



Peace Operations Training Institute®

Study peace and humanitarian relief any place, any time

October 2021 Newsletter

The Peace Operations Training Institute's mission to deliver self-paced e-learning to civilian, police, and military dedicated to peace worldwide depends on the generous funding of our sponsors. We thank the following nations that financially support e-learning on peacekeeping:



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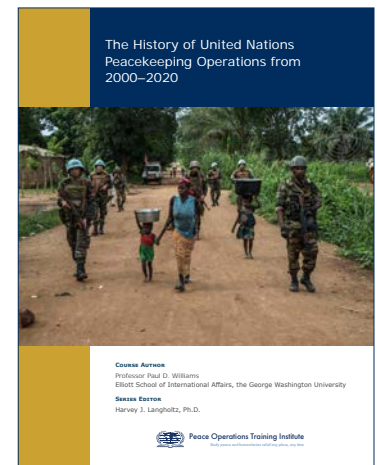
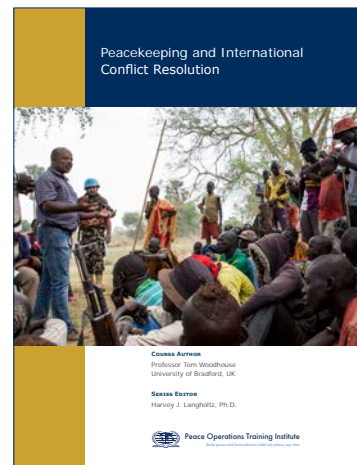
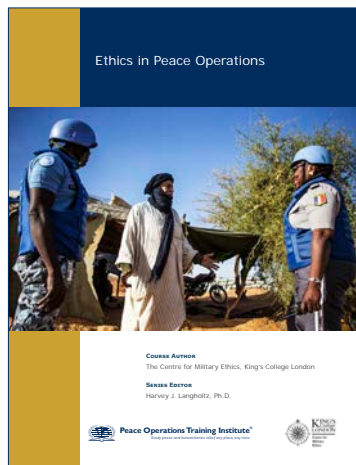


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The Peace Operations Training Institute is an independent, nonprofit, non-governmental organization (NGO) governed by an international Board of Directors.



Three courses now available as audiobooks

We are pleased to announce the following three courses are now available as audiobooks: *Ethics in Peace Operations*, *The History of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations from 2000–2020*, and *Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution*. The audio files are broken down into sections for manageable download sizes and may be downloaded to a device or listened to in your browser.

POTI audiobooks complement the digital and printed versions of courses and offer clear benefits to students, such as increased learning flexibility and an opportunity to improve productivity. In the article "8 Mental and Physical Benefits of Audiobooks", author Jenna Homen discusses the following advantages:¹

- Audiobooks can reduce negative thinking.
- Audiobooks can give our eyes a needed break from looking at a screen, which can detract from our sleep quality.
- Audiobooks allow for better time management by allowing us to multi-task.
- Audiobooks can help build literacy — English language learners who listen to audiobooks demonstrate increased English literacy skills.

If you have not yet enrolled in these three courses, visit the POTI Courses page and enrol in one or more today: <<https://www.peaceopstraining.org/courses/>>. Be sure to provide your thoughts about the audiobook version of your course as you complete the Course Feedback Form. Your insights are valuable to us!

¹ Jenna Homen, "8 Mental and Physical Benefits of Audiobooks", 19 March 2020.

"To better serve at the United Nations, one must master this course because it explains the core values of the organization."



-Diop Arona, Senegal, on *Ethics in Peace Operations*
E-Learning for Mission Staff, The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

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New addition to the women, peace, and security webinar series

The Institute is honoured to have a [new instalment of its women, peace, and security \(WPS\) webinar series](#) created by Lt. Col. Véronique Gervais, Commandant of the Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC), Canada. Before taking command of PSTC, Lt. Col. Gervais served in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Afghanistan.

In this newest video, Lt. Col. Gervais discusses her professional trajectory, her current post, and the WPS agenda in peace operations training more broadly. Lt. Col. Gervais also provides insightful answers the following questions:

- How have your personal, professional, and academic experiences impacted your career?
- How has COVID-19 affected the way PSTC delivers training?
- What message or piece of advice would you like to share with our female students who work in a male-dominated field, such as the military or peace operations?

Forthcoming: Updated women, peace, and security course suite with UN Women

In the past two decades, the world of peace operations has seen unprecedented acknowledgements that women's presence in field missions is a strategic, operational, and tactical necessity. The Peace Operations Training Institute has long worked with UN Women to produce a suite of courses on women, peace, and security to educate future and current peace operations personnel on the WPS agenda and its legal framework. This course suite is currently being updated to reflect the latest doctrine and developments in integrating a gender perspective in peace operations. This update covers the latest WPS Security Council resolutions, current gender terminology, strides toward the localization of WPS initiatives, and regional developments in the field spanning Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Institute is indebted to UN Women for a fruitful partnership in educating peace operations practitioners at all levels on this vital subject matter. We hope to release the updated course suite in the fourth quarter of 2021.



