

MIL OPS



U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND INTERNATIONAL MILITARY LAW AND OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

37th ANNUAL CONFERENCE | 03-06 AUGUST 2026 | KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA



First Admiral Maritime Shahref Steve Mac Queen Bin Abdullah Director of Maritime Crime Investigation Division

First Admiral Maritime Shahref Steve Mac Queen bin Abdullah is a maritime professional with more than three decades of experience in Malaysia's naval defence and maritime law enforcement sectors. His career reflects a strong commitment to safeguarding the nation's maritime interests and strengthening the security and sovereignty of Malaysian waters.

He began his career with the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN), serving for 13 years. During this period, he held several key appointments, including Executive Officer, Navigation Officer, Weapons Officer, and Commanding Officer of RMN vessels. These roles provided him with a solid foundation in leadership, naval warfare, navigation, and maritime operations management.

In 2006, he joined the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA). Leveraging his extensive naval experience, he was appointed as a Commanding Officer of MMEA vessels before subsequently serving as Director of Operations in Sabah and Sarawak. In these roles, he coordinated numerous critical operations, including maritime law enforcement, search and rescue (SAR) missions, disaster response, and marine environmental protection, particularly in strategically important and challenging maritime areas.

Following his promotion to Captain, he served as Director of Operations for Sarawak and later as Director of the Bintulu Maritime Zone. His focus was on enhancing operational efficiency, strengthening intelligence coordination, and improving maritime domain surveillance to ensure compliance with maritime laws and the continued security of the nation's waters.

On 20 February 2025, he was promoted to First Admiral and appointed Director of the Maritime Crime Investigation Division at the MMEA Headquarters in Putrajaya. In this capacity, he leads efforts to combat maritime crimes such as illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, smuggling, trafficking, and piracy, while also strengthening strategic cooperation with domestic and international law enforcement agencies.

Throughout his career, he has received numerous recognitions and awards, including the Member of the Order of the Defender of the Realm (A.M.N.), the Sarawak Meritorious Service Medal (P.B.S.), the Excellent Service Award, the Best Maritime Zone Award (WILSAR), and the MMEA Service Medal (PERKASA). He holds a Master's Degree and various professional qualifications in naval operations and maritime law enforcement. In addition to his national responsibilities, he has also been actively involved in international cooperation initiatives, including collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through its Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP), contributing to efforts to combat transnational maritime crime.

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FIRST ADMIRAL ASKARI BAKAMALA DIRECTOR OF COOPERATION

FADM Askari joined the Indonesian Navy (Tentara Nasional Indonesia Angkatan Laut/ TNI AL) in 1991 and was commissioned from Naval Academy in 1994. He is a specialist in Navigation Direction and Mine Warfare. Currently, he is Director of Cooperation of the Indonesia Coast Guard.

He has been serving in various appointments; onboard ships, naval bases, staff, and education establishments. As for principal postings at sea, he has served as Executive Officer of (Republic of Indonesia Vessel) KRI Cucut, KRI Todak, and KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda and as Commanding Officer of (Indonesian Navy Boat) KAL Pohawang and KRI Tjiptadi. While in KRI Cucut and KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, he was the “Commissioning Executive Officer”, and took part in ferrying them from Singapore and Netherlands to Indonesia in 2002 and in 2008 respectively. He is also served overseas as part of the TNI AL-Royal Australian Navy instructor exchange program as Directing Staff at the Center for Defence and Strategic Studies (CDSS) in 2018 and DSSC in 2019, both at the ADC, Canberra, Australia.

FADM Askari graduated and was awarded psc (passed staff college) from the Defence Services Staff College, 67 Staff Course, India in 2012 and completed the Joint Command and Staff College (Sesko TNI), Indonesia in 2017 and he is also graduated from the Defence and Strategic Studies Course (DSSC) class of 2022 at the Australian Defence College (ADC) Australia. He holds a Bachelor of Communication Science (S.IKom) from Indonesia Open University in 2009. He has two postgraduate degrees, a Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Defence and Strategic Studies and a Master of Arts (M.A.) of Security Studies in Civil Military Relations, which was awarded from the University of Madras, India in 2012 and from Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), United States in 2015 consecutively.

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Commander Alban Merlin Aubert Head of Law Enforcement at Sea Maritime areas of French Polynesia and Pacific Ocean

Born in Fontainebleau (France) on December the 4th 1985, Commander Alban MERLIN AUBERT entered Naval Academy in 2009. He completed his naval officer training on board the amphibious helicopter carrier “Mistral” in Toulon.

His assignments, as supply officer on frigate, destroyers and amphibious helicopter carrier, have seen him serve on all seas and take part in some France’s multinational operations, particularly in the Middle East, Pacific and Indian oceans.

He served as instructor at the Navy Academy and attended to two other Jeanne d’Arc mission.

Assigned in the Law Enforcement at Sea Department of the French West Indies, he contributed to dismantle and intercept drug trafficking, and to preserve French national interests in this area.

Back to France, he served for two years as chief of staff to the admiral commanding the French Surface force in Toulon.

He graduated from the 29th promotion of the War College. He served for 3 years on the Human Resources Department in the strategy office. He was assigned during 4 months as Legal Advisor in a NATO multinational headquarter. He is appointed since this summer 2025 Head of the Law enforcement at Sea Department.

He is married with five children.

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RADM Weniel A. Azcuna PCG **General Counsel of the Department of War**

Rear Admiral Weniel Abarquez Azcuna, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), was born on 14 June 1972 in Calape, Bohol. He is a proud member of the MABIKAS Class of 1996 of the Philippine Military Academy, where he earned a degree in Naval Systems Engineering. He further advanced his professional education at the World Maritime University, where he obtained a Master of Science in Maritime Safety and Environmental Administration.

Throughout his distinguished career, RADM AZCUNA PCG has held a wide range of operational, intelligence, and leadership positions both at sea and ashore. As a seasoned mariner, he served in various shipboard assignments and commanded key PCG vessels, including BRP Davao del Norte, BRP Pampanga, MCS 3001, and TB Habagat. His exemplary performance in command earned him the prestigious Command at Sea Badge, signifying his competence and excellence in maritime leadership.

In the field of maritime intelligence and security, he served as Deputy Chief of Coast Guard Staff for Intelligence (CG-2) and Commander of the Coast Guard Intelligence Force (CGIF). In these capacities, he played a pivotal role in strengthening maritime domain awareness and advancing intelligence-driven operations critical to national security.

On the international front, RADM AZCUNA PCG served as Technical Adviser on Maritime Affairs at the Embassy of the Philippines in London, where he represented the country in high-level maritime engagements and contributed to the advancement of international maritime policy and cooperation.

He also held key operational and administrative commands, including Commander of Coast Guard District Western Visayas (CGDWV), Commander of Coast Guard District Central Visayas (CGDCV), Commander of Coast Guard District Palawan (CGDPAL), and the first Acting Commander of the newly activated Coast Guard District Kalayaan Island Group (CGDKIG), where he leads critical frontline operations in the West Philippine Sea.

Under his leadership, the PCG sustains maritime presence operations, enhances monitoring of activities in contested waters, safeguards Filipino fishermen, and reinforces the country's sovereign rights in accordance with international law. Moreover, he also held the position of Deputy Commander of the Maritime Safety Services Command (MSSC), contributing to the oversight of maritime safety and security operations, including the investigation of significant maritime incidents.

At present, RADM AZCUNA PCG serves as Commander of the Coast Guard Fleet, the primary operational arm of the Philippine Coast Guard responsible for maritime patrol, law enforcement, and response operations nationwide.

RADM AZCUNA PCG is supported by his wife, Rosebelle May S. Azcuna, and their son, Aidan Matt Azcuna, together embodying a commitment to family and service, reflecting strong values in their personal and professional lives.

A dedicated public servant and maritime leader, RADM AZCUNA PCG continues to uphold the core mandates of the Philippine Coast Guard—ensuring maritime safety, maritime security, and marine environmental protection—while advancing national interests and fostering international maritime cooperation in service of the Filipino people.

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Leonito M. Bacalando, JR.

Secretary of the Department of Justice & Attorney General of the Federated States of Micronesia

- Leads the biggest national department of the Federated States of Micronesia with 9 Divisions and over 230 full time employees across the nation.
- Provide legal support to the FSM Foreign Missions at the UN in New York, Geneva, Fiji, Australia, China and Washington, D.C.
- Provides legal advice to the President and Cabinet on constitutional issues, any legal matters, treaty obligations and fisheries treaties.
- Negotiated treaties on behalf of FSM including the BBNJ treaty and regional agreements in the Pacific.
- Negotiated the maritime boundary between the United States and the FSM, and conducted negotiations on maritime and security issues over the years with neighboring countries: PNG, Solomon Islands, Palau and RMI.
- Drafted the National Seabed Mining Act that was eventually approved by the FSM Congress.
- Active leadership role in the establishment of the FSM Police Academy, establishment of maritime support facility, Migration Policy and Cyber Security Policy for the nation.
- FSM Head of Delegation to the INTERPOL (2021 & 2022) and Universal Periodic Review (2021).
- Secretary of the Department of Justice & Attorney General of the Federated States of Micronesia (Sept 2024 – present)
- Acting Secretary of the Department of Justice & Attorney General (2023 – Sept 2024)
- Chief of Law (Oct 2014 – Sept 2024)
- Assistant Attorney General of the FSM Department of Justice (2008 – Sept 2024)
- Acting Attorney General, State of Pohnpei, FSM (Nov 2006 – Oct 2007)
- Assistant Attorney General, State of Pohnpei, FSM (Jan 2002 – Sept 2008)
- Litigation lawyer, ACCRALAW Davao & Makati (May 2002 – Oct 2003)
- Associate lawyer, Monteclar Ingles Divinagrancia Sibi Trinidad Law Offices, Cebu (Jan - Apr 2002)
- College Instructor, Central Mindanao University (Nov 2006 – May 2007)
- Juris Doctor, University of San Carlos (USC), Cebu (Mar 2001)
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, USC Cebu (Oct 2007)
- Student Debater
- FSM Bar (since 2005) and Philippine Bar (since 2002)

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Ms. Apoorba Banerjee

Apoorba Banerjee is an industrial strategy leader and policy writer working at the intersection of geoeconomics, supply chain resilience, and heavy industry execution across Southeast Asia.

She currently serves as **ASEAN Strategy Lead at Osborne Engineering (OEL Group)**, where she leads the company's regional expansion and operational buildout in Malaysia. Her work spans end-to-end industrial systems development, including the establishment of new repair and servicing infrastructure, cross-border vendor ecosystems, and the coordination of delivery across the UAE, UK, Poland, and Southeast Asia. She works closely with energy, marine, and heavy industrial clients operating in high-uptime, asset-intensive environments.

Apoorba's core focus lies in translating strategy into systems that hold under real-world pressure—contracts, compliance constraints, uptime requirements, and throughput demands. Her operational experience positions her at the execution layer of supply chains, where resilience is not theoretical but engineered through infrastructure, redundancy, and industrial policy alignment.

Alongside her industry role, she is the **Founder of an independent applied policy platform**, focused on operator-led analysis at the intersection of industry, policy, and narrative in Southeast Asia.

Her writing examines how geopolitical fragmentation, trade volatility, and infrastructure constraints are reshaping global supply chains. She has published widely on topics including **ASEAN supply chain resilience, critical mineral dependencies, rare earth value chains, and Indo-Pacific industrial policy**, with bylines in international publications such as *Lowy Institute*, *The Hindu*, *Asia Times*, and *East Asia Forum*.

Her recent work has focused on how **policy volatility is becoming a structural input into industrial planning**, and how Southeast Asia's manufacturing opportunity is increasingly constrained by execution-layer bottlenecks such as power capacity, logistics coordination, and regulatory fragmentation.

