



Peace Operations Training Institute

Study peace and humanitarian relief any place, any time

Newsletter June 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



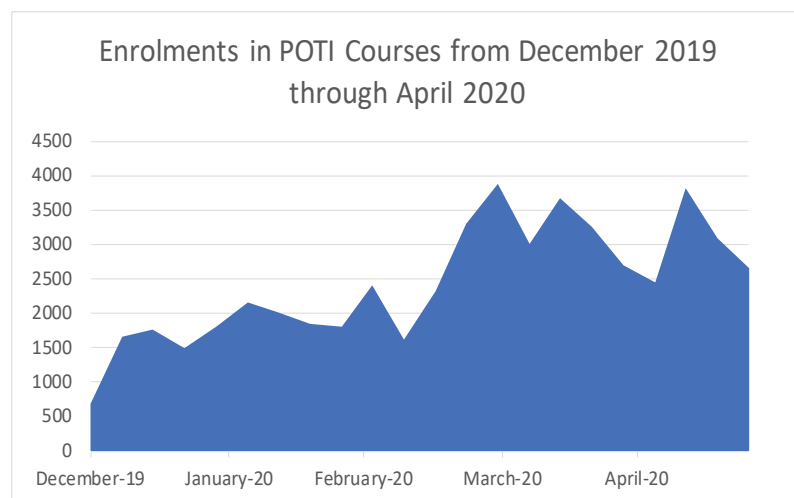
United Kingdom

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.

Demand for POTI e-learning increases during the pandemic

The staff at POTI is pleased to provide e-learning on peace operations under all conditions, but we are currently in an exceptional period. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, e-learning on peace operations is experiencing the same effect as almost all global sectors as people work remotely, train remotely, and whenever possible, shift from traditional on-site activities to online and remote ways of receiving the same service. We have been in close contact with many of the national peacekeeping training centres in Africa, Latin America, and South Asia that under normal conditions blend POTI e-learning into their classroom training programmes. They tell us they have cancelled or postponed scheduled, on-site training as a result of travel bans and bans on gatherings, and they now rely more on e-learning. Some are promoting POTI courses to students as a free resource during the pandemic, and others indicate they are using POTI courses as a complete or partial replacement for cancelled and postponed courses. *PassBlue*, an online, independent news source that focuses on UN activities, covered this shift. You can read the article here: <https://www.passblue.com/2020/05/05/e-learning-is-nothing-new-for-un-peacekeepers-but-demand-is-up/>.

As is clear in the figure shown below, the overall demand for POTI e-learning has increased dramatically since the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic on 11 March 2020. This increase is even more notable when considered against the moratorium on new personnel deploying to missions until 30 June and the short-term suspension of these personnel preparing for deployment. Enrolments during the five weeks preceding the onset of the pandemic averaged 2,000 per week. During the eight weeks following the pandemic, they averaged over 3,200 per week.



The Institute's 29 e-learning courses are available at no cost to all personnel serving on UN, African Union (AU), European Union (EU), or hybrid missions and also to military personnel and police in Africa, Latin America, South Asia, Australia, and the Asia-Pacific through funding from Australia, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, and the UK. In addition, POTI normally offers five courses at no cost to all but has added five more courses free to all worldwide. See page four for a list of these courses.

It is always our pleasure to meet the demands of the peacekeeping community for e-learning on peace operations, but we are especially pleased to provide uninterrupted service during this period of high demand when the pandemic has forced the cancellation or postponement of classroom training.

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POTI welcomes EUMM personnel to ELMS

The Institute is pleased to welcome all personnel serving with the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM) to the E-Learning for Mission Staff (ELMS) programme. EUMM is an unarmed, civilian-monitoring mission sponsored by the EU. It is our hope that each of the more than 200 monitors serving with EUMM enrolls in our courses and applies the information they learn to their mission.

ELMS provides free access to all 29 POTI courses to UN, AU, EU, and hybrid-mission personnel. The Institute implemented this free e-learning programme to increase the professional capacity of mission personnel through the study and completion of online, self-paced, on-demand courses. In 2019, personnel from 32 missions and peace support offices around the world had access to essential and practical knowledge about peace operations through this programme. Our thanks to Global Affairs Canada's Peace and Stabilization Operations Programme for funding ELMS.



