



Peace Operations Training Institute®

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January 2024 Newsletter



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POTI Hosts Breakout Session and Connects with Partners at the 27th IAPTC Annual Conference

The International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) in Nairobi, Kenya recently hosted the 27th International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) Annual Conference. The conference theme was “Leveraging Partnerships in Training for Complex Peace Operations Environments”. This year, 280 international attendees travelled from 60 countries to attend the conference. POTI staff were honoured to attend and host the breakout session “The Gender Digital Divide: How E-Learning Can Bridge the Divide and Increase Gender Awareness for all Peace Operations Personnel”.

The breakout session participants discussed how downloadable e-learning courses could help overcome barriers to training women as well as mitigate aspects of the gender digital divide, which is women and girls’ lack of access to information communication technologies. The group also discussed the importance of gender as a cross-cutting issue in training materials to communicate gender awareness to all. POTI believes e-learning initiatives can have a multiplier effect on women’s full, equal, and meaningful participation in peace operations and sustainable peace.

Following the presentation, participants shared their institutions’ initiatives to increase women’s access to training and increase training on gender awareness. Chile’s national peacekeeping training centre, CECOPAC, shared that the Women, Peace, and Security agenda and other gender topics are always included in the training given at the centre. The Rwanda Peace Academy stated that it is crucial for training institutions to consider



POTI Executive Director Ramona Taheri gifts the Commandant of IPSTC, Brigadier Joyce Sitienei, with a plaque recognising the work of IPSTC in hosting the conference.

gender when nominating people to attend trainings. POTI is proud to work with these centres and contribute e-learning on gender awareness topics before, during, and after deployment.

POTI was grateful to meet with many partners, training officers, researchers, and other military, police, and centre representatives to discuss ongoing cooperation and possible synergies. POTI left inspired and enthusiastic to enter 2024 with new information, experiences, and connections. The Institute would like to thank its partner, IPSTC, for hosting this year’s conference in a welcoming and collaborative environment.g

Spotlight on Technology: New Course and Interactive E-Learning



A device for controlling uncrewed aerial vehicles, or “drones”. UN Photo by Harandane Dicko.

With the release of *Technology and Innovation in United Nations Peace Operations* by Dr. Walter Dorn, POTI has added to its curriculum an essential primer on the current and emerging landscape of technology in peace operations. As United Nations peace operations have evolved, so has the technology available to contingents, with seemingly infinite transformational possibilities as it advances. This course explores the wonders and dangers of technology while connecting the dots between critical innovations and real-life peacekeeping applications. At 150 pages, this course is an accessible guide to help tech neophytes and advanced technology users navigate new and familiar technologies in the field.



Course author Dr. Walter Dorn, Professor of Defence Studies at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) and the Canadian Forces College (CFC).

Similarly, POTI continues to embrace digital-forward and interactive formats for e-learning with the release of its third interactive module, a companion to *Health of Peace Operations Personnel*. This interactive module incorporates multimedia elements to support a range of learning styles and capture essential information on the unique health challenges facing peace operations personnel. This course, developed in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), presents a compilation of materials sourced mainly from the WHO e-learning platform [OpenWHO.org](https://openwho.org), and it is a testament to the power of collaboration across e-learning platforms.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres rightfully observed that digital technology “represents one of the greatest opportunities, but also one of the greatest challenges, of our time”. The Institute hopes its embrace of technology will offer a human-centred approach that catalyses transformative, equitable, and inclusive learning to students across the globe.

From the Desk of the Executive Director Ramona Taheri



As we head into 2024, conflict rages throughout the world. In the past decade, conflicts have increased in number. Moreover, they've become significantly more complex due to the rise of misinformation, new technologies, and increasing geopolitical competition. Many onlookers feel hopeless in the face of such abject tragedy. However, those deployed to peace and stability operations, crisis management missions, and humanitarian relief operations, as well as those working in diplomacy, know there are proven tools to end conflict and create conditions for lasting and positive peace. A better, more peaceful world is possible, and our students are at the forefront of bringing this reality to fruition.

The Peace Operations Training Institute celebrated its 15-year anniversary in 2023. We hope for many more years serving those who foster safety and harmony in conflict-affected areas. The only way we can be successful in this endeavour is to hear from our students and partners regarding how we can better serve their needs. Please do provide us with suggestions; your guidance is invaluable.

I wish you all a lovely, safe, healthy new year full of hope and prosperity.

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



Switzerland



United Kingdom



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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.