



# Peace Operations Training Institute®

Study peace and humanitarian relief any place, any time



## January 2023 Newsletter

### In this issue:

POTI Launches Interactive Module, p. 1

POTI Course Author Interview: Dr. Tom Woodhouse, p. 2

POTI Connects with Partners at the 26<sup>th</sup> IAPTC Annual Conference, p. 3

POTI Releases Course Supplements and Translations, p. 4

Institutional Relations Sets Priorities for 2023, p. 4

From the Desk of the Executive Director Ramona Taheri, p. 5

## E-LEARNING ON PEACE OPERATIONS IN 2022

**Total enrolments: 113,962 from 168 nations**

**Most popular course: *An Introduction to the UN System and Its Role in International Peace and Security***

**Enrolments from women: 27,516**

**POST Certificates completed: 1,395**

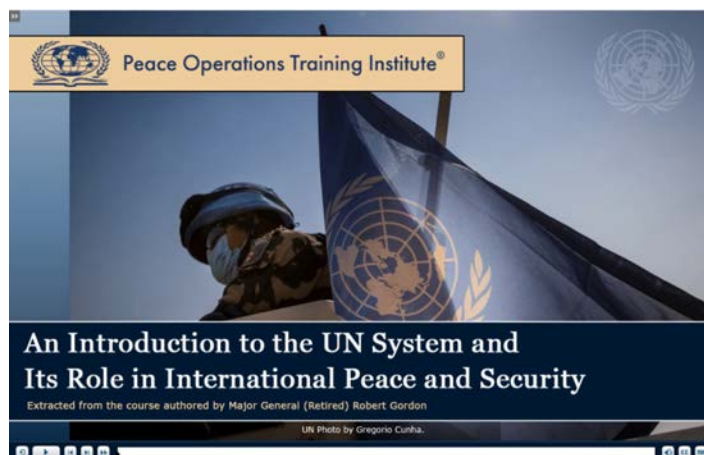


### POTI Launches Interactive Module

The Institute has added a new format to its e-learning programme by launching an online interactive module for the course [\*An Introduction to the UN System and Its Role in International Peace and Security\*](#). The nine-lesson module is an abridged version of the full course by Major General (Retired) Robert Gordon, released in 2022.

The interactive module is a companion to the course text that uses audio narration, on-screen reference texts, and imagery sourced from the UN Photo Library to animate this primer on the United Nations system. While this enhanced e-learning experience does not replace the main course text, this microlearning environment breaks down the complex components of the United Nations framework and its principal organs into concise and easy-to-understand concepts. Students can test their retention of key points with self-assessed End-of-Lesson Quizzes, and closed captioning makes the course accessible to a wide range of e-learners.

The Institute hopes this new format will expand student access to indispensable information about the United Nations and its role in international peace and security. In addition, it plans to release two more interactive modules as course companions in 2023 to expand the breadth and depth of the POTI e-learning curriculum.



## POTI Course Author Interview: Dr. Tom Woodhouse



**POTI:** You are the author of the POTI course *Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution*. What is the most important lesson you hope students take away from it?

**TW:** The main lesson, amongst many outlined in the course, is the need to emphasize how effective United Nations peacekeeping has been since its inception over sixty years ago. Despite the well-chronicled failures and limited success of some specific missions, there is a very positive correlation between the deployment of peacekeeping missions in general since 1956 and the decline of international conflict and civil wars. I would go as far as to claim that peacekeeping is amongst the most effective mechanisms available to the international community to end international conflict and rebuild peaceful communities and states.

**POTI:** How has the relationship between peace operations and peacebuilding changed and grown in recent years?

**TW:** For me, one of the most exciting developments in the relationship between peacekeeping and peacebuilding has been the closer connection between civilians, the military, and the host or local conflict-affected communities. What is emerging here is the potential for a more holistic concept and practice of peacekeeping, where the security and disarmament tasks are part of a longer process of connecting peacebuilding with sustainable development.

**POTI:** In the most recent update to your course, you discussed how technological advances, such as unmanned aerial vehicles and e-peace simulations, are impacting the field of peace operations. What technologies do you think have recently had the most impact?

