



# Peace Operations Training Institute®

Study peace and humanitarian relief any place, any time

April 2021 Newsletter

Our thanks to the founding 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 nonprofit public charity based in Williamsburg, Virginia, USA.

## Interview with POTI Course Author Major General (retired) Tim Ford, AO

*Major General (retired) Tim Ford is a Vice President of the New South Wales Division of the United Nations Association of Australia and author of the POTI course *Leading Within United Nations Peace Operations*. During his 40-year career in the Australian Defence Forces, Major General Ford served in command, staff, and training appointments in Australia and overseas. He served as the Head of Mission of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in the Middle East from 1998 to 2000 and as the Military Adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) at UN Headquarters in New York from 2000 to 2002. We thank Major General Ford for agreeing to this interview, which was conducted by the Chief of Programme Services, Ms. Marianne Wrightson.*



Major General (retired) Tim Ford

**Ms. Marianne Wrightson (MW):** You were educated at the Royal Military College Duntroon and Sydney University. When did you decide to make military service your career, and what experiences led you to pursue deployments to UN peace operations?

Major General Tim Ford (TF): Thanks very much for the opportunity to be interviewed about my experiences with peacekeeping and as a POTI author. My father was an Army Officer, having joined at the start of World War II, and as a result, I was exposed to and well aware of the possibilities associated with the Army. So, at age 17, I successfully applied to undertake the four-year military and academic course at the Royal Military College in Canberra. After this, I completed a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at Sydney University. For the next 30 years, I followed a varied career in the Australian Army and Defence Force, initially as an Artillery Officer, but involving a wide range of training, operations, staff, and command appointments around Australia and the world. I had just finished command of Australia's 1st Division in Brisbane as a Major General when I was nominated to the United Nations by Australia to fill the position of Chief of Staff and Head of Mission of UNTSO from 1998 to 2000.

**MW: UNTSO was the first UN peacekeeping mission established by the United Nations. You were the Head of Mission for UNTSO from 1998 to 2000. What aspects of your service were most gratifying or memorable? How has UNTSO evolved since your departure?**

TF: UNTSO is a relatively small UN peacekeeping mission, originally established in 1948 to supervise the armistice agreements between Israel and its Arab neighbours. The mission has evolved over the years following the wars of 1956, 1967, and 1973. And the functions of the Observers changed in the light of changing circumstances, but they remained in the area, acting as go-betweens for the hostile parties and as the means by which isolated incidents could be contained and prevented from escalating into major conflicts. When I was in command, we had some 253 unarmed Military Observers from 22 different nations supported by UN and local administrative and logistics staff. These worked closely in coordination with the other UN missions deployed in the region, notably UNDOF [the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force] and UNIFIL [the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon]. UNTSO is a fascinating mission, and as Head of Mission, I had the opportunity to interact with officials in five nations and with three other peace missions. This gave me good exposure to the strengths, weaknesses, and complexities of peace operations. Despite continual pressures in the region, UNTSO remains an important mission providing confidence-building in the Middle East.

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## Interview with POTI Course Author Major General (retired) Tim Ford, AO (continued)

**MW: In July 2000, then-UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed you as the Military Adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. What were some of the challenges involved with transitioning from working in the field to the UN Secretariat?**

TF: Actually, I think my experiences in UNTSO, with its exposure to many different peacekeeping aspects, together with two important fact-finding and technical missions I was involved with in Africa in early 2000, prepared me well for the role of Military Adviser in DPKO. This exposure, which was built on my previous experience in command and staff appointments in Australia, enabled me to contribute well at DPKO, as it responded to the recommendations for change outlined in the 2000 Brahimi Report. I was also fortunate to commence this appointment soon after the arrival of Jean-Marie Guéhenno as the new Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Peacekeeping. I established a good rapport with him that assisted me in quickly developing my effectiveness and understanding of how the UN Secretariat works with Member States.