At MILOPS, Apoorba will speak on **supply chain resilience and cross border strategies**, exploring how states and industrial actors can move beyond diversification narratives to build systems that withstand geopolitical shocks, conditional trade regimes, and infrastructure limitations.

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Jay L. Batongbacal

Professor, University of the Philippines College of Law

Jay L Batongbacal is a lawyer with degrees in Political Science and Law from the University of the Philippines, as well as Master of Marine Management and Doctor in the Science of Law, both from Dalhousie University (Canada). At present, he is a full Professor and chairs the Graduate Studies Program at the University of the Philippines College of Law, while also serving as Director of the Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea of the U.P. Law Center and Chair of the LLM Program Committee.

Dr. Batongbacal has worked extensively on maritime affairs since 1997, carrying out research, consultancy work, and teaching, with numerous national and international publications to his credit.

He was legal advisor to the Philippine delegation that successfully pursued the Philippines' claim to a continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles in the Benham Rise Region before the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the successful application for the designation of the Tubbataha Reef Natural Park Particularly Sensitive Sea Area lodged before the International Maritime Organization. He has been included among the UNESCO/IOC List of Experts for UNCLOS Annex VIII Special Arbitration on Marine Scientific Research.

Dr. Batongbacal presently teaches undergrad and graduate law courses, including elective courses in The Law of the Sea and Natural Resources Law. His current research interests include the Law of the Sea, Aerospace Law, and the Law of Naval Warfare.

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Brigadier General Emmanuel Boiteau French Armed Forces

Born near Paris (France) on June the 9th 1972, general Emmanuel BOITEAU is married, with 3 children. He graduated from the French Air Force Academy, 1992 entry “LTN MAJOUREAU”, following 5 years at Prytanée defense secondary school. He earned his fighter pilot wings in 1996.

After completing two years of flight training with Tours Fighters’ Academy and Cazaux operational conversion school, he served as an air defence pilot flying the Mirage 2000C, at fighter squadron 1/12 « *Cambrésis* », Cambrai air base, from 1997 to 2001. In 2001, he was assigned commander of flight « SPA 90 » with « *Picardie* » squadron 2/12, still at Cambrai Air base, then promoted to major and deputy in charge of squadron operations in 2003. Combat-ready qualified in 1998, he was deployed to Kosovo (*Allied Force*) and twice to *Southern Watch* operation (Iraq 1999 & 2001) from Saudi Arabia. Following his TLP NATO qualification, he was engaged over 7 years in multinational exercises in Europe, Canada (*Maple Flag*), Kuwait (*Pearl of the West*), Qatar (*Skywatch*) and UAE (*Gulf*).

Posted to the Air Force Headquarters in 2004, as RAFALE Program deputy-officer, he was responsible for Rafale F2 entry into service in the French Air force. Member of 14th Defense College entry in 2006, he then served as deputy commander of fighter squadron “Vexin” 4/33 in Djibouti. Promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in 2007, he assumed command of Djibouti fighter squadron “Corse” 3/11 in 2008. Returning to Paris in 2009, he was appointed head of Defense operational readiness at the Defense Staff capability division.

In 2012, he joined the coordination office of the Joint Chief of Operations and was promoted to colonel in July 2013. In 2014, he became head of “Training, doctrine and lessons learned” at the Air force HQ. From October 2015 to February 2016, he took part in operation Chammal-*Inherent Resolve* as commander of the air base deployed to Jordan (*As Safawi-H5 AFB*). He was assigned commander of French Air base 104 in Al Dhafra (UAE) from 2016 to 2018, and was engaged in strike planning against Syrian chemical weapons facilities (CENTCOM, April ’18).

Member of the 68th entry of the Centre for Higher Military Studies (CHEM), he then attended the Institute for National defense advanced studies (IHEDN), joining the 71st entry. In 2019, he took up the responsibilities of deputy director “Defense strategy” with the General Directorate for international relations & strategy (DGRIS). From September 2021 to May 2023, he was head of the Air & Space force Vice-Chief of staff task force and assistant to the Deputy Director Performance of the Air & Space force HQ.

On June the 1st 2023, he was promoted to brigadier general and appointed director of the Centre for Air & Space Strategic Studies (CESA) and senior Heritage representative for the Air & Space Force. Since November the 25th 2024, he is appointed as commander of French Liaison Team and Senior National representative to US INDOPACOM, HI, USA.

General Emmanuel Boiteau enjoys scuba diving, cross-country biking, playing tennis and golf.

From the Seabed to Space: Advancing Security, Freedom, and Prosperity for All Across the Indo-Pacific

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Mr. Viliame Bovoro
Director, Pacific Fusion Centre

Viliame Bovoro, a Fijian national, is the Director for the Pacific Fusion Centre (PFC). He was initially appointed Assistant Director in October 2023. He currently leads the PFC in the delivery of its objectives, consistent with the Director's obligations as set out in the Pacific Islands Forum endorsed Charter which outlines how the Centre will be governed and operated; embedding the Centre's reputation for excellence and collaboration, building effective working partnerships across the Pacific security community, including with all government national security agencies in Pacific island countries as a priority, and with relevant regional organisations as appropriate.

Prior to his appointment, Viliame was the Senior Adviser at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to two Secretary Generals, initially appointed as the Regional Security Adviser in 2018. He also led the development of the Boe Declaration and Action Plan, the protocols for the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway – COVID-19 and contributed to the development of the 2050 Strategy, Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development and stood up the Forum subcommittee on regional security and the Pacific Economic subcommittee.

At national level, Viliame served in the Ministry of Defence and National Security from 2006 to 2015, where he was the Director of National Security and led the development of Fiji's first national security strategy, counter terrorism strategy, critical infrastructure strategy and revitalised the National Security Council and machinery to ensure civil oversight of the security organs of Fiji.

Viliame also held a number of other appointments at national level including managing the Financial Intelligence Unit at the Reserve Bank of Fiji.

He is a graduate of the University of the South Pacific (Master of Arts in Governance and BA in Information Systems and Management and Public Administration) and has a Professional Diploma in National Security from Galilee College in Israel. Viliame has two children and two grandchildren.

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Mr. Charlie Brown
Senior Advisor to United Against Nuclear Iran

Mr. Charlie Brown is a distinguished maritime security and strategic risk leader with over two decades of experience spanning military service, government, and the commercial sector.

He currently serves as a Senior Advisor to United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI), where he plays a pivotal role in monitoring global "Dark Fleet" activities and tracking illicit shipping networks. His work is at the forefront of identifying sanctions evasion, deceptive maritime practices, and ship-to-ship transfers that pose strategic risks across critical global sea lanes.

Prior to his role with UANI, Mr. Brown served in the U.S. Navy, where he developed deep expertise in maritime domain awareness, strategic and operational planning, and risk mitigation. His career has consistently operated at the intersection of national security and commercial shipping, with a focus on helping organizations navigate and respond to emerging defense technologies and complex maritime threats.

A seasoned Indo-Pacific professional based in Singapore, Mr. Brown is a recognized thought leader who frequently contributes insights on geopolitical developments, sanctions enforcement, and maritime security through public forums and international advocacy.

He is dedicated to advancing maritime security through innovation, actionable intelligence, and cross-sector collaboration, ensuring a more transparent and secure environment across the region's waterways.

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Mr. José A. Cora
DLA General Counsel

José A. Cora was appointed as the Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA's) General Counsel on July 1, 2024. Prior to joining DLA, he served in the Army for 33 years, primarily as a military Attorney specializing in acquisitions and appropriations law, national security law, and administrative law. As the DLA General Counsel, José leads an enterprise of over 200 professionals worldwide, who legally advise the Nation's Combat Logistics Support Agency in accomplishing its mission to deliver almost \$50 billion annually in logistics to our Nation's Warfighters and its allies, as well as the Whole Of Government.

Prior to his appointment as DLA's General Counsel, José was an Army Military Police officer for 4 years before becoming an Army Judge Advocate General (JAG) for 25 years. As a JAG, José held a variety of leadership positions, including: JAG Corps Chief of Contract Litigation and Intellectual Property; JAG Corps Contract and Fiscal Law Talent Manager; Staff Judge Advocate (SJA), Army Futures Command in Austin, TX; SJA, Third Army/Army Central in Shaw AFB, SC; Team Chief of Trial Team III, Contract and Fiscal Law Division; Chief of the Contract and Fiscal Actions Division, Army Office of The Judge Advocate General at the Pentagon; Command Judge Advocate, 411th Contract Support Brigade, Camp Coirer, Korea; and Professor, Contract and Fiscal Law Department (ADK), The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School. Prior to joining the JAG Corps, Jose was a Military Police Platoon leader at 2ID, Camp Casey, Korea; the 504th MP Battalion Assistant S-3 (Plans), and the C Company, 704th MP Battalion Executive Officer, both positions at Fort Lewis, Washington.

José holds a B.S. degree with Dean's List distinction from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; joint J.D.-M.A. (International Political Economy) degrees from the University of Virginia Schools of Law and Politics; a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree (Military Law) from The Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School; a LL.M. degree (Government Procurement Law and Policy) from George Washington University Law School; and a M.S. degree with Distinguished Honor Graduate distinction from The Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy.

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Michael G. DeSombre

Assistant Secretary Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs

Michael G. DeSombre was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs on October 10, 2025.

Prior to October 2025, Assistant Secretary DeSombre was a partner at the international law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell where he led the Asian Mergers and Acquisition Practice as well as the Korea and Southeast Asian Practice of the firm. Assistant Secretary DeSombre is recognized as one of the preeminent mergers and acquisitions and private equity lawyers in the world. Assistant Secretary DeSombre resided in Asia for over 25 years.

From 2020-2021, Assistant Secretary DeSombre served as the U.S. Ambassador to Thailand. A native of Illinois, he received a B.A. in Quantitative Economics, and an M.A. in East Asian Studies from Stanford University. He graduated from Harvard Law School, magna cum laude, in 1995. Mr. DeSombre is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and is conversational in Korean and Japanese.

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Colonel Saturnino S. Diaron Jr. JAGS (MNSA)

**Chief, International Law and Special Projects Division
Office of The Judge Advocate General, Armed Forces of the Philippines**

Colonel Saturnino S Diaron Jr is a senior military lawyer and national security professional of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). He currently serves as Chief of the International Law and Special Projects Division, Office of The Judge Advocate General, AFP, where he supports operational law, international law, military legal cooperation, and strategic engagements with foreign defense and legal partners.

He has held key legal and command advisory assignments in the AFP, Philippine Army, Philippine Air Force, Philippine Military Academy, Southern Luzon Command, Special Operations Command, and the Department of National Defense. His professional work covers operational law, military justice, crisis governance, defense legislation, institutional reform, and inter-agency legal-policy coordination.

Colonel Diaron has served as a legal advisor in the Balikatan Exercises between the Philippines and the United States, including engagements with other armed forces and partner militaries. He also served as Team Leader of a legal action team during the period of proclaimed Martial Law in Mindanao, providing legal advisory support to military commanders under heightened security conditions. His broader experience includes legal support to multinational military operations, international humanitarian law, law of armed conflict, maritime security law, command legal advice, and institutional reforms affecting AFP personnel systems.

Colonel Diaron holds a Master in National Security Administration from the National Defense College of the Philippines, a Master in Public Management major in Development and Security from the Development Academy of the Philippines, a Master of Laws from San Beda University, and both Juris Doctor and Bachelor of Science in Accountancy degrees from Saint Louis University. His international legal education and training include military operations and maritime security operations courses from the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies in the United States, a Post-Graduate Diploma in International Humanitarian Law from NALSAR University of Law in India, Law of Armed Conflict training in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and command and staff operations law from the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law in Australia.

