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DEFENCE COLLEGE**



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THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MARITIME SECURITY IN THE GULF OF GUINEA

**The Gulf of Guinea and the Red Sea: A learning curve for African decision-makers in
capacity-building**

5 – 6 September 2024

Jointly presented by

**Royal Danish Defence College (RDDC), Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping
Training Centre (KAIPTC) and SIGLA (Stellenbosch University)**

Protea Hotel, Techno Park, Stellenbosch, South Africa

BIOS OF SPEAKERS AND PANEL CHAIRS (Sequence according to programme)

All info available [HERE](#)

DAY 1 - 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

OPENING

Prof Samuel Tshehla, South Africa

Professor Tshehla is a Professor of Mathematics, at the Faculty of Military Science, Saldanha Campus of the University of Stellenbosch. He currently holds a PhD in Applied Mathematics from the University of Cape Town, and he also holds a Master of Science (MSc) Degree in Applied Mathematics, from the University of Limpopo. He is currently studying toward an Executive Degree in Master of Business Administration (EMBA) from the University of Cape Town. His research interest is in the study of the flow of fluids (Fluid Dynamics). He continues to publish internationally in this field of study. His managerial experience includes being the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Military Science for six years and currently being the Dean of the Faculty of Military Science. He furthermore serves as an external examiner for various universities. He is a member of the Joint Advisory

Committee between the University of Stellenbosch and the Department of Defence; a member of the Executive Committee of the Senate; a member of the Senate at the University of Stellenbosch; and the interim Director for the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA). He is a recipient of the African Leadership Award in Education as “Best Professor in Military Science”: Presented by World Leadership Congress: Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility (CSR) and Stars of Industry Group. He is also a recipient of the 251 Fabulous Leaders in the Category of Education. He also completed the Advanced Management Programme at INSEAD Business School of the World in Fountain Blue France.

Professor Thomas Mandrup, Denmark

Thomas Mandrup is an Extraordinary Associate Professor at Stellenbosch University, South Africa and an Associate Professor at Royal Danish Defence College, Denmark. He is also a member of the SADSEM steering committee, a network of security and defence-related research entities in Southern Africa. He has published articles and book chapters and co-edited several books on issues related to African security governance, climate security in Africa, Peace missions and South African foreign policy. He is currently working on a project on SADC military operations against IS, another on Stabilisation Operations in the Sahel, and is finalizing a monograph on the South African National Defence Force. He has recently worked on two studies on the role of policing in UN missions – the case of Mali, and then the AU role and support to the MNJTF.

He received his PhD in International Relations (2007) from the University Copenhagen, Denmark, for a dissertation entitled: *'Africa: Salvation or Despair? A study of the post-apartheid South African government's use of the military tool in its foreign policy conduct from 1994 to 2006'*. Prof. Mandrup was a Doctoral Candidate at the Danish Institute of International Studies (DIIS). He has vast consultancy experience working for the UN, AU, ISS, Chatham House and diplomatic missions in Africa. From 2018 to 2020, he was the South African Journal of Military Studies editor. He has extensive fieldwork experience in DR Congo, Somalia, Mali, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mali, Nigeria, Mozambique, and Sudan. From 2016-17, he headed the African section of a larger EU-funded project (Horizon 2020) on EU conflict management.

Professor Kwesi Aning, Ghana

Kwesi Aning is full professor and Director, Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research (FAAR), Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre. With experiences from the African Union (AU) as its first expert on counterterrorism from 2005 - 2007, he wrote the independent mid-term in-depth evaluation of the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism in 2006 and 2014, and in 2008, a UN Secretary General's report on the African Union relating to peace and security for the UN Security Council. Until January 2019, he served on the UN Secretary General's Advisory Group for the Peacebuilding Fund. In 2020, together with two others, he was joint author of the Conflict and Development Analysis: Ghana. (Accra: UNDP. August). In July 2022, he was appointed as a member of the World Food Program's (WFP) Security Advisory

Board (SECAB), Rome, Italy, to ‘provide high level insights on security risk management technical issues at strategic level and to modernize WFP security risk management to deliver safer operations’. He specialises in peacekeeping economies, hybrid security/political orders, peacebuilding strategies and organised crime.

