



# Peace Operations Training Institute®

Study peace and humanitarian relief any place, any time



## August 2023 Newsletter

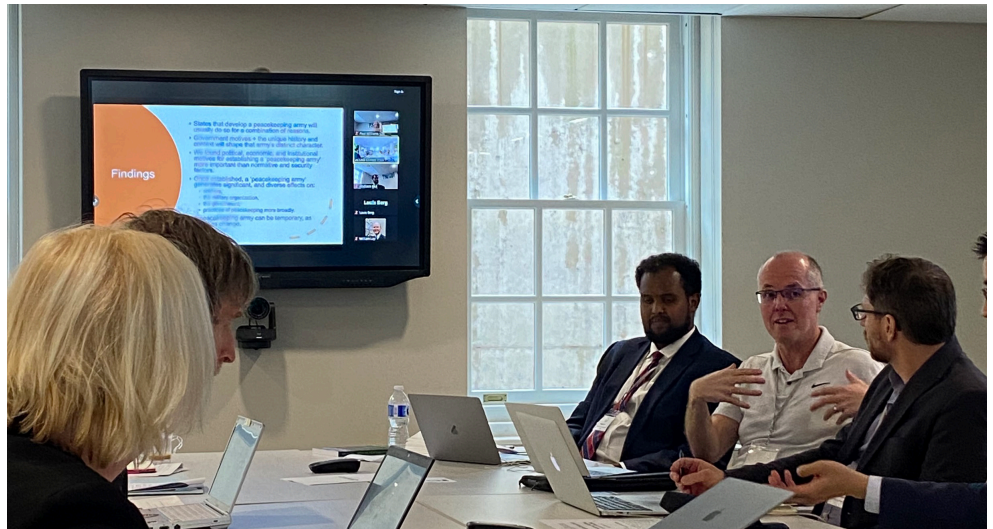
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POTI course author Dr. Paul D. Williams discusses African peace operations at the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) 2023 Annual Meeting, 21 June 2023.

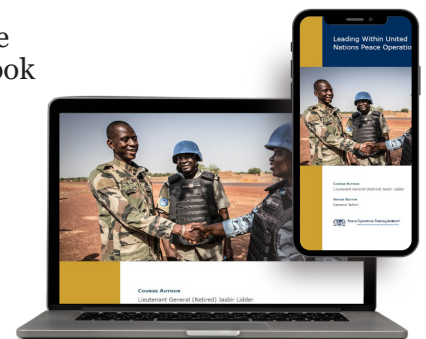
## POTI Releases Updated Course, New Interactive Module, and Audiobook

Over the past three months, the Institute has released one updated course, a new interactive module, and an audiobook as it continues to broaden its course offerings and formats. POTI Board member Lieutenant General (Retired) Jasbir Lidder shared over 40 years of military experience in updating [\*Leading Within United Nations Peace Operations\*](#). This updated edition is practitioner-oriented and draws on case studies rooted in on-the-ground mission experience. The seven lessons offer a primer on strategic planning at the United Nations system and mission levels. Furthermore, it examines the convergence of cross-cutting issues and the increasingly essential themes of green peace operations and technology integration as force multipliers.

POTI also launched a new online interactive module for the popular course [\*The History of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations from 2000–2020\*](#). This interactive module is a 10-lesson abridged version of the course by Dr. Paul D. Williams, released in 2022. This online microlearning environment breaks down the most important trends and patterns in United

Nations peace operations during the twenty-first century. End-of-Lesson Quizzes help students self-assess their understanding of key points, and closed captioning makes the course accessible to a range of e-learners.

Finally, the Institute released an audiobook of its newest course [\*Health of Peace Operations Personnel\*](#), produced in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO). This audiobook allows students on the go or who prefer audio formats to access the entire course on the unique health challenges facing peace operations personnel.



# Interview with BPOTC Commandant Colonel Sudhir Pratap Singh



*Please share a bit about your background and how you became the commandant of [BPOTC](#) (Birendra Peace Operations Training Centre).*

I am Colonel Sudhir Pratap Singh, currently serving as commandant of BPOTC. I joined the Nepali Army in 1997, and during 26 years of service, I garnered experience in a wide area, working as a unit commander, staff officer, instructor, and peacekeeper. I had the opportunity to serve in different peacekeeping missions in different capacities, such as in MONUC (DRC) in 2005, MINUSTAH (Haiti) in 2009, and MONUSCO (DRC) in 2016 and 2017. Similarly, I had an opportunity to serve in the Integrated Training Service at UNHQ from 2020 to 2022 as a military training officer, where I was mainly engaged in preparing DPO/DOS annual training guidance for missions, helping missions in preparing their comprehensive mission training plans, and enhancing the capacity of Integrated Mission Training Centres (IMTC), Military Training Cells, and Police Training Cells through various engagements.

