IAPTC MID 2009 NEWSLETTER

Message from the President

The IAPTC since its inception has served as a forum that sustains contact among Peacekeeping Training Centres and other individuals and organizations where information on issues of mutual interest and benefits are shared.

The year 2008, was a year of remarkable achievement for the IAPTC, the Annual Conference was hosted for the first time by a regional grouping, the African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA), under my leadership. You will all agree that from our deliberations and decisions, the conference was a huge success.

I assumed the leadership of IAPTC in October 2008 after the 14th AGM and Annual Conference. I hope to work with support and collaboration of the IAPTC family in order to deliver another successful Conference in Australia 2009.

As the serving Commandant of a training institution, I would like to highlight some of the activities of the College and the African Centre for Strategic Research and Studies (ACSRS). The mission of the College is to impart knowledge and develop expertise and skills of selected senior military and civilian officers through a firm understanding of all the essential factors that impact on national security, and prepare them for higher responsibilities at operational and strategic levels in national and international assignments.

The ACSRS is a branch of the College headed by the Dean. Until recently, it was known as the Centre for Peace Research and Conflict Resolution. The ACSRS is intended to strengthen the academic programmes of the College and make them more relevant to contemporary developments in the areas of peacekeeping and international security. The Centre is the hub of the NDC in the execution of its role as the ECOWAS Centre of Excellence in peacekeeping training, at the strategic level. The ACSRS among other functions is saddled with the responsibility of strategic level training and research in Peace Support Operations, organizing training programmes for civilian and military personnel going for peace keeping management and diplomatic operations and also participate in collaboration with regional and continental organizations on relevant issues of defence, security, strategic studies and peacekeeping. The Centre is also equipped with an international conference facility with modern communication and information systems which will soon be ready for use.

We had a most successful Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) in March to plan the 2009 conference and I look forward to meeting many more friends and colleagues of the IAPTC in Sydney. I hope that our deliberations will be fruitful and the IAPTC stronger.

Best Regards,

Rear Admiral GJ Jonah, Commandant National Defence College
President IAPTC for 2009
The 2008 Annual Conference – Abuja, Nigeria

As noted in the President’s message in this newsletter, for the first time in the 14 year history of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centers the Annual Conference was hosted by a regional grouping within the IAPTC family. From the 6th to the 10th of October the African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA), in close cooperation with the Nigerian National Defence College, hosted the 14th annual conference in Abuja Nigeria. The theme was “The Changing Nature of Peace Operations – Implications for Education and Training”. The Commandant of the Nigerian Defence College welcomed the IAPTC and dedicated significant resources to ensuring a successful conference. During the course of the conference participants had an opportunity to view Abuja and many of its interesting sites.

The seminar portion of the Annual Conference looked at the ‘New Challenges for Missions’ as a result of the changing nature of Peace Operations, including two very different missions – the UN/AU hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the EU Rule of Law mission in Kosovo (EULEX). In a second session of the seminar the operational challenges of these new operations were examined from military, police and humanitarian perspectives.

A highlight of the conference was a video teleconference with former UN Undersecretary for Peacekeeping, Jean-Marie Guehenno. Mr Guehenno offered his views on the challenges for peace operations in 2008 and wished the conference success.

In the first of two special sessions the representatives from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in New York provided updates from the perspectives of the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division, and then from the Individual Training Services and Best Practices Organisations. In a second special session, the conference heard presentations on ‘Measuring Performance’ and considered this issue in plenary. This promises to be a topic for future consideration by the Annual Conference.

In 2008 there were two new elements in the program. As suggested by members during discussion in the Annual General Meeting in 2007, time was provided for representatives to meet with their regional colleagues in the form of a regional lunch. Later in the program a Centre from each region briefed the overall membership on education and training activities in their particular region. Also, again based on suggestions from participants in 2007, there was a “thematic session” whereby issues of importance to any individual, organisation or country, were raised, followed by a discussion led by the country that proposed the issue. For 2008 the four topics were ‘Women in Peacekeeping’, ‘Feedback on the UN Strategy for Improved Training Standards’, ‘a Multi-disciplinary approach to Education and Training’, and ‘a Selection and Training System for UN Peacekeeping Personnel’.
The Ideas Bazaar continued to be a popular feature, with some 20 organisations offering information and ideas in relation to peace operations education and training. As per tradition members also met in functional groups to consider items of interest within their professional groups.

