



Peace Operations Training Institute®

Study peace and humanitarian relief any place, any time



July 2022 Newsletter

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Peace Support Operations Training Centre (PSO-TC) in Singo, Uganda. 2 May 2022. Photo by Dr. Whitney Grespin.

POTI Course Releases

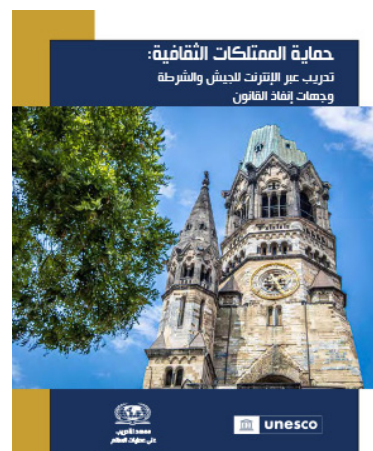
POTI is pleased to announce the release of the Portuguese translation of [*Humanitarian Relief Operations*](#), translated in partnership with the Centro de Operações de Paz de Caráter Naval (COPazNav). This course covers international humanitarian law as applied to soldiers, humanitarian workers, refugees, displaced persons, and others involved with armed conflict.

The Institute has also released the Arabic translation of [*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) based on the UNESCO Military Manual on Cultural Property Protection.

Finally, the Institute has released [*Comprehensive*](#)

[*Protection of Civilians Training Materials for United Nations Peace Operations: Military Version.*](#)

These training materials provide a comprehensive training package that combines aspects of Protection of Civilians, Child Protection, and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence for military peacekeepers in United Nations peacekeeping operations. These course materials have been sourced directly from the United Nations Peacekeeping Resource Hub under a revocable licence issued by the Integrated Training Service.



African Union Transition Mission in Somalia Virtual Meeting

In June 2022, POTI staff met virtually with African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) personnel. Present from POTI was Chief of Institutional Relations, Ms. Vanessa Anderson, Assistant Chief of Institutional Relations, Ms. Georgia Richardson, and African Programmes/United Nations Mission Coordinator, Dr. Whitney Grespin.

This meeting began with a POTI-led presentation covering the E-Learning for Mission Staff (ELMS) programme through which ATMIS staff can enrol in courses. The ELMS programme provides free access to the entire POTI curriculum to all civilian, police, and military personnel serving on United Nations, African Union (AU), and European Union (EU) missions and peace offices. Ms. Richardson reviewed the current curriculum, enrolment process, and resources available to all students. The presentation concluded with a follow-up question-and-answer session in which POTI staff engaged in a productive exchange regarding upcoming courses, ATMIS training needs, and how personnel can access and

complete their training. Following this meeting, ATMIS sent out a mass email to officers encouraging them to enrol in and complete POTI courses.

ATMIS (previously AMISOM) had the most enrolments in the ELMS programme last year.

In 2021, more than 380 students from ATMIS completed courses with POTI, and POTI met the demand for over 2,200 enrolments. In 2022, POTI has met the demand for over 1,000 enrolments from ATMIS personnel. The most popular course for ATMIS students this year has been [An Introduction to the UN System and Its Role in International Peace and Security](#). POTI looks forward to continuing to serve students from ATMIS.



ATMIS sign outside Mogadishu. 13 May 2022.

Boots on the Ground: Major Lyndsay Freeman

We are excited to feature Major Lyndsay Freeman, who is currently deployed with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). With the mission spanning five countries (Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt), her role as the Plans Officer sees her conducting liaison and coordination within all the outstations, relationship-building with other United Nations missions and external actors, and working on key projects such as the re-commencement of the United Nations patrolling on the Sinai Peninsula.

Major Freeman is a trained Operational Gender Advisor who has conducted postgraduate research on gender, peace, and security. Before deploying, she was the Senior Instructor for the Australian Defence Force's Gender, Peace, and Security Courses, held at the [Peace Operations Training Centre](#), Canberra.

In this role, she had the honour of training over 500 Australian Defence Force personnel, academics, and other government agency personnel on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and its application to their roles. She continues her quest to apply a gender lens to United Nations operations as the UNTSO Gender Focal Point.



