



# AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

## EMERGING SECURITY SECTOR LEADERS PROGRAM

JUNE 2025

### 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.

**Colonel (ret.) Daniel Hampton** is the Deputy 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 (ret.) 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 (ret.) 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.



**Dr. Assis Malaquias** is the Academic Dean of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, overseeing curriculum and program development. 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.

**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).

## **Facilitators**

**Dr. Catherine Lena Kelly** is the Director of Engagement at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. She was previously Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and an Associate Professor. Her work focuses on defense and security sector governance, rule of law, and countering transnational organized crime.



Before the Center, Dr. Kelly was an Advisor in the Research, Evaluation, and Learning Division at the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, where her work on judicial training and grassroots legal empowerment took her to a wide range of West and Central African countries. Fluent in French, Dr. Kelly has also designed and taught courses on contemporary Africa as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Washington University in St. Louis, and on West Africa and Area Studies at the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute. Dr. Kelly has earned fellowships from Fulbright, American Council of Learned Societies, West Africa Research Association, Harvard University, and the U.S. government's Foreign Language and Area Studies program for the Wolof language. Her book, *Party Proliferation and Political Contestation in Africa: Senegal in Comparative Perspective* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), is based on 18 months of research in Senegal. Her work has been published in *African Security*, *Amani Africa Journal*, *Comparative Politics*, *Democracy in Africa*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Trends in Transnational Organized Crime*, *The Washington Post*, numerous edited volumes, and American Bar Association white papers.

Dr. Kelly holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in government from Harvard University, a Graduate Certificate in international politics from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, and a B.A. *summa cum laude* from Washington University in St. Louis. She is a Council on Foreign Relations Term Member.

**Dr. Ifesinachi Okafor-Yarwood** is a lecturer in Sustainable Development at the School of Geography and Sustainable Development at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Her work aims to advance a transdisciplinary understanding of oceans' sustainability, governance, and security. With extensive experience in field research involving strategic maritime stakeholders and West and Central African communities, Dr Okafor-Yarwood has contributed to high-level reports and consulted for national, regional, and global entities. She has published extensively on the blue economy, fisheries governance, maritime security, and maritime boundary delineation.

As a 2023 PEW Marine Fellow, Dr. Okafor-Yarwood is exploring the integration of historical ecological knowledge with scientific knowledge for equitable fisheries livelihoods 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.

**Dr. Nate Allen** is an Associate Professor at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies and oversees academic programming on cyber issues and peace operations. Dr. Allen's expertise includes cyber issues, emerging technology, civil-military relations, and regional security partnerships 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.

**Dr. Martha Mutisi** is an academic-practitioner with more than 15 years of experience focusing on various issues at the critical intersection between peace, security, governance, conflict management, political affairs, early warning, gender, youth empowerment and development issues. Currently, she serves as a Senior Program Specialist with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)'s Democratic and Inclusive Governance (DIG) Program Area in the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO). Her role includes overseeing research projects focused on promoting civic engagement and democratic accountability. She is also leads the women, peace and security and youth peace and security portfolios.

Before joining IDRC, Dr. Mutisi worked with UN Women (Zimbabwe Country Office) as a Program Specialist on Gender, Peace and Security, in addition to working as a Senior Researcher & Manager of Interventions Department with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD).

A recipient of several fellowships including the Fulbright scholarship; the Harry Garry Frank Guggenheim Fellowship and Josh Weston Fellowship, Dr. Mutisi's research, policy, programming, and training interests also focus on conflict analysis, early warning, peace processes, peace agreements, mediation and negotiation, elections, governance, and democratization.

Dr. Mutisi has worked extensively with the African Union, Regional Economic Communities/ Regional Mechanism (RECs/ RMs) such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the East African Community (EAC), and the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) Dr. Mutisi has extensive knowledge of the African peace and security architecture (APSA), the African governance architecture (AGA).

In addition, Mutisi undertakes training for multidimensional and integrated UN, AU and SADC PSO Missions. She has served as a Resource Person/ Facilitator at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) based in Nairobi, Kenya; the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (SADC RPTC), based in Harare, Zimbabwe and the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF), among others.

