A. in economics and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Dalhousie University, Canada.

Facilitators, Speakers, and Moderators

Ms. Anum Khan is an Associate Fellow at the National Maritime Foundation (NMF). She is a member of the Africa's Maritime Geo-strategies (AMGS) Cluster within the NMF. Her current area of research focus is the Maritime Geostrategies of coastal and Island States on the eastern African littoral, with a particular emphasis on maritime security and traditional and non-traditional risk assessments of the region. She initially joined NMF as a research intern, and following her role transition, she has been investigating relevant regional economic mechanisms of eastern Africa, such as SADC, EAC, IGAD, etc., and their maritime-oriented verticals vis-à-vis blue economy. By placing special emphasis on African state structures, their degree of fragility, and maritime facets in terms of capacity and capability, she aims to construct an Afro-optimistic account of security. During her internship, she co-authored an article with Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, Director General, NMF, entitled, "The Vanilla Islands – Potential for a 'Pluralistic Security Community.'" Ms Khan holds a Master of Arts in Politics (International and Area Studies) from MMAJ Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia. She completed her MPhil in African Studies from the Department of African Studies, University of Delhi, submitting a dissertation entitled, "*Ambazonia - Nation in the Quest of State: A Case of Conflict Analysis in Cameroon through Subaltern Realism.*" Currently, she is pursuing her PhD from the same department, focusing on the topic, "*Spatial Analysis of Conflict – A Critical Security Perspective of Violence in Liptako – Gourma Region.*"

Navy Captain Cyrille Serge ATONFACK GUEMO is a holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Political Sciences obtained in 1994 from the University of Yaoundé II. He is also a 1998 graduate of the higher military 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 (*Institut Universitaire Européen de la Mer - IUEM*) 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. To complete his career in maritime law, he benefited from a professional internship at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in Hamburg, Germany in 2008. Between 2010 and 2013, he occupied various Staff positions at Cameroon's Ministry of Defence. During this period, he was also a lecturer on Maritime Law at the Research Centre for Political and Strategic Studies (*Centre de Recherches et d'Etudes Politiques et Stratégiques - CREPS*) of the University of Yaounde II. Since July 2013, he is the rapporteur of the Operational Cell of the National Committee setup to follow up the implementation of decisions stemming from the Summit of Heads of State and Government, members of ECCAS, ECOWAS, and GGC on maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea, held in Yaounde on the 24th and 25th of June 2013. The Operational Cell's first project, was the *Interregional Coordination Centre (ICC)* for maritime safety and security in Central and West Africa. Navy Captain ATONFACK GUEMO currently serve, since March 2016, as the *Technical adviser to the Minister of Defence*, and concomitantly the *Head of the Communication Division, Spokesperson for the Cameroonian Armed Forces*, since February 2019.

Professor David McElyea is a well-respected expert in the fields of maritime security cooperation, national security strategy, and economic security. He joined the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in October 2019 as a lecturer, bringing with him 25 years of experience in the United States Navy as a Naval Flight Officer and Foreign Area Officer.

As a Foreign Area Officer, Professor McElyea gained extensive global experience in the field of maritime security cooperation, where he has advanced maritime cooperation and integration with partners and allies. He has served as a maritime advisor to several U.S. Navy and Marine commanders, Chiefs of U.S. Missions, and foreign maritime leaders on matters of capability and capacity building, interoperability, coalition operations, maritime strategy development, information exchanges, basing, and logistics.

Born in central Illinois, Professor McElyea graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2000 with a B.S. in Economics. He went on to earn a Master's in National Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School in 2010. He has since been deployed to various parts of the world, including Egypt, Qatar, Spain, and Germany.

Captain Erin Williams joined the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in July 2023 as a Military Professor. A native of Kansas, she joined the U.S. Coast Guard in 1994 and is a 1998 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. She earned her Master of Arts in Educational Technology from San Diego State University in 2005. Her previous assignment was as Commanding Officer of Activities Far East in Tokyo, Japan, where she was responsible for securing the U.S. Marine Transportation System and strengthening global maritime governance in the Indo-Pacific via regulatory oversight of U.S. commercial and national security vessels and foreign port security engagements across the region. As the Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Unit Duluth, Minnesota, from 2016-19, she fulfilled regulatory authorities as the Captain of the Port, Federal On-Scene Coordinator, and Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, leading Coast Guard missions on Western Lake Superior and across 700 miles of international border with Canada. From 2014 to 2016, she served as the Executive Officer of Activities Europe in the Netherlands. She acted as the Commanding Officer's direct representative with a mission similar to Activities Far East but spanning Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. She is now a military professor specializing in Marine Safety and Security, Maritime Governance, and Women, Peace, & Security in Oceania.

