



# Speaker Biographies



## **Mr. Kenneth Bacon**

Kenneth Bacon has served as president of Refugees International since early 2001. An expert in international affairs and security issues, Mr. Bacon has concentrated on expanding Refugees International's capacity to promote more effective ways for the international community to meet the needs of refugees and displaced people. Mr. Bacon is the co-chairman of the Partnership for Effective Peace Operations, and he serves on the boards of The American University in Cairo, Population Action International and InterAction. He is an emeritus trustee of Amherst College and the Folger Shakespeare Library and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the International Institute for Strategic Studies. He has published articles and op-ed pieces on humanitarian issues in a number of publications, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, the Boston Globe, The International Herald Tribune, The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, and World Policy Journal.

## **Colonel Thomas Baltazar (Ret)**

Colonel Thomas Baltazar, U.S. Army (Retired), is the Director of the Office of Military Affairs of the Bureau of Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development. He manages the office that is charged with formalizing the Agency's relationship with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the military, both U.S. and foreign. Baltazar retired from the US Army after 26 years, attaining the rank of Colonel. His last assignment was the Chief, Joint PSYOP Support Element-National Capital Region. Prior assignments include Chief, Contingency Operations, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Stability Operations where he managed DoD policy oversight of Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations, United Nations peacekeeping missions in the Middle East and East Africa, Multinational Force-Sinai, and monthly briefings to the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees and the House International Relations Committee. Structural Engineering and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army Corps of Engineers. In 1993, he earned a Master of Science in International Relations from Troy State University.

## **Ambassador Usman Baraya**

Ambassador Baraya was born on 15 April, 1959 in Argungu, Kebbi State, Nigeria. He is a graduate of Bayero University Kano and Oxford University, UK, and received further trainings from the UN Language Institute Geneva, Georgetown University Washington, and King Saudi University, Saudi Arabia. Ambassador Baraya joined the Nigerian Foreign Service in 1981 and has since then served in various capacities at home and abroad including Nigerian Missions in Geneva, Brussels, Riyadh, London, Hong Kong and presently, Washington D.C. He last served as Nigeria's Consul-General to Hong Kong prior to his ambassadorial appointment to the OAS and Deputy Chief of Mission, Nigerian Embassy, Washington, D.C. Ambassador Baraya's specialization is in multilateral diplomacy, having represented his country in many conferences and negotiations on Disarmament, Trade, and Political matters in the African Union,

European Union, World Trade Organization and the United Nations. Ambassador Baraya is married with children.

### **Major Shannon Beebe**

Major Shannon Beebe is presently serving as the Senior Africa Analyst, Office of United States Army Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence. He is a graduate of West Point Military Academy and has earned a M.A. degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Major Beebe has served in a variety of combat and stability operations, including operations in the Balkans, Iraq (1998), and Kosovo (1999). He was also selected to become a United States Army Foreign Area Officer and has served as an Army Attaché to Kosovo (2005-2006). Major Beebe's current research, funded by the Institute of National Security Studies, focuses on the importance of environmental factors as a key to stability. Major Beebe is a frequent guest lecturer on Africa and environmental security at the Joint Special Operations University, Hurlburt Airfield, Florida; the United States Foreign Service Institute; National Defense University; Woodrow Wilson Center, and Center for Strategic and International Studies. He is the creator of an acclaimed, bi-monthly Africa Discussion Series bringing the leading minds on Africa together in frank dialogue with military leadership, the interagency, and NGO communities.

### **Ambassador William (Mark) Bellamy**

William M. Bellamy joined CSIS in October 2007 as senior resident fellow in the Africa and International Security Programs. He came to CSIS from the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., where he was senior vice president until his retirement from the Foreign Service in September 2007. A career diplomat, Ambassador Bellamy was U.S. ambassador to Kenya from 2003 to 2006. During his tenure in Kenya, he directed U.S. counterterrorism programs in the Horn of Africa. He also supervised the U.S. government's largest foreign HIV/AIDS program and led multinational efforts to combat corruption and promote good governance in Kenya. Ambassador Bellamy served as principal deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs (2001–2003) and as deputy assistant secretary for African affairs (2000–2001). His earlier diplomatic postings include deputy chief of mission in Canberra, Australia, from 1997 to 2000, and minister-counselor for political affairs in Paris, France, from 1993 to 1997. As political counselor in Pretoria, South Africa, from 1991 to 1993, he was closely engaged in U.S. diplomatic efforts to promote a peaceful transition from apartheid to democratic government. He served as officer-in-charge for South Africa in the State Department from 1987 to 1989 and as a political officer in the U.S. embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 1985 to 1987. Ambassador Bellamy holds a B.A. in history from Occidental College in Los Angeles and a M.A. in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He has certificates from the Institut Universitaire des Hautes Etudes Internationales in Geneva and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Paris. He is the recipient of a Presidential Meritorious Service Award, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award, as well as a Distinguished Honor Award and two Superior Honor Awards conferred by the Secretary of State. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ambassador Bellamy worked as a journalist in San Francisco and public relations officer for a major bank in Los Angeles.