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Thomas G. DiNanno

Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security

The Honorable Thomas G. DiNanno was sworn in as the 19th Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security on October 10, 2025.

Under Secretary DiNanno previously served in the U.S. Department of State as the Deputy Assistant Secretary and as the Senior Bureau Official in the Arms Control, Verification and Compliance Bureau (AVC) where he led foreign policy for nuclear arms control, strategic stability, missile defense and outer space. Under Secretary DiNanno led the 2020 nuclear arms reduction New START negotiations with the Russian Federation and other U.S. extended deterrence engagements with Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Australia. He led the 2019 U.S.– China Space Security Dialogue in Beijing and delegations to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Conference on Disarmament. Immediately before his 2025 nomination, Under Secretary DiNanno directed nuclear deterrence and resilience strategies for the U.S. Strategic Command at the National Strategic Research Institute.

Under Secretary DiNanno's vast government service includes leadership roles at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including as Assistant Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency where he directed nearly \$5 billion in counterterrorism programs for national preparedness, cybersecurity and continuity planning. He was also a DHS Deputy Assistant Secretary and a Senior Advisor to the White House after the 9/11 terrorist attack. His prior experience also includes time as a professional staff member on the U.S. House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and as a Small Business Administration Senior Advisor.

Under Secretary DiNanno holds degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MS), the University of Pennsylvania (MA), Middlebury College (BA) and Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy (International Relations certificate holder).

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Kathryn Friedman

Distinguished Professor/North American Arctic Policy Advisor, Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies

Dr. Kathryn Bryk Friedman serves in a consultative capacity as a Distinguished Professor/North American Arctic Policy Advisor to the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies. Kathryn is a recognized foreign policy expert, with two decades of experience collaborating with and advising US, Canadian, and European government officials on security, defense, borders, migration, and water security.

Her work sits at the intersection of law, security, defense, and geopolitics.

Kathryn served as a Fulbright Fellow and an Abshire Inamori Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC. Kathryn has provided guest commentary in the media, including PBS, NPR, The Hill, CBC, and Bloomberg News. She served on panels at the United Nations and at the Bled Strategic Forum. Kathryn clerked for Hon. Richard C. Wesley and Hon. Eugene F. Pigott, Jr., and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Kathryn has a Ph.D. with concentrations in international relations and comparative politics, and J.D., magna cum laude, with a concentration in international law.

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Major Steven M. Garman
United States Space Command
United States Air Force

Major Steven M. Garman is the Chief of Space Law for USSPACECOM. He supports the dynamic operational landscape that exists in outerspace. He advises on operational and international law issues that arise for the combatant command. Additional to those duties he acts as the AFEL and SFEL SJA.

Maj Garman received a direct commission as an Air Force judge advocate in October 2016 and entered active duty in May 2018. He is admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of Arizona.

Maj Garman received his Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations from Sacramento State in 2014 and went on to complete his Juris Doctor in Arizona State University in 2017. He commissioned as a United States Air Force Officer and completed Officer training in 2018. He has also completed the Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course in 2018 and Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, in 2022. Following his passion for Space, he obtained a Masters of Law from the University of Mississippi in Air and Space Law.

Throughout his JAG career, Maj Garman has undertaken a number of broad postings including as Assistant Staff Judge Advocate (Chief of Military Justice, Acting Deputy to the Staff Judge Advocate, and Chief of Adverse Actions) over 2018-2022, Assistant Staff Judge Advocate (Chief of Military Justice), 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, CA 2021-2022, Area Defense Counsel, Trial Defense Division, Travis Air Force Base, California 2022-2024 and is presently the Chief of Space Law, United States Space Command, Peterson SFB, Colorado.

Maj Garman has received the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal (Two OLC), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (One OLC) and the 319th Reconnaissance Wing WSA CGOY 19

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Douveri Henao

Business Leader, Geopolitical Analyst & Foreign Policy Advisor | Papua New Guinea

Douveri Henao is one of Papua New Guinea's most prominent business executives, legal minds, geopolitical analysts, and public intellectuals. Based in Port Moresby, he operates at the intersection of business, governance, and international affairs, and is recognized as a leading voice on PNG's role in the evolving Pacific geopolitical order.

Henao studied Law in Legislative Drafting at the University of Papua New Guinea from 1997 to 2001. He also attended the Legal Training Institute and The International School of Lae.

Henao is the CEO and Founder of Legacy Group, described as a geopolitical consulting firm based in Papua New Guinea. Through Legacy Group, he has positioned himself as a bridge between government, business, and international stakeholders. His career trajectory includes a decade-long tenure as Executive Director of the PNG Business Council, alongside over two decades of experience in critical positions on various boards and chairmanships of prominent PNG corporations, state entities, government regulatory bodies, and charitable organizations. He has also held roles at Papua LNG, Ela Motors Limited, and PNG Ports Corporation Limited. In 2024, he was appointed to the Board of FinCorp, PNG's key lending institution.

Henao's most significant contributions to PNG's national affairs lie in the arena of foreign policy and geopolitics.

PNG Foreign Policy White Paper: Henao served as a member of the Foreign Policy White Paper Drafting Team, led by the late Sir Charles Lepani, alongside distinguished figures including Dame Jean Kekedo, Dame Meg Taylor, Gabriel Pepson, and Robert Igara — a team with diverse backgrounds spanning public service, the private sector, and foreign service, tasked with shaping Papua New Guinea's foreign policy agenda.

Eminent Persons Group: The Eminent Persons Group (EPG), which included Henao, undertook a comprehensive consultative process to review and draft a new foreign policy for PNG. Their work began in 2022, and by June of the following year, the paper and related documents were completed and submitted to the Foreign Affairs Minister.

Published Geopolitical Analysis: In June 2024, Henao co-authored an analysis piece in *The Diplomat* titled "Papua New Guinea: All Geopolitics Is Local," examining high-profile diplomatic visits by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to PNG, and how PNG's leadership must navigate the increasingly complex web of geopolitical maneuvers shaping the nation.

Interviewed as a Geopolitical Expert: In February 2024, *The Diplomat* interviewed Henao about PNG's multiple simultaneous crises — including riots in the capital, tribal clashes in the Highlands, and a looming fuel shortage — and his analysis of their root causes and potential solutions.

Henao has served as Chairman of the Digicel PNG Foundation. In February 2025, he was appointed Patron of Sago Network, a community development organisation focused on improving health in PNG's villages through water, sanitation, and hygiene programmes, in recognition of more than a decade of consistent support.

Douveri Henao stands out as one of Papua New Guinea's most intellectually engaged public figures — a rare combination of entrepreneur, legal expert, foreign policy architect, and geopolitical commentator whose work shapes how PNG positions itself in an increasingly contested Pacific region.

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U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND INTERNATIONAL MILITARY LAW AND OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

37th ANNUAL CONFERENCE | 03-06 AUGUST 2026 | KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA



Major-General R.F. Holman, MSM, CD JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

Major-General (MGen) Rob Holman was born into an Air Force family and grew up in a variety of locations across Canada and in Germany. After graduating from high school in Toronto, Ontario, he joined the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in 1986 and attended the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) in Kingston. Upon commissioning, he undertook basic and advanced flying training, receiving his pilot wings in 1991. He subsequently served as a qualified flying instructor and later a standards officer flying the CT-114 Tutor jet trainer. In 1995, he returned to RMC, where he served as a squadron commander and supervised the Air Force's Continuation Flying Training program.

In 1997, MGen Holman was selected for sponsored legal education under the Military Legal Training Plan. He received his law degree from Queen's University, and after serving as a judicial law clerk at the Federal Court of Appeal in Ottawa, was called to the bar of Ontario and joined the Office of the Judge Advocate General as a legal officer in February 2002.

From 2002 to 2007, MGen Holman served as a military prosecutor, first as trial counsel before courts-martial, and later as appellate counsel appearing before the Court-Martial Appeal Court of Canada. In 2007, he deployed to Afghanistan where, as part of the American-led Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, he served as a legal advisor and mentor to the senior leaders of the Afghan National Army and Ministry of Defence Legal Departments.

For the next several years, MGen Holman's work focused upon international law issues affecting CAF operations. During this time, he served in a number of positions including as an Assistant Legal Advisor at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe during part of NATO's operations in Libya, as the Assistant Deputy Judge Advocate General for Operational Law and as Special Advisor to the Judge Advocate General.

Promoted to Colonel in 2013, he served as Deputy Judge Advocate General for Military Justice until 2017, leading a team responsible for supporting the Judge Advocate General in their role as superintendent of the administration of military justice in the CAF. From 2017 to 2020, as the Deputy Judge Advocate General for Operational and International Law, he was responsible for the provision of legal advice and services to all CAF international and domestic operations and to all Department of National Defence (DND) and CAF activities in the areas of national security and intelligence. In August 2020, he was appointed as Chief of Staff of the Office of the Judge Advocate General and Legal Branch Advisor, positions that he held until September 2022.

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MAJOR-GENERAL R.F. HOLMAN, MSM, CD JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

MGen Holman served as the Acting Judge Advocate General from November 2021 until June 2023. On June 2023, he was appointed by the Governor General in Council as Canada's sixteenth Judge Advocate General. He serves as legal advisor to the Governor General, the Minister of National Defence, DND and the CAF in matters relating to military law, superintends the administration of military justice and command the Office of the Judge Advocate General, an integrated team of almost 400 military and civilian professionals spread across Canada and around the world.

MGen Holman is a graduate of RMC (B.Eng.), Queen's University (LL.B.) and McGill University (LL.M.). He has accumulated almost 2000 hours of flying time in gliders, small civilian aircraft and military jet aircraft. He is an avid reader and has ambitions to remain a mid-pack distance runner. He and his wife have three children: one who teaches English in Japan: and two who attend school in Ottawa.

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H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn
SECRETARY-GENERAL of ASEAN

Dr. Kao Kim Hourn is the 15th Secretary-General of ASEAN. Prior to assuming this position in January 2023, he served in various capacities in the Cambodian government, including two-term Minister Delegate to Cambodia's Prime Minister (2013-2022) in charge of Foreign Affairs and ASEAN, and two-term Secretary of State of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International

Cooperation (2004-2013). He was ASEAN SOM Leader of Cambodia (2001-2012) and played a key role in crafting the ASEAN Charter, as Cambodia's representative to the High Level Task Force (HLTF) on Drafting the ASEAN Charter.

Over three decades, his career has focused on strengthening Cambodia's international relations, particularly in ASEAN, driving policy advocacy and diplomacy, promoting education and research, having authored dozens of books and numerous articles on ASEAN and Cambodia. He is an institution-builder. Returning from his studies in the U.S. in January 1993, he ran a think tank (1993-2001) dedicated to ASEAN.

In 2003, he founded The University of Cambodia, serving as the university president until October 2022. He received his BA in Asian Studies from Baylor University, two MAs (in Political Science and in International Studies) from Ohio University, and PhD in Political Science from University of Hawaii at Manoa.

He is married with two adult children who live in Phnom Penh

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Captain George Howell

Director Joint Inter-Agency Task Force-West, USINDOPACOM

Captain (CAPT) George Howell is the 21st Director, JIATF West. He previously served as Chief of Staff of JIATF West. CAPT Howell is from Charlotte, NC and a graduate of North Carolina State University class of 2000, where he received a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Electrical Engineering. His post-graduate education includes a Master in Engineering Management (M.E.M) from Old Dominion University. He entered Active Duty service in December 1999.