**Dr. Joel Amegboh** is an Assistant Professor for African Security Studies, responsible for overseeing the Africa Center's academic programming on National Security Strategy Development and Youth, Peace, and Security and integrating these considerations into the Center's research and outreach.

Prior to joining the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Dr. Amegboh worked for several United Nations agencies and departments, including the Educational Outreach Division of the



Department of Public Information (DPI) and the Mali Integrated Operational Team, located in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. At the Africa Center, his research focuses on peacebuilding paradigms in Africa, the role of youth in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, human security, the security-development-governance nexus.

Dr. Amegboh holds a Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University, an M.A. in Global Development and Peace Studies, and a B.A. in International Political Economy and Diplomacy from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut. He is a Council on Foreign Relations Term Member.

**Dr. Anouar Boukhars** is a professor of counterterrorism and countering violent extremism at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. He works closely with African government and nongovernmental security sector leaders on developing and implementing activities and programs relating to counterterrorism and countering violent extremism. His research focuses on the dynamics of radicalization and violent extremism in Africa.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Boukhars was a nonresident fellow in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and an associate professor of international relations at McDaniel College. He has served on several advisory boards and committees on the Sahel and North Africa, including at the African Peacebuilding Network at the Social Science Research Council. From August 2015 to July 2017, Dr. Boukhars served at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as lead facilitator of its flagship program, the Executive Masters in Managing Peace and Security in Africa. His research has been published in numerous leading policy publications and academic journals. He routinely conducts fieldwork in Africa and consults frequently for the African Union, World Bank, United Nations, U.S. State Department, and European governments.

Dr. Boukhars holds a Ph.D. in international studies from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia; an M.A. in applied humanities from Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco; and a B.A. in English literature from Ibn Tofail University in Kenitra, Morocco.

## **Panelists**

**Dr. Luka Biong Deng Kuol** is an independent consultant and senior research fellow and former managing director of the Sudd Institute, a leading national think tank in South Sudan. He is an adjunct distinguished professor at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, USA, an adjunct professor at the University of Juba, South Sudan, and a fellow at the Rift Valley Institute. He is in the pool of the potential candidates for the leadership positions at the United Nations. He is a member of various expert group networks including the Global Experts Group on Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding, the African Security Sector Network (ASSN), the Expert Advisory Board of the Transnational Organized Crime Index Program, and the Experts Group Network on Security Priorities and Public Spending, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). He held various positions including dean of faculty and academic affairs at the Center, director of center for peace and development studies, University of Juba, South Sudan, resident fellow at Harvard Kennedy School, a non-resident senior adviser for the Horn of Africa, United States Institute of Peace (USIP), national minister of cabinet affairs in Sudan, minister of presidential affairs in Southern Sudan and a senior economist of the World Bank in Southern Sudan. He holds PhD from Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University



of Sussex, UK and Master of Economics and Master of Business Administration from Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. He is the editor-in-chief of the African Journal of Strategy, Defense and Security Studies and sits on the editorial board of the Disasters Journal. His publications include “The Struggle for South Sudan: Challenges of Security and State Formation” and “Why Does Famine Persist in Africa”.

**COL Sean McClure** is the Senior Military Advisor and Associate Dean at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. In this capacity, he leads the Africa Center’s research and programming in the areas of professional military education, civil-military relations, and defense modernization. Additionally, he also manages the State Department’s Africa Military Education Program on behalf of the Department of Defense. In the initial stages of his career, he served in a variety of command and staff positions in special operations units, with multiple deployments to Kosovo and Iraq. As a Foreign Area Officer, he served in a variety of security cooperation assignments in both the Joint Force and Defense agencies, to include overseas assignments in South Sudan, Nigeria, and Somalia.

He holds an M.S. in International Relations from Troy University, an M.S. in Defense Analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College.

**Dr. Clionadh Raleigh** is a Professor of Political Geography and Conflict at the University of Sussex. She previously served as a Lecturer in the Department of Political Science at Trinity College, Dublin and an external researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO). She is a political geographer, and her work is focused mainly on conflict, governance, and the social consequences of climate change in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Raleigh directs the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED) project, which tracks local conflict events in fifty countries. Her current work concerns conflict patterns, government intervention, and drought patterns in the Sahel belt, and appears in journals such as Political Geography. Dr. Raleigh earned her PhD in Geography from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Raleigh founded ACLED in 2005 as part of her PhD work, and it is now an independent NGO with 200 staff collecting and analyzing information on political violence and demonstrations across the globe.

