



Peace Operations Training Institute®

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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2016

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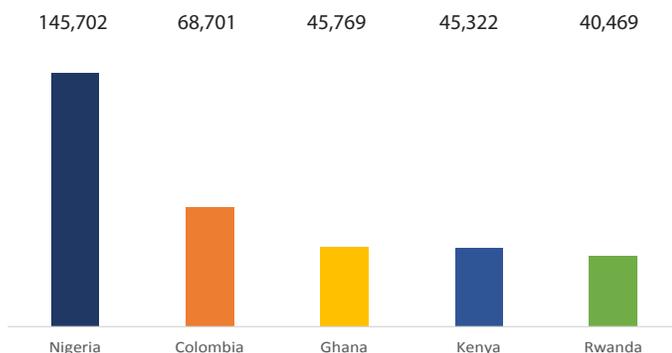
Celebrating the delivery of 1 million course enrolments to our students

To the peacekeepers worldwide — men and women; military, police, and civilian — who have demanded 1 million enrolments, we at the Peace Operations Training Institute thank you for making this achievement possible. We thank the course authors for sharing their knowledge with thousands of students. We appreciate the generosity of the funders who make this all possible and who recognize the importance of offering e-learning to peacekeepers worldwide. We thank our Board of Directors and leadership in the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations for their wisdom and guidance. We thank the commandants of the national training centres that blend e-learning into classroom curricula through the National Training Centre E-Learning Platform (NTCELP), and the leadership at UN and African Union missions that use E-Learning for Mission Staff (ELMS). It is our honour here at POTI to provide each of the 1 million enrolments our students have demanded in the service of peace.



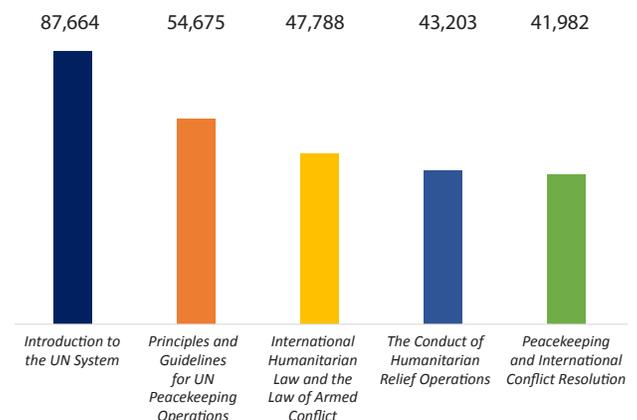
The Peace Operations Training Institute staff: Front, left to right: Ramona Taheri, Chief of Content; Dr. Harvey Langholtz, Executive Director; Vanessa Anderson, Registrar and Chief of Institutional Relations; Back, left to right: Marianne Wrightson, Chief of Programme Services; Timothy Paetz, Chief of Information Technology; Ian Brickey, Copy Editor/Multimedia Specialist; Susan Terrien, Treasurer.

Countries with the most enrolled students



Enrolments are from inception to 31 July 2016.

Most popular courses by enrolments



We are tallying up to 1 million enrolments and beyond. Visit the POTI website and see who made this training achievement possible: <www.peaceopstraining.org>.

The Peace Operations Training Institute (POTI) is an independent non-governmental organization (NGO) recognized by the United States Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt not-for-profit public charity based in Williamsburg, Virginia, USA.



Police delegation from EIFORCES visits POTI headquarters

The Peace Operations Training Institute was pleased to welcome a delegation of African police personnel at its Williamsburg, Virginia offices on 21 June 2016. The delegation included more than 25 police personnel from the International School for Security Forces (EIFORCES) in Cameroon. The men and women in the delegation represented ten African countries: Benin, the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Mali, and Togo.

During the visit, members of the delegation discussed the POTI e-learning in use at EIFORCES and how the curriculum trains peacekeeping personnel quickly, effectively, and economically. They also met with POTI Executive Director Harvey Langholtz and staff members to learn about the Institute's work as a leading provider of peacekeeping training.