POTI Executive Director presents at Brazil's Naval Peace Operations Training Center

On 16 June 2021, POTI Executive Director Dr. Harvey Langholtz appeared on screen as a guest speaker to the inaugural class of the humanitarian operations course at the Brazilian Naval Peace Operations Training Center (NPOTC). During his presentation, Dr. Langholtz covered the National Training Centre E-Learning Platform available at NPOTC and outlined the programme's benefits and enrolment process. He also highlighted two of the Institute's courses — *Humanitarian Relief Operations* and *International Humanitarian Law and the Law of Armed Conflict* — which were of particular interest to the attendees. NPOTC staff previously translated *International Humanitarian Law and the Law of Armed Conflict* into Portuguese. The presentation included a follow-up question-and-answer session and concluded with a testimonial from an NPOTC student who completed four POTI courses and would soon deploy as a Gender Adviser to a mission.

Introduction to the UN System popular with E-Learning for Mission Staff students

Between 1 January and 30 September 2021, E-Learning for Mission Staff (ELMS) students enrolled in *Introduction to the UN System: Orientation for Serving on a UN Field Mission* 706 times. During the same period, ELMS students accounted for a total of 9,526 course enrolments. Nearly 1,200 new ELMS student accounts have been established during 2021. The second and third most popular courses among ELMS students in this period were *Principles and Guidelines for UN Peacekeeping Operations* and *Ethics in Peace Operations*, respectively.

ELMS began in 2014 by offering 10 courses at no charge to mission personnel and discounted enrolment fees on remaining POTI courses. POTI now offers all courses free to registered ELMS students, allowing students to study materials covering a wide range of topics relevant to their experiences in the field. Since 2014, the Institute has met the demand for 145,204 enrolments through the ELMS programme.

E-Learning for Mission Staff (ELMS) provides free e-learning on peace support, humanitarian relief, and security operations to all African Union, European Union, and United Nations mission personnel: civilian, police, and military. ELMS provides no-cost enrolments in all courses in the POTI curriculum. The programme is designed to increase the professional capacity of mission personnel through the study and completion of specialized courses related to peacekeeping. All courses are available online, are self-paced, and are offered on a continuous enrolment basis. There are no academic or professional prerequisites for enrolment.

POTI African Programmes-UN Missions Coordinator visits Police Mobile Force Training School, Nigeria

On 19 September 2021, the Institute's African Programmes-UN Missions Coordinator, Superintendent of Police (Retired) Augustine Egim, was a guest speaker at the Police Mobile Force Training School, Ende Hills, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Superintendent Egim addressed Nigerian Police Officers preparing for the United Nations Assessment for Mission Service, which is a pre-selection training and screening of Individual Police Officers for UN missions. Superintendent Egim presented on the free e-learning courses available through the POTI Individual E-Learning for Peacekeepers (IELP) programme.

Superintendent Egim's work for POTI includes fostering relationships with African peace operations training organizations. He served as a Police Officer in Nigeria for over 35 years.

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



Dr. Langholtz

Here at POTI, we always strive to remain informed about important developments in the UN peacekeeping community and to be responsive to current initiatives. The past few months have been no exception. We read with interest the [Strategy for the Digital Transformation of UN Peacekeeping](#). While the emphasis is on the use and application of data and technology in UN peacekeeping, there is also recognition of the importance of training. POTI fully embraces the use of digital technology to deliver training to UN peacekeepers worldwide through our full curriculum. We have also recently developed audiobook supplements for three POTI courses, which complement our traditional asynchronous delivery system. See the article on page one for additional details on POTI audiobooks.

We also monitor the continued recognition of the importance of women, peace, and security and note that this month, the UN Security Council is scheduled to hold its annual open debate on women, peace, and security. POTI has been in close cooperation for many years with UN Women in support of the three-course suite on the regional implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on WPS. We are also happy to host our own WPS webinar series, most recently featuring Lt. Col. Véronique Gervais, Commandant of the Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC), Canada. See the article on page two for more on this webinar and page three for updates on the WPS course suite we produce with UN Women.

It is our pleasure to remain in direct contact with both the institutions and individuals making up the peacekeeping training community. One key forum for this is the Partnership for E-learning on Peace Operations ([PELP](#)), which consists of UN Member States interested in e-learning on peacekeeping and committed to guiding and supporting how e-learning on peacekeeping is provided. The most recent PELP meeting was in July 2021, with the next scheduled for January 2022. We are also looking forward to the annual meeting of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC), which will be held virtually on 9 and 10 November 2021 with the title "[Overcoming Training Challenges in the Covid Era – Critical Gaps, Best Practices, Hybrid Approaches](#)". POTI will participate in Session 2.1, entitled "Training for Peace Operations: Gathered Experiences & Expectations for this New Era". It will be my honour to join the distinguished panellists as I present on "E-Learning on Peace Operations: Meeting the Needs of the Peacekeeping Community".

We are always pleased to be invited by a national training centre to participate by video conferencing as part of the convening of a classroom course, where we outline the e-learning students are entitled to through POTI. Most recently, we presented to the Brazilian Naval Peace Operations Training Center. The visit is discussed on page three. It would be my honour to receive such an invitation to address your class.



It is the purpose of 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.