



Peace Operations Training Institute®

Study peace and humanitarian relief any place, any time

Newsletter January 2021

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 nonprofit public charity based in Williamsburg, Virginia, USA.

UNESCO and POTI co-publish new course

UNESCO and POTI recently co-published a free [online course](#) for peacekeepers, military, and law enforcement professionals on the protection of cultural property in peace operations. *Protection of Cultural Property: Online Course for the Military, Police, and Law Enforcement* is now available to all worldwide. The course's virtual launch took place on 10 December, at the [15th Meeting of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict](#).

This self-paced e-learning course is based on the [UNESCO Military Manual on Cultural Property Protection](#) and has been developed to support the implementation of rules governing the protection of cultural property, which aim to protect cultural property before, during, and after an armed conflict and prevent it from being destroyed, pillaged, looted, or illicitly trafficked. Professionals taking the course will learn about the legal obligations to protect cultural property, which have been proven to be an effective means of building and maintaining peace, and how to engage with local communities in the course of military and peace operations.



Destruction of Palmyra's historical monuments. © UNESCO

Although broadly applicable to military operations and activities, the course has been made with UN peace operations in mind. It describes some real-life situations from earlier missions in conflict areas and touches on relevant topics, such as preparedness, gender, and civil-military cooperation. Participants will be awarded a jointly issued certificate from UNESCO and POTI once they pass the End-of-Course Examination.



The Al-Ashrafiya Mosque is the most important historical monument in the city of Taiz (Yemen), which was damaged by the war on the city. © Akramalrasny/Shutterstock.com

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Institute staff participates in the annual ALCOPAZ conference

For years, POTI has had the honour of participating in the annual conference of the Association of Latin American Peacekeeping Training Centres (ALCOPAZ). Due to the pandemic, the conference became virtual, and ALCOPAZ partnered with the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) to host one of the two sessions.

Uruguay is the host country for ALCOPAZ and facilitated the conference from its National Peace Operations Training Institute of Uruguay (ENOPU), located in Montevideo. The first session was the international portion of the seminar, developed in cooperation with IAPTC, and took place on November 10th and 11th. Two hundred twenty people attended, and the session included more than 60 panellists and moderators, including the Deputy Director of POTI, Ms. Ramona Taheri. She spoke on the panel on "Pedagogy and Technology at the Service of Capacity Building and Training" on the topic of e-learning. Her presentation was titled "Technology in Training: The New Normal".

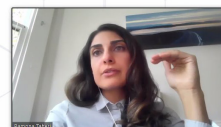


Colonel (retired) Roberto Gil de Vargas, POTI Board Member, gives a presentation during the ALCOPAZ meeting. Ms. Anderson can be seen in the upper left-hand corner.

The second portion of the ALCOPAZ conference took place on the 12th and 13th of November. The topics discussed focused on operational matters, technical support, and professional training relevant to Latin American troop- and police-contributing countries. Chief of Institutional Relations of POTI, Ms. Vanessa Anderson, spoke about the Institute's National Training Centre E-Learning Platform (NTCELP) within the "Technical Support and Professional Training" panel. The moderator was a staff member from the Unidad Escuela Misiones de Paz de Ecuador (UEMPE). The final day kicked off with a special presentation from Lieutenant General Carlos Loitey, the Military Adviser of the Office of Military Affairs, and ended with presentations from all ALCOPAZ members.

TACKLING THE DRAWBACKS OF E-LEARNING

- Learning is not only cognitive; it is social.
- Completion rates.
- Linking performance evaluation to training.
- Security.



Deputy Director Ramona Taheri gives her presentation on "Technology in Training: The New Normal".

Various UN missions, peacekeeping training centres, and peacekeeping training providers shared how their in-person training had been impacted, including months-long cancellations and/or moving their training online. It was a great honour to share more about our specialization in this type of training and the programmes we offer. POTI is proud to serve as a resource for online training on peacekeeping, particularly for troop-contributing countries in Latin America.

