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Course Report
Developing Maritime Security Culture in the Gulf of Guinea Pilot Course
26th October to 6th November, 2020.
Takoradi, Ghana.



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Acronyms

DCOP	District Commissioner of Police
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAAR	Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research
GGC	Gulf of Guinea Commission
GoG	Gulf of Guinea
ICC	Inter-Regional Coordination Centre
IMB	International Maritime Bureau
KA IPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
MDA	Maritime Domain Awareness
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea
YCC	Yaoundé Code of Conduct

Introduction and Background to the Course

International efforts to combat piracy have contributed to significant drops in the number of global piracy and maritime crime incidents. In 2019 the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) reported 162 incidents worldwide, a figure lower than the 180 and 201 incidents recorded in 2017 and 2018 respectively. Despite the significant improvements, the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) continues to experience an increasing number of maritime crimes in both international and territorial waters, making the GoG the most dangerous shipping route in the world. Thus piracy and maritime crime activities in the GoG poses significant threat to regional and international shipping. This is demonstrated by instances such as the number of crew kidnappings which increased more than 50% from 78 in 2018 to 121 in 2019. Over 90% of global crew kidnappings reported at sea in 2019 occurred in the GoG. Furthermore, the region accounted for all four vessel hijackings that occurred in 2019. Activities of the pirates and other criminals at sea are having economic impact not only on the local population but shipping companies who have to invest millions of dollars in contracting security personnel and paying extra insurance fees for their vessels and crew.

Against the above background, states along the GoG and regional bodies are developing and implementing initiatives to strengthen the capacity and improve the operational architecture of institutions responsible for maritime security. One of such measures is the establishment of the Inter-Regional Coordination Centre (ICC) tasked with spearheading the implementation of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct. Again, countries along the GoG have been divided into zones to enhance coordination and information sharing which is an important strategy in preventing and combatting piracy and other maritime crimes. These national and regional initiatives are emerging in response to international maritime security-related norms inherent in the set of protocols to which African countries along the GoG have signed up to. However, such regional and national responses are at best incoherent and uncoordinated. Relationship among national structures of the maritime security sector is limited and sometimes non-existent. Furthermore, there is inadequate rapport between the uncoordinated national maritime security agencies on one hand, and the emerging multilateral maritime security bodies. In addition to the above, the agencies also lack the necessary equipment to execute their functions which present challenges to maritime security operations. These and other factors have led to delays in the development and implementation of response initiatives and strategies to counter piracy and other maritime crimes. Thus the slow pace of implementing established national and regional maritime frameworks coupled with structural problems among agencies poses a challenge to the promotion of maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea.

Factors contributing to the weaknesses in national and regional responses to maritime threat include inadequate capacity among the maritime security personnel to support the implementation of national and regional maritime security policies. As part of the measures to strengthen regional and national maritime security initiatives, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in collaboration with the Government of Denmark is implementing a project titled **“Enhancing Regional Research, Capacity Building and Convening of Stakeholders towards a Safer Maritime Domain in the Gulf of Guinea”**.

One component of the project focuses on the development and implementation of capacity development training courses aimed at enhancing the professional competencies of maritime security actors both at the regional and national levels. With the above background, the KAIPTC conducted the Developing Maritime Security Culture in the Gulf of Guinea pilot course from 26th October to 6th November, 2020 in Takoradi, Ghana. In the light of regional and national efforts to deepen cooperation, the course was aimed at promoting the culture of intra and inter agency communication and information sharing within the maritime security domain in Ghana and beyond. The training thus contributes to the overall regional efforts to implement the Yaoundé Code of Conduct by enhancing collaboration and cooperation among maritime security actors. Modules for the training were developed based on findings from field research in some selected countries in the Gulf of Guinea region. The content of the course thus reflected the current maritime security realities in the Gulf of Guinea and focused on strategies that will strengthen collaboration among maritime authorities, security agencies, legal authorities, shipping lines and other maritime players to effectively tackle piracy, armed robbery at sea, maritime pollution, human smuggling and other maritime crimes.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the course was to contribute to enhanced collaboration and cooperation among maritime actors in the Gulf of Guinea. The following were the specific objectives of the course:

1. To enhance participants' understanding of maritime crimes and the changing dynamics of insecurities in the Gulf of Guinea.
2. To enhance participants' knowledge on the legal frameworks on maritime security.
3. To enhance participants' knowledge on the multiple maritime actors, their role and relevance in promoting a safer maritime domain in the Gulf of Guinea.
4. To enhance participants' knowledge in gaps in the Gulf of Guinea maritime security architecture.
5. To enhance participants' knowledge in the steps that can be taken to build trust and confidence in sharing intelligence and managing maritime information towards responding to maritime incidence.
6. To improve participants' knowledge and skills in maritime security incidence reporting mechanisms in the Gulf of Guinea.
7. To provide participants with enhanced knowledge and skills that will contribute to strengthening relationships and collaborations for improved maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea.

Participants and Facilitators Selection

In a bid to reach out to multiple maritime actors and in line with the course aim of promoting collaboration and cooperation among maritime players, invitation letters were sent to selected institutions engaged in maritime activities in Ghana to nominate participants. The invitation letters spelt out the criteria for nominees of the course. The course participants who consisted of 22 males and 4 females were made up of both state and non-state maritime security actors from 16 different

institutions who play diverse role to support initiatives that promote maritime security in Ghana. Participating institutions in the course included the Navy, Air Force, Ghana Ports and Harbors Authority, Marine Police, Customs, Immigration, Civil Society and Inshore Fisheries Association of Ghana among others. Facilitators for the course involved academics and practitioners with expertise in maritime security and both serving and retired navy personnel. The idea for selecting facilitators from these backgrounds was to bring both theoretical and practical experiences to bear in the course proceedings.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the course was held on Monday 26th October 2020 at 9:00 at the Atlantic Hotel in Takoradi. Present at the high table were the Danish Ambassador Designate to Ghana, H.E. Tom Norring, Commandant of the KAITPC, Major General Francis Ofori, Mrs Emma Birikorang, Deputy Director of Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research (FAAR), Mr. Thomas Norup, the Maritime Counsellor at the Danish Embassy in Accra, Ghana and Commodore (Rtd) Kakra Addison, a maritime consultant. In delivering the welcome address, Commodore (Rtd) Addison expressed his appreciation to the KAITPC for bringing such an important course to the Western region, especially at a time when the region is becoming a target for maritime criminals due to the presence of oil installations and the increasing trade volumes at the Takoradi Port. Mr. Thomas Norup, in delivering the key note address on behalf of the Danish Ambassador Designate to Ghana stated that working towards a better Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) in West Africa is a

shared responsibility for the countries in the Sub-region and the international community. He reiterated the commitment of the Danish Government to support initiatives that promote maritime security in the region through the Danish Maritime Security Programme. In his opening remarks, the Commandant



of the KAITPC highlighted the increasing cases of piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea as well as the shift in the modus operandi of the pirates from oil theft to kidnapping for ransom. He encouraged participants to use the opportunity to share experiences and explore avenues that can be used to encourage collaboration and cooperation among maritime security actors.

Participants Expectations



At the beginning of the training, participants were asked to give their expectations from the course and in summary, they expected to have increased knowledge in maritime security and current security threats in the Gulf of Guinea in general. Specifically, most of the participants

mentioned that they expected to enhance their knowledge on issues such as information and intelligence sharing and management, inter-agency collaboration and cooperation as well as strategies that can be employed in building trust among maritime actors.

Course Proceedings

Course Overview

Mr. Benjamin Serebour, the course coordinator gave an overview of the course by highlighting the growing complexities of maritime threats in the Gulf of Guinea and its tendency to overwhelm the prevention response capacities in the region if authorities do not implement the needed initiatives and strengthen the existing strategies. He talked about the need to establish a regional security complex to prevent the increasing piracy and maritime crime incidents in the region and detailed the role of the course in contributing to regional and national maritime security strategies. He followed up with the course aim and objectives and took participants through the course modules and respective facilitators for each of the modules.

Module 1 – Understanding Insecurities in the Gulf of Guinea



The course overview was followed by the module on understanding insecurities in the Gulf of Guinea which was delivered by Dr. Kwaku Danso and Mr. Frank Okyere. Beginning with the module, Dr. Danso highlighted the concept of collective-based security and explained that states in the Gulf of Guinea generally lack sufficient military and civilian assets to secure their individual maritime domains which underscores the importance and the need for national, regional and international collaboration and cooperation in fighting piracy and other maritime crimes in the Gulf of Guinea. He took the students through concepts of maritime security, maritime space as categorized by United Nations Conventions on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), maritime insecurity and maritime crime. He proceeded by giving an overview of the Gulf of Guinea and highlighted the geo-political and geo-economic importance of the region. This was followed by a detailed presentation of some of the existing and emerging maritime crimes such as piracy and robbery and sea, oil bunkering, human trafficking and smuggling among others. Mr. Okyere on his part gave detailed presentation on the impact of maritime on the Gulf of Guinea littoral states. Some of the impacts which were discussed include disincentive to investment, food insecurity and livelihood collapse and overall deterioration of human security in the region.