Ms. Harrie Mboce Njoki is a lawyer by profession and an advocate of the High court of Kenya, where her legal practice is situated. She is also a certified civil and commercial mediator by the ADRg Group and qualified for Associate membership with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Kenya). Njoki also trains on trial advocacy with Justice Advocacy Africa, a non-profit organization which facilitates trial advocacy training programs in Africa. She holds a Master of Laws (LL.M), specializing in international trade and investments. Her fields of research interest are International Trade and Investments, Maritime Governance, Alternative Dispute Resolution and Administrative Law, Democracy & Governance.

Dr. Ifesinachi Okafor-Yarwood is a lecturer in Sustainable Development and the interim director of impact at the School of Geography and Sustainable Development, University of St. Andrews

School of Geography & Sustainable Development in Scotland. Her work advances a transdisciplinary understanding of oceans' sustainability, governance, and security. With extensive field research experience involving strategic maritime stakeholders and West and Central African communities, Dr Okafor-Yarwood has contributed to high-level reports on ocean governance, gender, and maritime security at regional and global levels. She has published extensively on the blue economy, fisheries governance, marine pollution, maritime security, and maritime boundary delineation. Dr Okafor-Yarwood consults for UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme on gender and maritime security issues in West Africa. She holds a PhD in Leadership, Security and Development, an M.A. in Conflict, Security, and Development from King's College London, UK, a B.A. in International Relations, Peace and Conflict Studies, and a preparatory Diploma in Law from London Metropolitan University, London, UK.

CAPT Jeff Landsman An associate professor in International Programs (IP), he joined the college's faculty in 2008. A former surface warfare officer, he attained the rank of captain with primary assignments aboard frigates and destroyers in the areas of weapons systems and shipboard operations. He has extensive knowledge and experience serving on combined, joint, and fleet level staffs, and with coalition partners in Africa, Indo-Pacific, and Europe. Presently, he serves as faculty supporting the Maritime Security and Governance Staff Course. He is also lead for the Africa Maritime Security Elective. Prior to joining IP, he served as war game director, for a variety of naval, joint and multi-national games.

Mr. Jeffrey Payne Assistant Professor at the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies. He pilots NESA's maritime security programming, including its ongoing series devoted to the Indian Ocean Region and wider Indo Pacific. In addition, he leads NESA's engagements relating to maritime and littoral information sharing/ data analysis. Professor Payne conducts analysis on Chinese foreign policy, Indian Ocean Regional affairs, and maritime security. He is particularly interested in the intersection of maritime security and strategic competition in the Indian Ocean, as well as in how technology and information can assist in furthering security cooperation. His work informs United States Combatant Commands, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and interagency efforts inside the United States government. Payne takes part in United States government efforts relating to Maritime Domain Awareness and helps facilitate internal discussions across bureaucratic seams existing in the Indian Ocean. He has presented before international conclaves, security forums, and defense institutions in Europe, the Middle East, South Asia, and East Asia. Prior to joining NESA, he served as an Instructor of Political Science at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana and did his graduate studies at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

Ms. Jennifer Parker an Expert Associate at the National Security College, Australian National University, and an Adjunct Fellow in naval studies at the University of New South Wales Canberra.

Jennifer has served for more than 20 years with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). During her time in the RAN Jennifer specialized as a Principal Warfare Officer, including undertaking deep specialist training with the Royal Navy in Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer.

Jennifer has extensive operational experience from the Middle East to the Caribbean, and most areas in between. She has undertaken a series of naval appointments nationally and

internationally in areas including force design strategy, career management, international exercise planning and operations. That included service as an exchange officer with the Royal Navy. Jennifer's last appointment in the RAN was as Director of Operations in Bahrain of the Combined Maritime Forces, a 38-nation coalition promoting national security in the Middle East and Indian Ocean region.

Ms. Kirsty McLean is the Deputy Director for Africa Integration at US Naval Forces Europe, Africa and Sixth Fleet in Naples, Italy. She and her team conduct operations and security cooperation activities with African partners to improve regional maritime security. Before coming to NAVAF in 2021, Ms McLean served for six years at the Navy International Program Office in Washington, as the Program Manager for Building Partner Capacity (BPC). In this position, she managed the approval of over \$200M per year in BPC cases, with a total portfolio valued close to \$1B of equipment and training provided to partners. From 2018-2020, Ms Mclean was seconded to the US Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia as the Minister of Defense Advisor (MoDA) in the Office for Defense Cooperation. She led the institutional capacity building program, facilitating Indonesia's goal to build a modern, professional joint force, externally focused, ready and capable of providing credible deterrence against maritime threats. She fostered the use of the SeaVision regional maritime picture tool, and within 2 years, Indonesia became the largest user of the system. Prior to this, Ms. McLean spent five years as Maritime Outreach Planner for U.S. Naval Forces Africa, leading the MDA aspects of the EXPRESS exercises around Africa. One of her key achievements were 'turning the lights on' around West Africa by developing SeaVision which is now used by 105 countries, with over 56,000 logins per month. Ms. McLean holds a Bachelor of International Business from Griffith University in Australia, a Masters of Business Administration from the American University in Washington, D.C. and a Masters of Development Economics from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. She was the valedictorian of the Royal Australian Naval Staff College and holds professional certifications in Project Management (PMP) and Systems Engineering.

