Peace Operations Training Institute®

Study peace and humanitarian relief any place, any time

August 2021 Newsletter

New and updated courses

In May 2021, the Institute released *UN Military Specialised Training Materials on United Nations Military Observers*. Free for all, this course provides students with the UN pre-deployment requirements and materials specifically designed for UN military observers. These course materials have been sourced directly from the United Nations Peacekeeping Resource Hub under a revocable licence issued by the Integrated Training Service.

The Institute is also pleased to announce the release of four new French and Spanish translations:

- *Apoyo logístico a las operaciones de mantenimiento de la paz de las Naciones Unidas: Introducción*, the Spanish translation of the 2019 edition of *Logistical Support to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: An Introduction* by Major (retired) Rod Little;

- *Historia de las operaciones de mantenimiento de la paz de Naciones Unidas de 2000 a 2020*, the Spanish translation of *The History of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations from 2000–2020* by Professor Paul D. Williams;

- *Maintien de la paix et résolution des conflits internationaux* and *Mantenimiento de la paz y resolución de conflictos internacionales*, the French and Spanish translations of the 2020 edition of *Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution* by Professor Tom Woodhouse, respectively; and

- *Liderazgo dentro de las operaciones de paz de Naciones Unidas,* the Spanish translation of the 2018 edition of *Leading Within United Nations Peace Operations* by Major General (retired) Tim Ford.

POTI looks forward to producing additional new and translated courses for its students.
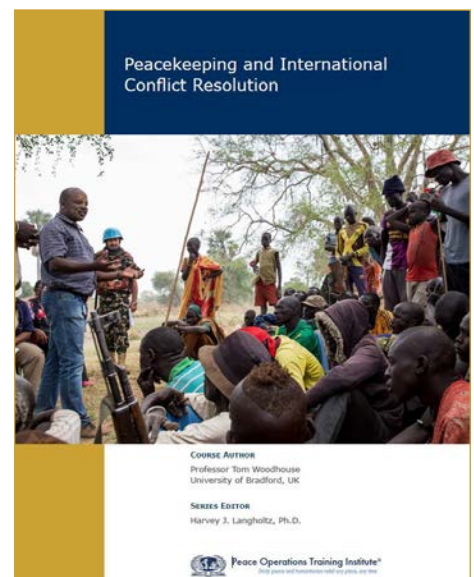
Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution now available in EPUB format

The Institute is pleased to announce the addition of a fourth title, *Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution*, to its catalogue of courses available as e-publications (EPUBs).

A course formatted as an EPUB flows to fit the window or screen on which it is displayed. The text can be sized to suit the reader, and the student can insert notes and bookmarks into the file while reading the text. POTI recommends Adobe Digital Editions and Calibre for desktop and laptop computers and PocketBook (Android and iOS), Moon+ Reader (Android), and AppleBooks (iOS) for mobile devices.

The three additional courses available in the EPUB format are *Ethics in Peace Operations*, *International Humanitarian Law and the Law of Armed Conflict*, and *Introduction to the UN System: Orientation for Serving on a UN Field Mission*.

Students have downloaded their POTI courses in EPUB format more than 2,700 times.

Peacekeeping and International
Conflict Resolution

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Peace Operations Training Institute®

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Civil-Military Coordination in Peace Operations authors gather input during online focus group
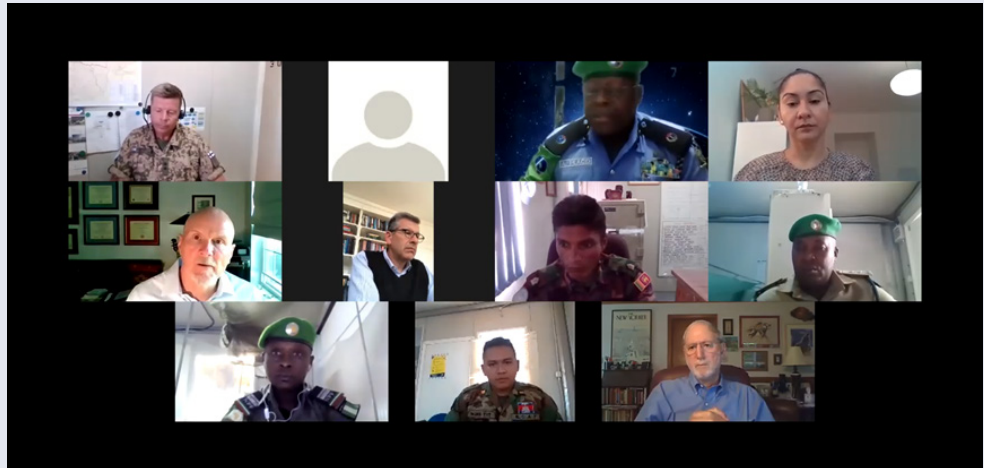
Course authors Col. (ret.) Christopher Holshek (middle row, left) and Dr. Cedric de Coning (middle row, second to left) conduct a focus group with CIMIC students and practitioners. Executive Director Dr. Harvey Langholtz (bottom row, right) also participates.

