



Peace Operations Training Institute

Study peace and humanitarian relief any place, any time

Newsletter August 2020

Our thanks to the member nations of the Partnership for E-Learning on Peace Operations (PELP) for providing the support that makes e-learning on peace operations possible:



Australia



Canada



Denmark



Netherlands



United Kingdom

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.

New and upcoming courses

Despite the turbulence in the world of peace operations over the past several months, the Institute has been hard at work to produce several new courses, updates, and translations.

The Institute plans to release a new course, *UN Military Specialised Training Materials on Child Protection*, in the third quarter of 2020. As the title suggests, these course materials have been sourced directly from the Integrated Training Service [Resource Hub](#) with the express permission from the United Nations Department of Peace Operations. The Institute developed a course based on these training materials to enable students in the field of peace operations to study this essential material, which covers dealing with child soldiers and the many actors responsible for child protection during a mission, outside of the traditional classroom environment.


POTI is also expanding its *History of Peacekeeping* suite to include a fourth instalment: *History of Peacekeeping, 2000-2020*. The author, Paul Williams, Ph.D., of the Elliott School at The George Washington University, provides a fascinating history of peacekeeping operations over the last two decades that includes an engaging description of the ways in which UN peace operations have adapted to meet the challenges of the new millennium.

The Institute is also updating several courses. These newly updated editions will include *International Humanitarian Law and the Law of Armed Conflict* by Antoine Bouvier and *Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution* by Professor Tom Woodhouse of Bradford University, UK. Both of these course updates promise to integrate the newest developments in doctrine governing each subject area to provide POTI students with the most current information.

Lastly, the Institute has released two new translations of *Ethics in Peace Operations*, a course developed by the Centre for Military Ethics at King's College London. POTI is excited to offer this common core course to our Spanish- and French-speaking students.


As always, the Institute welcomes feedback on newly offered courses from our students.

International Humanitarian Law and the Law of Armed Conflict




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 **Peace Operations Training Institute®**
Building peace and humanitarian relief any place, any time


L'éthique dans les opérations de paix



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Harvey J. Langholtz, Ph.D.

 **Institut de formation aux opérations de paix**
Éthique des opérations humanitaires d'aide humanitaire, maintien de la paix, opérations de secours



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ALCOPAZ annual meeting

Ms. Vanessa Anderson, Registrar and Chief of Institutional Relations at POTI, attended the preassembly meeting in advance of the twelfth annual conference of the Latin American Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (ALCOPAZ) from 8–11 June 2020. Due to the pandemic and travel restrictions, this meeting took place over Zoom as a video teleconference (VTC).

Members, Observers, and invitees had the opportunity to talk about their institutional activities, the impacts of the global pandemic on their training, and their contributions to the broader goals of ALCOPAZ. Attendees also offered their experiences from serving on missions. POTI presented on the National Training Centre E-Learning Platform (NTCELP) and was pleased to learn that most centres elected to use POTI e-learning to supplement their courses, especially when centres have cancelled and suspended in-classroom training.

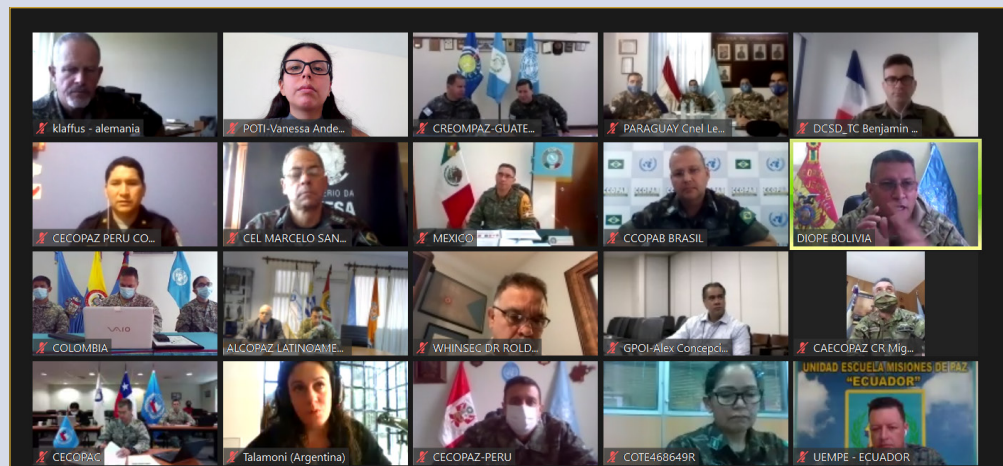
The following Members, represented by directors of national peacekeeping training centres, attended the meeting: Argentina; Bolivia; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Ecuador; Guatemala; Mexico; Paraguay; Peru; and Uruguay.