At sea, CAPT Howell first served onboard USS HENRY M. JACKSON (SSBN 730) in Bangor, WA. During his tour, HENRY M. JACKSON conducted four strategic deterrent patrols and began an Engineered Refueling Overhaul. In November 2007, he reported to USS SANTA FE (SSN-763) as Engineer Officer. During his tour on SANTA FE, he completed a Depot Modernization Period and a change of homeport from Portsmouth, NH to Pearl Harbor, HI. In October 2008 he executed split-tour orders as Engineer Officer onboard USS KEY WEST (SSN-722). During his tour as Engineer, he completed a Western Pacific Deployment and the first 8 months of an Engineered Overhaul. USS KEY WEST was awarded the Submarine Squadron Three Battle Efficiency 'E' award for 2009 and the Engineering 'E' award for 2010. In July 2013, he served onboard USS TEXAS (SSN 775) as Executive Officer until April 2015. During his tour on TEXAS, he completed a two-year Extended Drydocking Selected Restricted Availability (EDSRA) and an Eastern Pacific Deployment. USS TEXAS was awarded the CNO Safety Excellence Award and the Personnel 'P' Award in 2014. In November 2017, he assumed Command of USS MISSOURI (SSN 780), conducted an interfleet transfer, a two-year EDSRA, and deployment preparations. USS MISSOURI was awarded the Battle Efficiency 'E' award for 2019.

CAPT Howell's shore assignments include Flag Aide to the Director, Submarine Warfare Division (OPNAV N97). He served as the Force Radiological Controls Officer for Submarine Force Atlantic Fleet (COMSUBLANT) in Norfolk, VA. He served as the Chief Staff Officer at Naval Special Warfare Group Eight in Pearl Harbor, HI to include temporary duty as the N3 deputy at Naval Special Warfare Development Group. He served as Deputy Commander for Submarine Operations at Commander, Task Force 69 in Naples, Italy. He served as the Senior Board Member on the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board at Commander, U.S Pacific Fleet.

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Lieutenant General Dato' Tengku Muhammad Fauzi bin Tengku Ibrahim, Joint Force Commander Malaysian Armed Forces

Lieutenant General Dato' Tengku Muhammad Fauzi bin Tengku Ibrahim is the Commander of the Joint Forces, Malaysian Armed Forces (effective 1 January 2026). His career is defined by high-level joint operations, multinational interoperability, defense diplomacy, and strategic-level education spanning the United States, United Kingdom, and the Indo-Pacific region.

He possesses a robust foundation in global military strategy, reflecting his commitment to international military cooperation. He has graduated from premier defense institutions worldwide including U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Royal College of Defence Studies, United Kingdom, Indonesian National Armed Forces Command and Staff College and Harvard Business School (Alumnus).

Throughout his career, he has been deeply involved in fostering military alliances, regional stability, and joint operational readiness. He was deployed with the Malaysian Peacekeeping Contingent under the NATO Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1996–1997) and served as an Exchange Trainer at the Royal Military College Duntroon, Australia (1998–1999).. Furthermore, he Commanded and participated in key bilateral and multilateral maneuvers, including Ex CAR-AT (with US Marine Corps), Ex KERIS STRIKE (with USARPAC), Ex SEMANGAT BERSATU (with Singapore), and Ex SUMAN WARRIORS (Five Power Defence Arrangements in New Zealand). He has actively participated in cooperative engagements including the Pacific Armies Management Seminar (PAMS), Military Legal and Operation Seminar (MILOPS), Pacific Amphibious Leadership Symposium (PALS), and the ASEAN Chief of Army Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM).

Before taking command of the Joint Forces, Lieutenant General Dato' Tengku Muhammad Fauzi held pivotal senior positions, including Deputy Chief of the Malaysian Army, Commander of Western Field, and Military Advisor to two Ministers of Defense.

He is married to Haslinda binti Mohd Ali, who hails from Johor Darul Takzim. Together, they have four children—two sons and two daughters. Outside of his rigorous military duties, he maintains an active lifestyle, enjoying sports and reading.

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Vice Admiral Justin Jones
AO CSC RAN

Vice Admiral Justin Jones was born in Adelaide, South Australia. He was educated at Geelong Grammar School and joined the Royal Australian Navy from Melbourne in January 1988. He is a graduate of the Royal Australian Naval College and the Australian Command and Staff College, and holds a Masters in Management Studies, a Master of Arts (Strategy and Policy) and a Graduate Diploma in Defence Studies. He assumed responsibilities as the seventh Chief of Joint Operations on 5 July 2024.

Vice Admiral Jones is a Principal Warfare Officer with dual sub specialisations in surface warfare and advanced navigation. He has served in patrol boats, guided missile destroyers, guided missile frigates, amphibious assault ships, and combat support ships. He has deployed operationally to the Middle East Region four times, been force assigned to 11 named operations, and deployed into the Indo-Pacific region on 13 occasions during his career.

Vice Admiral Jones had command of the guided missile frigate HMAS Newcastle from December 2008 to July 2010. In 2009, the ship was awarded the Duke of Gloucester Cup for overall efficiency and the Spada Shield for the surface combatant foremost in operations. Vice Admiral Jones then had command of the combat support ship HMAS Success from October 2014 to May 2016, which included a deployment to the Middle East and North West Indian Ocean assigned to Operation MANITOU. He resumed command of Success from 18 August to 18 November 2016 for an Indian Ocean deployment.

Vice Admiral Jones's joint operations experience includes postings as Operations Officer to Commander Deployable Joint Force Headquarters (Maritime) in 2003-2004, Commander Plans (N5/N7) within Maritime Component Joint Operations Command in 2006, Director General Operations (J3) Headquarters Joint Operations Command 2020-21, secondment as Commander of the standing multi-agency task force Maritime Border Command / Commander Joint Agency Task Force Operation Sovereign Borders / Commander Joint Task Force 639 – Operation Resolute 2022-23 and, most recently, as the Deputy Chief of Joint Operations.

Vice Admiral Jones was the inaugural Navy Fellow at the Lowy Institute for International Policy in 2010, contributing to the Lowy Institute MacArthur Foundation's major publication Crisis and Confidence: major powers and maritime security in Indo-Pacific Asia. He has edited two books: A Maritime School of Strategic Thought for Australia: Perspectives in 2013, and the follow on Australian Maritime Strategic Thought 2013-2023 published in 2023.

Vice Admiral Jones was the recipient of the 2006 Vice Admiral Viscount Horatio Nelson KB Trafalgar Bicentennial Sword of Excellence for leadership. In the 2016 Queen's Birthday honours, he was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross for outstanding devotion to duty as the Commanding Officer, HMAS Success while deployed on Operation MANITOU. He also wears the Meritorious Unit Citation awarded to HMAS Parramatta, for performance in the North Arabian Gulf on Operation CATALYST in 2005-06. Vice Admiral Jones was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in the King's Birthday 2024 honours list, for distinguished service to the Royal Australian Navy, Maritime Border Command, and the Australian Defence Force's joint operations.

Vice Admiral Jones has completed the United States Capstone Course and Pinnacle Course, the Commander Joint Task Force Course, the Operations Based on Experience (OBOE) Course, the NATO Joint Synchronisation Course, and the United States Senior Officer Information Operations Application Course. Vice Admiral Jones is married to Terrie, and they have two adult daughters and one grandchild. His personal interests include reading, fitness, team sport, watching musical theatre and, occasionally, playing the drums.

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Captain Isamu Kaji
Maritime Self-Defense Force, Japan

Captain Isamu Kaji is an officer in the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), currently serving as the Legal Affairs General for the Japan Joint Staff in Ichigaya, a position he assumed in March 2026. A native of Kanagawa Prefecture, Captain Kaji pursued his higher education at Kanagawa University, where he earned a Bachelor of Laws degree before embarking on his military career. Captain Kaji's operational experience began in January 1995 aboard the JS *Setogiri*. In March 2002, he transitioned to the Aegis-equipped destroyer JS *Myoko*. Following these initial sea tours, he took on his first major staff assignment in February 2003 with the Supplies Division at the Maritime Staff Office in Ichigaya. This was followed by tours at the Operations Intelligence Center in Yokosuka in 2005 and the Operations and Plans Department at Headquarters Maizuru District in 2007. He returned to the fleet in March 2009 to serve as the Executive Officer and Weapons Officer aboard the JS *Yudachi*.

In May 2010, Captain Kaji joined the Plans and Programs Division of the Joint Staff. He subsequently reached a major career milestone in November 2011 when he assumed command of the JS *Yugiri* as Commanding Officer. His leadership at sea led to his selection in March 2013 as the aide to the Chief of Staff, JMSDF. Following this prestigious assignment, he served in the Welfare Division of the Maritime Staff Office in 2015 before returning to Yokosuka in December 2016 to serve as the Commander of Escort Division 11.

In the later stages of his career, Captain Kaji has held a series of vital administrative, secretariat, and legal leadership roles. In March 2018, he became the Director of the Administration Department at Headquarters Ominato District, followed by an assignment as the Chief of the Secretariat Office for the Joint Staff in August 2019. Drawing upon his foundational legal education, he was appointed Director of the Legal Office at the Maritime Staff Office in December 2020. He was subsequently elevated to Legal Affairs General for the Maritime Staff Office in December 2021, serving in that capacity until his current assignment leading legal affairs for the entire Japan Joint Staff.

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Brigadier James Kennedy-Good **Director of Defence Legal Services**

Brigadier James Kennedy-Good was born in Hawera and grew up in Taitoko/Levin.

He joined the New Zealand Army in January 2002 and was commissioned into the rank of Second Lieutenant in 2003. Upon completing his university studies, Brigadier Kennedy-Good was posted to Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force as a staff officer before deploying to the Republic of Korea as part of the United Nations Military Armistice Commission in 2007.

On return from this deployment in 2008, Brigadier Kennedy-Good transferred to Defence Legal Services (DLS) and has since held various legal roles. He initially worked for the Operational Law Cell in HQNZDF before posting to the Northern Region Legal Office in 2009.

In January 2012, Brigadier Kennedy-Good deployed to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) strategic headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan, where he worked in a multinational legal team supporting the ISAF commander and advising on strategic legal issues across the Afghanistan area of operations.

In 2013, Brigadier Kennedy-Good was promoted to Major. He then deployed to the ISAF Joint Command, also located in Kabul, and advised on operational law matters for international and New Zealand forces in theatre.

On his return from deployment in 2014, Brigadier Kennedy-Good was posted to the role of Assistant Director of Military Prosecutions in HQNZDF. Shortly after, he seconded to another government agency from 2015 to 2017.

Upon his return to the NZDF in 2017, Brigadier Kennedy-Good was posted to Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand as the Chief Operational Legal Adviser. In that role, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. While the Chief Operational Legal Adviser, he was a member of an NZDF contingent that supported Papua New Guinea in hosting APEC in 2018.

In 2019, Brigadier Kennedy-Good became the Deputy Director of Defence Legal Services (Personnel). In that role, he advised on discipline, administration, and litigation involving uniformed personnel.

In 2022, Brigadier Kennedy-Good completed the blended Command and Staff Course with the United States Marine Corps University. He also holds a Master of Laws, a Bachelor of Laws, and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Criminology from Victoria University of Wellington.

In 2022, Brigadier Kennedy-Good assumed the role of Chief of Staff of DLS and in April 2023 was appointed the Director of DLS on promotion to Colonel.

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Kevin Kim
U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN

Lambassador Kevin Kim received Senate confirmation to serve as U.S. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on May 18, 2026. He presented his Letter of Credence to ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn at the ASEAN Secretariat on June 11, 2026. Ambassador Kim previously served as Chargé d’Affaires ad interim at the U.S. Mission to the Republic of Korea, Senior Bureau Official in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Japan, Korea, and Mongolia.

Prior to his State Department service, Ambassador Kim was a Professional Staff Member on the Senate Armed Services Committee and a National Security Fellow in the Office of Senator Bill Hagerty (R-TN).

