



Peace Operations Training Institute®

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From the Executive Director

POTI Welcomes Alexandra Novosseloff to Our Board of Directors



Dr. Novosseloff

We extend a warm welcome to the newest member of the POTI Board of Directors, Alexandra Novosseloff, of France. Dr. Novosseloff currently serves as a Senior Policy Adviser on UN issues at the French Ministry of Defense. She has written approximately 40 articles on the United Nations, the Security Council, and peacekeeping and cooperation with regional organizations. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Paris II – Panthéon-Assas, France; an M.A. in Diplomacy from the University of Lancaster, UK; an M.Phil. ("D.E.A.") in History of International Relations; and an M.A. ("Maîtrise") in Political Science with a minor International Relations from the University of Paris I – Panthéon-Sorbonne, France. We look forward to working with Dr. Novosseloff. Her experience and education in the fields of peacekeeping and the United Nations are welcome additions to the POTI Board.



General (Ret) Tim Ford (above left). Chair of the POTI Board of Directors, and Ambassador Thomas Pickering (above right), board member, pause for a photograph after the 15 April 2013 board of directors meeting. The meeting was held in Ambassador Pickering's offices in Washington D. C. with five board members present and other members attending via Skype.



Student Feedback about [Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution](#):

"In fact the course is very interesting, therefore I encourage those that have not yet finished to hurry up and complete this course. Time waits for no one, this is a great opportunity, especially for military personnel. I wish you the best of luck."

–Samson J., Nigeria



This photo was posted on the POTI Facebook group page by Halim Khan. with the following:

"Man-made pyramid in ONUCI by Egyptian engineers"

Be sure to "like" [POTI](#) on Facebook. We'll keep you informed about peacekeeping news.



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

**Transfer Credit
can be earned
for courses
completed at
POTI**

**“Your studies at
POTI can be
counted as transfer
credit.”
American Public
University
System (APUS)
and American
Military
University (AMU)
reaffirm pledge to
POTI Students.**

AMU, in cooperation with POTI, has evaluated the curriculum and will award POTI graduates credit hours to be applied toward an associate of arts in general studies or any bachelor's degree program. Students who have successfully completed courses at POTI will be awarded up to **22 hours of transfer credit.**

**For details on
receiving transfer
credit visit the
APUS [Transfer
Credit Evaluation
Center.](#)**



Screen shot of Dr. Langholtz (left) and Col. Manton (right) during the Protection of Civilians webinar.

Protection of Civilians Webinar with Colonel (Ret) Rob Manton

On 20 March 2013 POTI's Executive Director, Dr. Harvey Langholtz, hosted a live webinar with Colonel (Ret) Robert Manton. Col. Manton is the author of our newest course, *Protection of Civilians*, and served as the Military Adviser at the Mission of Australia to the United Nations from 2007 through 2011. Col. Manton answered many questions during the webinar, including “why does it take the UN so long to intervene in some areas?” and “how do you protect civilians who are fighting amongst each other?”

Col. Manton's webinar has been added to the POTI archive. It can be viewed, along with the following titles in the series, via the POTI [webinar page](#):

Principles and Guidelines for UN Peacekeeping Operations, General Robert Gordon

Commanding UN Peacekeeping Operations, Major General Tim Ford

Preventing Violence Against Women and Gender Inequality in Peacekeeping,

Dr. AnnJanette Rosga

Operational Logistical Support of UN Peacekeeping and Advanced Topics in UN Logistics: The Provision of Troops and Contingent-Owned Equipment (COE) and the Method for Reimbursement, Major Don Leslie

United Nations Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CIMIC), Colonel Christopher Holshek

Presentation at MPAC Meeting



Major General (Ret) Tim Ford, POTI course author and Chair of the POTI Board of Directors, addressed the Military and Police Community (MPAC) meeting held at the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations on 18 April 2013. Following his remarks on the need for more training for peacekeepers and the effectiveness of online training, Gen. Ford answered questions about his course, [Commanding UN Peacekeeping Operations](#).

United Nations Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CIMIC)

By Colonel (Ret) Christopher Holshek, POTI course author

UN-CIMIC is the international military framework for civil-military coordination for the full spectrum of peace and security activities – which includes conflict prevention, peacemaking, peace enforcement, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding. Based primarily on the Capstone Doctrine and UN-CIMIC Policy, UN-CIMIC is the coordination between the military component of the peacekeeping mission and external (international) and internal (indigenous) civilian actors.

UN-CIMIC is a military staff function that facilitates the interface between the military and police and civilian components of a UN mission, as well as between the military force and all other civilians in the mission area, including humanitarian and development actors, local authorities, donor agencies, non-governmental organizations, the host national government, and civil-society organizations. It should therefore be understood within the context of the role of the military component in the overall mission mandate and mission coordination. Understanding what UN-CIMIC is *not* is as important as understanding what it is. UN-CIMIC is qualitatively different from NATO, European Union, or U.S. doctrines. These approaches mainly see it as a command and control function – to assist and serve the military commander in the execution of military tasks for the achievement of military objectives. Because UN peace operations have an integrated military, civilian, and police mandate and mission structure, the focus is on how best to manage the coordination of an established UN system for more comprehensive objectives.

Additionally, unlike many civil-military concepts, UN-CIMIC stresses the primacy of civilian authority – working by, with, and through the civilian leadership. Rested on international legal frameworks, peacekeeping principles, and international criteria on the use of force, UN-CIMIC is complementary to humanitarian assistance and development – even in less than permissive environments.