Major Lyndsay Freeman (left) with UNTSO in Jerusalem. March 2022.

Along with being a busy mother of two, Major Freeman runs the platform "[Propel Her – Defence Women's Leadership Series](#)", which publishes short articles and essays on career and personal development to support and amplify the voices of women in defence.

Major Freeman is keen to connect with other like-minded souls on Twitter ([@LyndsayFreeman8](#)).

Institute Staff Participates in the EAPTC Annual Meeting

Ms. Georgia Richardson, Registrar and Assistant Chief of Institutional Relations, attended the European Association of Peace Operations Training Centres (EAPTC) Annual Meeting in May 2022. Also present was POTI Board Member Colonel Roberto Gil de Vargas. This was the first in-person conference the Institute has attended since October of 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with most conferences hosted virtually instead. The conference was held in Stadtschlaining, Austria and organized and hosted by the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR). The conference was conducted within the walls of the Schaining Castle, also known as the “Peace Castle”, a historic property that dates back to 1230 A.D.

The conference consisted of multiple educational sessions on topics such as environmental challenges and their impact on peace operations, PeaceTech, knowledge management, the implications of the conflict in Ukraine, and lessons from Afghanistan. Each session was interactive and allowed participants to discuss these topics from varying perspectives and how they relate to their organizations’ work. The sessions on the environment and technology were of particular interest to POTI, as the Institute is working to develop courses on how these topics intersect with peacekeeping. On the last day of the conference, a Marketplace Bazaar was held to allow participants to learn more about one another’s ongoing projects and ideas. This gave POTI the opportunity to share its



The medieval Peace Castle was the venue for this year's EAPTC Conference, hosted by ASPR. 10 May 2022.

current and upcoming curriculum, partnerships, and newly available features such as Kindle compatibility and audiobooks.

In total, 25 organizations were represented, and 38 individuals attended the conference. POTI was honoured to meet with various training officers, researchers, commandants/directors, advisors, and other military, police, and centre representatives. POTI looks forward to continuing to foster these relationships as the Institute works towards the common goal of providing training on peace support to those in the field. POTI is grateful for the opportunity to attend EAPTC and similar conferences, which gives the Institute the chance to discuss these topics and the ever-changing needs of peace operations personnel.



Group photo of participants at the 2022 EAPTC Conference in Stadtschlaining, Austria. 12 May 2022.

From the desk of the Executive Director, Ramona Taheri



POTI Executive Director Ramona Taheri meets with Ghana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Harold Adlai Agyeman, in July 2022.

It is with great honour I write my first memo to you as the Executive Director of the Peace Operations Training Institute. Words cannot express my gratitude for working in the service of the peace operations community for the past nine years and my enthusiasm for being able to continue this work in a leadership role.

The sole founder and former Executive Director of POTI, Dr. Harvey Langholtz, is well known to many of our readers. Dr. Langholtz's work in distance learning on peace operations started decades ago, far before this was a generally well-known concept. By eliminating the need to travel to receive certain types of training and decreasing barriers to accessing high-quality training materials, I believe Dr. Langholtz aided a generation of peacekeepers and humanitarian relief workers in their pursuit of knowledge. He has worked tirelessly in this pursuit, and I am honoured to be able to carry on this legacy. I am also grateful for his support and continued guidance as a Special Adviser to the POTI Board of Directors.

POTI continues to meet with partners, release new courses, and receive feedback from the peace operations and humanitarian relief communities. Our closer relationship with the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia is most welcome, as we benefit from their feedback to better serve the wider peace operations community. We extend our deepest gratitude to UNESCO for providing an Arabic translation to the course on cultural property protection co-published with POTI. This is currently the only Arabic course we offer, but we hope to provide more resources for Arabic speakers in the future. We currently offer courses in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic and have been exploring the possibility of offering additional translations in languages most used by the largest troop-contributing countries.

As POTI grows to meet the needs of those being deployed on such missions, we encourage feedback from Member States, missions, humanitarian relief operations personnel, other organizations, all POTI students, and all interested in such topics.

Our thanks to the following United Nations Member States for providing the support that makes e-learning on peace operations possible:



Australia



Canada



Denmark



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Switzerland



United Kingdom

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