POTI Apple/iOS app now available

POTI is pleased to announce a new updated mobile app for Apple/iOS devices. Free to download, the Peace Operations Training Institute app is a useful companion to the Institute's online learning platform. The updated app is available entirely in English and French and features a new, user-friendly design. The app also boasts 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 the [iOS App Store](#) or by searching for the Peace Operations Training Institute in the App Store. For Android users, the POTI app is available in the [Google Play Store](#). As mobile technology expands, POTI is always looking to make its courses more accessible. We welcome all suggestions from our students on how we might continue to do this.

Looking back: A review of 2020

By many standards, 2020 was a challenging year. However, through shutdowns and cancellations, POTI students from 170 countries were active with their studies and continued learning more about peace support operations. POTI met the demand for 112,328 course enrolments in 2020. Of those enrolments, 71,620 were in English editions of the courses. A total of 40,708 enrolments during 2020 were in the Arabic, French, Portuguese, and Spanish translations of the courses.

POTI welcomed two training centres into the NTCELP programme in 2020: The Land Warfare Centre in the United Kingdom and Centro de Entrenamiento de Operaciones de Paz de la Fuerza Armada de El Salvador (CEOPAZ-SV) in Sitio del Niño, El Salvador. In total, the NTCELP programme accounted for 20,270 enrolments last year.

POTI will continue to serve a multinational, multilingual student body in 2021. We have new courses in development and updates to current courses planned for the coming months. We look forward to welcoming new students and training partners in the new year.

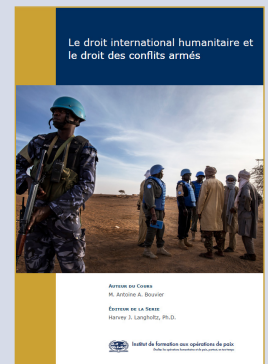
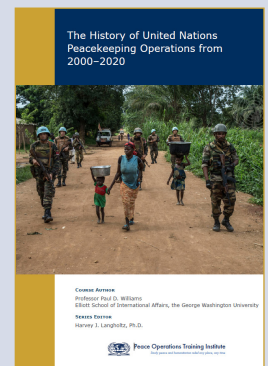
POTI expands its curriculum with new courses, updates, and translations

POTI is excited to bring in the new year with two brand new courses. Since the publication of our last newsletter, *Protection of Cultural Property: Online Course for the Military, Police, and Law Enforcement* and *The History of United Nations Peacekeeping from 2000–2020* have been made available in the curriculum for the first time. *Protection of Cultural Property*, co-published with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), is featured on page 1.

The History of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations from 2000 to 2020 by Professor Paul D. Williams, Elliott School of International Affairs, the George Washington University, is the second new course added to the POTI curriculum. A must-read for anyone interested in the history of peacekeeping more broadly, the course covers the major trends and patterns in UN peacekeeping in the twenty-first century so far. Students can also expect to learn about the more than 30 peacekeeping operations active during the period, “partnership peacekeeping” and the issues therein, the evolving doctrine guiding peacekeeping practices, and the many impacts of UN peacekeeping operations on armed conflict. Students can learn more about the course [here](#).

POTI has also released a new update and new translations. In October 2020, POTI published a new edition of *Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution* by Professor Tom Woodhouse. This course is free for everyone to enrol as a part of the Institute's commitment to addressing racial and social inequalities around the world. In addition to this course update, the Institute's recently updated course *International Humanitarian Law and the Law of Armed Conflict* by Mr. Antoine Bouvier has now been made available in French and Spanish.

We at POTI look forward to continuing to build our curriculum in the service of the peacekeeping community through 2021 and beyond.



