



Peace Operations Training Institute®

Study peace and humanitarian relief any place, any time

Peace Ops Pages

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Getting to Know

You – If you have photos or an opinion you want to share, you may do so through the POTI Flickr account and Commentaries section. If you want to introduce yourself to the POTI community, then please submit a post to [The Student Spotlight](#).

These features have been developed to give each student the opportunity to introduce themselves, share photos and ideas, and let their own words be read by peers in the peacekeeping community. Links to submit posts are found in each classroom. We want to get to know you better, and we believe your fellow students do too!

Live POTI Webinar Hosted by General Robert Gordon



Gen. Gordon during his opening remarks.

General Robert Gordon, Army of the UK, Retired, mentor for UN DPKO's senior mission leadership (SML) training, former Force Commander at UNMEE and co-author of the POTI course *Principles and Guidelines for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations*, was the featured guest for the first live POTI webinar on 30 September. General Gordon delivered a brief introduction, and then answered several questions from students covering a variety of topics including the UN Security Council and peacekeeping

operations, MILOBS' duties, boundaries of the use of force by UN peacekeepers, and the evolution of UN peacekeeping. If you were not able to participate in the webinar live, the archived session is available for viewing at your convenience by visiting http://www.peaceopstraining.org/video_stream/.

All of us at POTI were honoured by Gen. Gordon's visit. We thank him for sharing his insight and knowledge about UN Peacekeeping with our students and us.

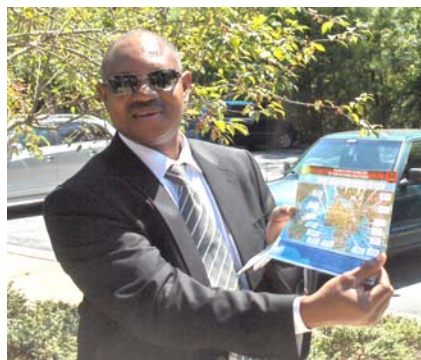
New COTIPSO Training Partners

The institutions listed below are among the growing number of new COTIPSO partners. A complete list of our COTIPSO partners and the courses they provide is available on our website at <http://www.peaceopstraining.org/e-learning/cotipso/>.

- University of Innsbruck, Austria;
- World-Mediation-Centre, Germany;
- University of Higher Education (CIELS), Italy;
- The International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC), Kenya;
- Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR), Romania;
- American University, USA;
- The United States Institute of Peace (USIP), USA.

For more about COTIPSO [turn to page 3](#).

Commandant of Nigerian Army Peacekeeping Training Centre visits POTI



Brigadier General Paul T. Boroh, Commandant of the Nigerian Army Peacekeeping Training Centre, visited the Peace Operations Training Institute 17 August 2011. Nigeria is the national leader in enrolments of POTI training with Nigerian students enrolling in over 19,000 courses during 2010.

Brig. Gen. Boroh (left) presented the 50th Anniversary of Nigerian Peacekeeping commemorative brochure to each POTI staff member during his visit.

UN Peacekeeping: 16 Missions on 4 Continents

There are 15 UN peacekeeping operations and one special political mission (UNAMA) currently deployed on four continents. These missions are led by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). The current list is as follows:

Africa

- UNMISS, United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan
- UNISFA, United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei
- MONUSCO, UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- UNAMID, African Union–UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur
- UNOCI, UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
- UNMIL, UN Mission in Liberia
- MINURSO, UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Americas

- MINUSTAH, UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Asia and the Pacific

- UNMIT, UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste
- UNMOGIP, UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
- UNAMA, UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (special political mission)

Europe

- UNFICYP, UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
- UNMIK, UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Middle East

- UNDOF, UN Disengagement Observer Force
- UNIFIL, United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
- UNTSO, UN Truce Supervision Organization

USIP Senior Vice President visits POTI



Above left to right: George Oliver, Harvey Langholtz, Pamela Aall.

Ms. Pamela Aall, senior vice president at the U.S. Institute of Peace and provost of the USIP Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding, visited the Peace Operations Training

Institute 1 August 2011. USIP is an independent, non-partisan, institution within the U.S. Government, with the goals of preventing and resolving international conflicts, promoting post-conflict stability, and increasing conflict-management capacities, both locally and globally. USIP provides training programmes worldwide and is among the world's leading publishers of academic books addressing issues of international peace and security. For more on USIP, visit www.usip.org.

During her visit Ms. Aall met with POTI staff, including Colonel George Oliver, manager of POTI's Certificate-of-Training in Peace Support Operations (COTIPSO) programme. There was an open exchange of ideas, especially regarding areas of institutional cooperation. Subsequent to the visit, USIP submitted 16 courses for review as part of the COTIPSO programme, and all were approved. See <http://www.peaceopstraining.org/e-learning/cotipso/partner/26> for the list of USIP classroom courses or http://www.peaceopstraining.org/e-learning/cotipso/partner_course_list for a list of all COTIPSO partners.

“World military spending has now risen to over \$1.2 trillion. This incredible sum represents 2.5 per cent of GDP (global gross domestic product). Even if 1 per cent of it were redirected towards development, the world would be much closer to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.”

-Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

Student Email Communication Initiative

We've implemented an email programme to better keep in touch with our students as they study and complete their course work. By letting individuals know we are available for questions, answers, and a pat-on-the-back we engage in the type of communication required to expand the sense of community among our student body. The use of regular email communication shows students actual people are answering their questions and providing feedback. That's part of how POTI becomes more than a website, but a portal to new relationships and professional development.

