



Peace Operations Training Institute®

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October 2024 Newsletter

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The Institute Welcomes New Chief of Content

POTI is excited to welcome Robin Lang, our new Chief of Content.

Robin holds a BA in anthropology from the University of Virginia and an MA in Global Health from Northwestern University. Her Master's capstone examined maternal and child nutrition in Tanzania, where she worked with Maasai women's groups. After earning her degree, she worked with nonprofits in Haiti and spent several years in the business sector. She is excited to return to the nonprofit sector.

Outside of work, Robin enjoys marathon swimming and other endurance sports. She also coaches high school water polo and volunteers in animal advocacy.

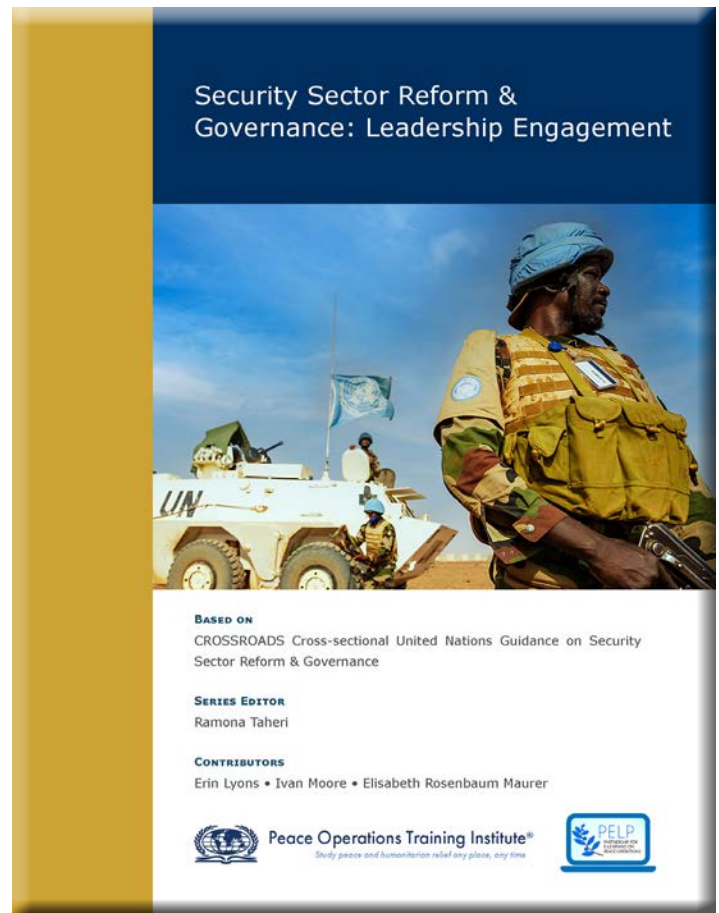
New and Upcoming Releases

In recent months, the Institute has released one new course, a course update, and a Spanish translation.

[Security Sector Reform & Governance: Leadership Engagement](#) has been released by POTI as a guidance module based on United Nations guidance on Security Sector Reform & Governance (CROSSROADS). This module aims to provide an overview of the basic principles of the United Nations approach to security sector reform and governance (SSR&G). This executive-level training explains the role of mission leadership in building the foundations for peace, development, and human rights through SSR&G. As with other POTI courses, this module includes open-ended questions to facilitate reflection. French and Spanish translations will be released in the coming weeks.

[Civil-Military Coordination in Peace Operations](#), co-authored by Christopher Holshek and Cedric de Coning, has been updated from the 2017 edition. It continues to be a go-to resource for peace operations personnel as they interface between the military, civilian, and police components of a mission. Divided into two main parts, the first half of the course explores the primary concepts and principles of civil-military coordination, while the second half examines the practical application of these strategic principles. This update, which includes contemporary case studies and examples, builds on previous editions of the course and best practices from United Nations missions.