In 2020, he served as Senior Advisor to the Special Presidential Envoy for Arms Control. From 2018 to 2020, he was Chief of Staff to Special Representative for North Korea and Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun, participating in multiple rounds of U.S.-DPRK nuclear negotiations. In this role, he supported President Trump’s work to denuclearize North Korea, including the 2018 Singapore Summit, the 2019 Hanoi Summit, and the 2019 DMZ meeting.

Ambassador Kim received a B.A. from Johns Hopkins University and an M.A. from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, where he is currently pursuing a Doctorate in International Relations. He is a lifelong fan of the Texas Longhorns.

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Dr. Collin Koh

**Senior Fellow, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore**

Collin Koh is senior fellow at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies which is a constituent unit of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, based in Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

He has research interests on naval affairs in the Indo-Pacific, focusing on Southeast Asia. Collin has published several op-eds, policy- and academic journal articles as well as chapters for edited volumes covering his research areas.

His most recent publications include: *The South China Sea: the Flashpoint of War Between China and the United States*, published with the *Journal of Chinese Political Science* (2025); *Keeping One at Arm's Length: The Missile & Nuclear Dimension of China's Counter-Intervention Strategy in the Western Pacific*, published with the *Pacific Forum International* (2025); *Confidence and Security Building Measures in Southeast Asia's Maritime Domain*, published with the *Asia-Pacific Leadership Network* (2023).

Collin has also taught at Singapore Armed Forces professional military education and training courses. Besides research and teaching, he also contributes his perspectives to various local and international media outlets, and participates in activities with geopolitical risks consultancies.

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Professor Masahiro Kurosaki
Tohoku University School of Law, Japan

Masahiro KUROSAKI is Professor of International Law at the Tohoku University School of Law, Japan (since April 2026).

He is also the Chair of the Study Group on International Law organized by the Operational Policy Division, Bureau of Defense Policy of the Ministry of Defense of Japan, has sometimes represented the Japanese government in diplomatic negotiations on international human rights and humanitarian law as a legal adviser, and has been involved in various councils and expert groups established by the government.

Following 2008 when he joined the International Relations Faculty of the National Defense Academy (NDA) of Japan, he held lecturership (2008-2011), associate professorship (2011-2022) and professorship (2022-2026) at the NDA as well as visiting fellowships at Leiden Law School's Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies and the United States Naval War College's Stockton Center for International Law.

He has published a range of articles and book chapters on the law of international security, the law of armed conflict, international criminal law, and Japanese security laws, which include: "Towards the Special Computer Law of Targeting: 'Fully Autonomous' Weapons Systems and the Proportionality Test," in Claus Kreß and Robert Lawless (eds.), *Necessity and Proportionality in International Peace and Security Law* (Oxford University Press, 2020); *Strengthening the U.S.-Japan Alliance: Pathways for Bridging Law and Policy* (Columbia Law School, 2020) (co-edited with Nobuhisa Ishizuka and Matthew C. Waxman); "The Fight against Impunity for Core International Crimes: Reflections on the Contribution of Networked Experts to a Regime of Aggravated State Responsibility," in Holly Cullen, Joanna Harrington, and Catharin Renshaw (eds.), *Experts, Networks and International Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2017).

Masahiro KUROSAKI holds PhD from the University of Tokyo.

Masahiro KUROSAKI may be contacted at kurosaki@tohoku.ac.jp

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Lieutenant-General Derek Macaulay Canadian Armed Forces

Lieutenant-General Derek Macaulay enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1989 and was commissioned as an armoured officer with Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). His education includes a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Manitoba, a Master of Defence Studies degree from the Royal Military College of Canada, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College.

Lieutenant-General Macaulay assumed duties as the Deputy Commander of United Nations Command at Camp Humphreys in the Republic of Korea in December 2023 and is currently a Representative of the Canadian Chief of the Defence Staff.

Throughout his career, Lieutenant-General Macaulay had the privilege to serve alongside allies and partners from all service branches and interagency departments.

Lieutenant-General Macaulay's assignments include command and staff appointments at the Troop and Squadron level in Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians); British Columbia Regiment in Vancouver, British Columbia; Land Force Western Area Headquarters in Edmonton, Alberta; Deputy Chief of Defence Staff Group (International) and Canadian Expeditionary Command Headquarters in Ottawa, Ontario; Command of his Regiment (Lord Strathcona's); Chief of Staff of Land Force Western Area; Commander 3rd Canadian Division Support Group; Chief of Staff Canadian Army Strategy; Commander 5th Canadian Division (The Mighty Maroon Machine); Deputy Commander Canadian Army; and most recently, Vice Director of Operations, United States Central Command.

Lieutenant-General Macaulay participated in numerous domestic operations, including the British Columbia Fires (2003), Vancouver Winter Olympics (2010), Alberta Floods (2013), and New Brunswick Floods (2018).

His operational tours include the United Nations Protection Force in Visoko, Bosnia (1994); North Atlantic Treaty Organization Stabilization Force in Zgon, Bosnia (2000); International Stabilization Assistance Force (2004-2005); and Operation Inherent Resolve (2015-2016) as Chief of Staff of the United States of America-led Coalition Joint Force Land Component Command-Iraq (CJFLCC-I).

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Lawrence Martin

Partner Foley Hoag's International Litigation & Arbitration Department

Larry Martin is a partner in Foley Hoag's International Litigation & Arbitration department. His work focuses on representing sovereign States before the world's leading international dispute resolution fora, including the International Court of Justice and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. He also frequently defends States and State-owned entities before United States courts.

Larry concentrates his practice in international disputes involving sovereign States and State-owned entities. He represents sovereigns in proceedings before the world's leading dispute resolution fora, including the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) and the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). He has particular experience in disputes relating to the Law of the Sea and international environmental cases, although he has handled cases across the spectrum of international law issues, from war reparations to international civil aviation to racial discrimination.

Larry also frequently represents foreign sovereigns before the courts of the United States in cases involving questions relating to the application of the U.S. Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

Reflecting his capabilities representing clients in high-profile disputes, he has been ranked for ten years running by CHAMBERS GLOBAL in its listing of the world's top public international law practitioners. Most recently, he was listed in Band 1 (the highest category), together with only four other lawyers. According to Chambers Global (2022), Larry "is considered by sources to be an 'excellent international lawyer' who has vast experience handling complex inter-State disputes, advising his clients on a range of topics from boundary disputes to matters of human rights. One source commends him for being a 'very good advocate who can take command of the strategy of a case as well as being a good person to work with.'"

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Earl G. Matthews **General Counsel of the Department of War**

Earl G. Matthews is the General Counsel of the Department of War. Appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, he was sworn in on July 31, 2025. As General Counsel, Mr. Matthews serves as the chief legal officer of the Department and the principal legal advisor to the Secretary of War. He is responsible for legal determinations and legal policy across the Department of War and its components. Mr. Matthews also serves as the Director of the Defense Legal Services Agency, which is comprised of the legal staffs assigned to the War Agencies and the Department of War Field Activities.

Immediately prior to assuming his current role, Mr. Matthews was a Senior Associate Counsel to the President in the Office of the White House Counsel. He joined the President's Department of Defense Transition Team as deputy team lead in November 2024 and served full time with the transition team until the start of the second Trump Administration. Mr. Matthews played a similar role on the Trump Department of Defense Transition Team during the 2016-17 presidential transition.

Prior to joining the Trump Transition Team in November 2024, Mr. Matthews was General Counsel and Head of Business Development for Neros Technologies a manufacturer of unmanned defense systems headquartered in El Segundo, California. Immediately prior to that position, he served as General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Albers Aerospace Corporation of McKinney, Texas, an aerospace and defense products and services provider. From July 2020 through December 2022, Matthews served as President of Veeam Government Solutions, the wholly owned federally focused subsidiary of Veeam Software Corporation.

Prior to his tenure in the private sector, Matthews held senior positions within the White House, the Department of Defense and the Intelligence Community during President Donald J. Trump's first term. At the White House, Mr. Matthews served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Defense Policy and Strategy on the National Security Council staff, where he was responsible for the coordination and implementation of all defense policy matters which rose to the level of the President. Previous to his White House service in the first Trump Administration, Mr. Matthews was the Acting General Counsel/Principal Deputy General Counsel of the Department of the Army, where he directly advised the Secretary of the Army, the Under Secretary of the Army and the Assistant Secretaries of the Army on the formulation of policy for all Army programs to include procurement, and the organization, training, and readiness of all land forces. Mr. Matthews has also previously served as a Deputy Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as Special Counsel to the Director of National Intelligence, as a Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense and as both an attorney and an intelligence officer at the Defense Intelligence Agency.

A U.S. Army veteran of combat operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as extended operational deployments to Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Horn of Africa, Mr. Matthews continues to serve today as a Colonel in the Army Reserve, presently assigned to the Individual Ready Reserve. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Villanova University and holds a J.D. from the Harvard Law School, and master's degrees from the National Intelligence University, the Georgetown University Law Center and the U.S. Army War College. Mr. Matthews' personal awards and decorations include: the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service; the Department of the Army Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service; the Legion of Merit; the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service during combat operations (2); the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; the Meritorious Medal (2); the Joint Service Commendation Medal (2); the Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award; the Army Commendation Medal (4); the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; the Afghanistan Campaign Medal; and the Iraq Campaign Medal.

Mr. Matthews previously served as a member of the Defense Business Board and the Virginia Commission to Combat Antisemitism.

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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Thi Lan Anh

Dr. Nguyen Thi Lan Anh is the Vice President of the Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam (DAV) and concurrently serves as Dean of the International Law Faculty at DAV. She is also the Vice President of the Asian Society of International Law and an arbitrator nominated by Viet Nam under Annex VII of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

With over two decades of experience in international law, especially the law of the sea, Dr. Nguyen has held various academic and diplomatic positions, including Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of Viet Nam in the United Kingdom. Her work focuses on maritime security, international dispute settlement, and regional legal cooperation.

She serves as a legal adviser to several expert groups within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and contributes to Vietnam's legal engagement in multilateral settings, including its term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (2020–2021).

Dr. Nguyen has published extensively on issues of international and maritime law with leading academic publishers and journals. She also lectures internationally in training programs for government, military, and legal professionals across the Asia-Pacific and beyond.

Dr. Nguyen is also Vietnam's candidate for the position of judge at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

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YB. Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Bin Nordin **Minister of Defence Malaysia**

YB. Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin is a law graduate from the University of Malaya. He started his professional career with a national petroleum conglomerate PETRONAS, before commencing his illustrious political journey as the Political Secretary to the Federal Territory Minister in 1983.

Following his steadfast dedication and leadership capability, he was designated Deputy Minister of Works in 1999 and subsequently promoted to Minister of Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development in 2004.

YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled led significant reforms in the Malaysian higher education sector when he became the Minister of Higher Education in 2008. In 2013, he was sworn in as the Menteri Besar of Johor. His forward-thinking leadership played a vital role in the social and economic success of Johor Darul Ta'zim.

Under the Unity Government (2022), YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled held the Minister of Higher Education position for a second time before being appointed as Malaysia's 21st Minister of Defence in December 2023.

In the corporate realm, YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled presided over Boustead Holdings Berhad, a reputable corporation with operations across multiple economic domains. As the former Chairman of Johor Corporation Berhad, he is well-known for his strategic abilities. Through his leadership, knowledge, and vision, he effectively led the group's entities to growth and prosperity during his tenure.

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Jennifer Olegeriil
Minister of Justice, Palau

Minister Olegeriil was sworn into office as the Republic of Palau's Minister of Justice in May 2025 under President Surangel S Whipps, Jr. As Minister, she is responsible for promoting public safety, maintaining order, enforcing laws, and coordinating Ministry activities with relevant authorities. She oversees the Bureau of Public Safety, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Office of Professional Standards.

