



Wilton Park

Programme

Protecting civilians in conflict: working with partner militaries

Monday 30 October – Wednesday 1 November 2017 | WP1580

Over the past decade some militaries have strengthened their commitments to protect civilians in conflict zones and to avoid civilian casualties from their own operations. This has stemmed from their practical experience and the recognition that harm done to civilians in conflict may not only constitute potential violations of international humanitarian law but can also undermine the realisation of strategic objectives. The example of Afghanistan strongly illustrates how the achievement of strategic aims depends on measures to mitigate civilian harm, and that these measures can be implemented without otherwise hampering operational effectiveness. Western militaries have taken away significant lessons from operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya, while agreement on a NATO Policy for the Protection of Civilians at the Warsaw Summit in July 2016 represents an important step forward to embed these lessons in professional military education, doctrine, and training.

Steps have been taken to alter operational practice by strengthening rules of engagement and improving training and awareness. However, significant barriers to effective civilian protection still exist, both in terms of Western military practice and particularly in working with partner country militaries on safeguarding civilians from unintended harm as well as from the predatory activities of other armed actors. As operations increasingly depend on the efforts of partner forces, the risk of civilian harm by those forces can also threaten the achievement of their own and shared political goals. The extensive training and capacity building activities undertaken by NATO, EU and their member states with partner militaries present an opportunity to work together in support of more effective approaches to training partners in civilian protection.

This event will seek to achieve the following objectives:

- Come to a greater common understanding of the elements of doctrine and practice for the protection of civilians;
- Examine the role that training and capacity building programmes can and should play in improving measures to protect civilians; and
- Identify the steps towards effective civil-military partnership to protect civilians.

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IN CONFLICT
RECOGNIZE. PREVENT. PROTECT. AMEND.

Monday 30 October

1300	Participants arrive and buffet lunch available
1430-1445	Welcome and introduction
	Robert Grant Programme Director, Wilton Park
1445-1630	1. Understanding the strategic impact of civilian harm How should we define civilian harm? How do perceptions and understanding of civilian harm differ across multilateral organisations and individual countries? How are these perceptions and understanding influenced by International Humanitarian Law (IHL)? What is our understanding of the threats and vulnerabilities facing civilian populations? How should the expectations of civilian populations help shape military imperatives? What are the strategic consequences of failures to mitigate civilian harm? How does civilian harm affect the ability to achieve successful political outcomes from military operations in different operational contexts? Victoria Holt Former Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, US Department of State, Washington DC Kwesi Aning Director, Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research (FAAR), Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), Accra Christopher Kolenda President, Strategic Leaders Academy, Washington DC
1630-1715	Photograph followed by tea/coffee
1715-1900	2. Civilian harm mitigation: challenges and responses How widespread and effective are initiatives to prevent civilian harm? What are the common challenges faced by NATO and EU militaries, their international partners, and UN peacekeeping forces. Where do those challenges differ? How do definitional problems impact civilian protection in practice? Which issues deserve particular attention? Do policies that focus on gender and vulnerable populations need to be prioritised? What does a comprehensive approach to the protection of civilians look like? What structures and behaviours need to be in place to progress efforts to strengthen civilian protection before, during and after conflicts? Marla Keenan Senior Director, Policy and Advocacy, Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), Washington DC Adrian Foster Outgoing Deputy Military Adviser, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UN, New York Ricardo David Under-Secretary for Defense Policy, Department of National Defense, Manila
1900-1930	Briefing for Session 4 facilitators in the Boardroom
1900	Reception followed by dinner

Tuesday 31 October

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-1100

3. Implementing PoC in different operational contexts

What are the challenges involved in operationalising civilian protection? How have military commanders balanced civilian harm mitigation against other operational goals in use of force decisions?

UN peacekeeping

Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz

Former Force Commander, United Nations Organisation Stabilisation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Brasilia

NATO operations: challenges and opportunities

Sarah Williamson

Executive Director, Protect the People (PTP), Washington DC

Counterinsurgency

Tamim Asey

Deputy Minister for Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Defence, Kabul

1100-1130

Tea/coffee

1130-1230

4. Working groups to examine operational vignettes

Working groups will each be given a short operational vignette containing a different PoC challenge. The groups will assess how they would respond to that challenge, and consider what policies, capabilities and skills would have been important for operational implementation of an effective response. The operational vignettes will be circulated in advance of the conference.

Vignette 1:

Tracy Cheasley

International Organisation and NGO Liaison, Allied Command Transformation (ACT), NATO, Norfolk, Virginia

Vignette 2:

Dwight Raymond

Peace Operations Specialist, United States Army peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Vignette 3:

Stian Kjeksrud

Senior Researcher, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment, Kjeller

Vignette 4:

Stuart Lythgoe

Consultant, Highfield Chambers Ltd, Newbury

1230-1300

5. Report back in plenary session of working group outcomes

The working groups will present five minute reports in plenary sessions on the results of their discussions.