The 14th Annual General Meeting of the membership (i.e., the participants in the 2008 conference) considered a range of issues, in the main based on background and discussion papers provided by the Executive Committee. Among these topics were the proposal for an IAPTC Annual Education and Training Award, a proposal to have an IAPTC Patron, a review of the responsibilities and history/background of the various parts of the IAPTC structure and concept, ways to strengthen the IAPTC, regional support for the IAPTC, an IAPTC Newsletter, and Association funding issues.

At the conference close Rear Admiral GJ Jonah (NDC Nigeria and President of APSTA) assumed the Presidency from Mr Jonas Alberoth (FBA, Sweden).

The 2009 Annual Conference – Sydney, Australia

The 15th annual conference of the IAPTC, to be held in Sydney 23-27 November, promises to be both interesting and substantive. The Hosts are the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Defence Force Peacekeeping Centre. The theme is most relevant in today’s peace operations environment, and the conference will add a special session focused on generic training challenges and methodologies.

During the period 24-26 March 2009 the Executive Committee met in Sydney Australia and developed the program for the 15th Annual Conference in November. Taking into consideration ideas and discussion at the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Association, the theme was agreed as “Training Together: Strengthening Peace Operations Capacity through Multi-disciplinary Partnerships”.

The conference, as always, is more than just a seminar. It will continue to include a seminar portion, an update session on UNHQ training-related activities and policies, an Annual General Meeting of the membership, reports from regional groupings within the IAPTC, the ‘Ideas Bazaar’ where all can set out new ideas, techniques, methodologies and technologies, plus explain their own Institutions objectives and programs, and a look ahead at 2010 and 2011. In addition there will be the customary opening and closing activities, and a uniquely Australian social program to facilitate the important networking dimension of this annual event.

The annual meeting continues to evolve according to members’ wishes and needs. In 2008 the conference added ‘thematic discussions’ – group discussions on education and training topics placed on the agenda by members, with participation on a purely voluntary choice basis. Unique for 2009 is the approach to the normal meetings of the professional groups. In the past the police, military and civilian groups have met to discuss matters of mutual interest, with varying degrees of success. For 2009 these functional gatherings will actually contribute significantly to the seminar in that their meeting on day 1 of the seminar will identify the many challenges (and possible
solutions) inherent in the theme – from each of their perspectives. In addition a new feature is to “take the conference back to basics”; to organize expert briefings and discussions on specific generic training challenges – for this year, topics include Activity-Based Learning, Creating a Realistic Training Environment, and Assessing Learning Outcomes. As a special part of the program a visit to the Australian Federal Police International Training Centre in the Australian Capital Territory has been organized for those able to stay until the Saturday of the conference week.

Because of the conference location, and the efforts of the host country, a number of regional institutions and organizations that have not normally participated in past annual conferences will be present this year, adding a further dimension of interest.

The IAPTC web-site (www.iaptc2009.com) has further detail and relevant administrative information on the 15th Annual Conference, and important is the deadline for registration – 23 October.
The Growth of Regional Groupings linked to the IAPTC

Africa – APSTA

The increase in UN, regional and sub-regional PSOs in the 1990s, and the significant rise in police and civilian functions and roles in post-Cold War complex Peace Support Operations (PSOs) revealed the dearth of civilian expertise in peacekeeping, but more so in peace-building. The lack of adequately trained personnel to undertake civilian peace-building functions in situations where immediate interventions were needed meant the recruitment of civilians who did not necessarily have the requisite skills. Thus, most of the intervention approaches were ad hoc, piecemeal and unsustainable. In response to the gap in the training of civilians in PSOs, a number of training initiatives such as the International training Program on Peace-building and Good Governance for African Civilian Personnel, Ghana, the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, South Africa, and the various Regional Centres of Excellence, were piloted and eventually established at the international, regional and sub-regional levels.

On the fringes of the 2001 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the IAPTC, African delegates agreed that there was a need to make efforts to meet as an African Chapter in order to inform and enhance debates on peacekeeping training in the continent. In 2002, the African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), based in Durban, South Africa, collaborated with another South African based Institute for Security Studies (ISS), to organise and host an African Chapter of the IAPTC. The Pretoria Meeting held from 10-12 October 2002 culminated to the formation of the APSTA.