Minister Olegeriil leads the national police force, which includes 911 emergency response, fire and medical services, criminal investigations (including investigations of illegal drugs, human trafficking, and transnational crimes), maritime security, and the nation's penal institution. She serves on the Presidential Cabinet, manages national security and law enforcement, and oversees more than 160 personnel, primarily sworn officers in the Bureau of Public Safety. Previously, she directed the Department of Conservation and Law Enforcement (DCLE) for Koror State, where she managed the Koror Rock Islands Southern Lagoon UNESCO World Heritage Site (natural and cultural) and supervised its operations and revenue generation for more than 13 years.

With more than 30 years of leadership experience, Minister Olegeriil has served in multiple roles focused on law enforcement, security, climate change, sustainable tourism, cultural preservation, fisheries and resource management. Her expertise has shaped frameworks and policies at both national and state levels. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from California State University, Chico and post-graduate level certification from the Australian Institute of Police Management in Executive Leadership and Police Management.

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Admiral Samuel Paparo, USN
Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command

Adm. Sam Paparo, a native of Morton, Pennsylvania, graduated from Villanova University and was commissioned in 1987. He is the son of a former enlisted Marine and the grandson of a World War II enlisted Sailor. He has earned a Master of Arts in International Studies from Old Dominion University and a Master of Science in Systems Analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School. A U.S. Naval Aviator, he is a TOPGUN graduate and has flown over 6,000 hours in the F-14, F-15 and F/A-18 and 1,100 carrier landings.

Operational command tours at sea include Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 195 in the Forward Deployed Naval Forces, Yokosuka, Japan, deploying in Kitty Hawk Strike Group; Commander, Carrier Air Wing 7, embarked in Dwight D. Eisenhower Strike Group and Commander, Carrier Strike Group Ten. On the ground, he commanded Provincial Reconstruction Team, Nuristan Province, Afghanistan, with the 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Other operational assignments at sea include Fighter Squadron (VF) 14, flying the F-14 Tomcat with USS John F. Kennedy and USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Strike Groups, and VFA-15, flying the F/A-18 Hornet with USS Theodore Roosevelt and USS Enterprise Strike Groups. He served also on exchange duty with the U.S. Air Force flying the F-15C Eagle with the 71st Fighter Squadron, deploying multiple times to Saudi Arabia and Keflavik, Iceland. In joint operational service, he was Battle Director at the Combined Air and Space Operations Center, Al Udeid, Qatar.

Shore assignments include the staff of Commander, Naval Air Forces, as F/A-18 training, readiness and requirements officer. He served as commanding officer of VFA-106 and served on the Chief of Naval Operations staff as OPNAV N80 branch head. He served as executive assistant to Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, and then to the 31st Chief of Naval Operations.

He was Director of Operations, J3, U.S. Central Command. He was Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet/Combined Maritime Forces. His most recent assignment was Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet from May 2021 to April 2024.

Paparo assumed duties as Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in May 2024. He is the 27th commander of the nation's oldest and largest combatant command. USINDOPACOM includes 380,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Guardians, Coast Guardsmen and Department of Defense civilians and is responsible for all U.S. military activities in the Indo-Pacific, covering 36 nations, 14 time zones, and 60 percent of the world's population.

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**Ms. Jennifer Parker,
Principal and Founder, Barrier Strategic Advisory**

Jennifer Parker served over two decades in the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) as a warfare officer. She holds a number of university and think tank affiliations, including Adjunct Professor of Practice at the University of Western Australia Defence and Security Institute, Non-Resident Fellow at the Lowy Institute, Expert Associate at the National Security College at the Australian National University, and Adjunct Fellow in naval studies at the University of New South Wales Canberra. Jennifer is also an International Fellow at the London-based 'Council on Geostrategy'.

Published in major Australian newspapers, Jennifer is regularly featured across Australian and international print, digital, radio and television media, including the ABC, BBC, CNN, Al Jazeera, Sky News Australia, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*.

During her service in the RAN Jennifer undertook deep specialist training with the Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer. Jennifer has extensive operational experience from the Middle East to the Caribbean. Jennifer's last appointment in the RAN was as Director of Operations in Bahrain of the Combined Maritime Forces, a 47-nation coalition promoting maritime security in the Middle East and Indian Ocean region.

Jennifer has deep expertise in National Security, Defence Policy, Military Strategy, Military Operations, Force Design, Maritime Security, International Maritime Law, specifically Law of the Sea and the Law of Naval Warfare. She holds multiple tertiary qualifications including a Bachelor of Arts (Maths, Politics) from the University of New South Wales, Bachelor of Law (1st Hons) from the University of New England, Master of Arts in Strategy and Security from the University of New South Wales, and a Master of Laws from the Australian National University.

Jennifer has been admitted to the ACT Supreme Court as a legal practitioner and is current undertaking a Doctorate researching Australian maritime strategy at the University of Wollongong, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security.

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Mr. Gregory Poling

Gregory B. Poling directs the Southeast Asia Program and Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, where he is also a senior fellow.

He is a leading expert on the South China Sea disputes and conducts research on U.S. alliances and partnerships, democratization and governance in Southeast Asia, and maritime security across the Indo-Pacific.

He is the author of *On Dangerous Ground: America's Century in the South China Sea*, along with various works on U.S. relations with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Southeast Asia at large.

His writings have been featured in *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Naval War College Review*, among others. Mr. Poling received an MA in international affairs from American University and a BA in history and philosophy from St. Mary's College of Maryland.

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Mr. Ray Powell **Founder and Executive Director of the SeaLight Foundation**

Mr. Ray Powell is a seasoned defense and maritime transparency expert, currently serving as the Founder and Executive Director of the SeaLight Foundation.

Launched from the Gordian Knot Center for National Security Innovation at Stanford University, SeaLight is a non-profit initiative dedicated to illuminating maritime activities and promoting transparency across critical waterways.

Mr. Powell also co-hosts the podcast “Why Should We Care About the Indo-Pacific?”, a weekly briefing on the forces shaping the region’s security, economics and geopolitics. The show offers practitioner-focused analysis at the intersection of geopolitics, economic statecraft and regional security, and has featured senior leaders such as the President of Palau, His Excellency Surangel Whipps Jr.; Philippine Secretary of National Defense Gilberto Teodoro Jr.; former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull; and former U.S. Indo-Pacific Commander Admiral Phil Davidson, as well as a host of other political, military, business and thought leaders from around the region.

Before founding SeaLight, Mr. Powell dedicated 35 years of service to the United States Air Force. His extensive military career featured a wide array of global assignments, including international postings in the Philippines, Japan, Germany, and Qatar, as well as combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also brings significant diplomatic and strategic expertise to his portfolio, having served in key advisory and liaison roles as the U.S. Air Attaché to Vietnam and the U.S. Defense Attaché to Australia.

Following his distinguished military and diplomatic service, Mr. Powell transitioned into academia and thought leadership. In 2021, he was selected as a Fellow with the Stanford Distinguished Careers Institute, an experience that paved the way for his current initiatives. Today, he continues to bridge his decades of operational and diplomatic experience with innovative approaches to national security and maritime domain awareness.

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Mr. Allan Rahari

**Director of Fisheries and Acting Deputy Director General at the
Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency**

Mr Allan Rahari is the Director of Fisheries Operations and Acting Deputy Director-General at the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). He leads the regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) efforts to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing in the Pacific region to support the 17 FFA member countries fisheries MCS activities, in close collaboration with surveillance partners, through implementation and delivery of robust and cost-effective MCS programmes.

As the Deputy Director-General, he oversees the delivery of the agency's technical programmes. He has over 15 years of experience with FFA, having progressed through several regional surveillance and compliance roles. Prior to this, he served as a Commanding Officer of Solomon Islands patrol boats and as Chief of Staff in the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force.

He brings extensive expertise in maritime law enforcement, fisheries compliance and policy, and holds a Master's degree in Fisheries Policy from the University of Wollongong and maritime certification from the Australian Maritime College.

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First Admiral (M) Vincent Rajamony **Deputy Director of Maritime Coordination and Enforcement Division**

First Admiral (M) Vincent Rajamony is a distinguished officer with an extensive and varied career in maritime service. He assumed his current position as Deputy Director at the Head Quarters of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) on November 28, 2023.

Admiral Vincent's career began in 1996, and since then, he has held numerous key operational and command positions. His early commands included serving as the Commanding Officer for KTD SOTONG (2001-2002) and KD SRI PERLIS (2002-2006). He continued to take on leadership at sea as the Commanding Officer of KM ADIL in Labuan (2006-2008) and KM BANGGI in Sabah (2008-2009).

Throughout his career, Admiral Vincent has taken on progressively senior roles. He served as the Director of the Maritime District of Kedah/Perlis in 2017 and held significant staff positions within the Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM), including Deputy Chief of Staff (2017-2021) and Chief of Staff for Sea Operations (2021). Prior to his current appointment, he was instrumental in shaping future maritime leaders as the Director of the Sultan Ahmad Shah Maritime Academy from June 2022 to November 2023.

Admiral Vincent holds a Diploma in Technology Management with a focus on Maritime Defence Transportation. His commitment to professional development is evident through his completion of specialized courses, including the Maritime Law Enforcement Defence Course in Melbourne, Australia (2008), and a program in Asia-Pacific Security Studies in Hawaii, USA (2018).

With his wealth of experience and strategic expertise, Admiral Vincent continues to be a leading figure in Malaysia's maritime enforcement community.

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Ian Ralby, J.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Ian Ralby is a globally recognized expert in seven main areas: 1) maritime law and security, especially identifying and addressing evolving threats; 2) maritime domain awareness and the leveraging of different technologies and data sources for analyzing the maritime space; 3) countering innovative and emerging forms of hostility including hybrid aggression, lawfare and “unlawfare,” 4) maritime strategy that integrates security, governance and the maritime economy; 5) recognizing and countering resource-related crimes; 6) regulating, governing, and overseeing private security companies; and 7) certain aspects of international law including the legal regimes around floating armories, protection of submarine cables and the use of force by armed contractors.

Dr. Ralby is the president of Auxilium Worldwide, a charitable nonprofit that works to support global harmony and maintains a consultancy, I.R. Consilium, focused on maritime and resource security. He is an Associate Fellow of the International Law Programme at Chatham House, a Senior Fellow at several institutions including the Center for Maritime Strategy, and the Yokosuka Council on Asia Pacific Security (YCAPS) and a member of The World in 2050 Expert Network. He previously served in different capacities at the US Naval War College, the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies (DIILS), the Institute for Security Governance (ISG), the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime’s (UNODC) Global Maritime Crime Program.

Having worked in more than 100 different countries, Dr. Ralby maintains close relationships with leading professionals around the world in a variety of different disciplines. He is a frequent news commentator on geopolitical events and he continues to serve as an expert advisor to and consultant for various government agencies, international organizations, and private sector entities. He earned a B.A. in Modern Languages and Linguistics and an M.A. in Intercultural Communication from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; a J.D. at William and Mary where he was a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar; and both an M.Phil. in International Relations and a Ph.D. in Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge where he was a Gates Scholar.

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Air Commodore K J Sanders LLM RAF Deputy Director Legal Services (RAF)

Air Commodore Kevin Jonathan Sanders qualified as a Solicitor in 1996 and was commissioned into the RAF from private practice in 1999. He was briefly posted to the RAF Prosecuting Authority before moving to RAF Legal Services in Cyprus in December 1999. During this tour he primarily carried out criminal defence work for serving military personnel and their families on Island. On promotion to Squadron Leader in April 2002 he took up the position of Deputy Chief legal at RAF Legal Services based in Herford, North Germany, providing criminal legal defence support to Army personnel based in Germany and overseas. In 2004, Sanders was posted to the RAF Prosecuting Authority at RAF Innsworth where he assumed the role as a lead prosecutor and during his tenure achieved his higher rights of audience and became a Solicitor-Advocate. He was deployed to support the NATO mission in North Macedonia in 2005 dealing extensively in developing the Rule of Law with the Host Nation Government. On promotion to Wing Commander in 2006 he was posted to Brunssum, which assumed responsibility as the NATO Operational HQ for ISAF. He was appointed as the DJTF legal Advisor which deployed to support the NATO Summit in Riga.

