

## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Lieutenant Colonel Wael Abbas** graduated from the American University in Beirut in 1999 with a BCE in civil engineering. In September 2000, Lt. Col. Abbas joined the Lebanese Armed Forces. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant Engineer upon graduating from the military academy. Lt. Col. Abbas's decorations and awards include the Military Valor Medal and the Medal in the Fight against Terrorism. He holds a master's degree in Defense Analysis from the US Naval Postgraduate School (NPS).

**Max Boot** is the Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Senior Fellow in National Security Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), a columnist for the *Washington Post*, and a global affairs analyst for CNN. Boot has served as an adviser to US commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan and lectured on behalf of the US State Department and at many US and international military institutions. Before joining the CFR in 2002, Boot spent eight years as a writer and editor at the *Wall Street Journal*. He is a prolific author and regularly contributes to many publications, including *Foreign Policy*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of California, Berkeley (1991), and a master's degree in history from Yale University (1992).

**Dr. Douglas Borer** is an associate professor of Defense Analysis at NPS, Monterey, California. He earned his PhD in political science from Boston University in 1993. Dr. Borer's academic postings include the University of the South Pacific, the University of Western Australia, Virginia Tech, the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and the US Army War College. In 2007, he co-founded (with Dr. Nancy Roberts) the Common Operational Research Environment (CORE) Lab at NPS. In 2011, he and Dr. Leo Blanken created the Combating Terrorism Archive Project.

**Dr. Heather S. Gregg** is an associate professor of Defense Analysis at NPS, where she works primarily with US and international SOF. Prior to joining NPS, she was an associate political scientist at the RAND Corporation. Dr. Gregg earned her PhD in political science in 2003 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She also holds a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School and a BA in cultural anthropology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is the author of *The Path to Salvation: Religious Violence from the Crusades to Jihad* (University of Nebraska, 2014) and *Building the Nation: Missed Opportunities in Iraq and Afghanistan* (University of Nebraska, forthcoming in December 2018).

**Major Badura Hakimu** is an intelligence officer with the Tanzanian Army.

**Major Anders Hamlin** serves in the US Army Special Forces. He earned his degree in Defense Analysis from NPS in 2017.

**Reza Marashi** joined the National Iranian American Council (NIAC) in 2010 as the organization's first research director. He came to NIAC after serving in the Office of Iranian Affairs at the US Department of State. Prior to his tenure at the State Department, he was an analyst at the Institute for National Strategic Studies covering China-Middle East issues and a Tehran-based private strategic consultant on Iranian political and economic risk. Marashi is frequently consulted by Western governments on Iran-related matters. His articles have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, and the *Atlantic*, among other publications, and he has been a guest contributor on many broadcast outlets.

**Lieutenant Colonel Stans Victor Mouaha-Bell** was educated at the Prytanée Militaire de La Flèche and the École Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr, France. Following graduation in 2000, he served as a paratrooper platoon leader in multiple combat operations in central Africa and later in a variety of operational assignments. LTC Mouaha-Bell holds a master's degree in political science from the University of Yaoundé II, Soa, Cameroon. On staff assignments, he participated in international meetings related to the fight against Boko Haram, including the African Union's Defense and Safety Specialized Technical Committee and the Lake Chad Basin Commission's defense meeting. He is currently enrolled in the master's program in Defense Analysis at NPS.

**Colonel Amarsaikhan Serdari** joined the Mongolian Armed Forces in 1985. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from the Military Academy of Mongolia in 1989 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the army. In 1993, he was selected to attend the Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, Texas. Upon his return to Mongolia in 1994, he served in a variety of command and staff positions. As a major, Serdari served a tour to Iraq from 2003 to 2004 as a senior intelligence officer at the Headquarters of the Combined Joint Task Force Seven in Baghdad. Posted to Brussels as a defense attaché to Benelux countries, he planned and executed Mongolia's participation in NATO's Kosovo Force operation. Beginning in October 2015, he served in Malakal, South Sudan, as Sector North Commander with the United Nations Mission. COL Serdari is a 2017 graduate (CSRT) of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies.

**Dr. Ardian Shajkovci** is the director of research and a senior research fellow at the International Center for the Study of Violent Extremism (ICSVE). He interviews ISIS defectors to study their trajectories into and out of terrorism, and he trains law enforcement, intelligence, education, and other professionals on the use of counter-narrative messaging materials to counter violent extremism. Dr. Shajkovci holds a doctorate in public policy and administration from Walden University. He earned his MA degree in public policy and administration from Northwestern University and his BA degree in international relations and diplomacy from Dominican University. Dr. Shajkovci is an adjunct professor at Nichols College, where he teaches counterterrorism and cyber security.

**Dr. Anne Speckhard** is an adjunct associate professor of psychiatry at Georgetown University School of Medicine and the director of ICSVE. She has interviewed over 600 terrorists, their family members, and supporters in various parts of the world. For the past two years, she and ICSVE staff have been collecting interviews with ISIS defectors, returnees, and prisoners, and developing the Breaking the ISIS Brand Counter-Narrative Project. Dr. Speckhard trains law enforcement and other professionals on the use of counter-narrative messaging materials, and consults on the rehabilitation of children used as violent actors by groups such as ISIS. In 2007, she led the design of the psychological and Islamic challenge aspects of the Detainee Rehabilitation Program in Iraq. She has consulted to NATO, OSCE, foreign governments, and many branches of the US government. Dr. Speckhard is the author of several books, including *ISIS Defectors: Inside Stories of the Terrorist Caliphate* (Advances Press, 2016), *Bride of ISIS* (Advances Press, 2015), and *Talking to Terrorists* (Advances Press, 2012).

### COVER PHOTO

Cover image: Child's artwork depicting a Boko Haram attack.  
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