The association was established to deepen the discourse on peacekeeping training in Africa. Among others, the objectives of APSTA are; (I) to facilitate the ability of peace support training centres to dialogue with each other; (II to facilitate meetings and exchange information and best practices and; (III) to facilitate efforts to harmonise the doctrine and training on peacekeeping in Africa.

The presidency of APSTA, which had been held by the National Defence College of Nigeria (NDCN), in Abuja, came to an end in 2008. In accordance with its Articles of Association that mandates the rotation of the presidency, the 6th APSTA AGM elected ACCORD to serve as the new Presidency. ISS continues to serve as the permanent Secretariat of the Association. However, as part of its policy of gaining greater synergy with the AU PSOD, the Secretariat has been relocated to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as of January 2009. Since its 3rd AGM in 2004, the association’s membership has seen a remarkable growth. To this end, APSTA membership comprises 12 regional peacekeeping training institutions, research institutions and organisations involved in peacekeeping capacity building in Africa.

The Association has grown to such an extent that it has managed to establish itself as a leading African Institution in the field of peacekeeping training and capacity building. This has helped to secure new partnerships and amicable relations with big and influential continental bodies such as the African Union and recently, EU. In its 6th AGM, the Association formalized its relations with AU PSOD by signing a Memorandum of
Understanding. Today the APSTA is involved in substantive collaborative support to the AU, particularly to the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD). More so, it continues to gain greater recognition from some G8 and the EU members, including the German, France and UK governments.

South America – ALCOPAZ

In 2007 five South American countries met to create a regional grouping focussed on peace. This group has now expanded to seven regional countries.

ALCOPAZ is an organisation formed by training centers for peacekeeping missions in the Caribbean and Latin American countries, primarily engaged in the training of members of the Armed Forces, Security Forces and civilian personnel to participate in peacekeeping operations under United Nations mandates.

ALCOPAZ has been developed in compliance with the conceptual objectives of the United Nations concerning the implementation of measures for cooperation in training for peace, promotion of exchange between the training centers of the region, promoting the standardization of procedures for education, creation of conditions conducive to the smooth and efficient contact between members, as well as promoting mutual understanding of different cultural and institutional perspectives between staff involved in peace operations.

Based on the recommendations of the Brahimi Report, on the conceptual objectives of the United Nations to implement cooperative measures on training, and also on related work during the XIII Conference of IAPTC (International Association for Peace Training Centers) in Stockholm in October 2007, directors of training centers for peacekeeping missions met to examine possibilities. Representatives from the following Latin American countries were present: Argentine Joint Training Center for Peacekeeping Operations of the Republic of Argentina (CAECOPAZ), Joint Center for Peacekeeping Operations of Chile (CECOPAC), Center for Peace Operations Instruction of Brazil (CIOPPAZ), Regional Command Training for Peace Keeping Operations in Guatemala (CREOMPAZ) and the School for Peace Operations of the Army of Uruguay (EOPE)

On this occasion it was shown that despite the existence of an international association comprised of training centers for peacekeeping operations, the International Association for Peace Training Centers-IAPTC, there was a need for a partnership and / or network integration the training centers and training of peacekeeping forces in the region with the aim of presenting a block of policies with respect to training and training in peacekeeping operations.

2008/2009
The first meeting of the Latin American Training Centres for Peacekeeping Operations (ALCOPAZ) was held in Buenos Aires in August 2008 and was attended by representatives of the Ministries of Defence of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru and Uruguay. The meeting signed the Act of entry into force of the Association and its constitutive status. There were also requests from various countries to join as associate members and observers. There was agreement on the criteria for implementing the rotation of the presidency, the development of a website ALCOPAZ and guidelines to be developed by member institutions for the implementation of various academic activities, among other topics.

The group is meeting again in August 2009 and results and progress will be reported at the annual general meeting of the IAPTC in Sydney in November 2009.

**Europe – EGT (+)**

Civilians play an increasingly important role in peace missions, assuming a leading role in crisis and post-conflict situations by supporting democratisation and the rule of law, by strengthening human rights, and by rebuilding civil societies and viable administrations. One of the major challenges the international community faces however, is the lack of suitably qualified and available personnel for peace missions.