Curriculum Update

Updated editions of two POTI courses were released in August and September: *Operational Logistical Support* and *Gender Perspectives*. The former identifies and explores the finer points necessary for maintaining a successful UN peace mission, covering everything from planning and supply to postal and courier services. The *Gender* course was revised to include analysis of many of the gender-relevant UN instruments and efforts emerging after 2003, including Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2010), and 1960 (2010).

The Portuguese translation of the course *An Introduction to the UN System* has also been completed and was released on 26 September. A new course titled *Human Rights* is currently being edited for a tentative December release. POTI's Course Content Department strives to equip students with the most current information as quickly as possible. Visit the website regularly to keep abreast of the latest changes in POTI's curriculum.

During July, August, and September 2011, 486 students submitted their examination for the tuition-free course Principles and Guidelines for UN Peacekeeping Operations. There were over 7,000 exams submitted across the curriculum during those same months!

COTIPSO (continued from page 1)

COTIPSO is an advanced-level certificate offered by POTI in partnership with national and regional peacekeeping training centres, and selected universities around the world. Students earn a COTIPSO certificate when they meet the following requirements of the programme:

- complete a minimum of 12 self-paced, distance-learning courses from the POTI curriculum;
- attend an approved classroom course with one of the COTIPSO training partners; and
- write an original graduate-level thesis integrating the knowledge acquired under the supervision of an approved Thesis Adviser.

Our outreach to other academic institutions and NGOs is ongoing. We continue to inform academic students and NGO personnel about the discounted tuition they are eligible for and the benefits of studying the POTI curriculum. We continue to expand our network of partners in order to make our COTIPSO classroom courses accessible to as many students as possible. To make a suggestion for a new COTIPSO classroom partner, please consult our contact page at <http://www.peaceopstraining.org/contact>.



“Witnessing first-hand the smooth and peaceful secession of Southern Sudan from Sudan was a memorable experience.”

-Michael Edeh (Read about Michael on page 4.)



Read course texts online or download them onto a desktop, laptop, or tablet. Texts can even be transferred to an e-reader and read on the go!

Meet Michael Edeh, UNAMID Peacekeeper and POTI Student

"The knowledge I am acquiring in POTI courses vis-a-vis my experience in the service of peace here in Darfur, Sudan has enriched me both personally and professionally. No doubt this will go a long way to strengthen my resolve and long-standing commitment to promoting conflict resolution, Human Rights, Reconciliation, gender equality and dedication to service of humanity."

-Michael Edeh, UN Peacekeeper from Nigeria

As a UN Peacekeeper, my most important assignment here in Darfur is to implement the UNAMID mandate. This means I work protecting innocent civilians, vulnerable women, and children. Thousands of women and children are displaced from their homes in Darfur. Some are lost and separated from their families and loved ones; they are living without adequate food, clothing, and shelter. These internally displaced persons (IDPs) need our love and support. The sighting of a UN BLUE BERET/HELMET (UN peacekeeper) brings much hope to them. Every child deserves a better future, sound education, and protection. I am determined to make a positive impact on their lives.

My work here consists of patrol and escort duty and participation in Quick Impact Projects (QIPs). QIPs make peacekeeping operations highly visible and promote goodwill through the rebuilding of schools, enhancement of water services, as well as the rehabilitation of medical facilities. Escort duty is conducted to promote the safe delivery of humanitarian relief and UN contingent supplies. Patrol duty is performed on a routine basis for security, and to investigate and build confidence for the local population. Patrols give me, and other peacekeepers, the opportunity to interact with the people we are here to protect directly, and listen to their cares and concerns. When it is possible concerns are sorted out on the spot; other times they are channelled to higher authorities for possible action. Security patrols are conducted to assess the local living conditions, especially for those living in IDP camps. UN Military Observers (MILOBS), civilian police (UNPOL), and language assistants (National Staff) also participate and contribute to the success of these patrols. Though we come from nations large and small, rich and poor, with different cultures and religion, we (UN Peacekeepers) are united in our determination to foster peace in Darfur.

There are challenges to serving as a peacekeeper at UNAMID. We are faced with unfavourable and unpredictable weather conditions, cultural differences, religious differences, language barriers, and sometimes hostilities. The hostile activities of some rebel groups (Janjaweds) and other militia often disrupt our routine activities including denial of access to task areas, interception/hijacking of humanitarian relief materials, or our own troops' rations. Of course the worst and saddest challenge is the loss of lives from vicious attacks on our troops and comrades. These aggressive acts jeopardize humanitarian relief efforts and our own duties as UN peacekeepers. From my experience here in Darfur I think that the unregulated proliferation of weapons in Darfur and indeed in many other countries of the world is a very big threat to global peace and security. Easy access to weapons means greater danger for future generations, because it stimulates armed violence and places the civilian population at risk. There is a need for more disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR).

Wherever in the world that I serve and whatever my responsibilities might be, I will always do my best to make the world a better and safer place. My duties here in UNAMID have enabled me to understand the bigger picture of the horrors of war and the colossal effect that they have on vulnerable women and children who are often exposed to appalling abuses, hunger, poverty, and disease. This is detrimental to the entire human society.



Michael Edeh

Michael (centre) with women and children at an IDP camp in Darfur.

