



Submission No 91

**Review of Australia's Relationship with the
Countries of Africa**

Organisation: Department of Defence – Supplementary
Submission

Question 1: Peace and Security – E-Learning for African Peacekeepers

Would you brief the Committee on this program?

The Peace Operations Training Institute (the Institute) provides globally accessible and affordable distance-learning courses on peace support, humanitarian relief, and security operations to men and women working to promote peace worldwide. Students have been taking their distance-learning courses on UN peacekeeping since 1995.

The Institute is a US-recognised public charity based in the United States of America. It is an independent not-for-profit organisation governed by a Board of Directors.

Australian Major General (ret'd) Tim Ford AO is a member of the Board of Directors.

Enrolments and Curriculum

The Institute currently offers a full curriculum of 22 full-length self-paced courses in English, 19 in French, 2 in Portuguese, 19 in Spanish, and most recently one in Arabic.

All Institute courses are written to be consistent with existing UN policy and doctrine – where it exists. Course authors are recognised experts in their fields with appropriate experience on missions, and courses are often written in cooperation with appropriate UN offices, or reviewed by them. A full list of the current courses offered by the Institute is provided below.

During each of the past three years enrolments exceeded 100,000 per year, with over 115,000 enrolments during 2009 with students from over 150 nations.

Funding

The Institute is currently self-funded through three revenue streams for programmes that serve different student populations.

- . First, anyone world-wide may enrol through the open enrolment programme and pay tuitions that range from US\$75 to \$205 depending on size, media, and complexity of the course.
- . Second, organisations, including national defence ministries, NGOs and UN missions may purchase institutional licences that permit various categories of their personnel to enrol at no cost to the students (the ADF Peace Operations Training Centre has such a licence).
- . Third, students from the nations of Africa and Latin America may enrol at no cost through E-Learning for African Peacekeepers (see elap.peaceopstraning.org) or E-Learning for Peacekeepers from Latin America and the Caribbean (see elplac.peaceopstraning.org).

E-Learning for African Peacekeepers program

E-Learning for African Peacekeepers (ELAP) makes the Institute's distance courses on peacekeeping available and free of charge for all military, police, and gendarmerie personnel who are citizens of covered African nations. The ELAP program has received financial support from Australia, Canada, Croatia, Hungary, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The ELAP program was set up to give African peacekeepers access to the training materials provided by the Institute at no cost, recognising that if there was to be efficient and coordinated effort among military and civilian components from around the world, personnel of all nations should receive standardised training and preparation. A similar program is available to citizens from Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Of the over 115,000 enrolments in the Institute's courses in 2009, 80,000 enrolments were from individuals in the African Union. Nigeria was the biggest user in 2009, with 22,000 enrolments.

Further information is available in the Institute's online brochure:

<http://www.peaceopstraining.org/media/2009/brochure.pdf>

What provisions are in place to prevent hostile forces accessing this learning program?

In order to access the course materials at no cost through the ELAP program, there are two steps:

- . IP Address: if someone accesses the website and clicks to enrol via the ELAP program, a check of their IP address is conducted. If the IP address is in Africa (or France, as some francophone countries have IP addresses through France), then the student is able to proceed to enrolment.
- . Declaration: if they pass the IP address check, then the individual is required to declare that they are a citizen of an African country and a member of the military, police or gendarmerie. They will then proceed to enrol in the courses, and access course materials.

The use of password protections and cross-reference check measures to screen applicants for the ELAP program would add to the cost of making the training materials readily available to African peacekeepers. The nature of the courses offered by the Institute is such that the scope for misuse or unauthorised use is very limited (see the course list below).

Noting that the focus of the program is to facilitate the broadest dissemination of standardised peace operations knowledge and practices amongst African countries, additional measures to guard against misuse would be disproportionately burdensome to the benefit of accessibility.