### **Dr. Hans Binnendijk**

Hans Binnendijk is currently the Theodore Roosevelt Chair in National Security Policy and Founding Director of the Center for Technology and National Security Policy at the National Defense University. He previously served on the National Security Council as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Defense Policy and Arms Control (1999-2001). From 1994 to 1999, Dr. Binnendijk was Director of the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the National Defense University. Prior to that, he was Principal Deputy Director and Acting Director of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff (1993-1994). He also served as Deputy Staff Director and Legislative Director of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (1980-1985). He has received numerous awards for his government service, including two Distinguished Public Service Awards and a Superior Service Award. In academia, Dr. Binnendijk was Director of the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University, where he was also the Marshall B. Coyne Research Professor at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service (1991-1993). He was Deputy Director and Director of Studies at London's International Institute for Strategic Studies and Editor of *Survival* from 1988-1991. He is author or co-author of more than 100 articles, editorials and reports. His most recent book is entitled, "Seeing the Elephant: The U.S. Role in Global Security" (Potomac Books: 2006). Dr. Binnendijk serves on the Board of Overseers of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, on the Studies Committee of the Council on Foreign Relations, and as Vice Chairman of the Board of Humanity in Action. He previously served on the US Committee of the International Institute for Strategic Studies and the CSIS International Research Council. He has received the Cross of the Order of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany. Dr. Binnendijk is a 1968 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. He received his M.A.L.D. and his Ph.D. in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

### **Mr. Michael J. Bittrick**

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.

### **Doug Brooks**

The founder of the International Peace Operations Association, he is a specialist in African security issues and has written extensively on the regulation and constructive utilization of the private sector for international stabilization, peacekeeping, and humanitarian missions. Mr. Brooks has testified before Congress, appeared on a range of national and international news programs, and has lectured at numerous universities and colleges. Previously, he has been an Adjunct Faculty member at American University and an Academic Fellow and Research Associate with the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), Johannesburg.

### **Major General Arnold Fields (Ret)**

General Fields joined the Africa Center for Strategic Studies in January 2007 as Deputy Director. He had previously served the Africa Center as a Senior Leader Seminar participant in 2003, and later as facilitator and speaker for the Next Generation of African Military Leaders Course. General Fields has more than 34 years of service in administrative and combat leadership positions. Before joining the Africa Center, he served as the Chief of Staff and Special Advisor, Iraq Reconstruction and Management Office (IRMO), Department of State, U.S. Embassy Baghdad Iraq, where he assisted the Director of IRMO in coordinating \$18.4 billion dollars of U.S. Government appropriated funds for the reconstruction of Iraq. He was advanced to Major General on August 6, 1999. While serving in the Marine Corps, General Fields provided strategic management and leadership in support of an active duty force of over 172,000 Marines. At the time of his retirement from active duty, General Fields was serving as the Deputy Commander, US Marine Corps Forces Europe. During his long military career, General Fields held numerous active duty positions including Director of the Marine Corps Staff, Headquarters United States Marine Corps; Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Hawaii, with dual responsibility as Deputy Commanding General, Third Marine Expeditionary Force; Chief, Evaluation and Analysis Division, Operational Plans and Interoperability Directorate, J-7, Joint Staff; and Commanding Officer of the Headquarters Battalion, Camp Fuji, Japan. Major General Fields also commanded the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, 2nd Marine Division and participated in combat operations against Iraqi forces in Kuwait during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

### **Lieutenant Colonel Homer Harkins (Ret)**

Mr. Homer W. Harkins is the chief of the Interagency Education Division of the Joint Special Operations University (JSOU), located at Hurlburt Field, Florida. As such, he is responsible for the education of senior and intermediate level national security professionals in areas related to joint special operations in both strategic and operational settings and in the context of interagency collaboration. Mr. Harkins is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel who served as an Infantry officer, a Special Forces officer and as a Foreign Area Officer. He graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso in 1979,

earning a Bachelor of Business Administration and a commission as a second lieutenant. His subsequent civilian education includes a Master of Arts in Computer Resources and Information Management from Webster University and a Master of Science in International Relations from Troy State University. Lieutenant Colonel Harkins' military decorations include the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Legion of Merit, the Joint Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters and the Army Commendation Medal. He is a master parachutist and a graduate of the Army Ranger School. He is married to the former Susana Cavazza of Caracas, Venezuela. They are the proud parents of triplets, Daniel, Donald and Carmen and live in Navarre, Florida.

### **Captain Kevin Hutcheson**

Captain Hutcheson is currently the Interagency Integration Division Chief in the Interagency Partnering Directorate (J9) at US Southern Command located in Miami, Florida. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Rochester, a Masters of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval Command and Staff College, Newport, RI. A native of Horseheads, NY., Captain Hutcheson was commissioned in 1981, and upon graduation from the University of Rochester, was designated a Naval Aviator in 1983. He has served five sea tours and has participated in seven deployments to the Indian Ocean, Western Pacific, Mediterranean, and the Arabian Gulf. Throughout his service, Captain Hutcheson has accumulated over 3800 flight hours, with over 1000 carrier arrested landings. His shore assignments have included duty at the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, where he was an action officer involved with the negotiation and implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Treaty on Open Skies. He was the deputy office director for the Office of Conventional Weapons, Bureau of Arms Control at the U.S. Department of State and routinely participated on the U.S. delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In 2006, Captain Hutcheson was assigned as the Deputy Foreign Policy Advisor and Interagency Liaison Officer to the Commander Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa located at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti. Subsequently, he was the Senior Liaison Officer for the Commander Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa to the Commander US Central Command located at MacDill AFB, Tampa, Florida.

### **Dr. James Keagle**

Dr. James M. Keagle is the Director of the Transforming National Security Seminar Series at the Center for Technology and National Security Policy at the National Defense University. Prior to this position, Dr. Keagle was the National Defense University's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Keagle served as a professor of National Security Strategy at NDU, where he was a research faculty member assisting with NDU's modeling and simulation and worked with interagency education and training. Accepting an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy, he graduated from the Academy in 1974. Dr. Keagle possesses a M.A. degree in political science from the University of Pittsburgh and a M.A. degree and Doctoral degree in politics from Princeton University. Following his extensive education, Dr. Keagle's next six tours were

political-military assignment that included direct access and interaction with Cabinet-level government officials on national security related matters. Concurrent with, and since leaving military service, Dr. Keagle has held the position of adjunct professor at a number of institutions to include: Syracuse University, American University, Central Michigan University, Catholic University, University of Colorado, and Lake Superior State College.

### **Mr. Bernd “Bear” McConnell**

Bernd (Bear) McConnell, a member of the career Senior Executive Service, leads the Interagency Coordination Directorate of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command. As such, he synchronizes DOD operational activities with multiple federal, state, local and tribal entities as well as non governmental, international and private organizations to ensure unity of effort in support of DOD’s Homeland Defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities missions. Previously McConnell was the Director of the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance in the Agency for International Development. Prior to that assignment, he was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Africa, International Security Affairs Office of the Secretary of Defense. A Naval Academy graduate and retired USAF Colonel and pilot, McConnell is married to Jody Meyer McConnell and has a son and two grandchildren.

### **Mr. Sean McFate**

Sean McFate is a Program Director at the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington, DC, researching issues relating to Africa, fragile states, security sector reform, and private security companies. Previously, he was a Program Manager for DynCorp International, a New York Stock Exchange-listed company that provides services to the U.S. government. In that capacity, he helped design and lead several peacebuilding programs in Africa, including: demobilizing and then rebuilding the Armed Forces of Liberia and Ministry of Defense; organizing the first major legal arms shipment to Liberia in 15 years; retraining Burundi's elite Presidential Guard; and professionalizing the Sudanese People's Liberation Army. Prior to this, Sean served as a Captain in the U.S. Army, primarily as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. Following his military service, he was a policy adviser for Amnesty International USA, where he counseled staff on issues pertaining to human rights and armed conflict. Sean has several publications in peer-reviewed journals, is frequently invited to speak at international conferences on peacebuilding, and is a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Sean holds double BAs from Brown University, a MPP from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and is completing his PhD at the London School of Economics.

### **Vice Admiral Robert Moeller**

Vice Admiral Robert T. Moeller is Deputy to the Commander for Military Operations (DCMO) of United States Africa Command. He is a New Jersey native, the son of a World War II Navy veteran, and graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1974, receiving his commission from the Notre Dame NROTC program. In 1989, Vice Admiral Moeller was selected as the Navy Federal Executive Fellow at the Brookings Institution. He has earned a master's degree in National Security Studies from the Edmund A. Walsh

School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. Trained as a Surface Warfare Officer, Vice Admiral Moeller has served in a variety of sea and shore assignments, including joint duty. Vice Admiral Moeller began serving in his current position when U.S. Africa Command reached Initial Operating Capability (IOC) in October 2007. From February 2007 through September 2007, he served as Executive Director of the U.S. Africa Command Transition Team. Vice Admiral Moeller's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two Gold Stars, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Gold Stars, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a Gold Star.

### **Ambassador George Moose**

Ambassador Moose is a former career member of the U.S. Foreign Service, where he attained the rank of Career Ambassador. His service with the U.S. State Department included assignments in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and Europe. He held appointments as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Benin (1983-86) and to the Republic of Senegal (1988-91). From 1991-1992, he served as U.S. Alternate Representative to the United Nations Security Council. In 1993, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, a position he occupied until 1997. From 1998 to 2001, he was U.S. Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva. Ambassador Moose is Adjunct Professor of Practice at the Elliot School of International Affairs, The George Washington University. He serves on the boards of Search for Common Ground, the Atlantic Council, the American Academy of Diplomacy, and Elderhostel. In June 2007, he was appointed by the White House to the board of directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace. Ambassador Moose has a Bachelors of Arts degree in American Studies from Grinnell College, which also awarded him an Honorary Doctorate of Laws.

### **Colonel Leonard O. Owambo (Ret)**

Colonel Leonard O. Owambo, was appointed Junior Directing Staff Army at the National Defence College in December 2002. In November 2003, he was promoted to Colonel and appointed College Coordinator still at the National Defence College. He previously worked as a Military Assistant to the Vice Chief of General Staff at Department of Defence Headquarters and later as Commanding Officer 77 Artillery Battalion and Commanding Officer 66 Artillery Battalion consecutively. His first command came in 1984 as a Battery Commander 1<sup>st</sup> INDEPENDENT Mortar Battery during Operation "NYUNDO" (Hammer), a joint Kenya-Uganda border operation carried to flush out illegal arms possession and cattle rustling along the common border of the two countries. Colonel Owambo graduated from the Defence Staff College, Kenya after completing Grade 2 Staff Course in 1996. He has held several other appointments in the Corps of Artillery including Gun Position Officer, Battery Captain, Battery Commander, Battalion Second in Command, Staff Officer Operations and Training, and later Staff Officer Personnel and Logistics at the Corps of Artillery Headquarters. He also holds a Mobile International Defense Management Course Certificate from the Naval Postgraduate School – Monterey, California, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Leadership from Bellevue University, Nebraska and a Diploma in International Studies from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. Colonel Owambo was born on 21 June 1956 in Mombasa, Kenya. His

hobbies include reading, boxing and swimming. He and his wife Mary are blessed with three children.

### **Colonel Daniel Winston Pike (Ret)**

Dan Pike is the Director, Office of African Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He brings over thirty years of experience in operations, intelligence, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and policy to this position. A former U.S. Army Colonel, he previously served as Commander, U.S. Military Observer Group and has extensive peacekeeping and conflict resolution experience with UN and non-UN peace support operations. He also has a rich political-military background on the African continent where he served five times as Defense Attaché and was twice posted as Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation in U.S. embassies in Africa. He holds a Masters of Science degree in National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College. He speaks Portuguese and French.

