My warm greetings to our thousands of active students – those now serving on peacekeeping missions and those preparing to do so; it is our honour here at the Peace Operations Training Institute to support you in what you do. All of us here at POTI are always glad to hear from you, by email, phone, or through Facebook and Twitter. We respect you for the important and challenging tasks you undertake and we appreciate what you do in the service of peace.

I am pleased to report that there are several new enhancements to the training programmes we offer. First, we recently added a new feature on our website, Career Resources, which provides information to students seeking career opportunities with the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations. Continued on page 4.

New Courses Added to the Curriculum

The newest addition to POTI’s curriculum was released 22 July 2011, Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) in Africa. This course introduces students to the main principles of the resolution and provides methods for implementation at the national level. An analogous course, Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) in Latin America and the Caribbean, was released in April. Continued on page 4.

70% of E-Learning for African Peacekeepers (ELAP) Students are Currently Serving as UN Mission Personnel

A portion of the recent findings from a six month monitoring and evaluation project that focused on ELAP students are seen at the left. To read more about the findings turn to page 3.

From the Executive Director:
Recent Enhancements to Your E-Learning Experience

These features have been developed to give each student the opportunity to introduce themselves, share 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, submit a post to Commentaries or Student Spotlight today!
UN Peacekeeping Update:
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
- UNIFSA, 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

We at the Peace Operations Training Institute (POTI) applaud all our students for their interest in increasing their proficiency and professionalism. We also acknowledge and applaud the great effort by the Mission Training Focal Points to publicize the POTI curriculum, thereby building the capacity of mission personnel to perform their tasks with greater knowledge and understanding. Each United Nations Peacekeeping mission is represented amongst the student body at POTI. — congratulations on your hard work and academic achievements.

Within United Nations Peacekeeping missions, POTI offers several different programmes that assist mission personnel to study. Two programmes are funded from mission budgets and two others are funded by sponsor nations. All enrollees who are eligible to apply under these programmes study at no personal cost. Mission personnel who are not funded for free programmes may study at greatly reduced tuition.

The Integrated Distance Learning Programme (IDLP) is funded from Mission budgets. The Mission purchases a licence that covers a specific category of the staff (e.g. all national staff) who can then study courses free of charge. In the past year, MINURSO and MINURCAT participated in IDLP. Option 1 is a variation of IDLP that is also funded from Mission budgets. In this case the Mission purchases a package of course enrolments that can be used by all categories of personnel with approval by the Mission Training Officer/Integrated Mission Training Centre. In 2010—2011, MINUSTAH employed a comprehensive approach that covered all mission personnel and consequently was the major user with 3,538 course enrolments. Other Missions participating in Option 1 were: UNAMA, UNAMI, UNAMID, UNMIS, and UNOCI. There were over 15,000 IDLP and Option 1 enrolments during the last licence year. We look forward to continued support for these programmes in 2011—2012.

In addition to the two Programmes funded by Mission budgets, uniformed peacekeepers, may avail themselves of free courses through sponsored regional programmes. Australia, Canada, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), Hungary, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom sponsor E-Learning for African Peacekeepers (ELAP) and E-Learning for Latin American and Caribbean Peacekeepers (ELPLAC). These programmes are designed to offer capacity-building opportunities to all military personnel, police and gendarmerie from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Other personnel serving in UN Missions, including contractors and temporary workers who are not covered by any of the funded Programmes, may undertake their studies at specially discounted prices. During 2010 close to 1,200 courses were enrolled in by self-paying mission personnel.

Regardless of your study programme, be it IDLP, Option 1, ELAP, ELPLAC or Mission Discount, you are to be congratulated on your achievements. We encourage you to finish up that course you began a while ago and suggest you enrol in a new course soon. Well done.
POTI Receives Excellent Feedback from ELAP Research

POTI conducted a comprehensive six month research project on the ELAP (E-Learning for African Peacekeepers) programme by running focus groups, conducting interviews, and administering surveys. The individuals queried were current peacekeepers, supervisors of peacekeepers, people involved in the delivery of peacekeeping training at national peacekeeping training centres, and Training Focal Points/Chief Civilian Personal Officers (TFPs/CCPOs) at United Nations peacekeeping missions. The key findings from this research on ELAP are as follows:

- 70.8% of ELAP students are currently serving on a peacekeeping mission, 12% have previously served on a mission and 27.7% hope to serve on a mission in the future.
- For thousands of African peacekeepers ELAP provides the principal training on peacekeeping that is received before being deployed on a PSO. 44.6% of the ELAP graduates* indicated that they had never attended a classroom training course at a national peacekeeping training centre.
- 97% of ELAP students, 89% of the peacekeeping training providers at the national peacekeeping training centres and 73.9% of the TFPs/CCPOs say that POTI’s courses offer peacekeepers practical knowledge to better perform their jobs.

To read the full report of this research project, please visit our website at: http://www.peaceopstraining.org/poti/research_project

*Graduates who have served on a peacekeeping mission within six months of completing their courses with POTI

Do You Qualify for Tuition Discounts?

If you are a member of one of the following groups you qualify for discounted tuition:

- Military personnel, police, and civilians serving on UN peacekeeping missions
- All NGO volunteers and employees
- Academic faculty staff and students

For further information, personnel serving on missions should visit www.peaceopstraining.org/get_training/unmissions

Non-mission UN volunteers and staff and NGO volunteers and staff should visit www.peaceopstraining.org/get_training/ngo

Academic faculty staff and students should visit www.peaceopstraining.org/get_training/edu

ELAP student Abubakar S. Aliyu (centre) during a patrol brief.
We caution students that our training does not ensure employment but we do all we can to assist individuals with resources and links so they will know where and how they may apply. For more information on this go to http://www.peaceopstraining.org/employment_resources/. Second, an improved student-support system has been put into action. We are contacting students via email at appropriate points during their training courses to steer them towards successful completion and offer assistance as may be needed. Active students will receive this new correspondence immediately. Third, we have added a Facebook Page to complement our Facebook Group and we welcome the high level of activity of our Facebook Group — with over 3,000 active members, there are always new posts going up. I do my best to read them all. I especially appreciate the photos and videos that are posted from the field. To view or join our Facebook Group log into your facebook account and go to http://www.facebook.com/groups/28219921533 or just go to Facebook and search our name, Peace Operations Training Institute. Students are able to “like” our Facebook Page directly from their classroom. To see the photos and videos click on view photos. Lastly, we have also joined Twitter. You will find us there by searching for “peaceoperations”. Currently we are following 16 organizations, and if you are on Twitter I encourage you to follow us.

The course Principles and Guidelines for UN Peacekeeping Operations (PAG) continues to be our most demanded course, with over 1,000 individual students enrolling each month. The course was written by General Robert Gordon in consultation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and is based on the Capstone Doctrine. This course is available tuition-free to students worldwide. You may enroll in PAG through our website. For a complete list of all the courses we offer – 22 in English, 19 in French, 18 in Spanish, three in Portuguese, and two in Arabic — visit our website at www.peaceopstraining.org.

Pax Tecum, Harvey J Langholtz, Ph.D.