After presentations from Dr. Langholtz and POTI Director of Francophone Programmes Farida Sawadogo, EIFORCES Commanding Officer Cécile Thom Oyono presented POTI with gifts of a plaque and plate to commemorate the visit. For the EIFORCES delegation, the Institute arranged a tour of historic

sites in Williamsburg, including the Colonial Williamsburg living history museum.

“We rarely see students in person,” Dr. Langholtz stated, “so this was a rewarding day when we could hear from students face-to-face and gain productive feedback about the curriculum, as well as receive gratitude and appreciation for what POTI provides. We are very pleased to see this recognition from EIFORCES personnel regarding the unique role POTI plays in providing e-learning to military peacekeepers, police, and civilian humanitarian relief workers.”

Top photo: Dr. Langholtz welcoming the EIFORCES delegation to the Institute's offices in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Bottom photo: Visiting EIFORCES delegation members and POTI staff members in front of the POTI offices. The EIFORCES Commanding Officer, Dr. Cécile Thom Oyono, is in the front row, fourth from the right, next to Dr. Langholtz.

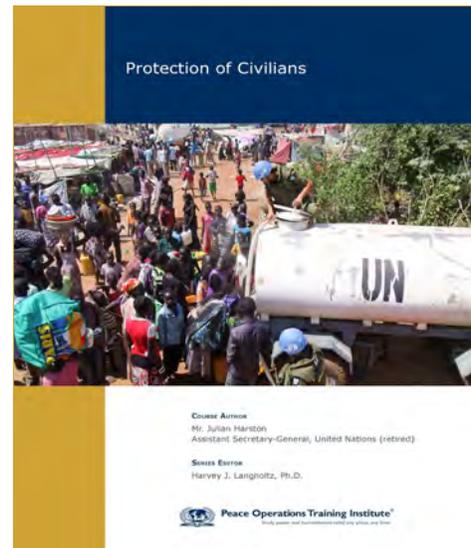


POTI taps new author for 2016 edition of *Protection of Civilians*

The Peace Operations Training Institute released an updated edition of the *Protection of Civilians* course on 25 July 2016.

Written by Mr. Julian Harston, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations (retired), the 2016 edition provides an updated look at the history of the protection of civilians and recent developments in the field.

The protection of civilians is now a recurring element of peacekeeping mandates. The 2016 edition of the course provides historical perspective on this important aspect of peacekeeping, its troubles in Bosnia and Rwanda, case studies from the Central African Republic and South Sudan, and the 2015 UN Policy on the Protection of Civilians in United Nations Peacekeeping.



POTI Registrar and Chief of Institutional Relations attends the seventh annual ALCOPAZ General Assembly meeting in Paraguay

The seventh General Assembly of the Latin American Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (ALCOPAZ) was held in Asunción, Paraguay from 18-22 July 2016. Ms. Vanessa Anderson, POTI Registrar and Chief of Institutional Relations, attended on behalf of the Institute.

At the 2016 session, the agenda included discussions on the status of members and observer members. Mexico became a full member of ALCOPAZ and the Uruguayan Veterans Association for Peacekeeping Operations (AVOPU) became an observer member. The Igarapé Institute in Brazil and the Austrian Armed Forces International Centre will be invited to next year's session.

During the session, Ms. Anderson met with directors and officials from ten of the 11 ALCOPAZ centres that use the POTI curriculum through the National Training Centre E-Learning Platform (NTCELP).

ALCOPAZ will be represented during the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) conference in September in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina by showcasing a magazine with lessons learned from each member centre. The focus of the brief at IAPTC about ALCOPAZ will concentrate on the training of peacekeepers for the political mission in Colombia.