Rear Admiral Issah Yakubu, Chief of the Naval Staff of the Ghana Navy.

Rear Admiral Issah Yakubu is the 18th Chief of the Naval Staff of the Ghana Navy. He was commissioned into the Ghana Navy as an Executive Officer in 1991. He had his International Midshipmen and International Sub-Lieutenants Courses in the UK. His Junior Staff Course and Senior Command and Staff Course were in Nigeria and Ghana respectively. Some of his other courses include the Naval Staff Course, International Maritime Operations Course and the Naval Command Course, all in USA, and the International Disaster Management Course in UK.

Rear Admiral Yakubu has held various command and staff appointments in the course of his career. He has commanded several ships in the Ghana Navy and served as a Directing Staff at the Command and Staff Colleges of Ghana and Nigeria. He was the Chief Staff Officer at the Naval Headquarters and Chief of Staff at the General Headquarters. He has participated in peace support operations in Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Admiral Yakubu holds a Master of Arts Degree in International Relations from the Salve Regina University, USA and a Post-graduate Diploma in Public Administration from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration. He is an avid researcher and has authored numerous papers on maritime security and strategy. He is Co-Author and Co-Editor of the official history of the Ghana Navy titled “History of the Ghana Navy: A Case for a Credible Naval Force for National Development”.

Conference Rapporteur: Dr Evert Jordaan, South Africa

Evert Jordaan is a Lecturer in Strategic Studies at the Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University. He completed his PhD at Stellenbosch University with a dissertation on South African Defence Policy-making, 1994–2015. He teaches an MPhil course on defence policy and strategy at the South African National Defence College, and regularly advises the Department of Defence on policy matters. His previous appointment was as Deputy Director Defence Policy Formulation at the Defence Secretariat. Prior to this, he served as a major in the South African Armoured Corps at SA Army Headquarters, where he undertook various research projects for the Future SA Army Strategy project. This included a co-edited book on South Africa and Contemporary Counterinsurgency. He has published several articles in academic journals on South African defence issues, including defence policy-making and operational thinking.

PANEL 1

CHAIR Mr Timothy Walker, South Africa

Timothy Walker is a Senior Researcher at ISS Pretoria, driving the advancement of African maritime security by combining academic rigour and strategic insight. With over a decade of experience, he has championed maritime security as a critical policy priority, collaborating in shaping strategies that protect Africa's vital maritime interests with key organisations like the African Union, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC, and IORA. Timothy holds a Master's in Political and International Studies from Rhodes University, South Africa.

Prof Katja Lindskov Jacobsen, Denmark

Katja is Senior Researcher and Associate Professor at the Centre for Military Studies, in the Department of Political Science at the University of Copenhagen. Her research focuses on military interventions (capacity building, disruption and counterpiracy) and related problem-complexes (e.g. pirates and al-Shabaab) in several African contexts. Her research also explores Russia's growing influence on the African continent. Her research is published in high-ranking journals and by international institutions (UNODC and EU) and is cited in UN Security Council debates and by UN Special Rapporteur on the protection of human rights in counterterrorism. Recently, NATO Secretary General appointed Jacobsen to an independent expert group tasked to deliver a report on NATO's Southern Neighbourhoods.

Mr Metse Ralephenya, South Africa

Mr Metse Ralephenya's portfolio covers both Maritime Security, Safety and Environment Protection. He currently works for the National Department of Transport in South Africa. He is South Africa's Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC)/Jeddah Amendment Focal Point and presides over the business of the programme in his capacity as the Chairperson of the DCoC Steering Committee. Mr Ralephenya supports the Focal Points Forum of the DCoC in their efforts to implement the resolutions of the DCoC/JA. His responsibilities include monitoring compliance with National Legal Instruments by organs of the state relating to maritime safety, security and environment protection. He is the shareholder representative at the Board of South African Maritime Safety Authority.

