



# Peace Operations Training Institute®

Study peace and humanitarian relief any place, any time

Newsletter January 2013

Thank you to the following countries that financially support the POTI mission:



Australia



Canada



Netherlands



Norway



Sweden



United Kingdom

## POTI Participates in UNESCO Open Training Platform

POTI is pleased to be engaged in the UNESCO Open Training Platform. Three POTI courses, *Principles and Guidelines for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations*, *Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) in Africa*, and *Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) in Latin America and the Caribbean*, are listed on the UNESCO Open Training Platform (<http://otp.unesco-ci.org/>), which “facilitates a collaborative access to existing free training courses and promotes open licensed resources to specialized groups and local communities for development”. Participation in the platform will broaden the reach of the POTI curriculum and bring much needed training to students worldwide.

## UN Women and POTI Provide E-Learning on UNSCR 1325

The Peace Operations Training Institute and UN Women are pleased to report the continued expansion of their ongoing collaboration in the worldwide delivery of e-learning on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and the empowerment of women. UN Under-Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women, personally greets each new student with a recorded video that welcomes students and introduces the courses *Implementation of SCR 1325 (2000) in Africa* and *Implementation of SCR 1325 (2000) in Latin America and the Caribbean*.



UN Under-Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women, during her remarks to POTI students.

During her remarks Ms. Bachelet states in clear terms the five UN resolutions on women, peace, and security that provide a framework for women’s participation in conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. She explains how these courses were developed by UN Women in cooperation with POTI with the support of the government of Norway. Ms. Bachelet also puts forth to the viewer that these courses are designed as a practical tool for policy decision makers, practitioners, and civil society to provide understanding about the impact and implications of conflicts on women and women’s roles as agents of change in peace and security efforts. Ms. Bachelet concludes her introduction by congratulating students for their enrolment in the POTI courses and she wishes each student every success in their studies.

Ms. Bachelet is the first Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, which was established on 2 July 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly. Under Ms. Bachelet’s leadership, UN Women leads, supports, and coordinates the work on gender equality and the empowerment of women at global, regional, and country levels. Through an agreement between UN Women and POTI, and with a generous grant from Australia, both courses, *Implementation of SCR 1325 (2000) in Africa* and *Implementation of SCR 1325 (2000) in Latin America and the Caribbean* may be studied worldwide by all interested people free of charge through the POTI website, [www.peaceopstraining.org](http://www.peaceopstraining.org). Ms. Bachelet’s introductory remarks may be viewed at [http://www.peaceopstraining.org/e-learning/course\\_media\\_page/1159/](http://www.peaceopstraining.org/e-learning/course_media_page/1159/)



This photo was posted on the POTI Facebook group page by Pablo L. with the following:

“Working for peace in Aweng, South Sudan”

Join the 4,800+ POTI facebook group members and connect with fellow peacekeepers at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/28219921533/>



The Peace Operations Training Institute (POTI) is an independent not-for-profit organization.

## Student in the News:

POTI student

**Mikhail Sebastian** is the subject of a short documentary produced by UNHCR about statelessness. Watch Mikhail tell his story here: [http://youtu.be/\\_Dol2QbNWfs](http://youtu.be/_Dol2QbNWfs). Mikhail has also contributed a blog article to the POTI website addressing statelessness. You can find his post in the [Commentaries](#) section of the POTI website.

POTI continues to seek out ways to improve the services we provide students. We have expanded our web services from the United States to Ireland and Singapore, resulting in a faster web experience. You now have more time to study.

## United States Congressman Rob Wittman Visits POTI



Congressman Rob Wittman, (left), during Dr. Langholtz' (right) briefing on POTI.

On 11 October 2012, U.S. Congressman Rob Wittman and his staff member Joe Schumacher visited POTI headquarters in Williamsburg, Virginia. During his visit the Congressman learned more about the mission of POTI, met with staff members, and reviewed several courses. Congressman Wittman also made time during his visit to review the latest graduates at POTI by viewing the Honour Roll and commented on the diversity of the POTI student community.

Congressman Wittman serves as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness for the House Armed Services Committee. Of his appointment he said,

“This position brings with it tremendous responsibilities, and I look forward to ensuring that our dedicated servicemen and women are properly and effectively resourced, both as they are conducting their missions and when they return home. Our military faces countless challenges around the globe, and responsible, strategic planning is critical for maintaining the strength of our forces and the safety of our people. The Readiness Subcommittee has a critical role in this process, and I am eager to work with Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, and my colleagues on HASC in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.”



