



# AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

## PEACE OPERATIONS LEADERSHIP: A CONVERSATION WITH FORMER FORCE COMMANDERS

### BIOGRAPHIES

#### Leadership

**Dr. Nate Allen** is Associate Professor at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, where oversees academic programming and conducts research on cyber issues, peace operations, emerging technology, and civil-military across Africa. Previously, Dr. Allen was a policy advisor at the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States. He has also worked at the U.S. State Department, House of Representatives, and as a research analyst at NORC at the University of Chicago. Dr. Allen's work has appeared in a wide range of leading policy and peer-reviewed publications, including *Armed Forces and Society*, *The Washington Quarterly*, *Democratization*, *Orbis*, *War on the Rocks*, *The Washington Post*, and *Foreign Affairs*. He has received fellowships from American University, the Robertson Family Foundation, and USIP, where he was a 2016-2017 Peace Scholar. He currently serves as a Research Fellow at South Africa's Stellenbosch University and is a Council on Foreign Relations Term Member.

Dr. Allen holds a Ph.D. in international relations and African studies from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, an M.A. from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs, and a B.A. from Swarthmore College.

**Colonel (ret.) Daniel Hampton** is the Acting Director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. He brings more than 25 years of experience developing and implementing U.S. defense policy and strategy in Africa. As professor of practice in security studies, he oversees curriculum development and program management in the areas of institutional capacity building and civil-military cooperation. During the course of a 30-year military career, Colonel (retired) Hampton held several postings on the African continent to include the United States Senior Defense Official to the Republic of South Africa and U.S. Defense Attaché to the countries of Eswatini, Malawi, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe. He also served as a policy adviser to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the Horn of Africa region. As part of the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, Colonel Hampton commanded the Regional Support Command-South responsible for the institutional training, equipping, and resourcing of all Afghan Army and Afghan Police forces in southern Afghanistan. Colonel (retired) Hampton is a graduate of the United States Army Command and Staff College, the Zimbabwe Staff College, and the Defense Language Institute (French). He holds a Masters in African Studies from the University of Illinois, a Masters in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, and a B.A. in History from Wake Forest University.

## Panelists

**Ambassador Michele Sison** was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs on December 21, 2021. She served as U.S. Ambassador to Haiti from February 2018 to October 2021, and as U.S. Deputy Representative to the United Nations 2014-2018, where she helped build global coalitions to counter transnational threats to peace and security and advocated for a more effective, efficient, and accountable UN and multilateral system. Ambassador Sison has long experience with UN peacekeeping and the UN entities responsible for development, humanitarian relief, and human rights. Ambassador Sison served as U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives (2012-2014), U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon (2008-2010), and U.S. Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (2004-2008). Ambassador Sison's diplomatic assignments also include Assistant Chief of Mission in Baghdad, Iraq; Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs; Deputy Chief of Mission in Islamabad, Pakistan; Consul General in Chennai, India; and tours in Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Benin, and Togo. She also served as the State Department's Director of Career Development and Assignments. Ambassador Sison is the recipient of the U.S. Presidential Distinguished Service Award, U.S. Presidential Meritorious Service Award, and the U.S. Department of the Army's Outstanding Civilian Service Medal. She holds numerous U.S. Department of State awards, including Ambassadorial-level awards for her contributions to counter-proliferation and combatting trafficking in persons. Ambassador Sison holds the rank of Career Ambassador, the highest rank in the U.S. Foreign Service.

**Lieutenant General (Ret.) Dr. Dennis Gyllensporre** is an Associate Professor in Security Policy and Strategy at the Swedish Defense University, currently at Oxford University as a Visiting Fellow. His research is focused on security strategy, military diplomacy, and peacekeeping. He also holds office as the Vice President of the Royal Swedish Academy of War Sciences. LTG (Ret.) Gyllensporre has 38 years of service in the Swedish Armed Forces.

In October 2021, he completed three years of service as the Force Commander for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). He came from a four-year appointment as the Chief of Defense Staff and Director of Special Forces of the Swedish Armed Forces. He was promoted to Lieutenant General in 2014. Gyllensporre has served as a staff officer in various positions, including tours abroad in Bosnia- Herzegovina and Sudan, and served as a military advisor in international crisis management at the MoD. He has also served as chief of staff at the Swedish Joint Operations Command and later as head of the Doctrine and Concepts Branch at the European Union Military Staff. In 2008, he was deployed to Afghanistan as the Chief of Staff at Regional Command North of the NATO-led operation (ISAF).