Module 2 – Policy and Legal Frameworks on Maritime Security

The module on Legal and Policy Frameworks on maritime security was delivered by commander Naa Ayeley Akwei-Aryee of the Ghana Navy. Cdr Naa Ayeley highlighted the frameworks which underlines international and regional maritime security strategies such as the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2018 and 2039, United Nations Conventions on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Yaoundé Code of Conduct (YCC). She talked about some of the challenges



with the domestication and application of maritime laws, how it affects the fight against maritime crimes and gave practical examples from Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire. She further explained how the non-binding nature of the YCC has made its implementation difficult and used the cases of ANUKET AMBER and MSC MARIA to explain the gaps and challenges in prosecuting maritime crimes. Participants also shared their experiences

on challenges they encounter in executing their tasks as well as best practices in collaborating with maritime security actors in Ghana.

Module 3 - Diverse Maritime Security Threat Response in the Gulf of Guinea

Next was the module on diverse maritime security threat response in the Gulf of Guinea which aimed at exposing participants to maritime security functional areas and the challenges that prevent effective functioning of GoG maritime security arrangements. Beginning with the module, Mr. John Pokoo took participants through the concept of security culture and how it plays out in the maritime domain. Cdr. Bening on his part gave a detailed presentation on maritime governance which he said includes the need to enforce international laws and comply with United Nations Security Council Resolutions related to maritime crimes. Cdr. Bening took the participants through some of the maritime governance sub functional areas such as maritime mission, maritime agency organization, maritime law and policy, maritime programmes and professionals among others. He further highlighted the maritime governance arrangements in the Gulf of Guinea and explained the roles being played by regional bodies such as Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) in the implementation of regional cooperative efforts to combat threats within the Gulf of Guinea maritime domain. The module also touched on some of the challenges hampering the efforts by these regional bodies to promote collaboration and cooperation among states as well as he overall security in the Gulf of Guinea.

Module 4 – Incident Reporting Mechanisms in the Gulf of Guinea



The module on incident reporting mechanisms in the Gulf of Guinea was delivered by Mr. Frank Okyere and Cdr. Yusuf Bening. Cdr. Bening, in introducing the module talked about how underreporting of maritime crimes has become a challenge in the Gulf of Guinea and

stressed on the need to enhance incidence reporting mechanisms in the region. He expounded on why incidents must be reported and the benefits of incidence reporting such as enabling identification of issues, trends and patterns of maritime attacks and providing an opportunity to learn and improve maritime safety and security. He elaborated on the position of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct on incident reporting and highlighted the articles 11 and 12 of the YCC which talks about incident reporting. In ending with his part, Cdr Bening spelt out the 4 main classes of maritime incidence which are the human related incidents, vessel related incidents, environmental related incidents and security and safety related incidence. On his part, Mr. Frank Okyere explained the sources of information for maritime incidence as well as the types of reports which is used to provide information on maritime incidents. He also touched on the channels for reporting on maritime incidence and some of the channels he shared with the participants include electronic channels (emails, telegram, fax, WhatsApp, virtual communication networks), voice (telephone, radio) and written reports/messages. Mr. Okyere mentioned some of the approaches which are used to disseminate maritime incidence among actors and explained some of the challenges associated with incidence reporting, including the absence of a central repository for reporting incidents; the non-binding nature of YCC which constrict enforcement; disparities in operational and legal doctrines; capacity and capability challenges; and mistrust and institutional rivalry among maritime agencies.

Module 5 – Managing Relationships and Inter-Agency Collaboration

Cdr. (rtd) Aggrey-Fynn commenced the module with a brief background to maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea and highlighted some of the challenges with the implementation of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct. He continued by introducing the students to the elements of bureaucratic and institutional collaboration and talked about some of the key maritime security stakeholders in Gulf

of Guinea. He discussed the essential elements of collaboration with participants and the areas highlighted include shared understanding, unity of purpose, cooperation, constant communication and mutual respect. Cdr. (rtd) Aggrey-Fynn explained inter and intra-agency collaboration and mentioned some of the factors that mitigate against these collaborations in the Gulf of Guinea. Among factors are inter-agency rivalries, overlap of functions of service and weak institutional framework. He concluded the module by emphasising on the need for agencies to work together to prevent piracy and other maritime crimes in the Gulf of Guinea.