On 16 June 2021, POTI co-authors Col. (ret.) Christopher Holshek and Dr. Cedric de Coning hosted an online focus group about their course, *Civil-Military Coordination* (CIMIC) *in Peace Operations*. The focus group was held to gather input from practitioners as the authors prepare to update the course. Some participants were students who completed the course between 1 June 2020 and 22 May 2021. They represented six different UN missions. Other participants were CIMIC practitioners invited by the authors.

Dr. Harvey Langholtz, the Institute's Executive Director, began the discussion with brief introductory remarks. After introductions by Col. Holshek and Dr. de Coning, a rich conversation with practitioners from the field began. The participants provided great insight into the topic and suggestions for course revisions. In addition to encouraging students to comment on the course content, the authors asked participants to recommend CIMIC-related case studies from their experience, print references, videos, and other learning resources, with the intent to supplement the new course with these materials.

The course authors plan to write the new edition of CIMIC as a primer on the subject and as a useful reference tool in the field. They aim to provide material that is useful to military, civilian, and police audiences in leveraging coordination across mission components to the benefit of all.

POTI hopes to hold similar focus groups in the future and encourages its students to participate.

Humanitarian Relief Operations course review:

"Suite a ce cours, j'ai compris que l'humanité avait besoin qu'on s'entraide car aucune nation au monde ne peut faire face à ces catastrophes. Le cours m'a permis de comprendre comment se font les opérations humanitaires mais aussi savoir leur importance pour des populations sinistrées."

"As a result of this course, I understood that humanity needs to help each other because no nation in the world can cope with these disasters. The course not only allowed me to understand how humanitarian operations are done but also to know how important they are for disaster-stricken populations."

★★★★★

Submitted By: Diop Arona, Senegal

Internet safety: Tips for securing your online activities

Practising internet security and safety habits is important to protect your personal and financial information and identity. Mr. Chris Leber, Chief of Technology at POTI, offers the following internet security tips to keep your information secure and less at risk of being compromised or stolen while online.

1. **Create unique passwords for each site.** Reusing the same password can leave your accounts vulnerable to hackers.

2. **Use strong passwords to prevent guessing.** Did you know that in 2020, the most popular password was "123456"? While easy to remember, it is also easy to guess. Use symbols (e.g., !, @, and #), numbers, and phrases to make your password stronger and harder to guess. Read this article for more advice.

3. **Be wary of free Wi-Fi.** As convenient as public or free Wi-Fi is, it may not offer much security and could leave your data and online activity exposed. Someone could use that same connection to snoop through your data and steal important information or your identity. If you must use free Wi-Fi, use a virtual private network, or VPN, to encrypt your data.

4. **Be on the lookout for clickbait or phishing scams.** Have you received an email about a "payment issue" for an order you do not remember placing? It might then ask you to confirm your identity by typing in your email and password. This is an example of a phishing scam, which attempts to collect your personal information. This article provides the warning signs and dos and don'ts when encountering a potential phishing scam.

As the world relies more and more on the internet, it is increasingly important to practise good security and safety habits. Implement these tips to increase your security while on the web!

Facebook-based focus group conducted on women, peace, and security courses

In April and May 2021, the Peace Operations Training Institute conducted a Facebook-based focus group for the course suite developed in partnership with UN Women on the *Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda*. The purpose of the focus group was to gather information about students who studied the courses, the impact the courses have had on their professional and personal lives, and the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the course material. Each of the 45 participants had successfully completed at least one of the women, peace, and security (WPS) courses in February, March, or April 2021. Participants included United Nations military and civilian personnel, human rights workers, police, and other non-governmental organization personnel.

Although participants were not required to answer every question, the Institute received a wide array of useful feedback. All participants indicated they would recommend the WPS courses to others. One participant believed that a WPS course pertaining to the mission area — Africa, Asia and the Pacific, or Latin America and the Caribbean — should be mandatory reading for all United Nations Military Observers. Participants also expressed satisfaction with the accessibility of the courses and were pleased the Institute issues personalized Certificates of Completion.