**Mr. Mvemba Phezo Dizolele** is the former Director of the Africa Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Prior to CSIS, he was the Africa senior adviser at the International Republican Institute. Previously, he served as the course coordinator for central and southern Africa at the U.S. Foreign Service Institute. He was also a Peter J. Duignan distinguished visiting fellow and a national fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution. Dizolele has testified for both chambers of the U.S. Congress, as well as at the UN Security Council. He has served as an international election monitor and delegate in several countries, including Nigeria, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where he was also embedded with UN peacekeepers in Ituri and South Kivu as a reporter.

Dizolele’s analyses have been published in the Journal of Democracy, New York Times, Newsweek International, International Herald Tribune, Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, New Republic, Forbes, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and other outlets. A frequent commentator on African affairs, he has been a guest analyst on PBS’s NewsHour and Foreign Exchange; NPR’s Tell Me More, On Point, and the Diane Rehm Show; BBC’s World News Update; and Al Jazeera’s The Stream, NewsHour, and Inside Story. Dizolele holds an international MBA and an MPP from the



University of Chicago. He is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and is fluent in French, Norwegian, Spanish, Swahili, Kikongo, and Lingala and proficient in Danish and Swedish. He is the author of the forthcoming biography, *Mobutu: The Rise and Fall of the Leopard King* (Random House).

**Mr. Martin Ewi** is the Technical/ROCO Coordinator for the ENACT Project at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), where he previously served as a senior researcher on counter-terrorism and violent extremism, and project leader for ISS counter-terrorism capacity-building project for

West Africa and the Sahel. He has also served as Political Affairs Officer at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, based in The Hague. Before joining the OPCW, Mr. Ewi was in charge of the African Union Commission's counter-terrorism program and arms control and disarmament affairs in Addis Ababa.

Mr. Ewi is a top policy expert with an extensive experience on research and drafting legal documents on security and strategic issues on Africa, spanning a period of over twenty years. During this period, he has held various managerial and progressive technical positions as an expert, and held various consultancies with both continental and international organizations. He has traveled extensively on the continent and has experience in working with African governments and pan-African organizations at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

His main areas of expertise are counter-terrorism and violent extremism, transnational organized crime, disarmament and arms control including small arms and light weapons and weapons of mass destruction, human and drug trafficking, anti-personnel landmines, and common and collective security issues in Africa. He was the first African Union counterterrorism expert, who established and operationalized the AU counter-terrorism and Peace and Security Architecture.

Mr. Ewi holds a MA degree in International Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame, at Southbend, Indiana, United States of America. He also holds a BA (with Distinction) in Peace Studies and International Politics from Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, United States of America. His research works have appeared in peer reviewed journals and book chapters.

**Dr. Christian Bueger** is a Professor of International Relations at the Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen where he leads the Ocean Infrastructures Research Group and the Copenhagen Ocean Hub. He is also an honorary professor of the University of Seychelles, one of the directors of the SafeSeas network on maritime security, and a research fellow at the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

Until 2018 he was professor of international relations at Cardiff University. He has held visiting positions at the Graduate Institute Geneva (2023), University of Malta (2022), University of Bologna (2022), University of Stellenbosch (2018), National University of Singapore (2015 & 2018), University College London (2015) and the University of Copenhagen (2013 & 2014). He was a Leverhulme Fellow at the Greenwich Maritime Institute, London (2011) and a research fellow at the Institute for Development and Peace, Duisburg, Germany (2010).

Professor Bueger is the author, co-author and editor of several books and over 200 articles on international security, global governance, international theory, expertise, and global ocean politics. His most recent book is *Understanding Maritime Security* (Oxford University Press, 2024,



with Tim Edmunds). In his current grant funded projects he is studying global ocean politics and maritime security with a focus on European Seas, the Indian Ocean, and the Indo-Pacific. His research has been funded, among others, by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the British Academy, the Leverhulme Trust Fund, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DANIDA) and the Velux Foundation. In 2013 he was recipient of an ESRC Future Research Leader Award.