POTI expands its list of free courses in 2020

- *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);
- *Leading Within United Nations Peace Operations*, by Major General Tim Ford, Australian Forces (retired), former Military Adviser to the UN Secretary-General;
- *Humanitarian Relief Operations*, by Lieutenant Colonel René Wagemans (retired), Belgian Army;
- *Civil-Military Coordination in Peace Operations*, by Christopher Holshek, Colonel (retired) US Army Civil Affairs and Cedric de Coning, ACCORD/NUPI;
- *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;
- *UN Military Specialised Training Materials on Child Protection*, sourced directly from the United Nations Peacekeeping Resource Hub under a revocable licence issued by the Integrated Training Service;
- *Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution*, by Professor Tom Woodhouse; and
- *Protection of Cultural Property: Online Course for the Military, Police, and Law Enforcement*, co-published with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and based on the *UNESCO Military Manual on Cultural Property Protection*.

POTI partner feature: Col. Domingo Antonio Monterrosa of CEOPAZ

On 1 March 2011, the Armed Forces of El Salvador (FAES) mandated the creation of the Peace Operations Training Center (CEOPAZ) due to the need to train officers, NCOs, troops, and supporting personnel in the theatre of UN peace operations. El Salvador has a long history of military personnel participating in peace operations, including sending in its first Military Observers to Korea in 1949–1950 to the most recent participation of Salvadorans in MINURSO [United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara] and in Colombia. The Republic of El Salvador has participated in a total of 14 UN missions.

FAES currently participates in MINURSO with personnel, equipment, and transportation as well as deployed military personnel in alliance with the Spanish Army personnel in UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon]. Due to these obligations and responsibilities, it was necessary to expand training for our military personnel in peace operations.



Submitted by CEOPAZ.

In 2020, the Peace Operations Training Institute (POTI) and CEOPAZ made an important academic alliance with the purpose of improving and expanding UN doctrine among Salvadoran military personnel through an e-learning platform where personnel can access online courses, regardless of their location.

The POTI e-learning platform greatly contributed during a period of confinement due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The POTI-CEOPAZ alliance materialized at a most opportune and necessary moment, facilitating continued studies for CEOPAZ students through distance learning. We hope that in 2021 the academic alliance of POTI and CEOPAZ will continue and be strengthened. These are our best wishes from the Armed Forces of El Salvador.

Domingo Antonio Monterrosa
Colonel Art. DEM, CEOPAZ Commandant

This letter was translated from Spanish to English by POTI.

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



Dr. Langholtz

Happy New Year. I wish you good health and peace in 2021. During 2020, COVID-19 had a global impact that affected every individual and every process in all sectors of society, and POTI quickly adjusted and adapted to continue to meet the needs of the peacekeeping community under these conditions.

Although live in-person conferences on peacekeeping training had to be cancelled due to travel restrictions, POTI was pleased to participate in the virtual versions that were held. This included our Chief of Institutional Relations, Vanessa Anderson, speaking on the Institute's National Training Centre E-Learning Platform at the ALCOPAZ conference and our Deputy Director, Ramona Taheri, presenting "Technology in Training: The New Normal" at the virtual IAPTC session.

We can all be pleased with the recently released course *Protection of Cultural Property: Online Course for the Military, Police, and Law Enforcement*. It is the only one of its kind, fills a clear need, and was co-published by UNESCO and POTI and based on the publication *UNESCO Military Manual on Cultural Property*. We can also be pleased with the recent release of *UN Military Specialised Training Materials on Child Protection*, sourced directly from the United Nations Peacekeeping Resource Hub under a revocable licence issued by the Integrated Training Service. Both these new courses, along with 13 of our other most-demanded courses, are provided free to all worldwide.

Here at POTI, we recognize that many of the peacekeepers we serve are located in regions where broadband internet may be unreliable or expensive. This is why we now provide apps with enhanced offline capabilities for both Android and iOS in English and French.

The demand for peacekeeping and peacekeeping training did not abate with the onset of the pandemic. It is our honour at POTI to continue our cooperation with institutional partners at national peacekeeping training centres; at UN, AU, and EU missions; and within the UN as we adjust to the current reality of meeting the demand for peacekeeping training through e-learning.