The session provided an opportunity for invitees and members who did not attend the preassembly meeting in March to discuss current activities. Departamento de Operaciones de Paz del Ejército de Bolivia and Unidad Escuela Misiones de Paz Ecuador made presentations to the General Assembly, AVOPU and the International Committee of the Red Cross discussed their organizations and what they have to offer ALCOPAZ, and Dr. Nathan Meehan from the US Naval Research Laboratory

discussed his course “Identifying Threats in Peacekeeping Environments”, which has been conducted at La Escuela Nacional de Operaciones de Paz de Uruguay with coordination from the Global Peace Operations Initiative. Additionally, the German delegation discussed the conflict in Mali and their experience with MINUSMA, and the French delegation discussed the training they provide at national peacekeeping training centres in Africa.

During this session, it also was confirmed that Peru will receive the presidency from Paraguay for the 2017-2019 secretariat.



LTC Pedro Hernández Bernal (right) presented POTI Registrar and Chief of Institutional Relations Vanessa Anderson with an award from the Mexican Army and Air Force, conveying gratitude to the Institute for supporting Mexico's delegation during this year's ALCOPAZ meeting.

Feature Focus: Student Spotlight

The Student Spotlight can be found through the “Community” tab on the POTI homepage. It was developed as a way for us to better know our students and for our students to get to know each other. All students are encouraged to submit a short autobiography to the Student Spotlight. POTI does not verify the content provided, and edits submissions for clarity and grammar.

Student Spotlight: Lieutenant Commander Muhammad Rashedul Karim



LTC Commander Karim

Lieutenant Commander Muhammad Rashedul Karim was born in the Noakhali District in Bangladesh in 1983 and joined the Bangladesh Navy as an officer cadet in January 2001. He was commissioned in the Executive Branch after two years of training at the Bangladesh Naval Academy. Karim completed basic courses at the BNS Issa Khan naval base, and later completed a specialization in Long Navigation and Direction through the Pakistan Naval Academy. He also completed an Electronics Warfare Course, Officer Warfare Course, and Principle Warfare Officer’s Course at the School of Maritime Tactics and Warfare. In 2012, he completed an International Maritime and Humanitarian Course

through the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence.

Karim has been appointed to various posts on naval ships, in Naval Headquarters, and at the Naval Academy in Chittagong, Bangladesh. He is currently serving with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.

Karim has earned 46 Achievement Badges during his course work at POTI. He has earned four gold Achievement Badges by completing more than 20 courses and obtaining perfect scores on two End-of Course Examinations.

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How to get the app for Android phones and tablets:

Visit <www.peaceopstraining.org/app/android/>.

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Once on the POTI app page in the Google Play online store, click on the Install box: 

How to get the app for iOS (Apple) phones and tablets:

Visit <www.peaceopstraining.org/app/ios/>.

Click on the AppStore logo: 

When you arrive on the POTI app page in the AppStore, click on the download cloud: 



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Dr. Langholtz

From the desk of the Executive Director, Dr. Harvey Langholtz

There are many institutions in the peacekeeping training community that play key roles in providing training for UN and AU peacekeepers, and it is my honour as the Executive Director of POTI to partner with and support them. Such partnerships include our work with UN Women to provide a three-course e-learning suite on Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security. The United Nations Mine Action Service has made our course on Mine Action and Explosive Hazard Management mandatory for all of their field personnel. We also offer a course for peacekeepers on Ebola Virus Disease produced in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO). Forty national peacekeeping training centres and other institutions worldwide blend POTI e-learning into their classroom curricula. I have had the pleasure of visiting many of them personally and seeing the excellent work they do, and I am also pleased when they come to visit our POTI offices and share their thoughts directly. In September, I will attend the 22nd annual meeting of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (LAPTC), hosted this year in Sarajevo by the Peace Support Operations Training Centre of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where I will meet with dedicated and skilled professionals from around the world who train the tens of thousands of men and women deployed on peacekeeping missions each year. These offices and institutions of the UN Secretariat, national training centres, and peacekeeping missions are all dedicated to providing training for UN and AU peacekeepers, and we at POTI are proud to be members of this peacekeeping training community.