**MW: What are some common misconceptions you find people have about the United Nations, peace operations, or UN peacekeepers?**

TF: Well, many of the general public don't really appreciate how much the United Nations achieves through its many activities throughout the world, undertaken through its offices, departments, and agencies. UN engagement, through its 193 Member States plus observer organizations, has a huge impact on international peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development. The UN is a large multifaceted organization, often unfairly criticized for weaknesses that are more a result of its multinational complexity and lack of support by Member States. Nevertheless, it undertakes continual review and improvement. Through its more than 70 UN peace operations and interaction with regional peace initiatives, it has saved and assisted millions of lives. With respect to peace operations, the UN has great experience gathered over 70 years. When a peace can be brokered, the UN can assist in maintaining and strengthening that peace through its civilian, military, and police peacekeepers and experts working alongside the UN Country Team and a range of NGOs [non-governmental organizations]. When Member States provide well-trained, disciplined, and prepared individuals and contingents for peace operations, [the missions] are often successful.

**MW: You have been a course author for POTI for more than 20 years. What are some of the major developments you have seen in UN peacekeeping since authoring your first course in 1999, *Commanding UN Peacekeeping Operations*?**

TF: It has been a pleasure to be able to assist POTI over the years to educate so many about the UN and peace operations. I have seen a substantial shift in recognizing the need to ensure all members of the Senior Leadership Team, UN staff, and all contingents are being better prepared for their roles in a peace operation. The UN now conducts its own Senior Mission Leadership courses and has developed its range of training courses. POTI assists these and also works with national peace training centres to develop their courses. In respect to the course I authored, it has been fully revised and updated several times and now focuses not just on military commanders in UN peacekeeping missions but on all leaders in peace operations.

**MW: What are you doing these days in addition to being a POTI author?**

TF: Well, I continue to assist where possible to educate others about the importance of the United Nations and what it does. I am a Vice President in the NSW [New South Wales] Division of the United Nations Association of Australia, which aims to inform, inspire, and engage all Australians regarding the work, goals, and values of the United Nations to create a safer, fairer, and more sustainable world. We do this by running appropriate events throughout the year that engage our many members and volunteers, by conducting a diploma course about the UN, and by encouraging the Australian government, businesses, and organizations to act to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

**MW: What are some of the key takeaways you want POTI students to remember from your course and bring with them to the field?**

TF: Leaders at all levels from all different professional backgrounds (civilian, military, and police) need to be well prepared for their own role in peace operations and need to understand the contribution that the leaders of other elements will make to the mission. They should study the background to the situation that has required the deployment of a peace operation and consider how the many other actors outside the mission have an impact on the success of the peace process. They need to appreciate how UN peace operations are authorized, deployed, and maintained in an often difficult and dangerous environment.

*POTI thanks Major General Tim Ford for his time and countless contributions throughout his tenure as a course author.*

## POTI welcomes new board members

The Peace Operations Training Institute welcomes three new members to its Board of Directors. They are:



Brigadier General (retired) Gabriel Guerrero from Argentina. Throughout his military career, he was actively involved in United Nations peacekeeping operations. He served in the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) as a United Nations Military Observer, the Standby High Readiness Brigade for United Nations Operations Planning Element in Denmark as a Logistics Officer, and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) as a Chief Military Personnel Officer. Brigadier General Guerrero was later appointed as the Deputy Force Commander of MINUSTAH. Currently, he teaches peace operations at the Argentine Joint Armed Forces College, the Argentine Ministry of Defense University, and the University of the Centre of Macroeconomic Studies of Argentina (Universidad del Centro de Estudios Macroeconómicos de Argentina).



Ambassador Michel Rentenaar, who is a member of the Diplomatic Corps of the Netherlands and current Ambassador of the Netherlands to Iraq. He previously served as the Netherlands Deputy Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Civil-Military Interface Adviser at the NATO Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. He also served two tours of duty in Iraq as the Political Adviser to the Dutch battalion commander and to the Head of the Coalition Provisional Authority in al-Muthanna (southern Iraq).



Mr. Moustapha Soumaré, who retired from the United Nations with more than 40 years of extensive experience in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, development, and leadership. He previously served as the Deputy Special Representative (Political) for the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Recovery and Governance in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, and the Deputy Regional Director for the Regional Bureau for Africa in New York. Mr. Soumaré was also the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative in Benin from 2000 to 2005 and Rwanda from 2005 to 2007.

POTI is honoured to work with all three new members to continue the Institute's mission of providing globally accessible self-paced, online, on-demand courses on peace support, humanitarian relief, and security operations.

## Member States provide oversight through the Partnership for E-Learning on Peace Operations

With the growing recognition of the importance of e-learning on peacekeeping, the Partnership for E-Learning on Peace Operations (PELP) has come to play a key role in guiding how e-learning should best be used to serve the needs of the peacekeeping community. Biannual meetings of the PELP Advisory Board occur in January and July of each year and are hosted and chaired by the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations. Attendees and contributors at the two most recent meetings included representatives from the Permanent Missions of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and POTI. The Department of Peace Operations Integrated Training Service is an observer of PELP.



PELP operates based on an adopted Terms of Reference (TOR). According to the PELP TOR:

*"It is the purpose of the Partnership for E-Learning on Peace Operations (PELP) to serve as a forum wherein key nations invested in the delivery of e-learning on peace operations may provide input and share ideas on how e-learning should best be provided to the peace operations community. PELP is an informal partnership which will provide recommendations on behalf of this community."*

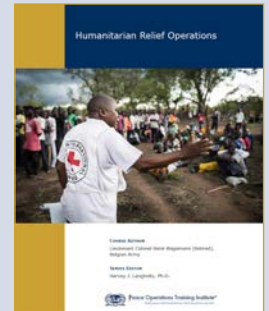
Any institutional member of the peacekeeping community who uses or could potentially use e-learning can be a member of PELP. This includes all troop- and police-contributing countries, all national peacekeeping and police training centres, and international organizations. PELP is guided by an Advisory Board that provides political advocacy, funding advocacy, as well as recommendations on strategy, pedagogy, and policy pertaining to e-learning on peacekeeping.

PELP welcomes all input and suggestions regarding how e-learning on peace operations can be improved to serve the peacekeeping community. Institutions and individuals may submit formal and informal suggestions in this regard to [PELP@peaceopstraining.org](mailto:PELP@peaceopstraining.org).

## New course releases

The Institute had the great pleasure of working with Brazil's Naval Peace Operations Training Centre to produce *International Humanitarian Law and the Law of Armed Conflict* by Mr. Antoine Bouvier in Portuguese. Released in March 2021, *Direito Internacional Humanitário e Direito Internacional dos Conflitos Armados* covers international humanitarian law (IHL) as applied to soldiers, humanitarian workers, refugees, displaced persons, and others involved with armed conflict. Topics include background and definitions, protection of victims, rights of prisoners of war, rules of conduct in hostilities, means of implementation, human rights and IHL, the applicability of IHL to peacekeeping and peace enforcement, different applications to international and non-international conflicts, and the role of the International Red Cross in international humanitarian law. You can enrol in the course here: <<https://www.peaceopstraining.org/courses/ihl-en-2020/>>.

POTI also released a new edition of *Humanitarian Relief Operations* by Lieutenant Colonel (retired) René Wagemans in late March. Building upon its 2017 predecessor, the updated course provides current information on the different types of disasters and how to interact with some of the entities and structures often deployed in the field. Like the earlier editions, the updated course includes definitions and principles, recent doctrine on humanitarian relief activities, and examples of humanitarian relief operations. To enrol, please go to: <<https://www.peaceopstraining.org/courses/humanitarian-relief-ops-en-2021/>>.