Courses Available Through the Peace Operations Training Institute

- . An Introduction to the UN System
- . Civil-Military Coordination (CIMIC)
- . Commanding United Nations Peacekeeping Operations
- . The Conduct of Humanitarian Relief Operations
- . Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR): Principles of Intervention and Management in Peacekeeping Operations
- . Ethics in Peacekeeping
- . Gender Perspectives in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations
- . Global Terrorism
- . History of UN Peacekeeping 1945-1987
- . History of UN Peacekeeping 1988-1996
- . History of UN Peacekeeping 1997-2006
- . International Humanitarian Law and the Law of Armed Conflict
- . Logistical Support to UN Peacekeeping Operations
- . Operational Logistical Support
- . Advanced Topics in United Nations Logistics: The Provision of Troops and Contingent-Owned Equipment (COE) and the Method for Reimbursement
- . Mine Action: Humanitarian Impact, Technical Aspects, and Global Initiatives
- . Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution
- . Preventing Violence Against Women and Gender Inequality in Peacekeeping
- . Principles of Peace Support Operations
- . United Nations Military Observers
- . United Nations Police: Restoring Civil Order Following Hostilities

Question 2: Defence Operations – Intelsat 22 Satellite System

Would you comment on this information?

Intelsat 22 is a satellite owned and operated by the company Intelsat General Corporation. The satellite (known as IS-22) will be launched in 2012 carrying three distinct communications payloads: C-band, Ku-band, and a UHF band payload. The ADF has procured exclusive rights to the UHF payload only. This procurement has been widely acknowledged by other Defence Forces and industry as innovative and cost effective. The C and Ku band payloads will be leased to commercial customers under Intelsat's commercial arrangements.

IS-22 will be positioned at 72 degrees east longitude and will provide UHF satellite communications coverage for the ADF from Africa eastwards to the east coast of Australia. The ADF has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States to share the UHF resources of IS-22 in exchange for the same resources on satellites providing coverage over the Pacific Ocean region.

Given that the satellite will be used by non-military customers, what is the chance that defence communications could be hacked?

The fact that other parts of the satellite payload will be used by non-military customers has no impact on the security of defence communications.

Question 3: Cultural and Language Pre-deployment Training

Would you brief the Committee on the cultural and language training provided to ADF personnel prior to their overseas deployment?

Pre-deployment training programs vary to meet the specific and evolving needs of each operation. Cultural and language elements are incorporated into training programs for any deployment to Africa.

The following ADF and UN training equips personnel with a cultural understanding that allows them to operate effectively in UN peace operations in Africa:

The 39th Personnel Support Battalion (39 PSB), based in Randwick, Sydney, is the ADF group primarily responsible for pre-deployment training. For Operation AZURE and HEDGEROW (Australia's contribution to the UN and AU missions in Sudan and Darfur – our only current deployments in Africa) 39 PSB conducts a four-day training course at Randwick which includes cultural and language training specifically tailored to the Sudanese environment.

39 PSB employs a number of tools to supplement this on-site training and allow members to effectively understand the culture of the region they are entering. The Centre for Army Lessons based at Tobruk Barracks, Puckapunyal, conducts a pre-deployment brief and provides members with a handbook on Sudan. This training is conducted by members who have previously served on UN missions in Sudan and there is a particular focus on using their experiences with the Sudanese people and culture while on the ground. The use of personal experiences to teach cultural awareness has proven to be a successful tool. The briefing and handbook also provide conversational language information.

Deploying members are also issued with a 'blue book', which is provided for all UN missions. The 'blue book' sets out comprehensive in-country information for each UN mission and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO) guidelines for deploying personnel. Both these publications include information on local religious and cultural practices, as well as conduct or goods to avoid due to cultural sensitivities.

The ADF Peace Operations Training Centre (POTC) also provides training through the UN Military Observers Course (UNMOC). This is a UN approved course and informs ADF personnel of the cultural issues likely to be faced by military observers during peace operations.

This is further supplemented by additional UN pre-deployment training through UNDPKO before entering a specific UN mission. This includes cultural awareness training specific to each peacekeeping operation and basic language training.