Presentation on the Role of Marine Police in Preventing Maritime Crimes in Ghana



As part of the course, the project team extended an invitation to the Marine Police Unit of the Ghana Police Service to share their experience on the role the Unit play in maritime security efforts and elaborate on opportunities and challenges in collaborating and cooperating with other maritime security players. In his

presentation, the Director of the Ghana Marine Police, District Commissioner of Police (DCOP) Seidu Iddi gave detailed background to the formation of the Marine Police Unit from its establishment in 1916 and its reformation and inauguration in 2011 and 2013. He mentioned that the reformation of the Unit was informed by factors such as the discovery of oil and gas which required the protection of the country's oil installations. DCOP Iddi provided information on the various roles played by Marine Police in Ghana's maritime domain which include the protection of maritime platforms, enforcement of fisheries laws and maritime border patrols among others. He continued to talk about the level of collaboration between the Marine Police and state and non-state maritime actors. He highlighted the opportunities and challenges in collaborating with these institutions. In concluding with his presentation, DCOP Iddi made some recommendations that will contribute to enhancing collaboration and cooperation among maritime agencies. These include the development of joint Standard Operating Procedures, creation of awareness among maritime actors on the insecurities in the region and the building of strong institutional motivation in combatting maritime crimes.

Module 6 – Mapping Maritime Security Actors in the Gulf of Guinea



Week two of the training started with the module on mapping maritime security actors in the Gulf of Guinea which was delivered by Dr. Kwasi Danso and Mrs. Serwaa Allotey-Pappoe. The objective of the module

was to deepen participants understanding of the multiple maritime actors, their mandates and relevance in promoting a safer maritime domain in the Gulf of Guinea. During the module, the facilitators explained the difference between actors and stakeholders and expounded the importance of stakeholder mapping in the maritime domain. They provided details on the level of actors in the Gulf of Guinea maritime space and highlighted the three main actors which are state actors, intergovernmental actors and non-state actors. In conclusion, the facilitators talked about the relationship among the actors and challenges such as lack of coordination which sometimes results in the duplication of efforts.

Module 7 – Maritime Intelligence, Information Sharing and Management

The module on maritime intelligence, information sharing and management was delivered by Naval Captain Derick Attachie. In his introduction, Capt. Attachie gave a brief background to intelligence, particularly in the maritime domain and mentioned that maritime agencies need intelligence because it makes the use of the sea more secured from threats on maritime resources, installations and vessels among others. He stated that the economies of GoG littoral states depends heavily on the region's maritime domain and as such, there is the need for national, regional and international collaboration to ensure maritime security in the region. He explained the principles of intelligence and detailed the sources of maritime intelligence in the Gulf of Guinea. Capt. Attachie explained intelligence cycles and presented the Gulf of Guinea information sharing framework to the participants. He used practical examples to elucidate some of the challenges related to intelligence and information sharing in the Gulf of Guinea recommended measures that can improve the sharing of intelligence among national and regional maritime actors.

Module 8 - Gaps in Maritime Security Architecture in the Gulf of Guinea

The last module on the course was the gaps in maritime security architecture in the Gulf of Guinea which was delivered by Mr. John Pokoo. He provided details on the role of various maritime security actors both at the regional and national levels and explained how the uncoordinated efforts by both national and regional agencies have created gaps in responding effectively to maritime security threats. He buttressed this point with examples and detailed the forms of gaps in the Gulf of Guinea maritime space including inter-agency and inter-sector gaps, financing and personnel arrangements gaps and communication gaps among agencies both at the regional and national level. Mr. Pokoo concluded by reiterating the need for closer collaboration among maritime security agencies which is crucial in preventing piracy and other maritime crimes in the Gulf of Guinea.