Perhaps most importantly, UN-CIMIC is not “public relations.” This is a common misperception of civil-military coordination per se. Because UN-CIMIC is a mission coordination tool for transition management, “winning hearts and minds” is discouraged. A public relations approach is often counterproductive because it is short term and limited in effect – it is more tactical than strategic. In addition to the dangers and risks it presents especially to humanitarian partners, it reinforces rather than reduces local dependency on the force for services for which the military is inappropriate and cannot sustain, and it could lead the force inadvertently to taking sides in the conflict, thus compromising the peacekeeping principle of impartiality.

Although not a civil-military operations doctrine, UN-CIMIC is nevertheless an international framework operationalized mainly through education and training. Broad-based enough to reach out to the widest range of civilian actors, it nonetheless allows for incorporation of national civil-military approaches – as long as they comply with the UN-CIMIC Policy as well as of course the mandate of the mission.



On 15 April 2013 the Charity & Security Network and Alliance for Peacebuilding hosted a Congressional briefing, "Effective Counterterrorism for a New Era." The briefing brought together a panel of experts, in counterterrorism, civil society and military which included Colonel (Ret) Christopher Holshek, to discuss strategies for reforming U.S. counterterrorism measures to be more cost-effective and efficient.

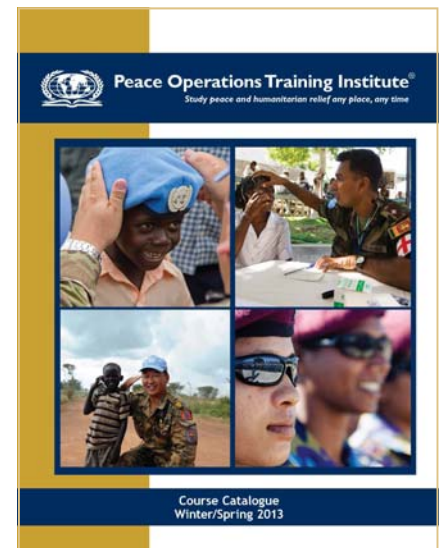
Student Feature Focus: In-Classroom Forums:

A new direct *forum with the author* opportunity is now included with each enrolment in the [UN-CIMIC](#) course. Colonel (Ret) Chris Holshek, *UN-CIMIC* co-author is leading this online discussion. A forum with Col. Holshek appears on each student's course page. Students can ask questions and receive answers directly from the author. This forum also provides direct student-to-student contact. If you are enrolled in UN-CIMIC we encourage you to take advantage of this feature and talk directly to Col. Holshek. He is passionate about UN-CIMIC and looks forward to communicating with you.

CECOPAC, Chile; IPSTC, Kenya; and SADC RPTC, Zimbabwe Are New National Training Centre Partners

The Chilean Joint Peacekeeping Operations Centre (CECOPAC) (Santiago, Chile), the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) (Nairobi, Kenya), and South African Development Community Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (Harare, Zimbabwe) have each signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with POTI. Under the terms of the MOUs, POTI's online courses will be available for study by all incoming trainees at CECOPAC, IPSTC, and SADC RPTC. The study of POTI courses prior to attending instruction at each centre will position trainees for greater understanding and success in their classroom studies. Students who complete their POTI studies through the special CECOPAC, IPSTC, and SADC RPTC programmes will earn custom certificates, which will include the emblems of the appropriate training centre and POTI, and the signatures of officials from each organization.

The [2013 Winter/Spring Course Catalogue](#) is available and ready for your use. Look inside and find programme information, course descriptions, author biographies, and more useful knowledge about your online training institute.



Course Review:

[United Nations Civil-Military Coordination \(UN-CIMIC\)](#)

"Excellent, well made course giving you straight forward, yet comprehensive insight into the Civil-Military co-ordination relationship and guidelines applied." ★★★★★

–Submitted by: Nicolina Krechnek, Sweden

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Greetings. It is always my pleasure to communicate with our POTI students worldwide – men and women, military personnel, police, and civilians dedicated to peace and serving in some of the world's most troubled regions. We here at POTI work each day to provide you with high-quality, up-to-date, and easily accessible e-learning on peacekeeping.



Dr. Langholtz

The training we offer on peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, conflict resolution, and related topics has always been available worldwide directly to individual students. We never refuse any student and that will never change. However, in response to recent requests from national peacekeeping training centres for a structured programme they can use to supplement the classroom training and exercises they provide, POTI has now made available the National Training Centre E-Learning Platform (NTCELP). With NTCELP, national training centres (and other organizations) immediately have their own in-house e-learning platform. The national training centre establishes a link on its website offering students easy access to the online training. Students view a video of the Commandant of the national peacekeeping training centre encouraging them to take advantage of this e-learning opportunity. Students have access to POTI's full curriculum of 3 self-paced courses in Arabic, 25 in English, 19 in French, 4 in Portuguese, and 19 in Spanish. After they study each lesson and take each End-of-Lesson Quiz, they take their End-of-Course Exam. Students who pass the exam are awarded a jointly issued Certificate of Completion that bears the emblems of both POTI and the hosting national peacekeeping training centre, as well as my signature and the signature of the Commandant of the training centre.

National training centres benefit in several ways by establishing this e-learning portal and making this self-paced online training available to their students. Some require their students to complete the POTI online course and pass the exam before they commence classroom training, ensuring that all students arrive with a solid foundation. Others integrate POTI self-paced courses within their own classroom training, freeing instructor time, and permitting students to study subjects not available from in-house staff. Others encourage post-classroom use of POTI courses. Two nations require all their personnel to complete POTI courses before they can be deployed on missions. And during these times of economic austerity, many recognize that this e-learning is an excellent way to reduce training costs without compromising training.

Here at POTI we are always looking for new approaches – technological, pedagogical, and institutional – to better serve the peacekeeping community, and the NTCELP is our most recent addition. Please contact me or one of our POTI staff if there is anything more we can do for you.