POTI welcomes five more nations to ELPAP in 2020

In March, the Institute's E-Learning for Peacekeepers in the Asia Pacific (ELPAP) programme expanded to welcome students from Brunei, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu. Thanks to the generous support of the Australian Department of Defence, eligible nationals from these countries can now enrol in POTI training courses for free.

The ELPAP programme permits national peacekeeping centre students and staff from countries in Asia and the Pacific, including Australia, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Micronesia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam, to study the Institute's courses at no cost through the Australian Defence Force Peace Operations Training Centre (ADF POTC). This programme is also available to all military, police, and gendarmerie of these nations.



Malaysian women peacekeepers of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) at a medal ceremony in Kawkaba, south Lebanon. 11 January 2012. UN Photo #539555 by Pasqual Goriz.

Check out our student spotlight on page 5, which features a student from an ELPAP partner institution, the Armed Forces of the Philippines Peacekeeping Operations Center.

Want to learn more about POTI and its partners? Visit us at https://www.peaceopstraining.org/peacekeeper-training/eligibility_programmes/ to learn about our different programmes.

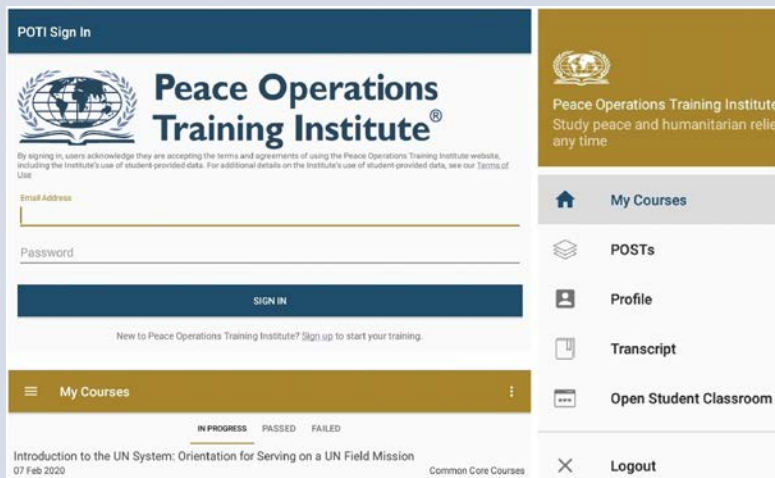
POTI Android app now available

On 13 May, POTI released an updated mobile app for Android devices. Free to download, the Peace Operations Training Institute app is a useful companion to the Institute's online learning platform. Students may use the application to access their online classroom, take exams, view course contents, manage their profiles, and view their transcripts on mobile devices. Students can register and create a profile before logging onto the app here: <https://www.peaceopstraining.org/users/account-registration/?next=/users/>.

The updated Android app boasts a new streamlined design with improved user experience and user interface. The app is compatible with a wide range of Android devices — from entry-level through high-end models — and is available entirely in English and French.

The app also features an enhanced offline mode with improved caching capabilities for students to use the app offline. These improvements ensure usability for students with all levels of internet connectivity, including those in remote conditions.

You can install the new app today by visiting <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.peaceopstraining> or by searching for the Peace Operations Training Institute in the Google Play Store.

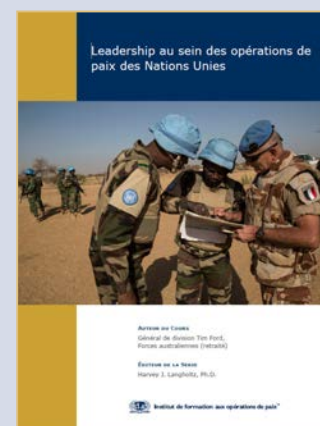


New French courses released

POTI is excited to announce the release of two new French courses, *Prévenir la violence à l'égard des femmes et promouvoir l'égalité de genre dans le maintien de la paix* (Preventing Violence Against Women and Promoting Gender Equality in Peacekeeping) and *Leadership au sein des opérations de paix des Nations Unies* (Leading Within United Nations Peace Operations).

