



Peace Operations Training Institute®

Study peace and humanitarian
relief any place, any time.

January 2026 Newsletter

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New Releases and Logo

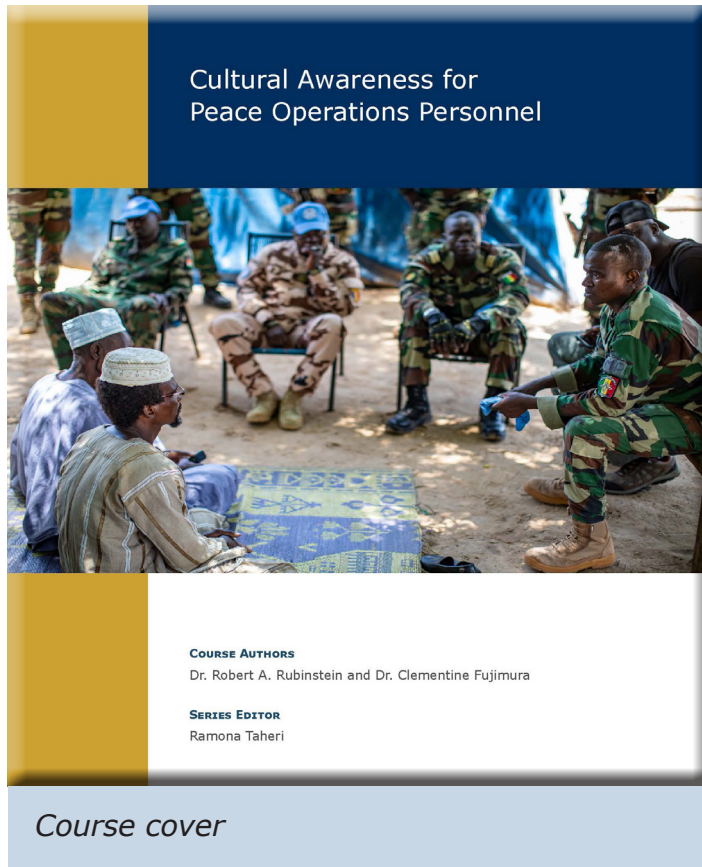
The Institute is proud to expand its multimedia offerings with the release of an audiobook and interactive module for [Ethics in Peace Operations](#). A French translation of the course ([L'éthique dans les opérations de paix](#)) was released in January.

Two all-new courses are available: [Cultural Awareness for Peace Operations Personnel](#) and [Addressing Misinformation, Disinformation, and Hate Speech Threats in United Nations Peace Operations for Military and Police Units](#), the latter based on the Department of Peace Operations Reinforcement Training Package for UN Military and Police Units on

Addressing Misinformation, Disinformation, and Hate Speech Threats in United Nations Peace Operations with permission from the Integrated Training Service. Both of these topics have been popular requests by students and training centres. POTI is excited to offer these invaluable resources, which will help equip students for today's multicultural and technology-driven peace operations.

The Institute has also transitioned to a new logo which better reflects our mission. POTI is grateful to Communications and Student Support Manager Abram Clear for their excellent design work.

Interview with the Authors of New Course *Cultural Awareness for Peace Operations Personnel*



In honour of the release of *Cultural Awareness for Peace Operations Personnel*, POTI conducted the following interview with course authors Dr. Robert Rubinstein and Dr. Clementine Fujimura. The following responses have been lightly edited for length and clarity.

Are there any particular lesson or lessons you hope students take away from this course?

We hope that students will come to appreciate that culture is more complex and influential than they assume from the everyday use of the term. We also hope that they will understand the interconnections among communication and the verbal, nonverbal, digital, and behavioural aspects of work in complex organizations, like peacekeeping operations.

What inspired your research and work on peace operations?

Anthropologists are concerned with understanding and improving the human condition. We wanted to understand better how the efforts to peacefully settle disputes were actually accomplished in situations where people from different nations,

militaries, nongovernmental organizations, and UN specialized agencies work together.

Do you have any advice for peace operations personnel who may be new to anthropology or to the concepts in this course?

Anthropology is both about studying other people and learning about oneself. As students gain insights into the people and behaviours around them, we hope they will reflect on the fact that actions and statements that at first seem odd or irrational can be understood by practicing thinking about them from different cultural perspectives.

Do you have any advice for peace operations personnel engaging in conflict de-escalation beyond the tactics and information provided in this course?

Although peace operations are efforts to peacefully settle disputes, the unfortunate reality is that these operations take place in active conflict areas. In times of great stress, it is even more important to take others' perspectives into account; this is a skill we discuss and which needs to be continuously practiced so it may be robust when most needed.

In this course, you examine the role of culture in AI on peace operations. As AI continues to develop, do you see additional opportunities or challenges evolving beyond those discussed?

AI is becoming so everyday that individual troops might forget that it is not a human being — and that AI does not represent the best and most well-informed decisions. This is especially true in regions that are understudied and where cultural information may not be documented. Grave mistakes could be made.

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

Dr. Robert Rubinstein is working on issues of disaster response, global health inequalities, and gun violence in the United States. He teaches courses on culture and conflict, culture in global affairs, and negotiation.

Dr. Clementine Fujimura teaches courses, including "Navigating Human Terrain for Warfighters" and courses on adapting to foreign cultures, ethnographic methods, and cultural psychology. Her current research includes a study on veteran well-being and the role of the US Navy and Marine Corps beyond retirement.

Global Engagements in Late 2025



Executive Director Ramona Taheri presenting at The International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres annual conference.