The European Group on Training (EGT) endeavours to advance the civilian component of the European Union’s ability to mitigate crisis management by developing training courses, material, fostering cooperation with the OSCE, UN and International NGOs. As an open network the EGT continues to operate on an informal basis. The EGT currently comprises European Training Institutions and NGO training providers, as well as relevant ministries engaged in the recruitment and training of civilian crisis management personnel.

In October 2008 the EGT agreed to be a focal point for European countries and organisations participating in the IAPTC. Commencing in 2008 the EGT representative provided European peace operations training updates similar to those offered by African and South American groupings.

**ASIA - ASSOCIATION OF ASIA-PACIFIC PEACE OPERATIONS TRAINING CENTERS (AAPTC)**

For the third year in a row a group of peacekeeping training centers has formed an Association affiliated in some way with the IAPTC. While the details of membership and other modalities have yet to be announced, the name of the association will be “Association of Asia-Pacific Peace Operations Training Centers (AAPTC)”. Following on the formation of ALCOPAZ in 2007, and also following the agreement of the European Group on Training to be a focus for European nations within the IAPTC family a year later in 2008, AAPTC is an entity for cooperation amongst Asian and Pacific centers and institutions dedicated to preparing civilian, military and police for peace operations under a UN mandate. The AAPTC will serve as the Asian chapter of the IAPTC. Details will be briefed to the 15th Annual Conference in Sydney on Friday 27 November.
A View from The United Nations in New York

The Division of Policy, Evaluation and Training (DPET) of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) is pleased to announce the upgrading of its website, now entitled:


The site now provides content specifically for peacekeeping training institutions, including updated information on UN peacekeeping training, the opportunity for peacekeeping training institutions to request access to policy and guidance documents upon which pre-deployment training is based, and general access to lessons learned documents.

Additional pages provide access to the UN Peacekeeping Pre-Deployment Training Standards including the new Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials and Specialized Training Materials for UN Police Officers, and a Trainer’s Toolbox with additional learning activities, photos and videos to be used in conjunction with the Core Pre-Deployment and Specialized Training Materials. It also provides detailed information on how peacekeeping training institutions can request training support services from DPKO’s Integrated Training Service (ITS).

Peacekeeping training institutions may request access to DPKO/DFS policy and guidance documents by submitting an on-line form available by entering the ‘Area for Trainers’ and selecting ‘Sign up’. To facilitate training of those deployed to peacekeeping missions, requests will be accepted from: a) national peacekeeping training institution of Troop and Police Contributing Countries (TCCs/PCCs), b) non-governmental or independent training institution supporting by TCCs/PCCs or donor countries to deliver UN peacekeeping training for personnel deploying to UN missions, or c) a non-governmental or independent institution that can illustrate that it is providing peacekeeping training to personnel who are deploying to, or currently serving in UN peacekeeping operations. Requests from other institutions will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Members' News

From the Centre for UN Peacekeeping, India
India’s tryst with the UN Peacekeeping began in the 50’s during the Korean crisis. Since then India has participated in 44 out of the 63 UN peacekeeping operations, contributing more than 100,000 personnel at various levels. It has also contributed a large number of personnel at the strategic level, comprising Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Force Commander, Military Advisor, Police Advisor and other members in different capacities under the UN flag. In terms of personnel, as on date India is the third largest contributor of UN Peacekeeping.

Against the background of a growing demand for peacekeeping missions with increasingly complex and multidimensional mandates, a need was felt to establish a peacekeeping centre. Drawing on India’s vast expertise and experiences in the field of international peacekeeping, the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) was established in September 2000 in New Delhi.

The basic role of CUNPK is: (a) to act as a training facility, aimed at providing integrated training for peacekeeping operations, and provide similar training facilities to personnel from friendly foreign countries, (b) to monitor pre-induction training of contingents, (c) to promote research in all facets of peacekeeping operations and facilitate intellectual exchange by organising international seminars and discussions, (d) to enhance and update the doctrinal aspects of training (e) and to act as a repository of Indian experience in the field of UN peacekeeping operations and establish as a UN facility in due course.

As on February 2009, the Centre has imparted training to over 2500 Indian Armed Forces Officers and 371 Foreign Participants from 72 countries. The Officers have thereafter trained their Contingents after being trained at CUNPK.

**Courses, Standards & Guidelines**

The Courses conducted by the CUNPK are based on the Standards and Guidelines provided as SGTMs and STMs by the DPKO Integrated Training Service (ITS). These standards have been modified based on feedbacks and lessons learnt submitted by Officers returning from missions.

