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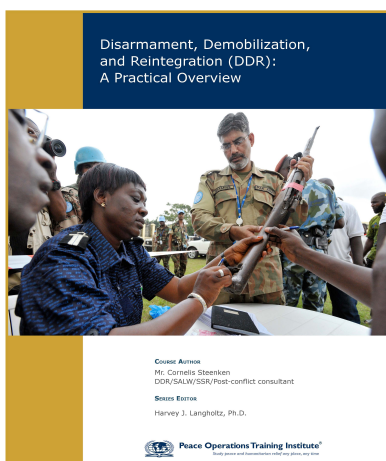
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POTI releases new course on Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration

The Peace Operations Training Institute released its newest course, *Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR): A Practical Overview*, on 13 July 2017.

The transition from civil war to sustainable peace is a difficult one. Successful DDR of ex-combatants is essential for this transition. While the objectives of DDR are broad, it must be planned and executed carefully to enhance security, support development, reduce government expenditures, and remove impediments to democracy. Practitioners should view DDR as a holistic process, not discreet steps. The success of any programme to support DDR is closely linked to the political, economic, and security situation of the country where it occurs.

The 2017 edition of the course, written by Mr. Cornelis Steenken, features the latest recommendations and strategies for DDR practitioners in the field and recent United Nations doctrine, including the 2014 UN Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS). This version also examines recent DDR processes and programmes, such as the one in Colombia managed by the Agencia Colombiana para la Reintegración.



Introducing Mr. Cornelis Steenken, DDR expert and the Institute's newest course author

The Institute is pleased to introduce Mr. Cornelis Steenken, the new author of *Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR): A Practical Overview*. Steenken joined the Canadian Navy in 1975 and graduated from the Royal Military College in 1980. In 1991, he worked as a United Nations peacekeeper in El Salvador and was seconded to the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre (PPC) in 1995. While at PPC, Steenken co-created its DDR course, which included all components of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), demobilization planning, reinsertion, and social and economic reintegration. Working closely with the UN, he advised numerous national DDR programmes. After retiring from the Navy in 2002, he continued as Director of DDR Programmes at the PPC, further developing and strengthening all aspects of DDR.



Mr. Steenken

Steenken was selected to be the Senior Adviser on DDR at the Swedish Defence University from 2004 to 2008, where his duties included DDR-related advice to the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and DDR training on their international and national courses. He participated in Swedish parliamentary forums that helped create the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) SALW rules and was a key player in the development of the UN Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS).

In April 2008, Steenken was selected as the first Coordinator of the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on DDR, where he helped coordinate 21 UN Agencies working with the IDDRS and DDR at both the policy and field levels.

Steenken left the UN in 2012 and is now a private consultant and author. He has conducted DDR assessments, reviews, and workshops in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Somalia. He continues to teach numerous DDR and post-conflict courses around the world.



Photo 1: General Juan José Casaccia Furiase, Commander of the Paraguayan Army, welcomed ALCOPAZ participants to Paraguay. Photo 2: ALCOPAZ participants waited for the opening ceremony to begin in the Arandu auditorium at the Joint Training Centre for Peace Operations (CECOPAZ-Paraguay). Photo 3: Ms. Anderson delivered a presentation on NTCELP. Photo 4: All directors (members), observer members, and guests attending ALCOPAZ took a group photo inside the conference room at CECOPAZ-Paraguay where ALCOPAZ was held. Photo 5: Observer members and guests listened intently to a speaker at ALCOPAZ.

POTI Registrar represents the Institute at Latin American peacekeeping training centre conference

Discussion topics included lessons learned from UN missions in Haiti and the Central African Republic

The ninth annual conference of the Latin American Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (ALCOPAZ) took place in Asunción, Paraguay from 31 July to 4 August 2017. Ms. Vanessa Anderson, POTI Registrar and Chief of Institutional Relations, attended the event and presented on the Institute's National Training Centre E-Learning Platform (NTCELP). Nearly all ALCOPAZ members subscribe to NTCELP.

The agenda focused on lessons learned in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and looking ahead to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). Attendees also discussed military, police, and civilian perspectives on how to implement training called for by the Integrated Training Service (ITS) at military institutions and the role of ALCOPAZ at the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC).

Also during this session, Peru received the presidency of the secretariat from Paraguay for 2018-2020.

Many ALCOPAZ members are troop-contributing countries, and most of their peacekeeping experience is in MINUSTAH. Since MINUSTAH will soon end, many countries are looking ahead and preparing future contingents for missions in Africa. France, an observer member of ALCOPAZ, and the members of the military committee of ALCOPAZ led these discussions.

ITS has called for a more comprehensive approach towards training on the protection of civilians (POC). This comprehensive approach includes all components of a peacekeeping mission — military, police, and civilian. The Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Centre (CCOPAB) led this discussion.

At the IAPTC conference in September in Cairo, Egypt, ALCOPAZ will showcase a magazine with lessons learned from various countries that participated in MINUSTAH. The guest, Colonel Roberto Gil, who currently serves on the executive board of IAPTC, will lead this discussion.

Students complete 122 POST Certificates from January to June

The Institute recognizes each student who received one of the 122 Peace Operations Specialized Training (POST) Certificates completed during the first half of this year. The POST Certificate training programme allows students to specialize in one or more professional areas, which increases peacekeeping capacity and acknowledges their dedication and comprehension of the topic.

The programme offers six areas of specialty. For each of the six areas, students must complete eight courses by passing each End-of-Course Examination with a minimum score of 75 per cent. This includes three common core courses for all specialties, two electives, and three courses specific to the focus of study. Additionally, to earn the POST Certificate, students must pass a Comprehensive Examination. Each Comprehensive Examination has 80 multiple choice questions that equally cover the eight courses completed. After a student passes all eight courses and the Comprehensive Examination, they receive the POST Certificate along with a transcript listing all completed courses and an official congratulatory letter.

You can learn more about earning a POST Certificate by visiting <http://www.peaceopstraining.org/specialized-training-certificates/>.

	Military Studies	Police Studies	Civilian Service	Gender Awareness	Logistical Support	Human Rights
3-Course Common Core	Principles and Guidelines for UN Peacekeeping Operations					
	An Introduction to the UN System: Orientation for Serving on a UN Field Mission					
	Core Pre-deployment Training Materials					
Select 2 Electives	Commanding UN Peacekeeping Operations					
	Ethics in Peacekeeping					
	Gender Perspectives in UN Peacekeeping Operations					
	Protection of Civilians					
Select 3 from Area of Specialization	International Humanitarian Law	International Humanitarian Law	Conduct of Humanitarian Relief Operations	Any Women, Peace, and Security course	Logistical Support to UN Peace Ops	Human Rights
	Mine Action	United Nations Police	Mine Action	Preventing Violence Against Women	Operational Logistical Support	Human Rights and Peacekeeping
	Civil-Military Coordination in Peace Operations	Civil-Military Coordination in Peace Operations	Civil-Military Coordination in Peace Operations	Civil-Military Coordination in Peace Operations	Advanced Topics in UN Logistics (COE)	Civil-Military Coordination in Peace Operations
	DDR	DDR	DDR			DDR
	UN Military Observer (UNMO)					

POST Certificate table



Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and Caribbean students most active at POTI

Peacekeepers from Latin America and the Caribbean have been the most active students at POTI in 2017. Course enrolments from this region exceeded 25,000 during the first half of the year. Canada has provided funding to support the translation of the Institute's courses into Spanish. The Spanish translation of the current edition of *Introduction to the UN System: Orientation for Serving on a UN Field Mission*, which is the most popular course in the Institute's curriculum, was released on 30 June. The Institute plans to release three additional Spanish editions of courses by the end of 2017.