## New e-publication on international humanitarian law

In an effort to expand learning options for students, the Institute released *International Humanitarian Law and the Law of Armed Conflict* by Mr. Antoine Bouvier as an e-publication (EPUB) in March 2021. Reflowable EPUBs adjust to the orientation and size of a screen, making the course adaptable and easy to read on Android and iOS devices. Students can use programmes like Adobe Digital Editions and Calibre to read this newly formatted course on their desktop computers. PocketBook (Android and iOS), Moon+ Reader (Android), and AppleBooks (iOS) are the best apps to use when reading this course on mobile devices. To download the e-publication, please visit: <<https://www.peaceopstraining.org/courses/ihl-en-2020/>>.

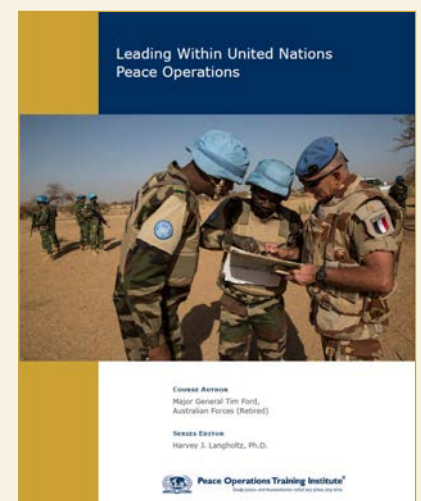
*International Humanitarian Law and the Law of Armed Conflict* is the third course to be formatted as an EPUB in the POTI curriculum. *Introduction to the UN System: Orientation for Serving on a UN Field Mission* by Mr. Julian Harston and *Ethics in Peace Operations*, developed by King's College London's Centre for Military Ethics, are also available as e-publications.

## Leading Within United Nations Peace Operations course review:

"[I am] grateful to POTI for devising such an excellent course that gave me a complete overview of the command chain for various mission components being followed in peacekeeping ... [and] the general guidelines one must adhere to while deployed."



Submitted By: Wing Commander Ranbir Singh Ghanghus, India,  
Individual E-Learning for Peacekeepers (IELP) South Asia



## Upcoming translations

The Institute is excited about its line-up of upcoming French and Spanish translations. First, the 2019 edition of *Logistical Support to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: An Introduction* by Major (retired) Rod Little will be translated into Spanish. This course introduces students to logistics operations in United Nations peace operations. In eight lessons, students will learn about the background and rationale behind UN peacekeeping logistics, the key organizations responsible for providing logistical support, and the strategies employed in the field and at UN Headquarters.

*The History of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations from 2000–2020* by Professor Paul D. Williams will also be translated into Spanish. This course covers the history of United Nations peacekeeping operations active between 2000 and mid-2020. Furthermore, it summarizes key themes that have developed in UN peace operations over the last two decades.

Lastly, POTI plans to produce French and Spanish translations of the 2020 edition of *Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution* by Professor Tom Woodhouse. This course aims to provide the student with a basic understanding of the field of conflict resolution and its application, both theoretically and practically, to peacekeeping intervention in contemporary international conflicts.

POTI is proud to provide quality courses on peace support, humanitarian relief, and security operations in various languages. You can find updates to POTI courses here: <<https://www.peaceopstraining.org/courses/>>.

## POTI meeting with ESMAI

On 27 January 2021, Ms. Vanessa Anderson, POTI Registrar and Chief of Institutional Relations, met online with more than 25 military officers studying peacekeeping-related courses at the School of International Missions and Integrated Action (Escuela de Misiones Internacionales y Acción Integral, or ESMAI), located in Bogotá, Colombia. ESMAI requires officers who complete peacekeeping courses on-site to study three POTI courses. Those courses are the Spanish translations of *Gender Perspectives in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations*; *Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution*; and *Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR): A Practical Overview*. The officers studying at ESMAI asked Ms. Anderson questions about registration, examinations, and certificates.



Ms. Vanessa Anderson, in the upper right-hand corner, answers student questions.

More than 280 students from Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico studied POTI courses through ESMAI in 2020. POTI is pleased to support partner institutions such as ESMAI in training military personnel, police, and civilians working towards peace.

