

Challenges of Peace Operations Project



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The Challenges of Peace Operations Project is an effort by Partner Organizations from 14 leading peace operations countries. The overall purpose of the Challenges Project is to enhance the international community's capability to conduct current and future peace operations. It aims to achieve this by fostering and encouraging a culture of cross-professional cooperation and partnership and to generate practical recommendations that will benefit the effectiveness and legitimacy of multinational and multidisciplinary peace operations.

BACKGROUND

In 1995, Sweden's Military College hosted a roundtable on peace operations that triggered a series of seminars that became the "Challenges of Peace Operations Project." The idea was an outgrowth of the ideas of Annika Hilding-Norberg, a graduate student of the College. The first international seminar was held in Stockholm in 1997 under the chair of the Folke Bernadotte Academy for a small group of partners. The U.S. Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute (PKSOI) was one of the original partners. The first full high-level conference was held in Moscow in 1998.

Phase I

The first phase of the project (1997-2002), featured ten international seminars held in nine countries around the world. The seminars, each focusing on a specific aspect of peace operations, were attended by a wide range of highly experienced civilian and military peacekeepers and academics from some 230 organizations and 50 countries. The first phase of the project was brought to a close by the presentation of a concluding report, "Challenges of Peace Operations: Into the 21st Century," to the Secretary-General of the UN at a Challenges seminar at UN Headquarters, New York, on 25 April 2002 (*see*: <http://www.challengesproject.net/roach/images/pdf/concluding1.pdf>). The report addressed 14 substantive areas of inquiry and made 69 practical recommendations to troop and personnel contributing countries. Its purpose was also to inform Member States on peace operations developments and to contribute to the process of reform of UN peace operations. Subsequently, Partners agreed to a second phase of the Challenges Project, addressing some of the specific challenges identified in the Phase I Concluding Report, and to report again in 2005.

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Phase II

In the second phase of the project (2003-2006), six further international seminars have been held and the number of Partners has increased, thus offering an even broader cross-section of views and experiences. The overall theme of Phase II of the Project is “Meeting the Challenges of Peace Operations: Cooperation and Coordination.” The complexities of contemporary peace operations demand cooperation at all levels and all phases to achieve lasting peace and stability. While effective cooperation and coordination is a critical factor to the success of peace operations, it continues to pose a particularly difficult challenge to states, organizations, and individuals contributing to peace operations. Specific sub-areas addressed by the project include the regional dimensions of peace operations, the rule of law, and education and training. Action and implementation are two key words of the second phase undertaking. The Challenges Project Phase II Concluding Report was presented to the UN Secretary General at a Challenges Event at UN Headquarters on 19 January 2006 (*see*: http://www.challengesproject.net/roach/images/pdf/phase_ii_concluding_report.pdf).

THE PARTNERS: The following organizations constitute the international partnership:



Argentine Armed Forces Joint Staff in cooperation with Ministry for Foreign Affairs.
Argentina: www.ejercito.mil.ar



Asia-Pacific Centre for Military Law in cooperation with Australian Defence Organization.
Australia: www.apcml.org



Center for Strategic Research of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with National Police Force, Armed Forces and the University of Bilkent.
Turkey:



China Institute for International Strategic Studies in cooperation with the Ministry of National Defence.
China:



Folke Bernadotte Academy in cooperation with the Armed Forces, National Defence College and National Police Board (Project Coordinators).
Sweden: www.folkebernadotteacademy.se



Institute for Security Studies.
South Africa: www.iss.co.za



Institute of Diplomacy.
Jordan: www.id.gov.jo



Ministry of Defence in cooperation with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development.
United Kingdom: da.mod.uk/DefenceAcademy



Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Japan: www.mofa.go.jp



National War College in cooperation with the Armed Forces, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence. Nigeria:



Pearson Peacekeeping Centre.
Canada: www.peaceoperations.org



Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in cooperation with the Russian Public Policy Centre.
Russian Federation: www.dipacademy.ru



United Services Institution of India.
India: www.usiofindia.org



United States Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute in cooperation with United States Institute of Peace.
USA: www.carlisle-army.mil

The partners represent a number of view points and experience brought together in the spirit of free and open discussion in the quest to improve worldwide Peace Operations. Additionally, there are a number of associate contributors (*see* enclosure).

FUTURE

With the conclusion of the Phase II report, the Partners expressed a desire to continue working together to capitalize on the momentum and the spirit of the project. Folke Bernadotte Academy hosted the Partners in Stockholm, 26-30 September 2006, to chart the way ahead. The partners agreed to form the “Challenges of Peace Operations Forum” to provide the international community with a dynamic, strategic, broad-based, and stable platform for a regular discussion on peace operations among policy makers, practitioners, and academics. The Challenges Forum is intended to fill a void in the current international landscape by providing for regular and comprehensive engagement on current and future issues relevant to the partners.

The expected outcomes of the Challenges Forum are:

- An effective and efficient international mechanism for the facilitation of regular and inclusive sharing of best practices.
- A venue to provide input and advice on possible policy options to the relevant actors in the international and national peace operations communities.
- A collaborative web-based community of practice.
- A launching platform for major forward-looking research.

The partners above will form the steering committee, but the door is open for all countries, international organizations, NGOs, academics, and subject matter experts to participate.

UN DOCTRINE THE INITIAL PROJECT

The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations requested that the Challenges Forum comment on the draft UN Capstone Doctrine. This was accomplished during the 26-28 September 2006 meeting. Forty participants from around the world, including PKSOI, offered their informed and

supportive comments. The participants concluded that a capstone doctrine was overdue and needed to deal with the complex environment facing the United Nations. The traditional principles of Consent and Impartiality were affirmed and redefined. Understanding the use of force in the UN context and the humanitarian and practical issues were discussed. Credibility and legitimacy were debated, and UNDPKO heard many sides to these arguments. The issue of national ownership was broached as the key to peace building, but that concept needed to be explored in greater detail. This was an excellent first step in assessing the need and the key issues of a capstone doctrine.

CONCLUSION

This September, the Challenges Forum was launched on a firm footing with its objective of continuing support of the UN doctrine project over the next year and the addition of new members. There will be a series of at least four workshops on doctrine co-hosted by the United States, Jordan, France, and Australia culminating in May 2007, with the final draft presented at the annual Challenges meeting.

ENCLOSURE: ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS

- CENCAMEX Gendarmerie Peacekeeping Training Centre, Argentina
- Commonwealth of Independent States HQ for Military Cooperation & Coordination
- Jaji Infantry Centre and School, Nigeria
- PfP Training Centre of Turkey
- Royal Police Academy of Jordan
- South African Army War College
- Swedish International Centre
- UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations Training and Evaluation Service
- UN Institute for Training and Research Programme of Correspondence
- Vystrel Peacekeeping Academy, Russian Federation
- AusAID of Australia
- Defense Corporate Service & Infrastructure, Australia
- Hanns Seidel Foundation
- Jordan Radio & Television Corporation

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- Jordan Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities
- Kluwer Law International
- London School of Economics and Political Science
- NATO Information & Liaison Office
- Royal Court of Jordan
- Susan & Elihu Rose Foundation
- UN Department of Peace Keeping Operations
- University of Melbourne, Australia

This and other PKSOI publications can be found on the USAWC/PKSOI site at <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usacsl/IPapers.asp>.

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