In 2009, Sanders was posted to RAF Coningsby to provide legal support to RAF Stations in the central region of the UK and in 2010 deployed to Afghanistan with 1 MEF United States Marines to establish the new Regional South West Command in Helmand province. In 2012, Sanders was posted to RAF Brize Norton as the head of Regional Legal Office (RLO). Sanders was promoted to Group Captain in 2014 and spent a spell as the head of the Service Complaints team at HQ Air prior to assuming the role as head of the DLS(RAF) RLO and Advisory Pillar. In 2016, Sanders was posted to MOD Main Building to work alongside the MOD Legal Advisors. Sanders returned as the Director of the RLO and Advisory Pillar in 2017. In July 2018 Sanders was selected for promotion to Air Commodore and appointed Deputy Director Legal Services (Royal Air Force) October 2018. In 2020 Sanders left regular Service but has now rejoined and was appointed (again) as DDLS in Sep 2024.

Air Commodore Sanders remains a keen sportsman in spirit; playing Rugby Union, cricket and enjoys running (with his very keen training partner Kendal the Border Collie). He also Chairs National Serious Case Panels for the Football Association. He is married to Clair a primary school teacher and has 3 children, Chloe 25, Grace 23 and Samuel 20, and Grandad to baby Barney.

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CAPT IAN SANTICOLA
USPACOM Chief of National Security Law

CAPT Ian Santicola is currently assigned as the Chief of National Security Law at U.S. Pacific Command.

CAPT Santicola earned his BA from the University at Albany in May 2003, his JD from Albany Law School in May 2005, his LLM from Georgetown University Law Center in May 2014, and his MA in National Security & Strategic Studies from the Naval War College in June 2024. He is admitted to practice law in the State of New York.

CAPT Santicola commissioned in the Navy JAG Corps in September 2005 and reported to the Naval Legal Service North Central Branch Office Brunswick in March 2006. In September 2007, CAPT Santicola deployed to Task Force 134/Detainee Operations in Iraq. After returning from Iraq in April 2008, CAPT Santicola reported to Commander Navy Recruiting Command in Millington and served as the Deputy SJA for CNRC from May 2008 to July 2010.

From July 2010 to July 2012, CAPT Santicola served as a litigation attorney at OJAG (Code 14), General Litigation. In March 2011, he deployed to CJATF 435 in Bagram, Afghanistan, where he served as Lead Justice Advisor at the Justice Center in Parwan. From July 2012 to July 2013, CAPT Santicola served as the Flag Aide to the Judge Advocate General of the Navy. In May 2014, he earned his LLM in Environmental Law from Georgetown University Law Center. From June 2014 to June 2016, CAPT Santicola served as the Deputy Fleet Judge Advocate/Fleet Environmental Counsel at U.S. THIRD Fleet in San Diego.

From July 2016 to May 2019, CAPT Santicola served as the Operational Law Planner at Headquarters U.S. European Command (EUCOM) in Stuttgart, Germany, where he also served as the Chief of Operational Law from June 2018 to May 2019. From May 2019 to June 2021, CAPT Santicola served as the Officer in Charge of Region Legal Service Office Mid-Atlantic Detachment Groton. From June 2021 to June 2023, CAPT Santicola served as the Fleet Judge Advocate at U.S. SEVENTH Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan. From July 2023 to June 2024, he attended the Senior Course at the Naval War College.

CAPT Santicola is entitled to wear the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Commendation Medal, the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and other medals/ribbons.

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Dr. Joanna Siekiera
Adjunct Professor, Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies and
Fellow at Atlantic Council

Dr. Joanna Siekiera is an international lawyer and a leading expert in Pacific regionalism, ocean governance, and the law of armed conflict.

She currently serves as an Adjunct Professor at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) in Honolulu, Hawaii, and as an Assistant Professor at the War Studies University in Warsaw, Poland. Additionally, Dr. Siekiera is a Fellow at the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C., and an external subject matter expert in legal matters for the NATO Stability Policing Centre of Excellence.

Dr. Siekiera's academic background reflects a deep, global commitment to maritime law and policy. She earned her Ph.D. in public policy sciences from Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand, where she focused on Pacific regionalism. She subsequently conducted postdoctoral research at the Faculty of Law at the University of Bergen in Norway, examining the legal consequences of ocean change and the sovereignty of microstates in Oceania.

A seasoned legal practitioner, Dr. Siekiera has extensive experience operating as a Legal Advisor (LEGAD) for both the Polish Armed Forces and NATO, supporting various military institutions during international military exercises. Her strategic insights frequently address the intersection of climate change, maritime boundaries, and statehood—particularly concerning how rising sea levels threaten the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and fundamental sovereignty of Pacific Island nations.

An accomplished author and academic, Dr. Siekiera has published over 100 scientific articles, numerous legal opinions for the Polish Ministry of Justice, and several monographs on international relations. She is a recognized thought leader in "lawfare," science diplomacy (ocean diplomacy), and the evolving legal frameworks required to maintain stability, resilience, and security in the increasingly contested Indo-Pacific region.

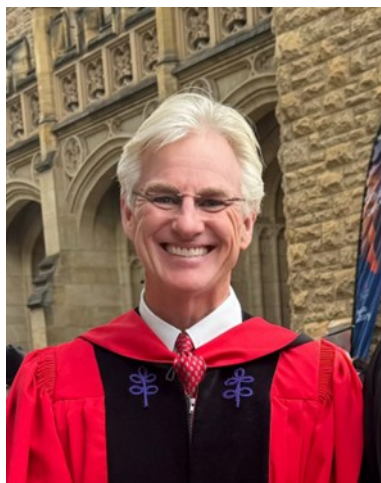
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Professor Dale Stephens, CSM FAAL Professor of Law at Adelaide University Law School

Dr Dale Stephens is a Professor of Law at Adelaide University Law School. He was admitted to legal practice in 1989 (South Australian and Federal Courts) and is a former Australian Permanent Naval Legal Officer.

He has occupied numerous senior positions within the Australian Defence Force, including Director of Operations and International Law, Director of the Military Law Training Centre, Fleet Legal Officer and Director of Navy Legal Services. His operational deployments include multiple tours of East Timor and Iraq. He has been awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM), the (US) Bronze Star and the (US) Meritorious Service Medal as well as ADF and UN Commendations for his work. He attained the rank of Captain in the Royal Australian Navy before transferring to the Navy Reserve in 2013.

Professor Stephens holds both a Doctorate (SJD) and Masters degree (LL.M) from Harvard Law School. He is Director of the Adelaide University *Research Unit on Military Law and Ethics* (RUMLAE) and Director of the Military Law Program at the Adelaide University Law School. He is a participating member of the *San Remo Manual on the Law of Naval Warfare* update project. He was an Editor and Chair of the Board of Directors of the *Woomera Manual on the International Law of Military Space Activities and Operations* (OUP, 2024). He is the Chair of the Governance Board and Editor in Chief of the *Wayfarer Manual* project (a joint venture between Adelaide University and the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore).

Professor Stephens is a former Chair of the South Australian Red Cross IHL Advisory Committee (2012- 2024). In 2021 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Australian Red Cross. In 2024 he received a University Level Commendation for his innovative teaching.

He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law.

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**Commander Jacqueline Swinton, RAN
U.S. Indo-Pacific Command**

Commander Jacqueline Swinton joined the Royal Australian Navy as a full-time Legal Officer in 2007. She has enjoyed a diverse legal career, working a span of different roles across Australia and overseas in the tactical, operational and strategic levels.

Commander Swinton predominantly provides legal advice on Military Administrative, Discipline and International/Operational Law matters, and enjoys working in the Joint and Coalition environments. She is a passionate advocate of International Law and Law of the Sea. Highlight postings for CMDR Swinton include serving as the Senior Legal Advisor to the Chief of Navy, where she received a Chief of Navy Gold Commendation, and Chief of Staff to the Director General Military Legal Service.

Commander Swinton has enjoyed an active operational career undertaking deployments as Legal Advisor and Gender Advisor in SLIPPER (2012) Australia's contribution to the war in Afghanistan; RESOLUTE (2014) Australia's Border Security operations; FIJI ASSIST (2016) the Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief following Tropical Cyclone Winston; and MANITOU as part of Combined Task Force 150 (2017), the Counter-Terrorism operation against drugs/weapons smuggling in the Middle East.

Commander Swinton has broadened her Defence experience outside the Legal realm, working for the Chief of the Defence Force in 2018 and undertaking Joint Command and Staff College Canada in 2019.

Commander Swinton is currently serving her dream posting as an embed within the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's Staff Judge Advocate Team, as the Deputy Chief of National Security Law, and has a remit for International Humanitarian Law, Counter-Lawfare and Multilateral legal engagements.

She has a British Bulldog called "Wombat" who is patiently waiting her return to Australia.

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Rear Admiral Jay Tarriela Philippines Coast Guard (PCG) Spokesperson on the West Philippine Sea and Commander of the PCG West Philippine Sea Transparency Group

Coast Guard Rear Admiral Jay Tristan Tarriela holds the distinction of being the youngest ever to be promoted to a flag rank in the Philippines, and to this day, he remains the youngest general in the entire uniformed service.

Currently serving as the PCG Spokesperson on the West Philippine Sea and the Commander of the PCG West Philippine Sea Transparency Group, he has become the face of the Philippines' transparency strategy in countering China's aggressive actions, provocative behavior, and bullying tactics in the region.

Through his efforts, more Filipinos have gained awareness of the real story and the crucial stakes involved in our fight for sovereignty. Furthermore, his dedication to transparency has garnered international support, with the global community standing alongside the Philippines in condemning China's blatant violation of international law and its disregard for the rules-based order.

Rear Admiral Tarriela's extensive education has played a pivotal role in shaping his expertise. He completed his Ph.D. at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo as a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) ASEAN Public Policy Leadership scholar. He has also undergone rigorous military and coast guard training, both locally and abroad. Additionally, he holds a Master of Policy Studies from GRIPS and the Japan Coast Guard Academy, where he was among the first batch of the Maritime Safety and Security Program launched jointly by both institutions in 2016.

For being acknowledged for his scholarly engagement right after his doctoral degree, Rear Admiral Tarriela was chosen as an inaugural cohort of the 2021 Pacific Forum US-Philippines' Next Generation Leaders' Initiative. He has also been selected as a fellow of the 2021 East-West Center US-Philippines Alliance Fellowship in Washington, DC, USA. In recognition of his remarkable contributions to the PCG's efforts in the West Philippine Sea, Rear Admiral Jay Tristan Tarriela was honored with the prestigious Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal by President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. in 2023. This award acknowledges his invaluable contributions to transparency initiatives in the region. Additionally, he was bestowed with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung for Security and Innovation award in 2024, which recognized his tireless efforts in raising awareness among Filipinos about China's aggression in the West Philippine Sea and igniting a renewed sense of patriotism.

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Air Commodore Christopher Taylor
Director General Military Legal Service/ General Counsel Military Law
Australian Defence Force

Air Commodore (AIRCDRE) Chris Taylor commenced in the position of Director-General of the Military legal Service (DGMLS) and General Counsel military Law in January 2025.

AIRCDRE Taylor has been in the ADF since 1991. After initially serving in the Army and Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Reserves while at university, he joined the Permanent Air Force in 1995 and completed his legal studies at the Australian National University (ANU). He was admitted as a legal practitioner in 1996 and became an Air Force legal officer. Between 1996 - 2003, he served in a number of Air Command legal postings within Australia and at RMAF Butterworth in Malaysia.