Major (Rtd) George Nyamoko Okong'o, Kenya

Major (Rtd) George Okong'o, is a maritime security professional with 30 years of experience, and currently head of Marine Casualty Investigation and Security at Kenya's State Department for Shipping and Maritime Affairs. He holds a BSc and a MA Degree in Public Policy and Administration from Kenyatta University. He is a graduate in Explosives Ordinance Engineering from Defence Munitions, Explosives and Research School, United Kingdom and Naval Weapon Systems from La Marina Militare, Italy. He also served at the helm of Kenya Maritime Authority as the Director General. He is credited to have enforced the maritime safety compliance initiatives that led to a significant reduction in maritime incidences and accidents in Kenyan territorial waters. In his Naval career, he held various appointments; among them being the Head of Naval Liaison Office at the Defence

Headquarters, and Dockyard Superintendent in charge of maintenance of Navy Vessels and ashore based plant equipment. Internationally, he served as a Military Observer in the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Cote D'Ivoire and the African Mission in Somalia.

Mr. Kiruja Micheni, Kenya (IMO)

Mr. Kiruja Micheni is a seasoned expert in maritime safety and security, currently working with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as Project Manager for the Djibouti Code of Conduct/Jeddah Amendment, where he has worked for 12 years. He leads the IMO efforts in supporting the implementation of the Revised Code of Conduct to combat piracy, armed robbery, and illicit maritime activities in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden. He previously worked with the Kenya Navy and as a security expert for international NGOs and the corporate sectors in the UK.

PANEL 2

CHAIR Mrs. Afua Lamptey, Ghana

Mrs. Afua Lamptey is a Deputy Program head/Senior Researcher on the Conflict Management Program at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC), Ghana. She is currently the Danish Sponsored Maritime Security Project at the KA IPTC. She has led and supported efforts at research, capacity building and the creation of a platform for dialogue on maritime security issues in the Gulf of Guinea. Her research expertise and publications are in the areas of armed violence reduction, maritime security, border security management, gender, elections, and peacebuilding. Over the past 19 years, she has been involved in capacity building, research and policy analysis on peace and security issues in Africa with a strong focus on West Africa. She also has extensive experience in managing projects in the sub-region which are focused on reducing maritime insecurity, and armed violence and strengthening the skills and capacities of a cross-section of state and civil society actors. She holds a Master of Philosophy in International Affairs from the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy at the University of Ghana, Legon.

Mr. Ayebaine Ere-Walson, Nigeria

Ayebaine is a dedicated and results-driven Fisheries Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) expert, currently serving as the Coordinator of the Regional MCS Centre (RMCSC) for the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC). With extensive experience in coordinating regional initiatives, Ayebaine excels in enhancing compliance with fisheries regulations and promoting sustainable fisheries management. He is skilled in utilizing advanced technology to analyse maritime situations, contributing to the fight against IUU fishing by fostering collaboration among stakeholders. In his role, he provides actionable intelligence and support to FCWC Member States' Fisheries Monitoring Centres, managing fleet distribution to ensure sustainable fisheries in the region.