He was the lead editor (Europe) of the *European Journal of International Security* (Cambridge UP) from 2014 to 2019, and the founding editor of *piracy-studies.org* – the research portal for maritime security (until 2019). Actively combining research with practical work he regularly acts as consultant, expert and trainer, as well as speaker at conferences on international politics, maritime security and transport security. He has given briefings at the German Parliament, the European Parliament and the United Nations Security Council. His research has featured in different media, including, Al Jazeera, Der Spiegel, ITV, The Guardian, or Wall Street Journal.

He obtained his PhD in Political and Social Sciences from the European University Institute, Florence, Italy (2010). During his PhD studies, he was a visiting researcher at Cornell University and a research assistant to the European Report on Development 2009. He graduated as a Diplom-Politologe from the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main in 2002 and worked as a research assistant at the Institute for Social Research (IFS), Frankfurt am Main and the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (HSFK) between 2002 and 2005.

**Dr. Nnenna Ifeanyi-Ajufo** is a Professor of Law and Technology at the Leeds Law School, Leeds Beckett University, United Kingdom. She is also a Technology and Human Rights Fellow at the Carr Centre for Human Rights Policy, Harvard University and an Associate Fellow of the Africa Program at Chatham House, United Kingdom. Her teaching and research interests focus primarily on the intersection of law and technology, especially cybersecurity, governance of digital technologies, digital rights, and the rule of law in cyberspace. She is the Chair of the Cybercrime Working Group of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE). She is also the Vice-Chairperson of the African Union Cyber Security Experts Group (AUCSEG) and has been actively involved in advising the African Union Commission (AUC) and African Member States on existing international, regional, and national legal frameworks related to cybersecurity, as well as promoting cybersecurity in the region. She also serves as an African Union delegate to the United Nations 'Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes'.

Nnenna is internationally recognized for her expertise in areas related to law and technology. She was a member of the International Law Association Steering Committee on Digital Challenges for International Law which delivered a White Paper on Digital Challenges for International Law. She has served on the editorial or advisory boards of various organizations and academic journals. In 2020, she was named amongst 50 Individuals leading Legal Innovation in Africa, at the Africa Legal Innovation Awards.

**H.E. Ambassador Dr. Michael Imran Kanu** is currently Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, and the Representative of Sierra Leone at the United Nations Security Council. He is also the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in Kingston, Jamaica; and a Member of the Legal and Technical Commission of the ISA (2023-2027). He is Vice-President and Coordinator of the New



York Working Group of the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and co-chairs the Review Mechanism of the ICC.

Dr. Kanu served as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative (Legal Affairs) at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations in New York (2018-2023). A legal practitioner in Sierra Leone, he previously served as Managing Partner of Kanu & Associates law firm, Prosecutor at the Anti-Corruption Commission of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and Secretary of the General Legal Council, Republic of Sierra Leone.

Dr. Kanu holds a Doctoral of Juridical Science degree in International Business Law (SJD), Central European University; Master of Laws in International Business Law (LL.M), Central European University; Degree of Utter Barrister (B.L), Sierra Leone Law School; and Bachelor of Laws with Honours (LL.B), Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. He is a United Nations International Law Fellow and a Visiting Senior Fellow in Practice, the Law School of the London School of Economics and Political Science.

**Brigadier General Phillip P. M. Nyamali** is the Malawi Defense Attache to the Embassy of Malawi in Washington DC, USA. Preceding this appointment BG Nyamali was Commandant at Malawi Armed Forces College (MAFCO) in Salima, Malawi. He is a graduate of Zimbabwe National Defense University where he attained the highest military education 'ndc', and MSc in International Security Studies.

Brig Nyamali attended all military courses required by the Defense Force and commensurate with his rank. Throughout his military career, the General Officer has held several appointments ranging from Platoon Commander, Company second-in-command, Company commander, staff officer, Commanding officer, Deputy commandant, and Commandant. BG Nyamali participated in several United Nations and African Union assignments, including African Mission in Sudan (AMIS), MONUC and MONUSCO in DRC.

The General Officer holds a Master of Science (MSc) degree in Supply Chain and Management obtained with the University of Bolton and a Master of Science (MSc) degree in International Security Studies obtained at the Zimbabwe National Defense University. Currently, the General Officer is pursuing a Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA) with the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) in the United States. BG Nyamali got his commission as a second Lieutenant on July 31, 1992. The General Officer holds several military decorations and awards.