CUNPK conducts three to four international training courses for Military Observers, Military Contingent Officers and Staff & Logistics Officers. At the national level, it conducts courses for Army, Air Force and Civilian Police. From time to time it also conducts courses sponsored by UN DPKO.
Education and Training

The training courses aim to equip personnel to perform their specialized tasks effectively. The courses include a combination of practical exercises and lessons, with a broad theoretical understanding of the UN peacekeeping operations and conflict situations. Each international course includes 18 to 20 foreign participants, which facilitates cross-cultural interactions. This exercise helps in understanding each others culture and that in turn helps in peacekeeping operations.

The Centre holds seminars on peacekeeping-related aspects to share knowledge and develop new ideas in this evolving field. In addition, CUNPK also conducts Command Post Exercises (CPX) with other countries. The aim of CPX is to foster regional and multilateral cooperation amongst the peacekeeping partners while improving their interoperability and operational readiness in the area of planning and execution of peacekeeping operations at an operational level.

Issue-based research for Indian Armed Forces Officers on peacekeeping related aspects is another important part of the Centre’s ongoing work. In order to apprise and inform the large audience regarding peacekeeping and its activities, monthly report on all peacekeeping missions are also prepared and put on the CUNPK website.

Secretariat of IAPTC

CUNPK, India joined the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) in 2001, which was formed in 1995 at the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre in Canada.

The IAPTC aims to facilitate communication and exchange of information between various peacekeeping training centres and between people interested in peacekeeping training. Through the sharing of best practices and lessons-learned, the IAPTC endeavours for a greater sharing of responsibilities and lesser duplication of efforts among its members. India had the privilege of hosting the 11th IAPTC Conference in New Delhi in 2005. Since then CUNPK has taken the responsibility for the Secretariat of the IAPTC from Pearson Peacekeeping Centre.

The Secretariat acts as an umbilical cord to the Presidency and other members of the IAPTC. It maintains IAPTC website and disseminates information to the members as well as to the large audiences in different parts of the world. Over the years, the Secretariat has become indispensable in furthering the objectives of IAPTC across the globe. The Secretariat under the directions of the President and guidance of ECM members provides a ready and informal platform for interplay of multiplicity of actors involved in peacekeeping. It has helped in exchanging information, ideas and networking with different organizations, thus furthering the cause of international peace and security.

Conclusion

Being a Centre for education and training, CUNPK has been fulfilling the aims and objectives of the UN. It is a reflection of our commitment to the shared values of the world in pursuing the goals of the United Nations that the Government of India through
the Ministry of External Affairs, funds the costs of traveling, boarding, lodging and training of officers from developing countries for the international courses. Needless to state, a number of countries from the developed world also subscribe to these courses on self-funding basis. In addition, the Centre acts as a Secretariat of IAPTC and helps in connecting members in exchanging views and information. As it develops to full capacity, the Centre will also be a repository of our experiences in UN peacekeeping in the service of peace. A step in this direction will be the publishing of a book “For the Honour of India: A History of Indian Peacekeeping Experiences” under the chief authorship of Lt Gen Satish Nambiar PVSM, AVSM, VrC (Retd), former Director USI. The book was released on 29th May 2009 (the UN Peacekeepers Day).

From the Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sweden

Comprehensive Training for Civilians Military and Police

In November 2008 Sweden conducted the fifth in a series of training exercises ‘in the spirit of NATO’s Partnership for Peace – PfP’. The unique feature of this series is its focus on bringing military, police and civilians together to understand the need to work together in peace operations and to practise operational cooperation and coordination. The concept took a significant step forward in 2008 by virtue of the fact that Civilians, Police and Corrections officials were included in the training audience itself. Normally civilians and police contribute to military exercises simply as role players and response cells, but in Viking 08 there was a 32 person UN Mission Training Headquarters, in addition to a number of police and corrections personnel who were training, in some cases, for operational deployments in 2009. All personnel not only learned more about cooperation and coordination in a mission area, but also learned more about each of the professional disciplines and the many diverse organisations that contribute to peace operations, as well as learning more about the many functional areas in peace operations today such as humanitarian assistance, DDR (Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration), SSR (Security Sector Reform), and cross cutting issues such as Human Rights, Gender and Children in Armed Conflict. The Viking Concept will continue into the future, with the next exercise scheduled for April 2011. For more information please contact Ms Bodil Israelsson or Mr Henry Wathen at the Folke Bernadotte Academy Sweden - exercises@folkebernadotteacademy.se

From Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, Canada

Inside Darfur: Protecting the Vulnerable

The lives of women and girls in Darfur are different than most. Rape and violence are grim realities that thousands of women and girls face on a daily basis. Darfur is a war-torn country and the innocent are paying the price.
Women and girls must often walk long distances outside of their camps to gather firewood, thatch and water. They also walk to markets and work in the field, which leaves them vulnerable to danger. Violence has risen within the camps as well, so no place seems safe.

The increase of rape and violence puts a severe strain on both the legal system and the lives of families in Darfur. Many victims are unwilling to come forward due to the threat and fear of recurring attacks. Also, the legal system often favours the perpetrators of violence or is unable to effectively investigate or prosecute the crimes. Victims of rape are often ostracized by their families as well, putting an end to the lives they were once accustomed to.

The United Nations and the international community are working to break the culture of silence in Darfur. The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre (PPC), with funding from the Government of Canada, developed a course on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) specifically designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of African civilian police officers selected for the United Nations and African Union Mission in Darfur, also known as UNAMID. This course puts a particular focus on prevention of and response to crimes of sexual abuse and violence in Darfur.

Over 150 police officers will have had the opportunity to participate in the newly designed SGBV course. This course supports officers as they work in Darfur, but their communities also benefit from their added knowledge and skills when they return home. The initial response has been extremely positive.

In addition to enhancing their interviewing, report writing and mentoring skills, the course enables participants to build confidence and connect with others doing similar work. The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre hopes that the officers who participate in the SGBV course will feel more empowered, will help break the culture of silence and will bring about change. It is through the dedication of these peacekeepers and their passion to improve the lives of others that the people of Darfur will be able to live without fear.

Special Feature

APSTA and training support to the African Union and its Standby Force

APSTA’s collaborative support to the AU stems back to 2006 during the 5th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at KAIPTC, Accra, Ghana. The then Head of the AU Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD), Bereng Mtimkhulu and the head of the ASF Unit, the late Major General Ishaya Hassan, briefed the AGM on the progress made on the establishment of the ASF and outlined areas in which the AU PSOD needed the assistance of APSTA. As a result, a decision was reached to accept an invitation from the African Union to support the establishment of the African Standby Force (ASF).

Pursuant to that decision and to the outcomes of the 5th AGM, in collaboration with the AU PSOD, the Association held the ASF Training and Coordination Workshop in Addis
Ababa, Ethiopia from 24-26 April 2007. This workshop aimed at providing a framework for the AU PSOD and APSTA to deliberate on the coordination and harmonisation of ASF capacity building training. It also aimed at developing a coordination mechanism that will enable APSTA to assist the AU PSOD with the harmonisation of ASF training approaches among APSTA member institutions and the Regional Economic Communities.

In order to implement the outcomes of the 2007 ASF Training and Coordination Workshop, the APSTA Secretariat mobilised funding from German, UK and French governments so as to develop and mainstream AU ASF operationalisation project. This project was also designed to implement the recommendations made in the ‘Roadmap for the Operationalisation of the African Standby Force’. The Roadmap envisaged that the AU would use the African Peace Support Trainers’ Association (APSTA) as a vehicle to advance the coordination of African peacekeeping training, sharing of best practices, and as a forum to standardize doctrine, disseminate lessons learnt and the achieve the practical advancement of concepts such as the responsibility to protect. In addition, the project also sought to enhance African governance by building capacities for peacekeeping through supporting the operationalisation of the African Standby Force (ASF) within the following frameworks:

- Coordination and harmonization of ASF capacity building initiatives
- Providing support to the AU for in the development of policies and structures
- Evaluations of African peacekeeping missions;
- Sharing research and lessons learnt on as wide a basis possible in Africa and beyond

Observably, even though relative progress had been made in operationalising the ASF, such progress had largely centred on the military aspects, with little progress in respect of the civilian and police aspects of the force. This realisation motivated the AU PSOD to recently extend an invitation to the APSTA, to take the lead in organising and conducting dedicated workshops on the management structures, staffing, rostering and training issues relating to the police and civilian components of the ASF. The Police Dimension Workshop, which was held in Algiers, Algeria, from 18-20 October 2008, was the first of its kind since the establishment of the ASF Policy Framework Document in 2003.