The Institute has added another Spanish translation to its curriculum: [Violencia sexual y de género y la paz y la seguridad internacionales](#) (*Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and International Peace and Security*). This course, developed in partnership with the International Peace Institute (IPI), is already available



in English and French. With 15 Spanish course translations currently available in the POTI curriculum, the Institute continues to support e-learning by Spanish-speaking peace operations personnel.

In the coming weeks, the Institute will release its fourth interactive module as a course supplement for [Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on the Women, Peace, and Security in Africa](#). This module will cover the course's main learning objectives through multimedia, flashcards, quizzes, and other interactive elements. Many students benefit from using these modules as a review before taking the End-of-Course Examination. This engaging material is included with enrolment in the course.

POTI Gathers Student Feedback in Focus Group

In August 2024, the Institute hosted a focus group to gather feedback on three courses in our *Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda* (WPS) series. Created in collaboration with UN-Women, the three region-specific WPS courses (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean) are available to all at no cost.

The focus group was intended to assess the courses' strengths, weaknesses, and practical applications. Eleven students (three women and eight men) joined the focus group from national training centres in Brazil, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Netherlands, and Nepal. At the time of the focus group, one participant was actively serving on a United Nations mission, and five participants had served on one or more missions in the past. The group was hosted on Facebook, and participants were asked to provide feedback via three multiple-choice polls and five short answer questions.

All responses received were positive. Six participants noted they often use the knowledge gained from the course in their work, stating, "The topics are of paramount importance in the mission area for both the civilian and military personnel."

Two participants (a police officer and a military observer, both with United Nations mission experience) observed that the course content is "very important and very applicable in conflict areas."

Participants also shared personal anecdotes of applying course concepts. Lightly edited examples are provided below.

"During the first permission/uplift of the COVID-19 lockdown... we used [course concepts] to educate the whole community and encourage women and children to also be part of bringing and maintaining peace at household level or community level."

"[I utilized the concepts] when I was serving in UN mission in South Sudan two months ago. We visited an IDP camp where we received some complaints of domestic violence and exploitation from the women in the camp. I used some of the learned modules to contribute to the problem-solving mechanism."

POTI Expands Partnerships to the Asia Pacific Region

Through the generous funding of Global Affairs Canada, POTI was able to expand its support for peace operations training to the Asia Pacific region in 2024. Since early this year, our team has been working hard to establish partnerships with peace operations training centres in the region.

Countries in the Asia Pacific have been involved in United Nations peace operations since their earliest days. In recent decades, the region has figured prominently on the list of top troop-contributing countries. The Institute's new partnerships in the region are key to enhancing the training capacity of national training centres, allowing them to expand and strengthen peace operations worldwide.

Currently, POTI partners with five training centres in the region:

- » Armed Forces of the Philippines Peacekeeping Operations Center (AFPPKOC)
- » International Mission Training Centre of Indonesian National Police (IMTC)
- » Malaysian Peacekeeping Centre (MPC)
- » Peace Operations Center, Directorate of Joint Operations, Royal Thai Armed Forces HQ (RTARF-POC)
- » Republic of Fiji Military Forces-Headquarters Joint Task Force Command, Blackrock Camp (RFMF-HQ JTFC BRC)

From the Desk of the Executive Director Ramona Taheri



The Peace Operations Training Institute is proud to continue providing accessible, high-quality e-learning to peace operations personnel and humanitarian relief workers worldwide. The importance of our students' role in providing security and safety to millions across the globe cannot be understated.

We work with individual experts, peace operations staff, national peacekeeping training centres, and other non-governmental and academic institutions to provide and distribute e-learning materials.

Among our newest partnerships are those with the training centres in the Asia Pacific region through the National Training Centre E-Learning Platform, sponsored by Global Affairs Canada's Peace and Stabilization Operations Program.

We are also looking forward to the annual meetings of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) and the Latin American Association of Peace Operations Training Centres in November 2024. These events allow us to meet face-to-face with our collaborators, including 50 national peacekeeping training centres that blend POTI e-learning into their training programmes. I am proud of the role POTI plays in this community of dedicated professionals and the organizations they represent.

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.



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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.