He has studied at multifold military institutions and holds several academic degrees, including a Master of Science in Computer Science (Royal National Institute of Technology, Sweden), Master of Business Administration (Warwick University, United Kingdom), Master of Military Arts and Science (US Army Command and General Staff College), as well as a Ph.D. in Policy Analysis and Governance (Maastricht University, the Netherlands). He is the author of several books and academic articles on military strategy and security studies.

His leadership has been officially recognized nationally and internationally. He is a recipient of the Swedish Armed Forces Medal of Merit in gold for distinguished leadership during combat and war-like situations, the French Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur, the Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mali, and the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award (2001) for academic

achievements at U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He was awarded the 'Leader of Change 2022' in Sweden for successful work as an adaptation manager. Gyllensporre was inaugurated into the Hall of Fame at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (2017) and the U.S. National Defense University (2022).

**Major General Cheryl Pearce** of Australia was appointed to the position of Deputy Military Adviser for Peacekeeping Operations with the United Nations in January 2024. However, she assumed the position of Acting Military Adviser in April 2024. Previously serving as the Deputy Chief of the Army of the Australian Defense Force, Major General Pearce brings to this position more than 35 years of military experience. She was Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus from 2019 to 2021.

She previously served as the Commandant of the Australian Defense Force Academy (2017-2019) and as Commander of the Australian Joint Task Force Group in Afghanistan (2016). She was the Australian Army Headquarters Chief of Staff (2013-2016) and Director of Special Operations Support (2010-2012). Major General Pearce also held the positions of Commandant of the Defense Police Training Centre and Commanding Officer of the 1st Military Police Battalion. She was the Australian Army's Provost-Marshal as well as a military observer with the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor in 2002.

Major General Pearce holds a Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies from the University of New England in Armidale, a Master's in Policing, Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism from the Macquarie University in Sydney and a Master's of Arts in Defense Studies from the Deakin University in Melbourne, all in Australia.

**Major General (ret.) Salihu Zaway Uba** of Nigeria previously served as Force Commander for the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), a position he was appointed to in January 2015. Before that appointment, he served as the Commander of Training and Doctrine Command of the Nigerian Army and the Commandant of the Nigerian Army Peacekeeping Center from 2013 to 2014. Between 2012 and 2013, he served as the Director of Veterans Affairs Department in the Nigerian Ministry of Defense.

Major General Uba also served as Sector Commander in the United Nations Mission in Liberia from 2010 to 2012, and as Company Commander in the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) from 1992 to 1993.

Major General Uba has master's degrees in strategic studies, business administration, and peace and conflict from the University of Ibadan, Imo State University, and the National Open University, respectively, Nigeria. He is also a graduate of the War College, Nigeria.

## **Discussants**

**Dr. Daisy Muibu** is an Assistant Professor of Security Studies at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Her work is focused on counterterrorism, countering violent extremism, and security sector governance in conflict-affected states. She is responsible for leading the counterterrorism and countering violent extremism portfolio as well as the countering transnational organized crime portfolio at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Muibu was a Research Fellow at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and an Assistant Professor at the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Alabama. Her work on foreign fighter influence on armed groups and security sector reform in conflict-affected locales involved fieldwork in Somalia and Kenya where she conducted community surveys and interviews. Her work has been published in academic journals including *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*, *South African Journal of International Affairs*, *The Journal of the Middle East and Africa*, *Conflict, Security and Development*, *Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism*, and the *Combating Terrorism Center*. Dr. Muibu has also been the recipient of various research grants including: the National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education (NCITE); the United Nations' Initiative on Peace and Reconciliation in Somalia; the Association for the Study of The Middle East and Africa; and the University of Alabama.

Dr. Muibu holds a Ph.D. in Justice, Law and Criminology from the American University in Washington D.C. (2020), an MA in Intelligence and International Security from King's College, London (2015), and a BA in International Relations from the United States International University - Africa (2014).