



**The Peace Operations Training Institute (POTI)
Offers Free On-Line Courses on UN
Peacekeeping Operations**

by U.S. Army Colonel (Ret) Christopher Holshek



PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS



SERIES EDITOR
Harvey J. Langholtz, Ph.D.

 Peace Operations Training Institute®

PKSOI has made available free introductory e-learning on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UN-PKO) to U.S. military personnel through the Peace Operations Training Institute (POTI).

Changes in the strategic and operational environment and mission sets require a greater understanding of UN-PKO, not just in working alongside UN field missions in conflict and PKO settings, but also in building the capacity of partner troop contributing countries through security sector assistance and other theater cooperation activities. The courses are designed for forces involved in engagement activities in theater security cooperation settings, such as Civil Affairs and Regionally Aligned Forces.

A U.S.-based non-profit organization, POTI is offering several free courses on UN-PKO to hundreds of thousands of military or civilian audiences, individuals, military units, and international peacekeeping partners and their training centers worldwide in multiple languages. POTI provides globally accessible, self-paced, online, on-demand courses on peace support, humanitarian relief, and security operations in 194 countries.

CORE PRE-DEPLOYMENT TRAINING MATERIALS



IN COLLABORATION WITH AUTHORS FROM:

Australian Defence Force Peace Operations Training Centre; Chilean Joint Peacekeeping Operations Centre; German Armed Forces UN Training Centre; Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Ghana; and the Swedish Armed Forces International Training Centre

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POTI received recognition from the International Association of Peace Training Centers as their “Trainer of the Year” and is “acknowledged” each year in the annual report of the United Nations Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) as a provider of international distance learning training to UN peacekeepers.

“We’re glad to be back in the Army system,” noted Dr. Harvey Langholtz, POTI’s Executive Director. “POTI’s curriculum was part of the Army Correspondence Course Program [ACCP] for many years, but it fell by the wayside. Now that the U.S. military has regained interest in peacekeeping, we are able to take advantage of a positive and collaborative relationship with PKSOI and POTI have had for a long time to make our curriculum available again to members of the Armed Forces.”

As a start, POTI is currently offering two free UN-PKO common core courses as well as four specialized courses from its 29 multiple language course offerings. The core courses are:

- Principles & Guidelines for UN Peacekeeping Operations, an introduction to the UN “Capstone Doctrine” on peacekeeping

doctrine, definitions, procedures, and policy. It also explains the decision and planning processes to deploy a peacekeeping operation as well as addresses the management of peacekeeping operations, how they are supported and sustained, and how they are concluded. The four specialized courses are:

- Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM), based on the CPTMs designed by DPKO. This course provides the common and essential training required for all personnel – military, police, and civilian – who serve on UN peacekeeping missions, and represents the baseline level of understanding and knowledge that the UN demands of any personnel serving on a UN peacekeeping mission.
- Ebola Virus Disease: Awareness and Precautions for Peacekeeping Personnel: This course was developed in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), and is a general introductory primer on Ebola for peacekeepers not working in a medical or public health capacity. The course teaches awareness and preventive measures and precautions for Ebola and many other communicable diseases peacekeepers may encounter in the field. It also presents a compilation of WHO materials on general information about Ebola, how the virus is spread, the symptoms and diagnosis, infection prevention techniques, possible treatments, and mission protocol.
- Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Africa: This class is based on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, which is the most comprehensive work to date on linking gender equality with peace and security. Developed in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the course on the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda provides background on this bedrock international norm and outlines its sustainable implementation at regional and national levels in Africa. The course was especially designed for people who require a practical tool to support and facilitate the implementation of the women, peace, and security agenda.
- Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Asia and the Pacific: This course is the Asia-Pacific version of the POTI course on UNSCR 1325. This course will also address the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979, the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and other agreements and resolutions.
- Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean: This course discusses UNSCR 1325 and other

agreements and resolutions specific to Latin America and the Caribbean.

There are three ways to gain access to the courses – through the PKSOI website; through the Army Training Network/Regionally Aligned Forces Training Program (https://atn.army.mil/dsp_template.aspx?dpID=471), which requires a DoD Common Access Card (CAC); or by simply going directly to the POTI's landing page (<http://www.peaceopstraining.org/programs/pksoi/>). Additional courses are available for a nominal fee on the POTI website.

Both PKSOI and POTI are looking to have more courses made available to military training audiences, based on interest and demand from commands, units, and organizations. Some of these courses may apply for additional credit beyond course certificates, including promotion and retirement points, as was done under the ACCP.

To express interest or inquire, contact Dr. James Embrey, Col. U.S. Army (ret.), Professor for Stability Operations at PKSOI, james.h.embrey.civ@mail.mil, or the author at holshek@hotmail.com.