AIRCDRE Taylor has been posted to Canberra since 2003 where he has served as a legal adviser to the Inspector General of the ADF, the Chief of the Defence Force and the Chief of Air Force. He has also performed roles as a Deputy Director and Director within Defence Legal Division (Administrative Law, Discipline Law, Operations and International Law, and Military Legal Capability) and was appointed as Director of Defence Counsel Services for a few months in mid-2018. He was most recently posted to the Headquarters Joint Operations Command as Director Legal (J06).

AIRCDRE Taylor has deployed operationally on 4 occasions including as the Coalition Operations Lawyer at Multi-National Corps-Iraq in 2004, as an Inquiry Assistant in Afghanistan in 2009, as legal adviser in the Australian Joint Headquarters in the Middle East in 2010 and as Legal Adviser to the Australian Air Task Group in the Middle East in 2015.

His academic qualifications include: Bachelor of Arts (1993), Bachelor of Laws (1995), Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice (1996) and Masters of Laws (2007) all from the Australian National University.

Air Commodore Taylor successfully completed Australian Command and Staff Course in 2011.

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Dame Meg Taylor **Distinguished Fellow for the Blue Pacific**

Dame Meg Taylor is the non-resident Distinguished Fellow for the Blue Pacific at the Asia Society Policy Institute. After 21 years of service at regional and international institutions, Dame Meg Taylor returned home to Papua New Guinea and currently serves on the Board of Directors of Nambawan Super, the largest superannuation company in Papua New Guinea (PNG), and on the board of the PNG Sustainable Development Program, which is focused on providing health, education, and enabling infrastructure initiatives for the people of PNG with current emphasis on Western Province.

Dame Meg is a Member of the Pacific Elders Voice, she serves as Chair of the Voice a youth organisation in Papua New Guinea, and is a member of the International Advisory Panel for the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Dame Meg is an Advisor to the Vanuatu government on its application to the ICJ on Climate Change.

Prior to this, Dame Meg Taylor was the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, making her the first female to serve in this prestigious role. The Pacific Islands Forum is an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1971 to foster cooperation between the Pacific Island nations. Whilst serving as Secretary General Dame Meg also held the position of the Pacific Oceans Commissioner.

She is the founding Vice President of the Office of the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman for the International Finance Corporation and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency of the World Bank Group, having served in this role for 15 years. She served on the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Committee for Development Policy and the UN High-Level Steering Committee on Every Women Every Child.

From 1989-1994, she was Ambassador of Papua New Guinea to the United States, Mexico, and Canada in Washington DC.

Her early career was with The Office of the Chief Minister and then Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea Grand Chief Michael Somare, at Self Government and Independence of Papua New Guinea.

Dame Meg Taylor has served as a lawyer with the Public Solicitors Office, The Law Reform Commission, and worked in Private practice.

She has also served on Boards of the Australian Stock Exchange and Boards in Papua New Guinea. In particular, she has been a board member of the Bank of Papua New Guinea.

Dame Meg Taylor is a strong advocate for Civil Society and their inclusive participation in the development of the Blue Pacific region. She is an advocate for the preparation and guidance of the Youth of the Pacific to take on the responsibilities of the Blue Pacific region, and in particular her own country Papua New Guinea.

Dame Meg Taylor has an LL.B. from Melbourne University and an LL.M. from Harvard University.

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Atty. Gilberto C. Teodoro, Jr.

Republic of the Philippines Secretary of the Department of National Defense

Atty. Teodoro first served as the Secretary of National Defense from 2007 to 2009 where he pushed for key initiatives in security sector reform. Noteworthy is the implementation of the Defence System of Management, which provided decision-makers with relevant and accurate information increasing efficiency and transparency. Sec. Teodoro also assisted in the resolution of several internal security threats while assisting on structural and procedural changes to ensure observance of human rights. The honorable Secretary also pursued the strengthening of bilateral and multilateral security and defense cooperation with both regional and extra-regional States to further peace and combat non-traditional security threats. Furthermore, he actively pursued the integration of various international protocols on disaster risk management, assisted in capacity building of sectors, and coordination of response and rehabilitation efforts.

Prior to joining the DND, Sec Teodoro served as a Member of the Philippine House of Representatives from 1998 to 2007. As a congressman, he principally authored the Securities Code of 2000 shifting the Philippine securities regulation system from a merit regulation system to a full disclosure system. He was a member of the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council and was the head of a sizable bloc of the Nationalist People's Coalition Representatives and had stints as the Assistant Majority Leader and Deputy Minority Leader.

Secretary Teodoro was a former youth representative to various regional, provincial, and municipal bodies. He served as a Member of the Provincial Board of Tarlac, Kabataang Barangay (KB) Chairman in Region III from 1980 to 1985. As chair of KB in the region, he motivated the youth in his constituency to improve their political and civic consciousness.

Atty. Teodoro has an impressive educational background, graduating from prestigious local and foreign academic institutions. He attended De La Salle University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in commerce majoring in Management of Financial Institutions. He attended the University of the Philippines – College of Law, graduating third in his class with a bachelor's degree in law and the Dean's Medal for Academic Excellence award. He placed first in the 1989 Philippine Bar Examinations. He has a master's degree in law from Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. He was admitted to the State Bar of New York. He completed the Command and Staff Course of the Philippine Air Force and the AFP Joint and Combined Staff Officer Course and won the Leadership Award in both courses.

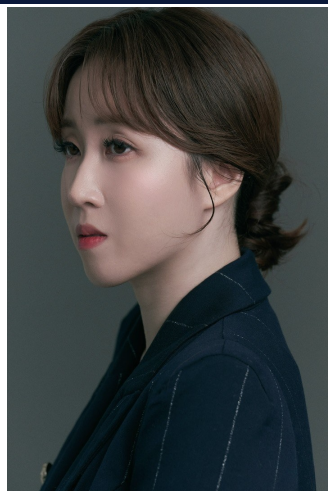
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Ms. Athena Tong

**Visiting Researcher at the Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology,
University of Tokyo**

Athena Tong is a Tokyo-based researcher specializing in PRC lawfare, influence operations, economic coercion, and critical infrastructure resilience in the Indo-Pacific. Her work examines how authoritarian states integrate legal instruments, information operations, economic statecraft, and digital governance frameworks into broader geopolitical competition, with particular focus on Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan.

She is a Visiting Researcher at the Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST) at the University of Tokyo, and a Research Associate and Programme Lead at the China Strategic Risks Institute, where she leads work on hybrid threats, cognitive warfare, and economic security in East Asia. She is also a Non-resident Vasey Fellow at Pacific Forum and a 2026 Indo-Pacific Young Leader with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Tong has spent the past decade working at the intersection of political advocacy, digital rights, and geopolitical analysis. Following the 2014 Umbrella Movement, she became active in civil society and public communications efforts supporting democratic freedoms in Hong Kong. Witnessing first-hand the erosion of legal protections and institutional autonomy under Beijing's pressure now anchors her research on how lawfare is deployed as a strategic instrument by authoritarian regimes not as a legal phenomenon, but as a tool of coercion, deterrence, and territorial assertion.

Her current research examines the convergence of legal warfare, economic coercion, information manipulation, and infrastructure insecurity across the Indo-Pacific, including PRC hybrid tactics targeting Taiwan and Japan, submarine cable security, and AI-enabled influence operations. Her analyses and commentary have appeared in The Jamestown Foundation, Nikkei Asia, The Wire China, Council on Geostrategy, and Doublethink Lab.

A frequent speaker at international forums, Tong has contributed to policy dialogues across Japan, Taiwan, Europe, and North America on Indo-Pacific security, gray-zone competition, and democratic resilience, and has briefed government and allied stakeholders on PRC hybrid strategies. Her work bridges academic research, policy analysis, and public engagement, helping democratic societies better understand and counter the full spectrum of authoritarian statecraft in the region.

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Colonel Kitone Ligani Tunaosara

Republic of Fiji Military Forces

Colonel Kitone Ligani TUINAOSARA has been a career Military Officer since 1988 when he joined the Republic of Fiji Military Forces. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in December 1992 and today is one of the Senior Military Officer in the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), with the rank of Colonel and currently holds the appointment of Director Force Legal Services at the Military Headquarters.

During his military career, Colonel TUINAOSARA has trained widely in Military Tactics, Leadership and Law in Military and Civilian institutions in New Zealand, Australia, China, Malaysia, USA, Italy, Philippines and Canada.

He has undertaken operational service in numerous tours to the mission areas holding appointments such as Platoon Commander, Adjutant, Force Field Liaison Officer, Fiji Contingent Commander and Conduct Discipline Team Leader in United Nation Mission in South Sudan (UNIMISS), United Nations in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and Multinational Force & Observers in Sinai (MFO). He also leads the RFMF legal team involved in the review of Military Justice Bill (MJB) and advices on legal issues relating to discipline, administration and litigation involving the Republic of Fiji Military Forces.

Over his 36 years of Military Service, Colonel Tuinaosara has attended and qualified on various military and civilian courses locally and abroad. He attended Defense College Studies, National Defence University, People Liberation Army, Beijing, China in March 2016 – March 2017. He also graduated with Bachelor of Law (LLB) in The University of Tasmania, Australia in 1996, Professional Diploma in Legal Practice (GDLP) in 1997, Advance Diploma in Defense and Strategic studies NDU, PLA in 2016 and Masters in Military Science and Strategy NDU, PLA in 2018.

Colonel Tuinaosara is a recipient of the Meritorious Service Decoration [MSD], United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon Medal, Multinational Forces and Observers Medal, United Nation Mission in South Sudan Medal, Republic of Fiji Medal, General Service Medal [GSM], Fiji 50th Independence Anniversary Medal..

His hobbies are fishing, reading and walking.

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Mr. Sylvain Vité
Head of Legal Department
International Committee of the Red Cross

Sylvain Vité is Head of Legal Department at the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the United States and Canada. In the past, he held various positions both at the ICRC's headquarters in Geneva and delegations. He worked as a Field Delegate in Colombia, as well as Operational Legal Coordinator in Myanmar.

Sylvain Vité has also worked as Legal Adviser and Program Manager with different non-governmental organizations and was lecturer and researcher with academic circles.

Sylvain Vité holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Geneva, a Master in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, a Master of Laws from the American University/Washington College of Law, and a Ph.D in International Law from the University of Geneva.

He has published academic books and articles on international humanitarian law, international human rights law and the privileges and immunities of international organisations. He has also contributed to the ICRC new Commentary on the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

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CAPTAIN DUSTIN E. WALLACE, JAGC, USN **Staff Judge Advocate, United States Indo-Pacific Command**

Captain Dustin E. Wallace is currently the Staff Judge Advocate for United States Indo-Pacific Command.

Captain Wallace's operational and deployed assignments include Fleet Judge Advocate for U.S. Pacific Fleet; Force/Fleet Judge Advocate for U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. Fifth Fleet; Senior Military Advisor to the Afghan National Army Legal School in Kabul, Afghanistan; Deputy Fleet Judge Advocate for Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet; Task Force 134 in Baghdad, Iraq; and as Assistant Command Judge Advocate for USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75).

Captain Wallace's shore assignments include Legal Counsel to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations; Executive Officer, RLSO Southwest; Executive Assistant to the Deputy Judge Advocate General/Commander, Naval Legal Service Command; LT/LDO Detailer; Naval Justice School Instructor; and Naval Legal Service Office Central (Defense Counsel and Legal Assistance Attorney).

Captain Wallace earned a juris doctorate degree from the University of Tulsa in 2000 and a Master of Laws degree from Columbia University in 2011. He is licensed to practice law in Oklahoma.