Group Exercise



The course included sessions on practical exercises which was used to assess participant's level of comprehension of the maritime security subjects which were discussed during the course. In the first group exercise, participants were divided into four groups and asked to answer questions on modules which were discussed in the first week

of the course. The questions focused on areas including strengths and weaknesses of the Yaoundé architecture and its impact on safety and security in the GoG maritime space, factors to consider when developing a template for incident reporting template and factors that militate against intra and inter-agency collaboration and measures to address some of these challenges. In the second group exercise, participants were given a scenario on a region experiencing increasing piracy and armed robbery at sea attacks which threatened the region's economy and required attention from the region's political players. The scenario detailed the people involved in the criminal activities, the sources of information to determine their activities, modus operandi of the maritime criminals in the region and listed the measures being implemented by the political leaders to stop the increasing piracy and armed robbery attacks. Similar to the first group exercise, participants were divided into four and assigned to groupings used for the exercise which were National Interagency Information Sharing Centre, Multinational Coordination Centre, Regional Security Centre and Non-State Actors. Based on these groups participants were asked to answer questions on actions to be taken upon the receipt of information on imminent attacks, the maritime agencies they will share the information with and how multinational and multi-agency responses will be coordinated.

After the exercise, all the four groups made a presentation on the questions assigned to them which was followed by class discussions with the facilitators who gave their feedback on the presentations. The facilitators expressed their delight with the manner which the participants responded to the questions which depicted their understanding of the issues which were discussed during the course.

Panel Discussion

On the course agenda was a panel discussion session which was aimed at sharing practical experiences on collaboration and cooperation among maritime actors in Ghana. The discussions



also focused on challenges and opportunities in Ghana's maritime security efforts among formal and informal maritime security players. The panelist for the discussions were drawn from both state and non-state maritime security institutions. The participation institutions included Maersk Ghana, Ghana Maritime Authority, Ghana Navy, Inshore Fisheries Association of Ghana and Friends of the Nation, a non-

governmental organization. During the discussions, the panelist talked about the role of their respective agencies/institutions in fighting maritime crime. They highlighted the areas where cooperation among security actors has contributed to successful operations. The panelist also discussed the level of cooperation with other maritime agencies and detailed the opportunities and challenges in collaboration and cooperation among maritime agencies. In conclusion, the panelist agreed on the need to strengthen collaboration and cooperation among state and non-state maritime agencies since this is key in enhancing the overall security of Ghana's maritime space.

Visit to Western Naval Command and the Port of Takoradi



With the practical session of the course, participants visited the Maritime Operation Centre of the Western Naval Command where they were showed how Ghana's maritime space is being monitored. The officer in charge explained the surveillance capabilities of the Centre's equipment and how they support the effective monitoring and detection of illegal maritime activities in Ghana's waters, especially in the Western enclave. The participants also undertook a sea trip which was repeated during the tour of the Takoradi harbor the following day.

