



UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

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Mainstreaming Gender in the Military & the Security Sector: The Role of Civil Society

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Biographies

Major Stephanie Ahern **Strategist** **U.S. Army**

Dr. Stephanie Ahern is a Major in the U.S. Army, currently serving as a Strategist in the Army G-3/5/7, Pentagon, and Assistant Adjunct Professor in the Master of Science in Foreign Service Program, Georgetown University. Stephanie has served in overseas Army engineer units in Germany, Bosnia-Herzegovina (1996, 1998), Albania and Kosovo (1999), as well as company command in Afghanistan (2002) and Iraq (2003). She last served as a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow at the U.S. Department of the Treasury in Washington, D.C. (2007-08). From 2005-08, Stephanie served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Sciences at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. There, she taught courses in International Relations and Winning the Peace, and served as Executive Officer to the USMA Distinguished International Security Studies Professor, Dr. Kori Schake. She spent Summer 2006 in Baghdad working as a liaison officer to the Multi-National Corps-Iraq for the Center for Army Lessons Learned, and Summer 2007 in Washington, D.C., working in the U.S. Department of State. Stephanie holds a B.S. in Engineering Management from USMA, an M.A. in International Relations, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Notre Dame, and she is a Term Member on the Council on Foreign Relations.

Lieutenant Colonel Shannon Beebe **U.S. Department of Defense**

Lieutenant Colonel Shannon Beebe recently returned from Angola where he served as the Assistant Army Attaché, U.S. Mission Angola. Previously, his assignment was as the Senior Africa Analyst, Office of United States Army Deputy Chief of Staff, Washington, DC. As one of the most recognized authorities on Africa within the Department of Defense, Lieutenant Colonel Beebe played an instrumental role in the development of the newly formed unified command for Africa, AFRICOM. He is co-author with Mary Kaldor of a much anticipated book released in May 2010 entitled *The Ultimate Weapon is No Weapon: Human Security and the New Laws of*

War and Peace. A 1991 graduate of the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, he has served in numerous duty positions within the United States and internationally. He was selected to become a United States Army Foreign Area Officer and has served as the Army Attaché to Kosovo (2005-2006). He has served in combat and stability deployments to the Balkans, commanded during Operation Desert Fox in 1998, and prepared another unit for deployment to Kosovo in 1999. His unit was awarded the elite Army Superior Unit Award for their actions under his command during Operation Desert Fox. Lieutenant Colonel Beebe received a Master of Arts from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Michael Bittrick

**Deputy Director, Office of Regional and Security Affairs, Bureau of African Affairs
U.S. Department of State**

Mr. Bittrick is currently the Deputy Director in the Office of Regional and Security Affairs in the State Department's Africa Bureau. His current work involves oversight and implementation of key activities including military professionalization and peacekeeping capacity enhancement programs, including the Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) program and the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI). He has assisted with ongoing conflict resolution efforts in Sudan including Darfur, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, and Somalia and participated in peace negotiations for Nuba Mountains (Sudan), Liberia, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Sudan, and Darfur. His office plans and oversees \$200 million annual security assistance budget for Sub-Saharan Africa. Previous U.S. government positions include: Military Advisor, Africa Bureau, State Department (2000-2002); Defense Attaché at the U.S. Embassy, Luanda, Angola (1998-1999); Battalion Executive Officer and Brigade Operations Officer in 501st Military Intelligence Brigade in Seoul, Republic of Korea (1995-1997); Country Director for Central Africa and Somalia/Rwanda in the Pentagon's Office of the Secretary of Defense (1993-1995); and other staff and command assignments in various military organizations in the U.S., African and the Republic of Korea. Michael Bittrick has a B.S. in Engineering (Political Science Concentration) from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, and an MS in Strategic Intelligence with an Africa Concentration from the Defense Intelligence College in Washington D.C. Mr. Bittrick retired after over 20 years of active military service in December 2002.

Teresa Crawford

Director

Partners for Democratic Change

Ms. Crawford has over 13 years of experience working with civil society organizations globally. She has worked in over 30 countries on issues as diverse as eradicating violence against women in war, disability rights and minority civic participation. From 2006 to 2009 she was the Director of the Advocacy and Leadership Center at the Institute for Sustainable Communities and built a robust training and capacity building program for CSOs with a focus on collaborative advocacy and transformational leadership. An experienced trainer, manager and researcher Teresa is also the co-founder of IPKO, the first post-war Internet service provider in Kosovo. IPKO is now a multimillion dollar company and Teresa is on the board of IPKO Foundation, the first endowed local foundation in the region. Teresa has a degree in politics and peace & justice studies from the University of San Francisco and a Master's degree in nonprofit management and policy from New York University.

Colonel Birame Diop
Institute Director
African Institute for Security Sector Transformation

Colonel Diop, a member of the Senegalese Air Force, is an accomplished scholar and practitioner in the field of security sector in West Africa. In 2009, Col. Diop served as a Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow with NED and a Public Policy Scholar Fellow with the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. His research is focused on reforming Africa's armed forces. Col. Diop has sought to bridge the civil-military divide by hosting seminars on the role of military in society, as well as how the military and civilian populations in West Africa can cooperate. He is also a facilitator and consultant for the ACSS's outreach to the next generation of Africa's military leaders, facilitating and teaching an ACSS course which analyzed civil-military relations in Africa in 2010. He was the Chair of Air Operations for the UN Mission in Congo. He has taken part in numerous trainings and is fluent in French, English, Spanish and Ouoloff.