### **Ambassador Nancy Soderberg**

Ambassador Soderberg is an author, public commentator, and visiting distinguished scholar at the University of North Florida. From 2001 to 2005, she served as vice president for Multilateral Affairs of the International Crisis Group in New York, a nonprofit conflict prevention organization. She served in the White House as the third-ranked official on the National Security Council (1993-96) and as alternate representative to the United Nations (1997-2001), with the rank of ambassador. Prior to joining the administration, she served as senior foreign policy advisor to Senator Edward M. Kennedy. She has taught as an adjunct professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. She speaks and publishes regularly in leading newspapers and journals on national security policy. She is a frequent commentator on national and international television and radio. Her first book, *The Superpower Myth: The Use and Misuse of American Might*, was published in March 2005. Her next book, *The Prosperity Agenda: What the World Wants from America – and What We Need in Return*, coauthored with Brian Katulis, will be out in July 2008.

### **Ms. Linda Thomas-Greenfield**

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service at the Minister Counselor level, was appointed Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau for African Affairs in December 2006. She also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary (covering West Africa and Economic Affairs from January 9, 2006 – December 2006 in the Africa Bureau. Prior to this appointment, she served as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration from June 2004 to January 2006. She has served in a variety of overseas posts, including Jamaica, Nigeria, The Gambia, Kenya, and the US Mission in Geneva Switzerland. Her domestic assignments were in the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration and the Office of the Director General of the Foreign Service. Prior to joining the Department of State, Ms. Thomas-Greenfield taught Political Science at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA. She is a 1974 graduate from Louisiana State University with a BA in Political Science and holds a MA in

Political Science from the University of Wisconsin where she completed work towards a PhD. Her awards include Warren Christopher Award for Outstanding Achievement in Global Affairs. From 2003 – 2004, President (2003-2004) of the 46th Senior Seminar, the Department's most prestigious senior development program. Ms. Thomas-Greenfield is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She is married to Lafayette Greenfield, a retired, Information Resource Management officer, and has two adult children.

### **Dr. Linton Wells**

Dr. Linton Wells II is a Distinguished Research Fellow and serves as the Force Transformation Chair at NDU. Prior to coming to NDU he was the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Networks and Information Integration). He assumed these duties on November 14, 2005 after serving as the Acting Assistant Secretary and DoD Chief Information Officer from March 8, 2004. He became the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence) on August 20, 1998 which became Networks and Information Integration in 2003. Prior to this assignment, he had served in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) from 1991 to 1998, most recently as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy Support). Dr. Wells also served for 26 years in the Navy on a variety of surface ships, including command of a destroyer squadron and guided missile destroyer. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1967 and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in physics and oceanography. He attended graduate school at The Johns Hopkins University, receiving a Master of Science in Engineering degree in mathematical sciences and a PhD in international relations. He is also a 1983 graduate of the Japanese National Institute for Defense Studies in Tokyo, the first U.S. naval officer to attend there. Dr. Wells was a co-author of the book, "Japanese Cruisers of the Pacific War," which was published in 1997. His hobbies include history, the relationship between policy and technology, scuba diving, and flying.

### **Ms. Theresa Whelan**

Ms. Whelan currently serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Ms Whelan brings to her position twenty years of experience in the defense intelligence and defense policy communities, including sixteen years focusing on African issues. Prior to assuming the DASD position, Ms. Whelan served as Director of the Office of African Affairs for two years. From June 1998 to November 2000, Ms. Whelan was assigned to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy's Balkans Task Force where she served first as the NATO Team Chief throughout the Kosovo crisis and then as the Task Force Deputy Chief of Staff. She was also a Defense Department representative on the US negotiating team at the Kosovo Talks in Rambouillet and Paris, France from February to March 1999. Her prior positions in the Office of the Secretary Defense include those of Senior Program Director for the US/South Africa Joint Defense Committee from January to August 1997, Countries Director for Southern Africa from January 1994 to January 1997 and Countries Director for West Africa from September 1991 to January 1994. From 1987 to 1991 Ms Whelan served as an African Military Capabilities Analyst for the Defense Intelligence Agency covering West, Central and East African countries. She holds a Master of Arts degree in National Security Studies from Georgetown University, a Master of Science degree in

National Security Strategy from the National War College, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations with a minor in Russian Studies from the College of William and Mary. Ms. Whelan was also nominated for and completed a year-long fellowship with the Council on Excellence in Government in 1996.