**Live webinars are a value-added feature to the POTI learning experience. This screen shot shows Colonel Christopher Holshek answering a student-submitted question during the webinar on Civil-Military Coordination (CIMIC).**

## Going Live with Webinars

Live webinars are an ongoing value-added feature to the POTI learning experience. Hosted by Dr. Harvey Langholtz, each webinar features a guest speaker and addresses a specific topic in peacekeeping. Guest speakers are course authors who introduce themselves, talk about their area of expertise and their course, and answer questions submitted either live online or by e-mail from POTI students or members of the public worldwide. Each webinar gives students and others an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the specific topic being addressed. After the initial live session, the webinars are archived and are available for viewing on the POTI website.

The following webinars are available for viewing:

General Robert Gordon, *Principles and Guidelines of UN Peacekeeping Operations*

Major General Tim Ford, *Commanding UN Peacekeeping Operations*

Dr. Annjanette Rosga, *Preventing Violence Against Women and Gender Inequality in Peacekeeping*

Major Don Leslie, *Operational Logistical Support of UN Peacekeeping and Advanced Topics in UN Logistics: the Provision of Contingent Owned Equipment (COE)*

Colonel Christopher Holshek, *Civil-Military Coordination (CIMIC)*



POTI was represented by staff members, course authors, and Board of Directors members during the annual conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC), held in Helsinki, Finland, during September 2012. Pictured above left to right: Harvey Langholtz, Executive Director; Farida Sawadogo, staff member; Ximena Jimenez, course author; Tim Ford, course author and Chair of POTI Board; Annika Hilding-Norberg, Board member; Ellen Løj, Board member; and Øyvind Damen, staff member.

**The Principles and Guidelines for UN Peacekeeping Operations** course is offered free to all POTI students. Become a student and enrol by going to [https://www.peaceopstraining.org/users/account\\_registration/](https://www.peaceopstraining.org/users/account_registration/) today.

## New Partners in Training: POTI Signs Agreements with APSTA, KAIPTC, and ACUNS

On 18 September 2012, while in Helsinki, Finland, participating in the annual conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC), Brigadier General Christopher Chella, President of the African Peace Support Trainers' Association (APSTA), and Dr. Harvey Langholtz, Executive Director of the Peace Operations Training Institute (POTI), signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will enhance and strengthen peacekeeping training for African military personnel. APSTA and POTI will engage in an exchange of training material and work with APTSA training centers' members to combine their classroom training with the online training offered by POTI with the aim of increasing African military personnel's knowledge in the area of peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, and security operations.



Dr. Langholtz (left) and General Chella (right) shake hands after signing the MOU in Helsinki.

POTI has also signed an MOU with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC), Ghana. Under the terms of the MOU, a selection of POTI's online courses will be used by KAIPTC as a prerequisite for its trainees and for preparation by the students before they attend KAIPTC classroom training. Hence, KAIPTC trainees will be in a better position to take full advantage of their classroom training as they will join KAIPTC with existing knowledge about the topics of their studies thanks to POTI's courses.

In November 2012, POTI and the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) signed an MOU offering ACUNS members various benefits, including reduced enrolment fees in all of POTI's courses as well as additional education resources. ACUNS-POTI students, upon successful completion of their studies, will receive a co-signed certificate of completion from POTI and ACUNS. This training partnership makes it easier for ACUNS members to study the POTI curriculum.

## Helping You Retain What You Read:

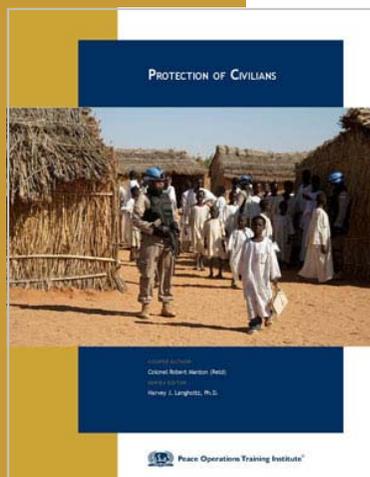
### Concentration Tips

The art or practice of concentration is to eliminate distraction and focus on the task at hand. If you find that you read through material and suddenly discover that you have no idea about what you've just read, or if you attend lectures and have difficulty paying attention to what is being said, these tips may help:

- Stick to a routine, efficient study schedule
- Study in a quiet environment
- For a study break, do something different from what you've been doing (e.g., walk around if you've been sitting) and in a different area
- Avoid daydreaming by asking yourself questions about the material as you study it

From J. R. Hayes, *The Complete Problem Solver*, Franklin Institute Press, 1981

## New Course Released: *Protection of Civilians*



The protection of civilians is now a recurrent theme in peacekeeping mandates. Yet, while much academic work has been done to highlight the issue, doctrine and guidance are still underdeveloped. This course seeks to address some of that deficit by providing a historical perspective as well as suggesting some practical options for consideration for those undertaking this task. Consisting of five lessons, the course begins by discussing the contemporary operating environment for peacekeepers and how the changing nature of conflict necessitates the protection of civilians. In order to actualize this sometimes ambiguous concept, the author then explores the legal basis and mandates that have been produced on protection and outlines the threats that peacekeepers face. The course then turns to look at the current guidance, and the various stakeholders, and ends with a look at the key principles of protection and how they can effectively be put into practice. Five lessons, 98 pages. COURSE AUTHOR: Colonel Robert Manton (Retd), of the Royal Australian Army, served as the Military Adviser at the Australian Mission to the United Nations from 2007 through 2011.

### Course Revisions Released:

#### *Civil-Military Coordination (CIMIC)*

by Cedric de Konig and new co-author Colonel (Retd) Christopher Hoshek

#### *International Law and the Law of Armed Conflict*

by Mr. Antoine Bouvier, Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross, Division for Promotion of International Humanitarian Law

### Feature Focus: Student Course Reviews

Upon completion of a course in the POTI curriculum, students may submit a review in their own words and rate the course using a one (indicating *needs improvement*) to five (*excellent*) star system. Student course reviews and the star ratings are posted on the publicly viewed course description pages. Here are three student reviews of the new course *Protection of Civilians*:

"Very interesting and informative lecture. This is the type of lecture members should receive before being deployed to any UN mission. I was recently deployed on UNAMID- EOM Oct 2011 - found it very interesting and could relate to a lot mentioned in the lecture. Thank you all." ★★★★★  
Submitted by: BRUCE HENRY EVERTON

"It's a real life centred course that gives the learner a very widely exposed kind of skills." ★★★★★  
Submitted by: ANDREW SHANGARAI JUMANNE

"The course is well organized, educative and is relevant to Operations conducted under chapter VII. Since Protection of Civilian is among the UNAMID Mandate, it is advised to see the possibility for this course to be taught in the orientation courses provided to new arrivers in the mission." ★★★★★  
Submitted by: MASELE ALFRED MACHANGA

### From the Desk of the Executive Director

Greetings. I am pleased to extend good wishes for a Happy New Year to all our students, supporters, and friends. It was our honour serving you and working with you during 2012 and we look forward to 2013.

Our goal at POTI is to serve the global peacekeeping community with a combination of high-tech and low-tech Internet resources to ensure that our high-quality training is available to all worldwide. Some members of our student population are based where broadband Internet access is reliable and easily accessible, while many others are serving in remote and far-flung regions, where conflict is still ongoing, and electricity and Internet access cannot always be counted on. Our students are from the developed and developing nations, and our programmes are designed to be accessible to all.

We take several deliberate steps here to achieve that. Most importantly, students need log on only once to enrol and download their course materials. Students may then view their POTI course offline, print it out, or read an already-printed version their colleague may have. Most importantly, students with essentially any device – desktop, laptop, tablet, e-reader, mobile device, etc. – may read the full text of our courses wherever they are. We design and deliver the courses this way to be universally viewable. In addition, students with even limited or intermittent Internet access may take advantage of a wide range of study aids: course authors' introductions to courses and lessons; webinars, where students may get immediate replies to questions submitted live; archived versions of the webinars; forums for student-to-student discussion; and the POTI Facebook page. Students can also e-mail questions to course authors, follow us on Twitter, and post photographs through their classroom to the POTI Flickr page. When students are ready, they go online once more to complete their End-of-Course Examination and earn their Certificate of Completion.

I am always gratified when I see the photos that our students have posted to our website, when I read your comments, and when I hear from you during one of our live webinars. POTI's e-learning programmes are designed to be as accessible as possible to all students, from an office at UN Headquarters to the most remote outpost on the most challenging mission. It is our honour here at POTI to be in contact with each one of you. I look forward to working with you in the service of peace during 2013.



Dr. Langholtz