Additionally, Ayebaine is a Senior Fisheries Officer with the Federal Department of Fisheries, Nigeria. He was seconded in 2018 as an MCS Compliance Coordinator to the FCWC and, following the establishment of the FCWC RMCSC in 2020, attained the position of Regional MCS Compliance Coordinator. In 2024, after a successful recruitment process by the FCWC, he was appointed as the Coordinator of the RMCSC

Dr. Angela Manekuor Lamptey, Ghana

Dr. Angela Manekuor Lamptey is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Marine and Fisheries Sciences, University of Ghana. She is an experienced Fisheries and Aquatic Scientist with more than eighteen (18) years' experience in the field of Fisheries Science, Biodiversity Ecology and Conservation, Aquatic Ecology, Fisheries & Maritime Policy documentation. She's also a part-time Lecturer at the African Institute of Management Science. She is a Reviewer and an Author for several National and International Scientific Journals and Publishers. Internationally, she has consulted for AAU, CIDA, DANIDA, AUC, IFC, DFID and the World Bank through various projects. In Ghana she consults for Ghana Education Service, Fisheries Commission, EPA, and some selected NGOs and CSOs. She is a Member of Ghana Science Association, Society for Conservation Biology (SCB), British Ornithologist Union, Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), National Maritime Technical Working Group of Ghana and the current Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Fisheries Commission of Ghana. She has been very instrumental in the drafting of various policy documents in Ghana and West Africa notably the National Integrated Maritime Strategy (NIMS) of Ghana, Annexes to the Lomé Maritime Charter; Marine Fisheries Management Policy of Ghana (2015-2019 and 2022-2026); Co-Management Policy for Ghana's Fisheries Sector (2020); Ghana National Aquaculture Development Plan (2022-2026). A human rights advocate, motivational speaker to various youth Groups and a Career Guidance Advisor to young ladies in Second Cycle Schools.

Mrs. Josephine Laryea Asare, Ghana

Josephine is a small-scale fisheries specialist who has extensively engaged fisherfolk and collaborated with stakeholders for fisheries management in Ghana. In her previous role as a Senior Fisheries Officer with the Fisheries Commission, she led community programs on Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, arbitrated infractions against fisheries laws, managed fishing licensing and vessel registry and facilitated initiatives towards fisherfolks' inclusion in local fisheries governance. Josephine holds a Masters in Applied Marine and Fisheries Ecology from the University of Aberdeen. She is undertaking a PhD in sustainable development at the University of St Andrews. Her research explores synergies between indigenous and scientific knowledge and supports the ISIPSK research project led by Dr Ife Okafor-Yarwood.

PANEL 3

CHAIR Mr Kobus Marais, South Africa

Kobus Marais is a former Shadow Minister for Defence and Military Veterans in the South African Parliament. He served on both the Portfolio and Joint Standing Committees on Defence and Military Veterans from 2015-2024. He holds an MBA from Stellenbosch Business School and an B. Econ degree from Stellenbosch University majoring in strategic, financial and marketing management. After leaving politics and he currently functions as an independent consultant on defence in South Africa and defence consultant.

Rear Admiral Junior Grade Lisa M Hendricks, South Africa

Rear Admiral Junior Grade Lisa M Hendricks was born in Cape Town on 11 May 1970. She completed her Basic Military Training in 1988 and joined the Communications Intelligence Mustering. She was commissioned as an officer on 1 April 1994 with her initial training as a junior officer completed on board the SAS UMKOMAAS and SAS DRAKENSBERG. She joined the Public Relations branch directly thereafter. She was promoted to the rank of Capt (SAN) on 1 January 2006 and has held various staff positions within HR Plans, Public Relations and Defence Foreign relations including serving as the Defence Attaché to Germany from 2009 to 2013. She was appointed to the post of Chief of Fleet Staff on 01 March 2021. Admiral Hendricks has completed the Joint Senior Command & Staff Programme at the SA National War College in 2005 and the Security and Defence Studies Programme in 2020 at the SA National Defence College. Her highest qualification is a Master's degree of Management in the field Security, from the University of the Witwatersrand. Her master's research was within the field of Maritime Security. She also completed a number of other management certificates and programmes at the University of South Africa, University of Stellenbosch, the Public Relations Institute of Southern Africa and Varsity College.