**COL (ret.) Dr. Emile Ouedraogo** is an adjunct professor of practice at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, specializing in issues related to national security policy /strategy development and security sector reform and governance.

Since 2007, he has worked with the Africa Center on more than 100 activities as a speaker, facilitator, and author. He also works as an independent consultant with UN, AU, ECOWAS, Just Future (Netherlands), Partners Global (USA), Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Germany), Friedrich Erbet Stiftung (Germany). He is a member of the Executive committee of the African Security Sector Network and founding President of the « Fondation pour la Sécurité du Citoyen » (FOSEC) of Burkina Faso.



Prior to joining the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, he served as Minister of Security of Burkina Faso from 2008 to 2011. He initiated and developed a Homeland Security Strategy and operationalized the concept of community policing and community participation in the management of security issues.

After 32 years of service with the Burkina Faso Army, he retired from active duty in 2012 as a Colonel, having served in positions including Aide de Camp to the Prime Minister, Support Regiment Commanding Officer, Infantry Commando Regiment Commanding Officer and Chief of the Military Intelligence.

Dr. Ouédraogo was a parliamentarian in the National Assembly of Burkina Faso and the 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 of ECOWAS' 15 countries.

He earned a Master Degree in Strategic Studies from the University of Ibadan (Nigeria, 2006), a Ph.D. from the Center for Diplomatic and Strategic Studies (France, 2014), on security sector reform and governance in the ECOWAS Region. Dr Emile Ouédraogo is an alumni of the National Defense College of Nigeria (2005) and of the the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (2007).

**Dr. Alex Marino** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Civil-Military Relations in the Department of National Security and Strategy at the United States Army War College. His research focuses on the history of U.S.-Africa relations, particularly the role of society and technology in formulating American foreign policy. His dissertation, "The United States and Portuguese Angola: Space, Race, and the Cold War in Africa," examines civil-military relations in the United States, Portugal, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Angola to understand why the United States fought and lost a proxy war against the Soviet Union in Angola in the 1970s and 1980s. He teaches Comparative Civil-Military Relations and the Africa Regional Studies Program and has advised Student Research Requirement papers on instability in the Sahel, the security implications of water reclamation projects on the Nile River, and Iran's influence in the Middle East and North Africa.

He is the co-founder and co-editor of the website Historifans, which publishes peer-reviewed articles on the intersection of history and popular fiction. Marino also serves as a curriculum development consultant for RELYANT Global in support of the Senegalese Institute of Defense. He previously served as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of National Security and Strategy at the United States Army War College, an Instructor in the History Department at the University of Arkansas, and an affiliate-faculty member in the African and African American Studies Program, and the Gender Studies Program at the University of Arkansas. He has a Ph.D. and a M.A. in History from the University of Arkansas and a B.A. in History from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

**Brigadier General Joyce Sitienei** is currently the Director of the International Peace Support Training Centre. She is an education officer in the Kenya Defence Forces. She holds a bachelor's

degree in education from Kenyatta University, master's degree in International Studies from the University of Nairobi and a Post graduate Diploma in Peace and Conflict Studies from the Africa Nazarene University. She is an alumnus of the National Defence College, Kenya.



Brig Joyce Sitienei has held several appointments since joining military service, key being Unit Education Officer in the Women Service Corps and the 15 Kenya Rifles, Instructor and Head of Distance Learning at the Defense Forces School of Higher Education; SO2 Lessons Learnt, Head of Curriculum design, Head of Applied Research and Col Plans and Programmes at the IPSTC. She has extensive experience in training in instructional methodology and adult education techniques. She also has wide knowledge and practice in curriculum design.

In 2001 she worked in Rwanda as part of the Kenya Military Assistance Training Team (KMATT) and in 2002-2003 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a Military Observer. Her decorations include Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear (MBS), United Nations and other Constitutional medals earned in service of the country.

**Brigadier General James Mwalongo** is the current Chief of Audit & Inspection Services Department in Zambia Air Force. He is also a pilot in the Zambia Air Force and current Chief of Audit and Inspections Department of the Zambia Air Force. He additionally chairs Zambia's national security sector strategy development.

Prior to the current appointment, Brig Gen Mwalongo served in various Command and Staff appointments. He served as Air Assistant (Principal Staff Officer) to two Zambia Air Force Deputy Commanders & Chiefs of Air Staff and served as Air Assistant to the Air Force Commander. These key staff appointments and other appointments in the Operations Department where he was Vice Chief of Operations and Acting Chief of Operations have contributed immensely to the General's understanding of Public Expenditure Management in the Zambia Air Force, in particular, and the Defense Force, in general.

**Dr. Nan Tian** is a Senior Researcher and Programme Director of the SIPRI Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme. He joined SIPRI in October 2016 and has been responsible for monitoring and managing the SIPRI Military Expenditure Database. His research work at SIPRI includes issues related to the trends of global military expenditure, the demand and consequences of military spending and the transparency and budgeting on military-related matters. Nan's work also involves assessing and analysing trends in the global arms industry. His other research interests include the causes and impact of civil conflict and the inter-links between conflict and military spending. His doctoral thesis is titled 'Military Spending, Conflict and Development' and explores the relationship between military spending, civil conflict and economic development.

**Dr. Bitania Tadesse** is a peace and security researcher and policy analyst who focuses on conflict management and peacebuilding in Africa and African multilateral institutions.

Before joining the International Peace Institute, she was program director at Amani Africa in Addis Ababa. She has worked with various international and pan-African organizations, including at the Norwegian Refugee Council AU Liaison Office, with the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, and Save the Children International pan-African Office.

She has worked extensively in research and advocacy in women, peace, and security, and humanitarian and development policies, primarily focusing on African Union-led initiatives and programs. Over the years, she has worked closely with various stakeholders, including multilateral partners and international organizations.



Bitania received her MSc in African Studies from Oxford University, holds a BA in Political Science and International Relations, and a MA in Peace and Security from Addis Ababa University.

**Brigadier General (ret.) Elijah Mwanyika** served with the Kenya Defense Forces for more than 37 years during which he has held, Command, Staff and training appointments both at the local and international levels. He is dedicated and resourceful conflict analyst, defense, security and peace support operations expert with a wealth of experience working in conflict zones and international multi-cultural settings. Currently, Mwanyika is a technical advisor to the Facilitator of the East African Community Nairobi led process for the restoration of peace and stability in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mwanyika has served with the United Nations both in the Field and at the Headquarters in New York. Specifically, he has served as a Peacekeeping Affairs Officer at Department of Peace Operations (New York), Chief Military Personnel Officer (CMPO) in United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Chief Operations Officer (COO) and Deputy Contingent Commander of the Kenyan Contingent in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Military Observer and DDR Officer in the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and Kenya Contingent member with the United Nations Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR).

He has been, Director, Centre for Security and Strategic Studies, National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K), the Head of Defence Equipment and Weapon Platforms Procurement (Chief of Systems) at the Kenya Defence HQs, Deputy Commandant Joint Services Command and Staff College, Commander Rapid Deployment Capability, Commandant Humanitarian Peace Support School (HPSS), Senior Directing Staff at the Joint Warfare Centre and at the International Peace Support Centre.

In 2014, while serving as a Peacekeeping Affairs officer at the UN Department of Peace Operations, supported the IGAD mediation team in Addis Ababa following the outbreak of armed conflict South Sudan. He also Conducted After Action Review (AAR) to assess the functioning of Crisis Management processes and procedures of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in Syria after the containment and detention peacekeepers.

Mwanyika is a graduate of National Defense College Kenya, Joint Services Command and Staff College, United Kingdom and the Joint Services Command and Staff College Kenya. He holds a PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies from Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), Kenya, Master of Arts Degree in Defense Studies, Kings College, University of London, Master of Arts in Sustainable Peace in the Contemporary World, University for Peace in Costa Rica, Post Graduate Diploma in Strategic Management, Diploma in Strategic Studies, Diploma in International Studies and Executive Diploma in Strategic Management. He also holds

a certificate in the General and Flag Officers Homeland Security from Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education program.