When asked, "*Have you been able to use what you learned from the course in your work or in your daily life?*", the answers were positive and pragmatic. Some responses included:

"*Yes, by encouraging my institution to recruit more female police officers in a bid to have [an] equal number of both female and male police officers [and] [b]y encouraging the appointment of more female [p]olice officers in decision-making posts so as to have equal representation.*"

"*Yes, by [giving] recommendations made to the institution that when giving appointments of team site leaders [,] women should also be appointed according to their capabilities, courses attended, and communication skills. This will ensure more women have leading roles so that the communities will emulate and follow suit.*"

POTI appreciates students' willingness to provide such valuable feedback. The Institute encourages all students to indicate their willingness to participate in a survey, focus group, or webinar by going to the "My Profile" section of their account, clicking "Change Email Subscriptions", and subscribing under the Survey Mailing List.
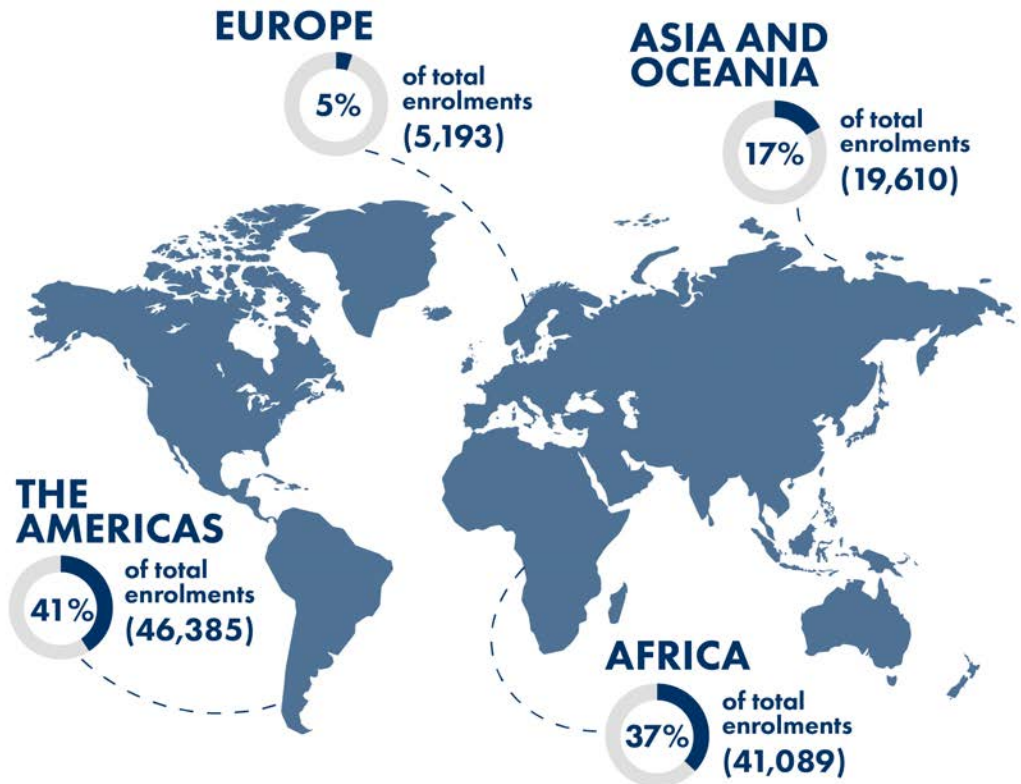
E-learning on peace operations: 2020 at a glance

112,328
total enrolments*

46,364
active student accounts

182
countries represented by active POTI students

20,270
enrolments through national training centre partners

*51 enrolments did not indicate nationality of student.

EUROPE
5% of total enrolments (5,193)

ASIA AND OCEANIA
17% of total enrolments (19,610)

THE AMERICAS
41% of total enrolments (46,385)

AFRICA
37% of total enrolments (41,089)

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

Dr. Langholtz

It is our pleasure here at POTI to work with many organizations throughout the peacekeeping community. One of these is the Partnership for E-learning on Peace Operations (PELP). PELP consists of UN Member States that recognize the importance of e-learning on peace operations and provide aegis and oversight as to how e-learning is provided. The most recent PELP meeting was hosted by the Mission of the UK to the UN on 7 July and was attended by representatives of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the UK, and POTI. The UN Department of Peace Operations Integrated Training Service has observer status at PELP meetings. For additional details, see the PELP website.

We are also pleased to engage directly with students who provide valuable feedback in advance of revisions to POTI courses. Our thanks to the authors of the course Civil-Military Coordination in Peace Operations, Col. (ret.) Christopher Holshek and Dr. Cedric de Coning, for conducting the recent focus group on what CIMIC professionals want to see in the updated course and to the representatives of six different UN Missions for participating in the focus group. Our thanks also to those who participated in the Facebook-based focus group conducted on the Institute's suite of women, peace, and security courses, which we produce and distribute in cooperation with UN Women.

It is our goal here at POTI to make e-learning on peacekeeping easily accessible to students on the platforms they use and with the technology they have. We are therefore pleased to have recently expanded to four the number of courses we offer as e-publications. POTI e-publications display on a variety of devices, and the pages will format and flow for easy reading.

My thanks to POTI students who provide feedback through their End-of-Course questionnaire and also through other means. We read these carefully as a source for both constructive suggestions and the positive feedback provided by peacekeepers in the field.