In the last quarter of 2025, POTI was honoured to present at conferences in Italy and Colombia, as well as engage with stakeholders and colleagues in New York City.

In early November, POTI representatives led an informational session on the Institute's training offerings, kindly hosted by the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations. The session facilitated valuable exchanges with Member States and beneficiaries. During this discussion, Military Advisers from Argentina and Romania shared that they had completed POTI courses and found them beneficial to their professional development. A training officer from the Birendra Peace Operations Training Centre (BPOTC) in Nepal also highlighted the importance of POTI training for future peace operations personnel, noting that POTI courses are mandatory at the centre and have replaced several pre-deployment training modules previously administered by the centre.

While in New York, POTI staff also participated in the Peace Operations Review Week as a member of the Global Alliance for Peace Operations (GAPO). The sessions featured contributions from two POTI course authors: Dr. Cedric de Coning, co-author of *Civil-Military Coordination in Peace Operations*, and Dr. Phoebe Randel Donnelly, co-author of *Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and International Peace and Security*. Through sharing their expertise, they continue to make invaluable contributions to the peace operations community.

The International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) annual conference was hosted by the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) in Vicenza, Italy.

The conference theme was "Peace operations training in a dynamic world: fostering cooperation, inclusivity and efficiency". POTI's Executive Director contributed to the panel "Harnessing Emerging Technologies for Effective Peace Operations Training" alongside representatives from the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The presentation focused on technological advancements in peace operations training and highlighted key accessibility considerations for e-learning. During the subsequent POTI-led breakout session, participants engaged in discussion on the advantages and challenges associated with the use of artificial intelligence.

In Cartagena, Colombia, the Latin American Association of Peace Operations Training Centres (ALCOPAZ) held its annual conference hosted by the Centro de Entrenamiento y Capacitación para Operaciones de Paz (CEPAZ). The theme of the conference was "New Technologies in Peacekeeping: Visualizing the Optimization of Capabilities in Instruction and Training". POTI's Deputy Director addressed the plenary, sharing recent updates to the curriculum, Spanish-language translations, and opportunities for partners to further utilize the customized training platform hosted on the Institute's website. We are proud to partner with every training centre that is a member of ALCOPAZ.

We extend our sincere thanks to the hosts of these events for facilitating meaningful dialogue on the evolving dynamics of peace operations. This global engagement strengthens partnerships and fosters collaboration, and we look forward to continuing these important exchanges in the year ahead.



Course author Dr. Cedric de Coning presenting during the Peace Operations Review Week.

2025 Course Enrolments

Below are the enrolment numbers for every POTI course in 2025. Our top three courses were our Common Core offerings, followed closely by *Health of Peace Operations Personnel*. More information on 2025 enrolments can be found in our forthcoming Annual Report.

MISSION COMPONENTS, OPERATIONS, AND PROCEDURES

Health of Peace Operations Personnel 4,393	Protection of Cultural Property: Online Course for the Military, Police, and Law Enforcement 3,871
Security Sector Reform & Governance: Leadership Engagement 3,730	Leading Within United Nations Peace Operations 3,589
Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration 2,699	UN Specialised Training Materials on United Nations Military Observers 2,623
	Civil-Military Coordination in Peace Operations 2,547
Logistical Support to UN Peacekeeping Operations 2,535	Ebola Virus Disease: Awareness and Precautions for Peacekeeping Personnel 2,087
	United Nations Specialised Training Materials on United Nations Police 1,992
Mine Action and Explosive Hazard Management 2,412	Technology and Innovation in United Nations Peace Operations 1,948
	Peacebuilding 1,802

HUMANITARIAN CONCEPTS

International Humanitarian Law and the Law of Armed Conflict 3,684	Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution 3,670
Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Training Materials for United Nations Peace Operations: Military Version 3,344	Child Protection for UN Military 3,248
Humanitarian Relief Operations 3,337	Human Rights 2,276
	Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Training Materials for United Nations Peace Operations: Police Version 2,255
Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and International Peace and Security 4,317	Preventing Violence Against Women and Promoting Gender Equality in Peace Operations 3,909
	Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Africa 2,910
	Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean 2,873
	Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Asia and the Pacific 2,012

COMMON CORE

An Introduction to the UN System and Its Role in International Peace and Security 9,131	
Ethics in Peace Operations 4,976	Principles and Guidelines for UN Peacekeeping Operations 4,687
History of Peacekeeping 2000-2020 2,032	History of Peacekeeping 1945-1987 1,803
History of Peacekeeping 1988-1996 1,723	History of Peacekeeping 1997-2006 1,696

*enrolment data is combined across course translations

Cultural Awareness for Peace Operations Personnel

75

GENDER AWARENESS

HISTORY OF PEACE OPERATIONS

From the Desk of the Executive Director Ramona Taheri



This year is expected to be extremely challenging for peace and humanitarian efforts worldwide. It will be particularly difficult for the mission staff and personnel who may have to fulfil the same mandates with fewer people.

Jean-Pierre Lacroix, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, affirms, "Peacekeeping is not a luxury; it is a lifeline for millions who count on it for a future without fear." It is also my belief that this lifeline remains vital, and the peace operations training architecture must be preserved. I am grateful to the Partnership for E-Learning on Peace Operations, currently chaired by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations, for guiding and advocating for POTI's work. I am also grateful to the GAPO group, ALCOPAZ, and IAPTC for coordinating and advocating for peace operations training worldwide.

In 2025, POTI was able to meet the demand for over 100,000 course enrolments. We look forward to continuing to serve this need and welcome your feedback.

Our thanks to the Member States 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



Portugal



Sweden



United Kingdom



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 Richmond, 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.