Because of my experience in the training and peacekeeping field, the Nepali Army entrusted me with leading BPOTC as the commandant. Together with my dedicated team, I am driven to ensure that our peacekeepers are equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge, and resilience to face the dynamic challenges of modern peacekeeping.

*What professional accomplishment are you most proud of?*

Throughout my 26-year career, I have had the privilege of holding various appointments and undertaking diverse tasks. While I take pride in all my assignments, a few hold particular significance. My role as commanding officer of an infantry unit stands out as it provided me with the opportunity to serve the local community during challenging times and allowed me to showcase my leadership abilities. My current position as the commandant of BPOTC is of great importance as it enables me to elevate the training standards of the centre, ensuring the preparation of competent peacekeepers capable of effectively fulfilling mission mandates.

*BPOTC trains thousands of peace operations personnel annually prior to their deployment in peace operations. What does this training look like?*

Dedicated to the continuous development of Nepali peacekeepers, BPOTC facilitates a wide array of training programmes, benefiting approximately 6,000 peacekeepers annually. Among its core responsibilities, the centre delivers Pre-Deployment Training (PDT), a fundamental aspect of preparing troops for missions. PDT utilizes a multifaceted approach, encompassing vital elements such as Basic Military Skill Training, Comprehensive Understanding of UN Peacekeeping Operations, Reinforcement Training, Mission-Specific Training, integrated exercises and meticulous Operational Readiness Inspections. Spanning 14 weeks, this all-encompassing programme ensures peacekeepers are fully prepared and primed to face the multifaceted challenges encountered in the mission environment.

*“These experiences allowed me to play a vital role in fostering world peace and making a tangible difference on the ground.”*

— Colonel Sudhir Pratap Singh

Additionally, BPOTC conducts a diverse range of specialized courses, including the UN Staff Officers Course (UNSOC); UN Military Observer Course (UNMO); UN Logistic Officers Course (UNLOG); Women, Peace, and Security (WPS); UN National Investigation Officers Course (UN NIO); UN Military Peacekeeping Intelligence Course (UNMPKI); UN Buddy First Aid Course (BFAC); UN Peacekeeping Operations Contingent Commanders Course (UNPKOCCC); Protection of Civilian Training of Trainers (POC ToT); Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TC3); and Engagement Team training. Apart from PDT

and specialized courses, BPOTC also conducts the English and French-language package for contingent members/UNMO/UNSO based on their specific peace operations mission language.

*What topics in the BPOTC curriculum do you feel students utilize the most on a mission?*

Apart from the primary responsibility of military contingents in the mission, based on feedback from the mission and the changing mission environment, participants mostly deal with the main cross-cutting issues such as protection of civilians, gender perspectives, human rights, conflict-related sexual violence, environment protection, and sexual exploitation and abuse. By ensuring proficiency in these areas, participants are equipped with a solid foundation to uphold the values and standards of peacekeeping operations.



*“Cultivate an open and respectful attitude towards different cultures, religions, and traditions. Building strong relationships and understanding local perspectives is crucial for effective peacekeeping.”*

BPOTC students participate in e-learning on peace operations. Photo by BPOTC.

*How does BPOTC incorporate e-learning into its training?*

BPOTC offers virtual courses to participants from all backgrounds, both national and international. The centre understands the importance of flexibility and convenience, which is why virtual classes and a Distance Learning Package (DLP) are provided for peacekeepers to enhance their knowledge and skills without the need to travel. Whether individuals are preparing for their second or third deployment as UN Military Observers or Staff Officers, BPOTC offers orientation courses specifically tailored to their needs.

Since 2015, BPOTC has partnered with POTI to deliver online training, benefiting hundreds of participants each year. In line with Nepal's exceptional commitment to UN peacekeeping, BPOTC encourages Nepali Army officers to seize the opportunity to enrol in courses provided by POTI. By embracing this progressive approach, Nepal continues to solidify its position as a leading contributor to global peacekeeping efforts.

*What would you say is the biggest accomplishment of BPOTC? What do you hope to achieve this year?*

BPOTC, established in 2001 under the motto of “Peace with Honor”, started its journey with limited resources and capabilities. However, in a remarkably short period of time, it has expanded its capacity and now trains over 6,000 individuals annually, both from Nepal and around the world. Today, it stands proudly as one of the world's premier peacekeeping centres, a testament to its relentless pursuit of excellence.

*What should our students who hope to train for and serve on a mission know about peace operations?*

Students who aspire to train for and serve on a peacekeeping mission should be aware of several key

aspects of peace operations. Firstly, they should have a solid understanding of the principles and objectives of peacekeeping, which involve promoting peace and stability, and they should be particularly aware of some cross-cutting issues, such as the protection of civilians, conflict-related sexual violence, child protection, human rights, etc.