1300-1500

Lunch

1400-1430

Briefing for Session 8 facilitators in the Boardroom

1500-1700

6. Capacity building assistance for PoC

What has capacity building assistance related to PoC done well, and in what ways has it fallen short? Where are the disconnects between providers and recipients of capacity building assistance? How well prepared have providers of capacity building assistance been to work effectively with host country militaries and policy officials on PoC issues? What should the priorities be for strengthening the ability to incorporate capacity building for civilian protection into military assistance programmes?

Nigeria

Sadeeq Garba Shehu

Senior Military Adviser, Lake Chad Basin Region, Center for Civilians in Conflict, Abuja

Ukraine

Nataliia Semeniuk

Deputy Chief of the Informational and Analytical Section, CIMIC Directorate, Armed Forces of Ukraine, Kiev

Afghanistan

Mirwais Wardak

Managing Director, Peace Training and Research Organization, Kabul

1700-1730

Tea/coffee

1730-1900

7. Military education and training for protection of civilians

How deeply has protection of civilians been institutionalised in the doctrine of countries that engage in different types of military operations where vulnerable civilian populations are present, or in security assistance activities? How well do most military personnel know and understand the technical aspects and the lessons learned about civilian harm mitigation from past operations? What steps can militaries involved in capacity building take to get a comprehensive understanding of the context?

Richard Leakey

Commander, British Peace Support Team in East Africa, Nairobi

Oluwole Akinsanya

Air Commodore and Lawyer, Defence Headquarters, Abuja

John Otte

Training Adviser, Center for Civil-Military Relations, Kaneohe, HI

1900

Reception followed by dinner with after dinner speaker

Alexander Laskaris

Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Engagement, US Africa Command, Stuttgart

Wednesday 1 November

0800-0900

Breakfast and checkout

0900-1100

8. Thematic working groups

Participants will break into parallel working groups that provide a smaller and more focused forum to examine in greater depth key implementation questions and to produce policy relevant conclusions and recommendations on them. The working groups are designed to generate the key part of the overall outcomes from the conference, and the structure of the conference programme is meant to use the plenary sessions to generate additional information and insights for the working group discussions.

Policy

How should states assess institutional capacity and risk related to civilian protection? How can the protection of civilians be integrated into conflict and threat assessments? What needs to be done to establish effective coordination between different donor militaries and stakeholders? What measures can be taken to help increase awareness and leadership around the key issues related to civilian harm mitigation? What can be done to increase accountability for harm to civilians? How can the strategic impact of civilian harm be more comprehensively and effectively researched and understood? Where can international organisations and NGOs contribute to effective policy making? How can countries that undertake military assistance missions better integrate PoC issues into those missions as well as wider security sector capacity building programmes? Can civilian protection be enhanced in advance of or in the course of military sales programs, for example?

Session co-chairs:

Simon Bagshaw

Senior Policy Advisor, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Geneva

Dinoh Dolina

Chief, Office for Legislative Affairs, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Quezon City

Doctrine

What are key principles and guidelines for embedding PoC in the long term through published doctrine, regulations and other measures? How can donor country militaries most effectively work with host country counterparts to support this embedding? What are the most pressing gaps that need to be filled in existing doctrine and programmes, looking across key multilateral organisations and countries that contribute to UN and/or other multinational military operations? What are success stories and key lessons to draw on?

Session co-chair:

Geoffrey Mugumya

Former Director Peace and Security, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa

Learning and sharing lessons

How can experiences and best practice be effectively and more widely shared between military forces, whether in security assistance missions or other mechanisms? How readily can lessons that Western forces have learned in diverse theatres of operations be transferred to militaries with less advanced capabilities? How can training and capacity building be tailored to best address the needs of individual partner countries? Through what processes could PoC lessons and best practice be more effectively shared between partner countries?

Session co-chairs:

Lotte Vermeij

Senior Advisor, Norwegian Armed Forces, Oslo

Mirwais Wardak

Managing Director, Peace Training Research Centre, Kabul

Implementation

How can military education training and education better prepare officers for the PoC related challenges they will confront on battlefields and other conflict zones? What are the most pressing gaps that need to be filled in existing training and education programmes in both Western and partner country militaries? How can military forces better understand the threats that exist and match capabilities to counter them? Is there a need for a more formal conceptual structure on PoC, and if so what could it look like? Is it feasible for such a conceptual structure to be broadly shared across multilateral organisations, donor and partner countries? In terms of capacity building, how might implementation on PoC differ between missions involving embedded advisors going out on operations with partner militaries and those limited to training?

Session co-chairs:

Charles Wacha

Director for Human Rights Affairs, Ugandan People's Defence Forces, Kampala

Olivia Kalis

Humanitarian Adviser, Department for International Development, London

1100-1130

Tea/coffee

1130-1140

9. Evaluation survey

Completion of online survey

1140-1300

10. Working group report back in plenary session and conference conclusions

What are the key takeaways and recommendations that can be drawn from the conference discussions? What initiatives could potentially be launched to help sustain follow up to the discussions? What issues should these initiatives focus on?

Rachel Reid

Advocacy Director, Middle East, North Africa and Southwest Asia, Open Society Foundations, London

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart