

International Forum for the Challenges of Peace Operations

by Professor William Flavin

On January 26, 2009, PKSOI hosted a meeting of the key partners of the International Forum for Challenges of Peace Operations and the United Nations Department of Peace Keeping Operations (UNDPKO) in order to define the Near- and long-term objectives for the next project phase as well as identify member-state leads for specific deliverables.

Workshop one: "Create a secure and stable environment while strengthening the State's ability to provide security, with full respect for the rule of law and human rights" Lead Pakistan, assist United States (PKSOI)

Workshop two: "Facilitate the political process by promoting dialogue and reconciliation and supporting the establishment of legitimate and effective institutions of governance" Lead Canada (Pearson Peacekeeping), assist India

Workshop three: "Provide a framework for ensuring that all United Nations and other international actors pursue their activities at the country-level in a coherent and coordinated manner" Lead Sweden assist Jordan.

Future scheduled meetings are:

June 2009	Forum meeting in Pakistan to review progress
2010	Forum meeting in Australia to present the findings
2010	Presentations to UN

Specific projects and working groups include the review of the UNDPKO capstone doctrine, published in 2008 as the *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines*; and the recently established working groups designed to focus on core lines of business of UN peace keeping with the goal to produce operational level doctrinal guides by 2010 to compliment the UN's "capstone" manual. Challenges will establish an interactive web portal to support these workshops, which at this time is hosted by PKSOI.

The International Forum for the Challenges of Peace Operations is currently comprised of 16 partner nations and seeks to promote and broaden the international dialogue between key stakeholders addressing peace operations issues and matters in a timely, effective and inclusive manner. The Challenges Forum formed as a result of Sweden's Military College roundtable on peace operations in 1995. In 1997, Stockholm, Sweden, was the site for the first international seminar of a series known as the "Challenges of Peace Operations Project." The U.S. Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute (PKSOI) was one of the founding partners.

The original project phase (1997-2002) featured ten international seminars held in nine countries around the world, to include Moscow in 1998. The seminars focused on specific aspects of peace operations and were attended by a wide range of highly experienced civilian and military peacekeepers and academics from some 230 organizations and 50 countries. This initial phase concluded with the presentation of a report, "Challenges of Peace Operations: Into the 21st Century," to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) at a Challenges seminar at UN Headquarters, New York, on April 25, 2002 (see: <http://www.challengesproject.net/roach/images/pdf/concluding1.pdf>).

Since 2003, the Challenges Forum hosted six additional international seminars while increasing the number of member-state Partners. The overall theme the second project phase was "Meeting the Challenges of Peace Operations: Cooperation and Coordination." Specific sub-areas addressed by the project include the regional dimensions of peace operations, the rule of law, and education and training. The Challenges Forum presented its second report to the UN Secretary General on January 19, 2006 (see: http://www.challengesproject.net/roach/images/pdf/phase_II_concluding_report.pdf).

THE PARTNERS: The following organizations constitute the international partnership as of November 2008:



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: www.sam.gov.tr



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: www.nwc.gov.ng



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: <https://pksoi.army.mil/>



Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with Ministry of Defence of France.
France: www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/



National Defence University in cooperation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence of Pakistan.
Pakistan: www.ndu.edu.pk

The most recent meeting of the Challenges Forum was in Paris in November 2008. At this time, the Challenges Forum continues to work together 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 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.

The Challenges Forum is on firm footing in its objective of continuing support of the UN over the next few years and the addition of new members and partners to further the process.

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ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS

- CENCAMEX Gendarmerie Peacekeeping Training Centre, Argentina
- Commonwealth of Independent States HQ for Military Cooperation & Coordination
- Jaji Infantry Centre and School, Nigeria
- P&P 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
- Jordan Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities
- Klüwer 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