Commodore Philip Jesbert Juana, Sierra Leone

Commodore Philip Jesbert Juana is the current Commander of the Navy of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, who assumed office in January 2020. He was enlisted into the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) in the mid-90s, and since then, has progressively excelled and maintained an unblemished military record. Prior to his appointment, he served as deputy commander of the Sierra Leone Navy and also held several senior positions both within the navy and outside. Furthermore, while progressing through to the present rank, he held various appointments both command and staff, which have earned him wealth of knowledge and experience as a professional military officer, and particularly as a senior naval officer. His present capacity as the SL navy commander situates him as the chief adviser to the Chief of Defense Staff on all maritime matters in the country that relate to defense and national security.

DAY 2 - 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

Programme Director

Ms. Elsie Amelia Tachie-Menson

Elsie Amelia Tachie-Menson is a Researcher at the Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC). She is also the Editorial Associate of the Journal of African Peace and Security (JAPS). With a solid background in Development Studies and currently pursuing a Master's in Gender, Peace, and Security, she has dedicated six years to cybersecurity and five years to Maritime Security Studies. In her role, Elsie actively engages in policy dialogues with influential institutions such as the African Union, European Union, ECOWAS, NATO, MasterCard Foundation, CamFed, and UNDP, contributing significantly to policy development and excellence in communication. Through her extensive experience, Elsie supports the development of policies and also fosters effective communication strategies that bridge the gap between research and practical application in the fields of peace, security, and governance.

PANEL 4

CHAIR Mr Andries Fokkens, South Africa

Andries Fokkens volunteered for military service in 1990's and was commissioned as an Army officer in the South African National Defence Force. He completed his bachelor's degree at the South African Military Academy and went on to receive a Masters degree in Military History and MPhil in Futures Studies. He served at various military units in the field of intelligence, counterintelligence, and as a staff officer. Apart from internal deployments, he also deployed as an African Union Military Observer to Darfur, Sudan, in the AMIS (African Union Mission in Sudan) mission for the Cease Fire Commission over the period February 2005 to March 2006. He left the service of the South African National Defence Force as a Captain in 2008 to join the ranks of Stellenbosch University in an administrative capacity. He is currently the Director for Faculty Management and oversees faculty operations at the Faculty of Military Science. Participation in research projects and calls for journal articles has led to several publications in the field of Military History.

Captain (SA Navy) Mark Blaine (ret), South Africa

Captain (SA Navy) Mark Blaine is a retired combat officer of the South African Navy with close to forty years' military experience and with command experience of various SA Navy warships. He spent more than four years as Defence Advisor to the South African High Commission in Kenya and completed his master's degree in maritime security through Coventry University. In the period leading up to his retirement in January 2023, he lectured at the South African Military Academy. He is currently a researcher for the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA) of Stellenbosch University.

Dr Carina Bruwer, South Africa

Dr Carina Bruwer is a senior researcher at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) where she focuses on transnational organized crime. She is an admitted attorney and holds a PhD in Public Law from the Centre of Criminology, University of Cape Town, as well as an

LLB and LLM cum laude from Stellenbosch University. She previously held positions at the Endangered Wildlife Trust and the United Nations Global Maritime Crime Programme. Her research interests include organized crime, maritime security and international law.”

Prof Francois Vreÿ, South Africa

Francois Vreÿ is an Emeritus Professor in Military Science with the Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University. He lectured in the Strategic Studies Dept of the Faculty for 21 years and holds a PhD in Futures Studies from the Stellenbosch Business School. His research focus is maritime security off Africa. He is also the research coordinator for SIGLA that does research and publications, as well as conference and commissioned research events on landward, maritime and cybersecurity governance. His latest book chapter on maritime diplomacy in Africa appeared in Key Issues in African diplomacy: Developments and achievements. Bristol University Press (2024).

PANEL 5

CHAIR Prof Michelle Nel, South Africa

Lt Col (Prof) Michelle Nel, BLC, LLB (Pret) and LLM, LLD (Unisa), is Vice Dean of Social Impact and Personnel and an associate professor in Criminal and Military law at the Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University. She joined the Defence Legal Services Division in 1996 as a prosecutor and was appointed as a lecturer in the Department of Mercantile and Public Law (Mil) of the Faculty of Military Science of Stellenbosch University in 2002. She was admitted as advocate to the High Court in 2005 and completed her Doctor of Laws in 2012, titled ‘Sentencing Practice in Military Courts’. She serves as part-time researcher in the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa’s (SIGLA) maritime governance hub. Her areas of research include International Law, Human Rights, Military Law and Maritime Security. She has also been involved in research on South African Military Unions and has participated in research activities with the Office of the Military Ombud on matters relating to oversight and the expansion of the Office’s African footprint since 2016. Her work has been published in South Africa and internationally. She remains an active-duty officer in the Defence Legal Services Division of the South African National Defence Force.

Ms Pascaline Alexandre, Mauritius

Ms. Pascaline Alexandre is a strategic communication and competitive intelligence specialist with 17 years of experience, including 8 years focused on maritime security across Eastern and Southern Africa, the Indian Ocean, and Central Africa. Her work included working for the EU MASE Programme, collaborating with the Contact Group on Illicit Maritime Activities, and RECs like COMESA, EAC, and IGAD. Recently based in Gabon, she supported ECCAS's Regional Maritime Security Strategy and contributed to a "Compendium on Good Practices" with the UN Counter Terrorism Centre. Pascaline also served as Deputy Secretary of the Africa Center for Competitive Intelligence and co-founded the "Blue Security Africa" podcast.

Commodore Efstathios (Stathis) Kyriakidis HN, Greece

Commodore Kyriakidis is the leader of the 1990 Class of the Hellenic Naval Academy. During his 35 years of military career, he commanded the gunboat KRATEOS (as her first commanding officer), and the frigate ELLI. His Staff assignments include those of the Advisor to the Chief of Defence and the POLAD to the Chief of the Navy. He served in NATO SHAPE, and in the EU Military Staff, as the Director of the EU MAICC - Coordinated Maritime Presences in the Gulf of Guinea. He holds a M.Sc. in Applied Physics (NPS, Monterey, USA) and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in European Security (University of Geneva).

Prof Hennie van As, South Africa

Hennie is a Professor of Public Law and Director of the Centre for Law in Action at the Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth. He is an advocate and completed a Diploma in Police Science, Bluris, Bachelor of Laws and Doctor of Laws as well as Post-Doctoral studies at the La Salle University in Mexico. Before joining the university, he was employed as a detective in the Narcotics Bureau. He is also an Honorary Senior Fellow at the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) at the University of Wollongong, Australia. Starting in 2016, with the financial assistance of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he established the Fisheries Crime Law Enforcement Academy (FishFORCE) which is active in nine countries.

CLOSING

Dr Nico Elema, South Africa

Dr Elema is the Director of the Centre for Collaboration in Africa (CCA) at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, where he manages a team of internationalisation practitioners to create an enabling environment for Stellenbosch University to partner and engage with various partners across the continent. Responsibilities in the centre include bilateral partnership development and the administration of various Intra-Africa mobility programmes. Moreover, the Dr Elema is the Director of the PERIPERI-U network and the AUDA-NEPAD Southern African Network of Water Centres of Excellence (AUDA-NEPAD SANWATCE), focussing on supporting research and capacity development in the fields of Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, Disaster Risk Reduction and Science, Technology &

Innovation. Amongst others, Dr. Elema is an active member of the African Union African Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and further participate in the African Ministers' Council on Water General Assembly and Partners Coordination Platform. He furthermore participates in various Science-Policy Diplomacy meetings of the African Union and Global Partners. His education includes a Master in Business Administration (MBA) and a PhD in Science and Technology Studies at Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

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