**Mr. Thomas Djurhuus** is leading the Bank's partnerships on Fragility, Conflict and Violence in the World Bank since 2020. Prior to this, he was Lead Partnership Specialist in the World Bank's MENA-region. Before joining the World Bank in 2014, Mr. Djurhuus served as a career diplomat with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1991-2014. From 2010-2014, Mr. Djurhuus was appointed Minister Counselor at the Embassy of Denmark to the United States and prior to this, Mr. Djurhuus headed Denmark's Development Assistance to Eastern Europe and Central Asia in the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2005-2010. From 2001-2005, Mr. Djurhuus was Deputy Head of the Embassy of Denmark to Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi in charge of development cooperation and prior to this, he served as Head of Division in charge of the Multilateral Development Banks in the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Djurhuus started his career in the European Commission in 1991. Mr. Djurhuus holds a Master's Degree in International Economics from the University of Copenhagen.

**Ms. Dana L. Banks** has over 25 years of diplomatic service, Ms. Banks most recently served at the National Security Council as President Biden's special assistant to and special adviser for the 2022 U.S. Africa Leaders' Summit and senior director for Africa where she advised, coordinated, and led U.S.-Africa policy for the Biden-Harris administration from 2021 to 2023. In February 2024, President Biden nominated Dana to be the United States Executive Director to the African Development Bank. From May 2023 until recently, Ms. Banks served as senior advisor to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Africa Business Center, where she continues her role in supporting the U.S. business community in realizing the \$15 billion of commitments made during President Biden's 2022 U.S. Africa Leaders' Summit. In August 2020, Ms. Banks was deputy director of the Foreign Service Institute's Leadership and Management School's Division of Executive Development. From 2017 to 2020, she served as deputy political counselor at the U.S. Embassy in South Africa, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Togo, and public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania. In 2011, Ms. Banks was acting deputy director for Secretary Hilary Clinton's Executive Secretariat, a senior watch officer in the State Department's Operations Center, special assistant to Assistant Secretary for Africa Jendayi Frazer, and a desk officer for Ghana, Benin, Togo, and Burkina Faso. Assignments early in her career, included positions as the human rights officer at the U.S. Embassy in Haiti and a consular and public diplomacy officer at the U.S. Embassy in Thailand. Ms. Banks is a life member on the Council on Foreign Relations and the recipient of numerous State Department Superior and Meritorious Honor awards. She is also a 2004 alumna of the Institute for Career Advancement and a Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellow. A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Ms. Banks graduated from Spelman College with a bachelor's degree in political science and from Syracuse University's Maxwell School with a master's in international relations.



**Major General (Rtd.) Kenneth P. Ekman** was the Department of Defense West Africa Coordination Element Lead, U.S. Africa Command, Stuttgart Möhringen, Germany. In this capacity, he coordinated with African militaries, the U.S. interagency, and allies to build unity of effort, maximize the effectiveness of operations, activities and investments, and ensure alignment with U.S. whole of government efforts to advance posture initiatives and campaign objectives in West Africa.

Maj. Gen. Ekman received his commission in 1991 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has primarily flown sailplanes, the F-16 Fighting Falcon and the F-22 Raptor, and has commanded at the squadron, wing and Air Expeditionary Task Force levels. His staff assignments include service at U.S. Air Forces Central Command, Office of the Secretary of Defense, North American Aerospace Defense and U.S. Northern Commands and Office of the Defense Representative Pakistan. Prior to his current position, the general served as Director, Strategy, Engagement, and Programs, U.S. Africa Command.

Maj. Gen. Ekman is a command pilot with more than 3,100 flying hours, including 605 combat hours in operations Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

**DAS Melanie Harris Higgins** is currently serving as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, covering portfolios that include U.S. policy engagement in southern Africa as well as regional peace and security programs across sub-Saharan Africa. She is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, who recently completed an assignment as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Burundi from 2021-2023. From 2018-2020, she was the Director of the Office of Central African Affairs (AF/C). She previously served as Principal Officer and Consul General at the U.S. Consulate-General in Auckland, New Zealand and Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Amb. Higgins has also served in the U.S. Embassies in Indonesia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Australia, and Cameroon, and has worked in the State Department's Operations Center, as Acting Public Affairs Advisor in the East Asian and Pacific Affairs Bureau, and as the Thailand Desk Officer. Amb. Higgins joined the Foreign Service in 1998 and is married to a Diplomatic Security Special Agent. She speaks Indonesian and French, attended Johns Hopkins University, and received an M.A. from the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)