POTI had the pleasure of attending the conference in an Observer capacity, along with la Asociación de Veteranos de Operaciones de Paz del Uruguay; the Directorate of Cooperation of Security and Defence of France; the German Armed Forces United Nations Training Centre; and various other institutions working on global peace and security.

Also present were other institutions that provide training on peacekeeping, including the Igarapé Institute; the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative; the University Centre of Curitiba; the United Nations Institute for Training and Research; and el Centro de Entrenamiento de Operaciones de Paz de El Salvador.



POTI Board Member Colonel (Retired) Roberto Gil de Vargas gives his presentation over Zoom during the ALCOPAZ meeting.



A screenshot of ALCOPAZ participants, including Ms. Anderson in the upper left-hand corner.

Stay up to date and engage with POTI on social media

Are you active on social media? You can find POTI on [Twitter](#) (@peaceops), [LinkedIn](#), and [Facebook](#). POTI also has a public [Facebook Group](#) for POTI students to ask questions, provide feedback, and get to know one another.

All of our social media accounts share the latest news from the Institute on its newest courses and developments in the world of peace operations. We welcome your feedback on courses and current events. Check out how you can use the Facebook group to find a study buddy in the study tips article on page three!

Use of Individual E-Learning for Peacekeepers from Select Regions (IELP) up 30 per cent during the first half of 2020

Due to the global pandemic, peacekeeping training centres have suspended or cancelled their on-site training. As a result, many have relied on POTI courses to partially, or in some cases completely, replace in-classroom learning. Consequently, the Eligibility Programmes offered by POTI have experienced a rise in enrollments, including the Individual E-Learning for Peacekeepers from Select Regions (IELP) programme.

During the first six months of 2020, more than 19,000 students enrolled in IELP, accounting for more than 25,000 course enrolments. This represents a 30 per cent increase in the number of students served by IELP and a 15 per cent increase in enrolments through the programme over the same period in 2019. We are pleased to be able to provide training at no cost to such a diverse group of students, comprised of military personnel, police, and civilians.

With the generous support of Global Affairs Canada's Peace and Stabilization Operations Programme, POTI provides free e-learning to all members of the military, police, and gendarmerie from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and select South Asian nations through IELP. Other students eligible for free e-learning through this programme include individuals who are not assigned to a class at a national peacekeeping training centre; nationals of countries without a national peacekeeping training centre; and civilian employees of the Ministries of Defence, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and other government agencies involved in peacekeeping in the aforementioned regions and countries.

Furthermore, students may be eligible for free e-learning through the National Training Centre E-Learning Platform (NTCELP) programme. Many national peacekeeping training centres around the world have partnered with POTI to provide a blended learning curriculum that combines their classroom courses with POTI e-learning courses. Students earn Certificates of Completion jointly issued by their national peacekeeping training centres and POTI.

Please visit the IELP page at <<https://www.peaceopstraining.org/programs/ielp/>> and the NTCELP page at <<https://www.peaceopstraining.org/programs/ntcelp/>> to learn more and begin your studies today.

Study tips: Managing e-learning

E-learning provides people with the flexibility to study when they want, where they want. However, keeping up the motivation and energy to finish can be difficult, and the courses that you were excited to start suddenly become a daunting task. In an article by [eLearning Industry](#), losing self-motivation is a struggle for many students who enrol in online courses. If you find you are not moving as quickly as you had hoped, read the following tips on how you can reignite your motivation to finish.

Set small goals. If you have a hectic schedule, giving yourself a minimum number of pages to read per day or per week might be a good strategy to consider. Even setting a goal of reading five pages per day may not seem like a lot, but it does add up. By the end of one week, you will have read 35 pages and by the end of four weeks, 140 pages — which is a whole course in some cases!

Schedule some study time. If you are a person who prefers consistency and structure, you may want to incorporate studying into your daily life by scheduling a specific time to study. Look at your schedule and ask yourself: Do you have a break in your day? How much time do you have or are willing to put into studying? This dedicated time for studying can be as long or as short as you need. If setting aside an hour every day seems like an impossible task, you might want to start with reading for 20 or 30 minutes per day.