## 2020 Annual Report

The Peace Operations Training Institute has released its 2020 Annual Report. You can read about the Institute's 2020 accomplishments here: <<https://cdn.peaceopstraining.org/pdf/annual-report.pdf>>.



# POTI partnerships: International Peace Support Training Institute (IPSTI)

By Brigadier General Sebsibe Duba, Commandant of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia International Peace Support Training Institute

Ethiopia first contributed troops to UN peace operations during the Korean Conflict (1951 to 1954), sending over 6,000 to the operation. Since then, Ethiopia has deployed troops on peace operations across the African continent, including Congo, Rwanda, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan (Darfur), South Sudan, Abyei, and Somalia. Ethiopia is one of the [largest troop-contributing Member States](#) and first in terms of female deployment, with [708 women](#) taking part in UN missions.



Brigadier General Sebsibe Duba

The Ethiopia National Defense Force (ENDF), through its history of supporting peace operations, has gained vast experience in multidimensional peace operations. Ethiopia has been a leader in peace operations capacity-building through the ENDF Peacekeeping Center (PKC). The PKC directs both operational and institutional efforts to strengthen Ethiopia's and neighbouring countries' contributions to United Nations and African Union peacekeeping and peace support operations. The International Peace Support Training Institute (IPSTI) was inaugurated in 2015 with the mission of conducting research and delivering training and education to military, police, and civilian personnel in the area of peace and security issues.

The partnership between IPSTI and the Peace Operations Training Institute was established in 2015 under POTI's National Training Centre E-Learning Platform (NTCELP). Since then, the partnership has met the demand for more than 650 student enrolments using the IPSTI partnership code.

IPSTI makes access to POTI's e-learning platform an integral part of every course offering. At the beginning of each IPSTI course, all students are encouraged to register for access to POTI through the IPSTI portal. Students can then enrol in all available courses as their professional interests dictate. IPSTI students have a demonstrated high level of interest, as indicated by information searches and e-mail traffic. This e-learning platform has been very useful for the Institute and its students — even more so during the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic.

The IPSTI is grateful for the support provided by the POTI e-learning platform. This partnership has improved the capacity of IPSTI to support its students during and after in-class training. We look forward to continuing this partnership, especially in support of IPSTI's newly inaugurated master's programme in Peace and Conflict Management.

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



Dr. Langholtz

Here at POTI, we are always grateful to the individuals and institutions that contribute to the success of e-learning on peacekeeping as we meet demand from peacekeepers worldwide.

At the core of this success are the course authors and institutions that provide the content and materials that go into each course. We have made the decision to include interviews with course authors in our newsletters on an ongoing basis, and I am pleased to feature Major General (retired) Tim Ford, AO, as one of the first. He is the author of *Leading Within United Nations Peace Operations* and also a previous course, *Commanding United Nations Peacekeeping Operations*. In addition, he served as the Chair of the POTI Board of Directors (BOD), where he attended meetings on behalf of POTI and advocated for the support of peacekeepers in the field through e-learning.

My thanks to our three recently elected POTI BOD members, all of whom donate their time and expertise to guide POTI and e-learning. As a non-governmental organization that serves the international peacekeeping community, we are pleased to have regional representation on our BOD that includes Africa, South Asia, North and South America, and Europe.

It is the Member States of the United Nations that support and use POTI e-learning, and it is through the Partnership for E-learning on Peace Operations (PELP) that these Member States provide input and guidance as to how e-learning is to be best used to support peacekeeping. We are grateful to the following Permanent Missions to the United Nations for participating in the two most recent PELP meetings: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

POTI e-learning is both provided to individuals directly and blended into the classroom programmes at national peacekeeping training centres. Colombia's Escuela de Misiones Internacionales y Acción Integral and Ethiopia's International Peace Support Training Institute are among the more than 40 national training centres that use e-learning through the National Training Centre E-Learning Platform. I am pleased to see cooperation with these two institutions as outlined in this newsletter.

Peacekeeping is an international effort with many contributors and stakeholders. It is our pleasure here at POTI to cooperate with the individuals and institutions that join in this shared goal.