Young African Leadership (YALI) Fellow visits the Institute

Mr. Christian Lambang visited the Institute's offices in Williamsburg, Virginia on 17 July. Lambang is a POTI student from Cameroon and was in the US as one of the recipients of the US Department of State's Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders (YALI). While in Williamsburg, he met with Ms. Ramona Taheri, Chief of Content; Ms. Vanessa Anderson, Registrar and Chief of Institutional Relations; and Dr. Harvey Langholtz, Executive Director.

In Cameroon, Mr. Lambang serves as the Secretary-General of the Movement for Democracy, Development, and Transparency (MDDT) and is a consultant to the Pan African Institute for Development West Africa where he lectures on human rights and peace operations. As part of his YALI fellowship, Mr. Lambang was interested in mobilizing effective partnerships geared toward curriculum development in peace operations and seeking effective strategies for human rights protection.

Mr. Lambang first learned about POTI e-learning while in graduate school during an internship at Cameroon's National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms. Mr. Lambang said the Institute's programmes increased the depth of



(L to R): Ms. Taheri, Mr. Lambang, Ms. Anderson, and Dr. Langholtz.

his knowledge on peace studies and human rights and shaped his professional and academic development.

"I enjoyed the warmth that was exuded by a team that works extremely hard to make peace possible across the world," Mr. Lambang said of his visit.

To learn more about this African leadership initiative, visit the YALI website at <https://yali.state.gov/>.

E-Learning for peacekeepers expanding to Asia Pacific region



The Institute is pleased to announce the forthcoming E-Learning for Peacekeepers from Asia Pacific (ELPAP) programme. This new training initiative is sponsored by the Australian Defence Force and provides free e-learning for national peacekeeping centre students and staff from the following countries: Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia,

Malaysia, Micronesia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam. Military personnel or police from these countries will be able to study POTI e-learning courses free of charge.



Dr. Langholtz

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

It is always my pleasure as the Executive Director of the Peace Operations Training Institute to see the progress we are making and the successful initiatives in which we are engaged with UN peacekeeping missions, national peacekeeping training centres, recognized experts serving as

POTI course authors, and you, the dedicated peacekeeper serving on a mission.

In this newsletter, we discuss the release of the new and updated course *Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR): A Practical Overview*, by Mr. Cornelis Steenken of Canada. Steenken initiated the Integrated DDR Training Group (IDDRTG) and contributed to the creation of the United Nations Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS). He teaches DDR classroom courses around the world, and his course is now available to all through POTI e-learning.

Last month, POTI's Registrar and Chief of Institutional Relations attended the annual meeting of the Latin American Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (ALCOPAZ) in Asunción, Paraguay and discussed the e-learning we provide for ALCOPAZ members through funding from Global Affairs Canada.

It is also my pleasure to recognize Australia's decision to partner with the Institute to provide E-Learning for Peacekeepers in the Asia Pacific — a programme to benefit Australia's regional neighbours. I also thank the United Kingdom for the financial and political support and advocacy they provide for e-learning on peacekeeping.

I am grateful for the sheer number of enrolments POTI provides — more than 90,000 so far during 2017 representing 165 nations. That is an average of over 400 every day.

There is nothing more satisfying than shaking hands with an individual career peacekeeper who has risen to the top of this profession of service and has taken POTI courses along the way. This was my particular pleasure when I met the Military Adviser at the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations, Colonel Walaa Bibers, who proudly displayed his 22 POTI Certificates of Completion in his office. I congratulate and thank each one of the dedicated peacekeepers we have the honour of serving.



Dr. Langholtz (left) and Colonel Bibers in the offices of the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations in New York.

“Meeting Colonel Walaa Bibers, the Military Adviser at the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the UN, was one of the highlights of my recent trip to UNHQ. Before our discussion about the future of e-learning in peacekeeping began, he proudly showed me his wall of POTI Certificates. He has completed 22 courses. It was a pleasure to meet Colonel Bibers and discuss peacekeeping training.”

-Dr. Harvey Langholtz