Published in March, *Prévenir la violence à l'égard des femmes et promouvoir l'égalité de genre dans le maintien de la paix*, developed in partnership with DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance – aims to assist peacekeeping personnel in promoting the human rights and security of women and girls. The lessons emphasize the nature and scope of violence against women and girls around the globe and the connections between gender inequality and violence in both public and domestic spaces. The course also covers women's rights as human rights and the United Nations mandate to involve women in key roles within peacemaking and peacebuilding processes at every stage and every level of authority. Readings and case studies provide examples to assist peacekeeping personnel with how they can work to promote gender equality and to change the attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate violence. The course author, Jennifer Wittwer, CSM, is an international consultant on gender and Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and was the first Australian Defence Force officer to deploy to Afghanistan in 2013 as a Gender Adviser. This course was developed in consultation with Megan Bastick, who has written and edited many DCAF publications, including the Gender and Security Sector Reform (SSR) Toolkit. To find out more about this course and to enrol, visit the *Prévenir la violence à l'égard des femmes et promouvoir l'égalité de genre dans le maintien de la paix* page on the POTI website: <https://www.peaceopstraining.org/courses/preventing-violence-against-women-english-2019/>.

Leadership au sein des opérations de paix des Nations Unies is designed for those who may find themselves in leadership positions in UN peace operations or for those wishing to understand the issues associated with leading peace operations missions. The course considers the strategic and international issues that define UN peacekeeping and peacemaking, including the relationships that exist between the UN and its Member States and other organizations. Subsequent lessons consider how Member States and the wider international community support the UN in its authorization and deployment of peace operations. The course also looks at how field missions are structured and organized and at the various issues associated with leadership within UN peace operations at the operational, national, and tactical levels. The course author, Major General (retired) Tim Ford of the Royal Australian Army, is a former Head of Mission, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), and former Military Adviser to the Secretary-General. You can enrol in the course here: <https://www.peaceopstraining.org/courses/leading-within-un-peace-ops-2018/>.



POTI has extended the enrolment deadline for the expanded list of free-access courses. These courses are available to all.

Providing tuition-free courses

The Peace Operations Training Institute normally offers seven courses at no cost to enrol. Due to the pandemic, POTI has added the following five courses to the list of free courses for anyone around the world to enrol in:

- *Introduction to the UN System: Orientation for Serving on a UN Field Mission*, by Mr. Julian Harston, Assistant Secretary-General to the United Nations (Retired);
- *Preventing Violence Against Women and Promoting Gender Equality in Peacekeeping*, by Jennifer Wittwer, CSM, in association with Megan Bastick, DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance;
- *Humanitarian Relief Operations*, by Lieutenant Colonel René Wagemans (Retired), Belgian Army;
- *Civic-Military Coordination in Peace Operations*, by Christopher Holshek, Colonel (Retired) US Army Civil Affairs and Cedric de Coning, ACCORD/NUPI; and
- *Leading Within United Nations Peace Operations*, by Major General Tim Ford, Australian Forces (Retired), former Military Adviser to the UN Secretary-General.

For the full list of free courses, please visit: <<https://www.peaceopstraining.org/courses/>>.

Introduction to the UN System: Orientation for Serving on a UN Field Mission course review:

"I found the course very informative easy to follow and to retain the information learned. It was a great course , and I highly recommend it looking forward to, doing some more studying."



