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.

In association with:
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0800-0900</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<td>0900-1100</td>
<td><strong>3. Implementing PoC in different operational contexts</strong></td>
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<td>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?</td>
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<td><strong>UN peacekeeping</strong></td>
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<td>Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz</td>
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<td>Former Force Commander, United Nations Organisation Stabilisation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Brasilia</td>
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<td><strong>NATO operations: challenges and opportunities</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sarah Williamson</td>
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<td>Executive Director, Protect the People (PTP), Washington DC</td>
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<td><strong>Counterinsurgency</strong></td>
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<td>Tamim Asey</td>
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<td>Deputy Minister for Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Defence, Kabul</td>
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<td>1100-1130</td>
<td>Tea/coffee</td>
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<td>1130-1230</td>
<td><strong>4. Working groups to examine operational vignettes</strong></td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td><strong>Vignette 1:</strong></td>
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<td>Tracy Cheasley</td>
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<td>International Organisation and NGO Liaison, Allied Command Transformation (ACT), NATO, Norfolk, Virginia</td>
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<td><strong>Vignette 2:</strong></td>
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<td>Dwight Raymond</td>
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<td>Peace Operations Specialist, United States Army peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute, Carlisle, Pennsylvania</td>
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<td><strong>Vignette 3:</strong></td>
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<td>Stian Kjeksrud</td>
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<td>Senior Researcher, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment, Kjeller</td>
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<td><strong>Vignette 4:</strong></td>
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<td>Stuart Lythgoe</td>
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<td>Consultant, Highfield Chambers Ltd, Newbury</td>
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<td>1230-1300</td>
<td><strong>5. Report back in plenary session of working group outcomes</strong></td>
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<td>The working groups will present five minute reports in plenary sessions on the results of their discussions.</td>
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<td>1300-1500</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1400-1430</td>
<td>Briefing for Session 8 facilitators in the Boardroom</td>
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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:**

**Geofrey 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