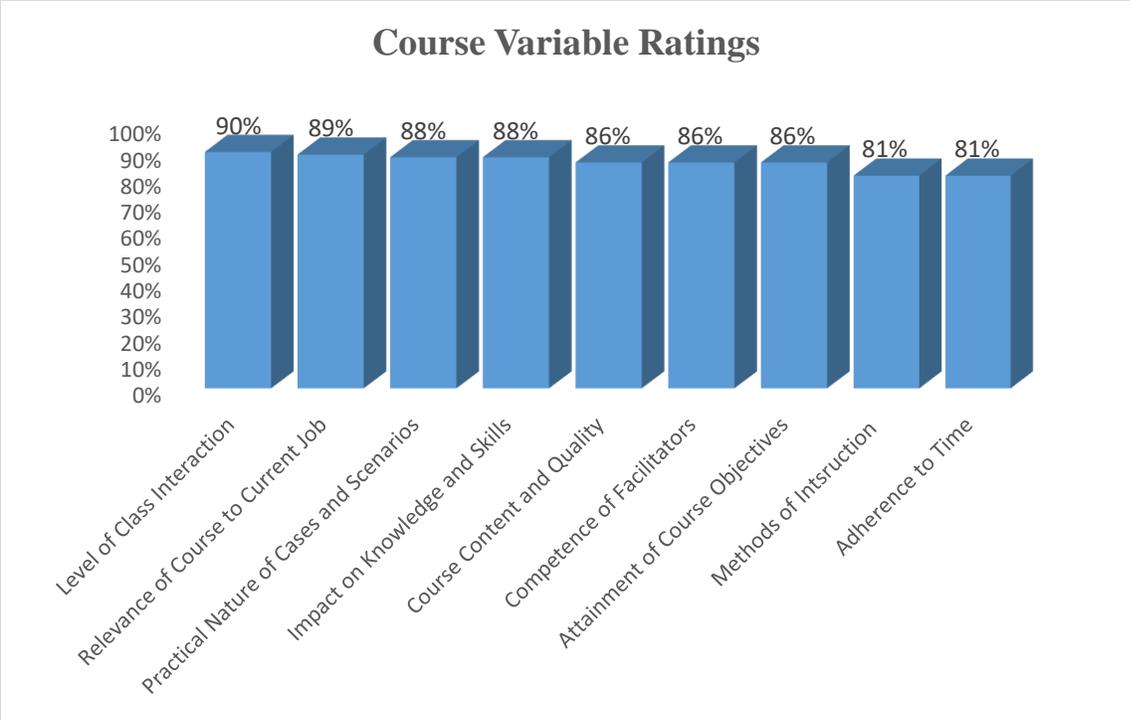


Participants Feedback



Prior to the training, participants were asked about their knowledge on the Yaoundé Code of Conduct and other regional strategies such as the divisions of countries into zones to enhance information sharing and cooperation among regional maritime institutions and agencies. It turned out that majority of the participants did not have much knowledge about the YCC and the other strategies and mentioned that by the end of the course, they expected to know

more about these regional arrangements and strategies. Data from the post-course evaluation shows that the participants expectations were met as most of them mentioned that the course enhanced their knowledge on Gulf of Guinea maritime security challenges and the strategies being implemented in the region to improve maritime security. With the knowledge gained from the training, the participants expressed the need for enhanced collaboration, cooperation and information sharing among maritime actors since they appreciate this as a key strategy in enhancing maritime security in Ghana and beyond. The graph below shows the rating of the variables which measures the overall impression of students on the course quality and processes.



The participants gave diverse scenarios on how they were going to employ the knowledge and skills gained from the training. For instance, a participant from Maersk Shipping mentioned that he will organize a virtual training to share the knowledge he gained from the course with his colleagues in Ghana. Following from this training, he will use the same approach to share the knowledge with the staff of Maersk Liner Operation Centre in Cape Town. A participant from the Ghana Ports and Harbors Authority also mentioned that in his post-training report, he will make a recommendation for a representative of the Ghana Air Force to be included in the Port Security Committee, having learn about the role they play in maritime security during the training. Below are some comments from the participants. Below are comments from some course participants:

With the knowledge gained from the course, I will collaborate more with the Local Government Assemblies, Fisheries Commission and the Law Enforcement Agencies. I will also train community volunteers at various levels to be shepherds and eyes for law enforcement. I will stress on the message of "voluntary compliance" which has the propensity to forge strong ties between law enforcement agencies and the communities and also CSOs/NGOs. – Anonymous

The knowledge and experience that I have gotten from this training will go a long way to improve my work as the Regional Director of the Economic and Organised Crime Office. It will enable me to better appreciate my role in the battle against maritime security situations in the region and by extension Ghana.

Closing ceremony



The two-week course came to an end on Friday, 6th November, 2020. The closing ceremony started with the presentation of certificates to the participants after which the head of the conflict management programme at the KAIPTC delivered his remarks. Beginning with his remarks, Mr. John Pokoo thanked the students for their demonstration of maturity and active participation in class. He mentioned that the experience shared by the students enhanced class

discussion and called on participants to be good ambassadors for the KAIPTC. This was followed the remarks of the class representative, Lt. Cdr. Asiedu who thanked the Centre on behalf of the participants for the opportunity to participate in such an important course. The closing remarks was delivered by Air Commodore Arko-Dadzie., the deputy commandant of the KAIPTC. In his remarks, Air Commodore Arko-Dadzie welcomed the students into the KAIPTC alumni fraternity and encouraged them to use the knowledge gained from the course to support and initiate actions that will promote security in Ghana's waters.



Conclusion

The pilot course on Developing Maritime Security Culture in the Gulf of Guinea was very successful in terms of the organization and processes. In providing their feedback, participants noted the high quality of the course content and expressed their satisfaction with the delivery methodology and the visit to the Western Naval Command and the Takoradi Port. The introduction of the panel discussion and the experience sharing by the Ghana Marine Police enriched the course by exposing participants to real industry examples. These activities also brought the practical experiences to bear on some of the theoretical issues which were discussed during the course. Overall, the feedback on the course demonstrate its relevance in addressing capacity gaps and challenges in the Gulf of Guinea maritime domain.