CAPT Paulo Afonso is the Senior Portuguese Representative at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. For the last 35 years, he has been working in the Portuguese Navy as a navy officer and has participated in several Military Cooperation with Africa Nations: Technical Advisor at the Portuguese Maritime Project at the Angola Navy Academy and at the Portuguese Military Project at the Mozambique Military Academy, among others. Before joining the Africa Center, he was technical director of the General Directorate of the Portuguese Maritime Authority, managing different contents related to Maritime Security and Safety for two years. Captain Paulo Afonso has a master's degree in Organizational Behavior from the Applied Psychology Institute, Lisbon. He has concluded the Naval War College Course. He's the author of three leadership books, *Leadership Process: the key elements* (2nd edition, 2010); *Leadership Dilemmas* (2011); *Why do leaders fail?* (2018).

Ambassador Robert Scott assumed the duties as the Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Engagement, United States Africa Command, in July 2023. Ambassador Scott, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister Counselor, previously served as the Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Malawi from 2019-21. Other assignments

include acting Deputy Assistant Secretary covering West Africa and Economic and Regional Affairs from 2017-2019, Deputy Chief of Mission in Zimbabwe and Tanzania, and Deputy Office Director for West African Affairs. Ambassador Scott's other overseas tours include Ukraine, Germany, France, Ghana, as well as domestic assignments focusing on climate change and European security issues. Ambassador Scott joined the Foreign Service in 1994. He received a B.A. in History from Lawrence University, and has an M.A. in International Relations from American University.

Captain J. Trent Warner currently serves as the Division Chief of the Counter-narcotics and Transnational Threats Program (CTTP-J59) and as the Coast Guard Liaison Officer (CGLO) at U. S. Africa Command (AFRICOM). As the J59 Division Chief, he oversees counter-narcotics, counter threat finance, and maritime security programs and activities at AFRICOM. As the CGLO, he serves as the senior representative of the Coast Guard at AFRICOM. From 2018 to 2022, CAPT Warner served as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, U. S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area where he advised 46 operational units (including 27 major cutters and 13 Deployable Specialized Forces commands). His advice included topics on military justice, contingencies operations, international and maritime law enforcement. He also served as Legal Counsel for Coast Guard Defense Forces East and DHS-Joint Task Force East, advising the three star command on defense authorities and DHS interagency partners on efforts to counter illicit maritime activities. CAPT Warner served at AFRICOM as Chief of Legal Engagements Division, Office of Legal Counsel from 2015 to 2018. In this capacity, he worked to advance AFRICOM's Theater Strategy through sustained legal capacity building activities with African military legal professionals and commanders to promote the rule of law. He worked to synchronize AFRICOM efforts with international organizations, including the European Union, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the African Union. He was an Advanced Operational Law Studies Fellow, Center for Law and Military Operations, Army JAG School, receiving his LL.M., in Military Law with a specialty in International and Operational Law from 2007 to 2009; CAPT Warner graduated from the University of Utah with an Honors BA in Russian, Cum Laude in 1998. He completed a semester at St. Petersburg State University, Russia in 1997. He graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law, Spokane, WA in 2002.

Cmdr. Yvonne Yang joined the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in June 2023 as a Military Fellow. Prior to that, she served as the Incident Management Division Chief at USCG Sector San Francisco, where she directly oversaw Marine Environmental Response efforts and was a Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator. Before that, she was stationed at the Coast Guard's 17th District Headquarters in Juneau, Alaska, from 2016 to 2020 as the Domestic Fisheries Section Chief, managing the enforcement of U.S. and international fishery enforcement efforts, including the enforcement of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Within that time between 2017 to 2018, she also served as the aide-de-camp to the Commander, Coast Guard 17th District. Her first assignment in the Coast Guard was from 2006 to 2008 onboard the USCGC *ACUSHNET*, a 213' medium endurance cutter in Ketchikan, Alaska, where she was assigned as a Deck Watch Officer and Boarding Officer throughout the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in 2006 at the United States Coast Guard Academy, with a major in Government and International Relations. She holds a Master of Public

Administration from the University of Southeast Alaska, with a concentration in Natural Resource Policy.