Michael Hess
Vice President for Global Accounts
L-3 Communications/MPRI

Michael Edward Hess joined L-3 MPRI in August 2009 after serving as Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Democracy Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Hess was in that position from June 2005 until January 2009. Prior to his appointment to USAID, he worked as a Senior Risk Reviewer and Vice President at Citibank, responsible for monitoring and evaluating 15 areas of risk for corporate finance units at Citigroup Inc. in New York. Hess has over 30 years of active and reserve service in the United States Military. He received his commission from the United States Military Academy in 1971, and has served in humanitarian operations in Turkey, Iraq, Bosnia and Kosovo. Hess served in both command and staff assignments in the U.S. and Germany and taught European History at the United States Military Academy. In April 2003, Colonel (Ret.) Hess was recalled to active duty to serve as the humanitarian coordinator in the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He later served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for the Coalition Provisional Authority, assisting in the establishment of the 2,000-person multinational organization responsible for establishing a representative government for Iraq as well as for rebuilding Iraqi infrastructure. Hess has a bachelor's degree in engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point, a master's degree in European history from Columbia University in New York, a master's in business administration and international finance from New York University in New York, and is a graduate of the National Strategic Studies Program at the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Kathleen Kuehnast
Gender Advisor, Gender and Peacebuilding Initiative
U.S. Institute of Peace

Kathleen Kuehnast is the Gender Advisor at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), and formerly served as Associate Vice President of the USIP Grant Program. Prior to her present

position, Kuehnast was engaged for over fifteen years in the development field, including extensive work with the World Bank. From poverty studies, *Better a Hundred Friends than a Hundred Rubles: Social Networks in Transition in Kyrgyzstan*, to conflict-related development projects, *Whose Rules Rule? Everyday Border and Water Conflicts in Central Asia*, Kuehnast has focused on the role of qualitative social analysis as a critical perspective, especially in understanding the role of women in economic transition and post-conflict reconstruction. Dr. Kuehnast is co-editor of the forthcoming volume, *Women and War: Power and Protection* (USIP Press). She is also well-published on the impact of post-Soviet transition on the role of women in Central Asia. Her post-doctoral included a Mellon Foreign Fellowship at the Library of Congress (2000) and the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies Fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (1999). Kuehnast holds a Ph.D. in socio-cultural anthropology from the University of Minnesota. Her master's degree in education is from the University of St. Thomas

Robert Perito
Director, Security Sector Governance Center
U.S. Institute of Peace

Robert M. Perito directs USIP's Security Sector Governance Center under the Centers of Innovation. He also directs the Haiti and the Peacekeeping Lessons Learned Projects. Before joining the Institute, he was a Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Department of State, retiring with the rank of minister-counselor. He was deputy executive secretary of the National Security Council (1988-1989). Perito received a Presidential Meritorious Service Award in 1990 for leading the U.S. delegation in the Angola peace talks and two State Department superior honor awards. Perito led the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program at the U.S. Department of Justice, which trained police in international peace operations (1995-2001). Perito was a Peace Corps volunteer in Nigeria (1965-67). Perito has taught at Princeton, American and George Mason universities. He holds a B.A. in international relations from Denver University and an M.A. in peace operations policy from George Mason University. Perito has given extensive interviews on Haiti, Afghanistan, and Iraq to major media outlets. Perito is the author of *Where is the Lone Ranger When We Need Him? America's Search for a Post Conflict Security Force*; *The American Experience with Police in Peace Operations*; and co-author of *Police in War: Fighting Insurgency, Terrorism and Violent Crime*.

Betty Reardon
Consultant and Founding Director Emeritus
International Institute on Peace Education, Columbia University

Betty A. Reardon, Founding Director of the International Institutes on Peace Education, is a peace educator whose experience is international and spans five decades. She has contributed to the development of the theoretical base of the field and to the methods through which it is taught at all levels of formal education and within non-formal citizen education. She has served as an officer of and consultant to national and international nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations such as Peacelinks, Community-based Institutes on Peace Education, the International Peace Research Association, the International Council on Adult Education, the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs and UNESCO. She has taught at various universities in the United States and abroad, including Colgate University, the Universities of Oregon and Hawaii, Teachers College Columbia University, Kanda, Kobe and Ritsumeikan Universities in Japan and

Jaume I University in Spain. She has served for many years as an NGO representative at the United Nations and was among those who worked for the drafting and adoption of UNSCR 1325, and is among the 1000 Peace Women nominated for a joint Nobel Prize. She was presented with a special honorable mention by the jury of the UNESCO Prize in Peace Education and was the 2009 recipient of the Sean MacBride Peace Prize awarded by the International Peace Bureau. Her writings published and unpublished are archived in the Ward M. Canaday Special Collections at the University of Toledo Library. Much of her work has been developed from a feminist perspective that focuses on security issues, human rights, development and the environment. She has published a number of works related to gender and peace, most recently, *The Gender Imperative: Human Security vs. State Security*, a collection of essays contributed by and international group of scholars, co-edited with Asha Hans, founder of the Women's Studies Program at Utkal University in India and Director of Sansriti, a feminist organization working for the human rights of women.

Colonel David Walton

**Department Chief and Directorate of Regional Studies and Education
U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School**

LTC David Walton has served as the Department Chair for Regional Studies and Education at the US Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School since June 2010. Walton Enlisted in the United States Army in 1991. He was commissioned in 1993 as an Armor Officer. His military education is consistent with that of a career Special Forces officer and includes a master's degree in Security Management; he begins his Doctoral studies in the Spring. LTC Walton has served in operational and staff special-operations forces assignments at the detachment, battalion, group and task-force level. He has completed tours in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as multiple deployments in Central and South America.