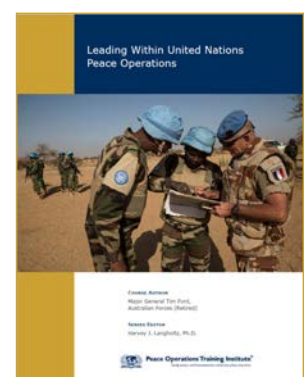
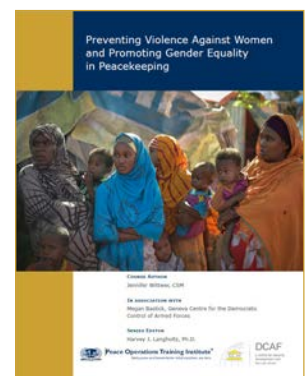
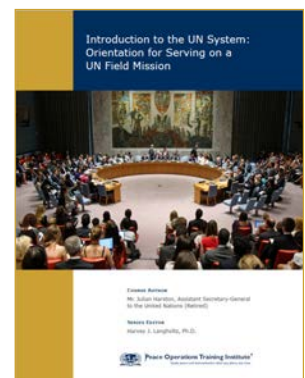
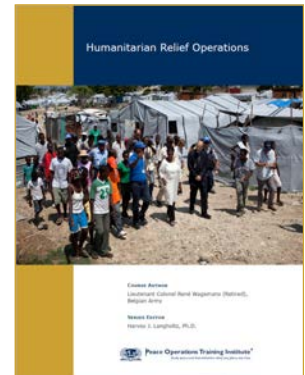
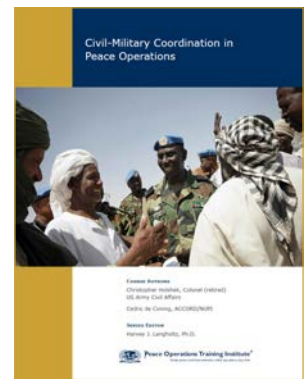
Submitted By: Mornè Foot, Individual E-Learning for Peacekeepers (IELP) student from South Africa

Civic-Military Coordination in Peace Operations course review:

"It's a very good course for those who want to participate in peace-building operations nationally and or in the international sphere. I fully recommend it."



Submitted By: Salaheldin Osman Mustafa Salih, Open Enrolment Student from Sudan



Student spotlight: Major Alberto Caber

I am Major Alberto Caber, Philippine Army, currently serving as the Assistant Chief, Operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Peacekeeping Operations Center (AFPPKOC).

I served as a United Nations Military Observer of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) from 2017 to 2018.

Being an officer-in-charge of various UN Field Stations in Pakistan-Administered Kashmir (PAK) and India-Administered Kashmir (IAK), I mastered the conduct of investigations for alleged ceasefire violations along the Line of Control and Working Boundary. As a Military Information Officer (MIO), I'm always in search of valuable information, communicating with the Chief Military Observer/Head of Mission, and sending reports to UNHQ, New York on a daily basis.

My first encounter with the Peace Operations Training Institute (POTI) was when I was serving as UNMOGIP staff in April 2018. I considered myself fortunate to receive an email broadcast from UNMOGIP's Mission Support containing the fine-looking and generous POTI features. For this reason, I immediately printed the contents for my further readings and marked POTI as important email.

There are two things I am grateful for: First, to the Mission's support office for disseminating and encouraging us UN staff to keep on learning and to take POTI's learning program and second, to POTI for its generosity and helping us UN people of various capacities (military observers and staff) to become more effective in our functions by providing us excellent UN references and this self-paced, free online training.

The first POTI course I took was *Ethics in Peacekeeping*, which I completed last June 2018. It was a good start for me. I enjoyed reading the contents of the textbook day and night. The next course was *International Humanitarian Law and the Law of Armed Conflict*, followed by several other peace, security, and peacekeeping operations courses during the year. Recently, I completed *Preventing Violence Against Women and Promoting Gender Equality in Peacekeeping*. I always love to see my name on POTI's certificate and read the textbook from time to time.

In my official capacity, I am sharing this success story to our local and international military student officers to continue learning to better prepare for United Nations (UN) missions in the future and to take courses online through the prestigious POTI [ELPAP programme] funded by the Australian Department of Defence.

Moreover, our Center is promoting POTI — encouraging officers and people of the Center to take extra effort for personal development. As the Training Officer, I'm in charge of propagating POTI's free e-learning program through our AFP Peacekeeping Operations Center Facebook fan page. Our colleagues in other AFP units and friends in other agencies are sending positive feedback about their respective completion of some POTI courses. I am always glad to share. Thank you much, POTI, for being a part of my UN education. I am grateful for your generosity and "thanking you" is not enough to express how happy I am.



"I am now on my 17th year in the military service. During my early years in the service, I always admired the Australian Defence Force, even up to now. That's why when I saw POTI's certificate with 'in cooperation with ADF' it adds more inspiration on my part."

—Major Alberto Caber



Major Alberto Caber raises his national flag along Pakistan-China border Khunjerab Pass in September 2018.