**TW:** As described in the course, there are very exciting opportunities to use information, cybertechnology, and artificial intelligence systems to generate a range of specific technologies for peacebuilding. The use of big data, drones, and satellite technologies to monitor conflict events in real time will not only provide better early warning indicators but also generate and expand the range of resolution scenario options. As an educator, I am especially excited by the potential to build on virtual reality and peace-gaming technologies for predeployment training.

**POTI:** What are you doing these days in addition to being a POTI author?

**TW:** I have retired as a full-time academic, but I hold Emeritus Professor posts at the University of Bradford Department of Peace Studies (United Kingdom) and the Ramon Llull University in Barcelona, Spain. I am a member of the International Advisory Board for the Institute for Economics and Peace and a member of the Council of the Conflict Research Society (CRS). Across all these roles, my passion is to explore how to develop technologies for peace so that the power of information and communications technologies (ICT) can be converted from war-making to peacemaking. To this end, I am a founder member of a new network called [The Interdisciplinary Peace Technology Working Group](#).

I am a passionate follower of sport, especially football, and am convinced of the power of sport and football to promote peace and development. I have published in this area and built my own [website](#) to share stories and case studies. For example, it is significant that the footballer Didier Drogba, captain of the Côte d'Ivoire national team, stopped a war in his country using his fame as a footballer where politicians had failed.

*“What is emerging here is the potential for a more holistic concept and practice of peacekeeping, where the security and disarmament tasks are part of a longer process of connecting peacebuilding with sustainable development.”*

The Institute thanks Tom Woodhouse, PhD, for answering our questions and his many contributions to e-learning on peace operations. He is the author of the POTI course *Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution*.



## POTI Connects with Partners at the 26<sup>th</sup> IAPTC Annual Conference

POTI staff and members of the Board of Directors recently connected with peace operations training partners at the 26<sup>th</sup> International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) Annual Conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Hosted by the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training (BIPSOT), this year's conference was in person for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The conference was organized under the theme "Peace Operations in the Digital Era – Opportunities and Challenges for the Global Training Community". Conference attendees discussed topics relevant to the digital era, such as technology and innovation in peace operations, best practices for training, and the women, peace and security agenda. During the "Partnership and Cooperation in Delivering Training in the Digital Era" panel, Deputy Director Elisabeth Rosenbaum presented on the subject of "Enhancing Accessibility to Effective E-Learning". After the presentation, Ms. Rosenbaum held a productive breakout session where attendees could ask questions, offer feedback, and discuss accessibility to e-learning in the digital age.



Deputy Director Elisabeth Rosenbaum presents "Enhancing Accessibility to Effective E-Learning" at the 26<sup>th</sup> IAPTC Annual Conference. 4 November 2022.

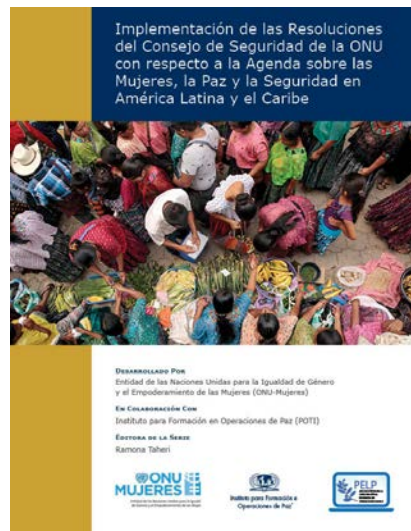
This year, 130 international attendees travelled from six continents to attend the conference. POTI was honoured to meet with training officers, researchers, commandants, directors, advisors, and other military, police, and centre representatives. The Institute would like to thank our partner, BIPSOT, for hosting this year's conference and allowing participants to collaborate and unite.



A panoramic view of the 26<sup>th</sup> IAPTC Annual Conference and its attendees. 31 October 2022.

## POTI Releases Course Supplements and Translations

POTI is pleased to announce the release of the Spanish translation of the course, [Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), released in partnership with UN-Women. This course addresses evolving challenges and priorities in implementing the women, peace and security agenda at the national and regional levels in Latin America and the Caribbean. View an introductory video to the course from UN-Women Deputy Executive Director Åsa Regnér [here](#), available with Spanish subtitles.