Find a “study buddy”. One of the best parts of in-class learning is discussing the material with your classmates to gain a better, more in-depth understanding. Unfortunately, e-learning is sometimes associated with learning alone. However, you do not have to study alone! If you are taking a POTI course as part of your peacekeeping training, you can form a study group with your classmates. Applications like Google Docs, Microsoft Online, Zoho Docs, and OnlyOffice allow you and your virtual study group to share notes and ask each other questions. Additionally, POTI offers opportunities to connect with other POTI students around the globe through the Peace Operations Training Institute public Facebook group. You can also email the course author directly through your POTI account with questions about the content of the course or clarification on a course topic.

When you are implementing one or more of these tips, the most important thing to remember is that it does not matter how long it takes you to complete your POTI course but rather that you finish it in your own time and at your own pace.



United Nations Police (UNPOL) personnel reenact an arrest as part of the efforts of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) to reform, restructure, and rebuild the Timorese National Police (PNTL). 01 December 2007. UN Photo #192171 by Martine Perret.

POTI Board of Directors holds regular annual meeting

An international Board of Directors (BOD) governs POTI in accordance with a set of Bylaws and held its regular annual meeting on 4 August 2020 via videoconferencing. Virtually present were the Chair of the BOD, General (retired) Robert Gordon of the UK, Vice-Chair Mr. Kevin Kennedy of the US, BOD members USG (retired) Ameerah Haq of Bangladesh, General (retired) Jasbir Lidder of India, and Colonel (retired) Roberto Gil of Uruguay. Participating by phone was General (retired) Hester Paneras of South Africa. Not available but communicating by email was Ms. Julie Sanda of Nigeria. Ambassador (retired) Tom Pickering of the US participated as Adviser to the Executive Director. Also joining were POTI Executive Director Dr. Harvey Langholtz, Secretary Ms. Vanessa Anderson, Treasurer Ms. Susan Terrien, and Legal Counsel Mr. Skip Capone.

The BOD took note of the ongoing global demand for POTI e-learning. In 2019, POTI provided 121,460 enrolments to 41,712 individual students representing 196 nations. During the first six months of 2020, POTI met the demand for 64,177 enrolments to students from 159 nations — 53,021 to men and 11,156 to women. Of these, 11,296 enrolments were provided directly to personnel serving on missions. The missions with the highest enrolments were UNMISS (3,430), AMISOM (2,458), and UNAMID (1,041). POTI experienced a 50 per cent surge in week-over-week enrolments from the global onset of the COVID-19 pandemic when national peacekeeping training centres cancelled or postponed classroom courses and moved to e-learning through mid-May. During the first six months of the year, POTI averaged 351 enrolments each day, and we expect that to continue.



The BOD also took note of the formation and 1 July 2020 meeting of the Partnership for E-Learning on Peace Operations (PELP) wherein Member States provide guidance and input as to how e-learning is to be provided best to serve the peacekeeping community. The most recent biannual PELP meeting was hosted and chaired by the UK and attended by Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, and the US.

The POTI curriculum was presented to the BOD, including the status of the 29 courses in English, 23 in French, and 16 in Spanish. There was a discussion of the ongoing need to be aware of changes in UN policy and procedures and to update the courses accordingly. The BOD reviewed the list of eight courses replaced or updated during the past year and also looked ahead to upcoming new releases, including a course titled *Protection of Cultural Property* produced in collaboration with UNESCO. The BOD also discussed the possibility of a course to be developed on health for UN peacekeepers that would cover infectious diseases, including COVID-19, Ebola, Malaria, and others as appropriate, as well as some amount of first aid and other broad topics related to health maintenance by peacekeepers on missions.

There was also a discussion on the proper leveraging of technology to provide the best possible user experience for POTI students. This sometimes necessitates a balancing of the capabilities of the most up-to-date internet resources with the importance of making POTI training available in locations where broadband internet access may be expensive or unreliable. POTI achieves this with a delivery method whereby students may download all materials and study offline and by upgrading its applications for both Android (available now) and iOS (forthcoming).

The annual meeting concluded with the BOD instructing POTI leadership and staff to continue to develop new courses, update existing courses, and seek constructive partnerships with additional UN offices and entities, leveraging new technology as appropriate. The BOD expressed satisfaction with POTI's success in serving the peacekeeping community.