The aim of the Algiers Police Dimension Workshop was to build upon the outcomes of previous ASF workshops, including the AU ASF Civilian Dimension Workshop that was held at the Speke Conference Centre, in Kampala, from 10-12 July 2008. The Algiers Police Dimension Workshop deliberated on the design, co-ordination and harmonisation of police capacity for peacekeeping and specially on the following aspects: (I) the design/staffing of the strategic management capability of the ASF within the PLANELM of the RECs/RMs; (II) the design/staffing of the police component of AU mandated peace missions; (III) a suitable harmonised framework for ASF police training that would meet the minimum standards for AU mandated peace missions; (IV) A proposed outline police training calendar that would meet with the requirements of the ASF’s training needs for the next 12 to 24 months (up to Exercise AMANI 2010); (V)
recommendations aimed at enhancing the establishment and operationalisation of the police component of the ASF, to bring it in line with the other components of the force.

Among others, the workshop broadly served as a milestone in the development of the police component of the ASF, by bringing together ASF police stakeholders and partners, to formulate additional Police framework guidelines, enhance the existing Policy Framework Document and other policy tools, and move the establishment of the police component a step further in the right direction.

In fact, the Algiers Police workshop helped to achieve progress in the following eight respects: (1) Reformulation of AUPOL role; (2) Proposed AUPOL objectives; (3) Reformulation of AUPOL categories of functions; (4) Reformulation of strategic level management capability (RECs/RMs); (5) Formulation of generic AUPOL mission level tasks & functions; (6) Augmentation in the training framework; (7) Augmentation in the guidelines on standby force rosters

The workshop also helped to put forward the following recommendations towards the enhancement of the AU Police component: Convening of a meeting of African police chiefs and heads of gendarmerie, to enable the chiefs to provide further guidance on the way ahead. This has already taken place in Addis Ababa, from 11-13 February 2009, with Canadian government support.

**Challenges**

Although the association has done an incredible job so far in terms of ASF operationalisation, challenges are still at large. These challenges evolve around the issue of training at institutional, regional and continental level. Increasingly, although the challenges may be peculiar to different training institutions, there are some general issues that affect almost all APSTA member institutions and others working in the field of civilian capacity-building training.

Of particular interest here is the lack of regulation in the training arena. There has been a noted increase in the number of institutions on the continent involved in peacekeeping training related activities. Whilst this is a healthy development, it not only presents challenges of coordination with respect to ASF training but it also brings into question the issue of standards seeing that a number of these institutions refer to themselves as ‘centres of excellence’ (CoEs). The question becomes one of what are the criteria upon which institutions are designated the status ‘centre of excellence’ and further to this, which entity is responsible for conferring the designation?

More so, unlike the uniformed military personnel in PSOs who graduate from statutory established institutions, no statute governs the content of civilian training for PSOs. Agreeably, there are established UN standards but there is still the question of enforcement and oversight. While it may be relatively easy for the African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA), for instance, to agree on the establishment of minimum standards for its members, it is impossible to supervise the content of similar training outside the APSTA network. As such, it is impossible to be certain of the quality of the training being delivered to equip non-military personnel function in PSOs.
Although this is a big challenge, it is also one that requires an appropriate response since deficiency in training in this regard could help perpetuate further abuse through the performance of some civilian functions in PSOs. For instance, if civilians in PSOs were not trained on how to appreciate the needs of vulnerable groups in an environment, it would be difficult to expect sensitivity to the special challenges of such groups. This makes minimum standards in content as well as the development of enforcing mechanisms crucial in civilian training.

The selection of trainees is an equally important challenge that has to be addressed if the goal of making available adequate civilian personnel for PSOs is to become a reality. It has become evident that a number of people are becoming professional course participants who hop from one training programme to another. In effect, it means the same people are being trained and retrained by the various training programmes. This is a drain on the already meagre resources available for training as it prevents others from gaining the opportunity to be trained. To respond to this whilst respecting the Data Protection rules in various countries, training institutions and organisations could let their trainees sign a form agreeing to the release of their data to similar institutions for ‘background checks’ and confirmation that they have not benefited from similar training in the past. This would be much easier as soon as the civilian standby roster becomes effectively populated with names of trained civilians from the various institutions. Although this would still be limited to trainers who make their data available to the African Standby Roster for Humanitarian and Peace Support Missions (AFDEM), for example, thereby leaving out Trainers who do not use this facility, it would still be a vast improvement in this direction.