Additionally, understanding the multidimensional nature of peace operations is essential. Students should be aware that peacekeeping involves not only military components but also civilian, police, and humanitarian dimensions. They should recognize the importance of coordination and cooperation among different actors, such as international organizations, host countries, and regional bodies.

*Is there anything else you would like to share with our students?*

To all the students aspiring to participate in peace operations, I want to provide a few tips based on my personal experiences. Firstly, pay attention to physical and mental preparation. Peacekeeping missions can be physically and mentally demanding. Prioritize your fitness, endurance, and mental well-being through regular exercise, stress management techniques, and seeking support when needed. Secondly, I suggest you foster cultural sensitivity. Cultivate an open and respectful attitude towards different cultures, religions, and traditions. Building strong relationships and understanding local perspectives is crucial for effective peacekeeping. Finally, never stop learning. The field of peace operations is constantly evolving. Stay curious, continue your education, and be open to continuous learning and professional development opportunities.

*POTI thanks Colonel Singh for answering our questions and his contributions to peace and security.*


# Technology Tips for Wireless Internet Connections

If you are experiencing long loading times when accessing the POTI website, or slow downloads of your courses and course materials, try some of the following tips to help improve your experience.

- ✓ **Check your network connectivity and network settings.** Go to the settings on your device. Ensure your device is connected to the best network available. Wi-Fi connectivity and GSM, WCDMA, or LTE network modes improve download speeds. If you are connected to a 2G or 3G network, try downloading your course textbook PDF as individual lessons by selecting “Multiple Files”.
- ✓ **If you use a personal Wi-Fi network, ensure your connection is private by setting up a password.** Sharing your network connection with others can slow your download speed.
- ✓ **Ensure your device and router are located near each other.** If they are too far apart, your device may be unable to connect to your router.
- ✓ **Avoid placing your router in the vicinity of other wireless routers.** Ideally, your router will be elevated, free of interference from walls and other building materials.
- ✓ **Regularly scan your computer with anti-virus software.** Viruses can impact your Internet performance. Computer viruses will also put your personal data at risk.
- ✓ **Try blocking online advertisements.** Advertisement data can negatively impact your connection speed. Use anti-virus software or an ad blocker to manage website advertisements and improve loading times.
- ✓ **Turn on your browser’s “Reader Mode”.** By activating Reader Mode, you can improve the loading speeds of web pages.
- ✓ **Try using another browser.** Some Internet browsers perform better than others. Try switching to a different browser to see if performance improves.
- ✓ **Turn off automatic and background updates for applications you are not using.** Turning off background and automatic updates frees up space and improves Internet download speeds.
- ✓ **Close applications you are not using.** This may improve your device’s performance.





UN Photo by Manuel Elías 21 March 2022.



## Download THE POTI CLASSROOM APP

The Peace Operations Training Institute Classroom App is a companion to the Institute's online learning platform. Students may use the application to access their classroom on mobile devices, take exams, view course content, manage their profiles, and view their transcripts.





# From the Desk of the Executive Director Ramona Taheri



This quarter, POTI had the privilege of meeting with many Permanent Missions to the United Nations, national peacekeeping training centre partners, United Nations mission personnel and training staff, and other stakeholders in training. I sincerely thank Colonel Singh of BPOTC Nepal for imparting his wisdom and supporting POTI initiatives during this period.

I was honoured to engage with partners at the Annual Conference of the European Association of Peace Operations Training Centres (EAPTC) in Brussels, Belgium, hosted by the European Security and Defence College (ESDC). This year's conference theme was "Enhancing training capacity and cooperation on peace, security and defence". Participants shared ideas, lessons learned, and best practices. Special focus was placed on the forthcoming New Agenda for Peace to be presented by the United Nations this year. Many thanks to ESDC for an engaging and productive conference.



EAPTC conference attendees in Brussels discuss the forthcoming New Agenda for Peace. 8 June 2023.

In May, POTI released its new course, [\*Health for Peace Operations Personnel\*](#), with its partner, the World Health Organization. The Institute has now released an audiobook version of the course, which can be downloaded and listened to offline while the student is on the go. Furthermore, following the release of its first online interactive module in late 2022, the Institute has now created a second interactive module. Students enrolled in [\*The History of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations from 2000–2020\*](#) may also use this companion to the course to better grasp and understand the landmark events in twenty-first-century United Nations peace operations. We hope these formats increase accessibility among our students and provide better accommodations for students with different learning styles.

We encourage your feedback on our programmes, course content, and user experience. Please write to us at [help@peaceopstraining.org](mailto:help@peaceopstraining.org) and let us know how we can better serve you.

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



Kingdom of the Netherlands



United Kingdom



Switzerland

The Peace Operations Training Institute (POTI) is an independent nongovernmental 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.

## Download the Peace Operations Training Institute Mobile Application



All the major features of the POTI online classroom are available. Internet connection typically required.

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Women in peace operations are a key to peace. POTI encourages women to enrol and study our courses.