The Institute has also released an e-publication version of [The History of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations from 2000–2020](#), also available as a Kindle (MOBI) edition. This popular course, which provides an overview of major trends and patterns in United Nations peace operations in the twenty-first century, has also been added as an elective as part of the Institute's Peace Operations Specialized Training (POST) Certificate programme. The updated POST Certificate requirements can be found [here](#).

Finally, as mentioned above, POTI continues to branch out and explore different course formats to ensure the broadest possible access to its course materials. The Institute has launched its first online interactive module, [An Introduction to the UN System and Its Role in International Peace and Security](#). The module is now available as a self-paced interactive version of the course by Major General (Retired) Robert Gordon. This abbreviated version of the course guides learners through the essential components of the course over nine lessons. Topics covered include the United Nations framework and principal organs, different types of field missions, ethics in the field, and much more. Each lesson concludes with a short self-assessment.\*

*\*Since the interactive module is an abbreviated version of the full course, students must take the full course to earn a Certificate of Completion.*

## Institutional Relations Sets Priorities for 2023

The Institutional Relations (IR) Department at POTI is responsible for engaging with and serving the Institute's partners, surveying the peace operations landscape to develop new partnerships, and ensuring students' needs are met. Last year was a productive one for the IR Department. The Department formed two new partnerships with peacekeeping training centres, attended two international conferences, and started meeting with partners in person again for the first time following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A key objective of the IR Department is to increase the reach of POTI across Africa. The Institute is grateful for strong relationships across the continent, including with centres in Kenya, Nigeria, and Ethiopia through the National Training Centre E-Learning Platform (NTCELP). NTCELP provides online virtual training to aid and accompany centres in their in person predeployment training. POTI courses enable centres to serve more students, supplement their classroom curriculum, and expand the breadth of topics available to their students. In 2023, the Department looks forward to establishing new partnerships through NTCELP while strengthening existing relationships.

POTI recognizes the importance of women in peace operations and understands that the absence of women means a lack of sustainable peace. Last year, the Institute produced its third webinar in an ongoing series on the implementation of the women, peace, and security agenda in peace operations. Superintendent Sangya Malla of Nepal, former Chief of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) Police Health and Environment Unit, was interviewed for this new instalment. While deployed with MONUSCO, Superintendent Malla won the 2021 United Nations Woman Police Officer of the Year award. In 2023, the IR Department hopes to network with more women in leadership positions in the peace operations field.

The IR Department would like to thank our existing partners for their ongoing collaboration and looks forward to increasing engagement in Africa and with women in 2023.

## From the Desk of the Executive Director Ramona Taheri



As we enter another year of the COVID-19 pandemic, I extend my gratitude to our partners for their cooperation and steadfast support for e-learning on peace operations. Over the past few months, POTI had the opportunity to present to our partners at the Latin American Association of Training Centres for Peace Operations (ALCOPAZ) and the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) annual conferences and have continued to connect with missions, national peacekeeping centres, and personnel across the globe. In so doing, POTI has received valuable feedback, including a demand for new translations of our materials and more multimedia enhancements. We are committed to bringing these new resources to our students in 2023.

Accordingly, POTI is excited to announce the launch of new interactive modules that will accompany certain courses in our curriculum. This new tool will allow students to engage with the material further. We acknowledge that many of our students have difficulty accessing reliable high-speed Internet while on mission and in other locations. We remain committed to keeping the bulk of our course materials downloadable and available offline.

POTI will release several new and updated courses in the new year, two of which have been produced in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO). One is an update to the [\*Ebola Virus Disease: Awareness and Precautions for Peacekeeping Personnel\*](#) course, and the other is a general course on the health of peace operations personnel. The general course will cover various topics, ranging from COVID-19 to mental health. We hope these courses will bring more attention to the well-being of peace operations personnel, humanitarian workers, and individuals similarly deployed across the globe.

We invite our students and partners to continue connecting with the Institute to provide their insight and share their fieldwork stories with us. POTI is honoured to serve this community of peacemakers, peacebuilders, and peace operations personnel. I send my best wishes to all for a peaceful and prosperous new year.

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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