Conclusion

APSTA is a key player, not only in supporting the operationalisation of the African Union (AU) African Standby Force (ASF) through capacity-building training, but also in informing decision-making on peacekeeping in Africa through research and policy development support.

As evidenced by the recent signing of a collaborative MoU with the AU PSOD and by the ability to meet the training needs of the ASF, APSTA has the potential to remain a useful regional partner and stakeholder in terms of multidimensional AU ASF training. The recent AU ASF Police and Civilian Dimensions, Staffing, Rostering and Management Workshops and recently held AU ASF Police Harmonisation Workshop, speak to the fact that APSTA has the potential of adding synergy towards effective training through standardisation and harmonisation.

However, as it has been highlighted here, one of the challenges that the Association faces relates to how it can overcome accreditation of the affiliated institutions, regulation, standardization and harmonisation of the nomenclature, content and quality of training amongst its member institutions and others outside the APSTA network. This requires close collaboration and coordination between the AU and RECs/RMs, and the cooperation of member institutions of APSTA. These challenges are surmountable through collaboration (training and research exchange programmes),
coordination and the development of synergies where appropriate, to ensure that maximum output is obtained from the training activities.
Looking Ahead – the 2010 conference

During the March Planning Meeting of the Executive Committee Bangladesh authorities briefed the committee on plans for hosting in 2010. The 2010 Annual Conference will be hosted by the Bangladesh International Peace Support Operations Training Centre. Participants in the 2009 Annual Conference are requested to consider possible themes for the 2010 event. The 2011 Annual Conference is scheduled for the Americas, with the precise venue to be determined during the 2009 Annual Conference in Sydney.

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The IAPTC 2009 Executive Committee

President – Admiral GJ Jonah, Nigeria  
Past President – Mr Jonas Alberoth, Sweden  
Host and Future President – Assistant Commissioner Frank Prendergast, Australia  
Future Host (2010) – Brigadier General HRM Rokan Uddin, Bangladesh

Functional Chairs
• Police – Deputy Superintendent Leonard K Abakah, Ghana  
• Military – Colonel Valentin Segura, Chile  
• Civilian – Ms Herta Eckert, UK

UN Representative – Colonel Farooque Choudhury, UN/DPKO/ITS

Secretariat – Colonel Manoj Kumar Bindal, CUNPK, India

Ex Officio Member – Mr David Lightburn

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“Where are they now?”

Colonel Rene Lieva – Member of the hosting team 2006 and presidency 2007, and the past president in 2008 – Now in an operational command as Commandant of the 6th Mechanized Signal Regiment (Chilean Army)

Colonel RJ ‘Raj’ Rajput – assumed the IAPTC Secretariat from PPC in 2005. Raj is now a Brigadier in command of an artillery Brigade in Eastern India.
In memoriam - It is with regret that we announce the passing of Col (ret’d) Doug Fraser in Ottawa in February 2009 (PPC Canada), IAPTC Secretariat 2003-2004 and a strong supporter of, and participant in, IAPTC for many years.

IAPTC Web-Site

Information on the IAPTC, its annual conferences, members' news, and upcoming events can be found at www.IAPTC.org. Members’ views on improving the website should be sent to the Secretariat at sectt@iaptc.org.

Other web-sites of particular interest include APSTA www.apsta-africa.org, ALCOPAZ www.alcopaz.org, the European Group on Training www.europeangroupontraining.eu, and the UN’s Best Practices Unit www.UN.ORG.DEPTS/DPKO/LESSONS

2009 Annual Conference

15th IAPTC Annual Conference will take place from 23-27 November 2009 in Sydney, Australia, hosted by the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Defence Force Peacekeeping Centre. The theme will be “Training Together: Strengthening Peace Operations Capacity through Multi-disciplinary Partnerships”. Participants are expected to arrive no later than evening 22 November and depart commencing evening 27 November (additional information on earlier pages)

“Give us your feedback!”

Please contact the Secretariat with your views on improving this Newsletter (sectt@iaptc.org)