

Executive Summary

Background

The Peace and Stability Education Workshop was conducted at the Center for Strategic Leadership, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania from 13 – 15 September 2005. This was the first of what will become an annual conference on the educating of students and instructors in the field of peacekeeping, stability, and reconstruction operations (PS&RO). PKSOI is exploring incorporating this workshop into the Eisenhower series of seminars.

The education workshop was designed to accomplish three major goals:

- Capture best practices and identify gaps in education
- Identify the programs, subject matter experts and initiatives in the field
- Establish a collaborative relationship among all participants that can form the basis for continuing dialogue

Participants

The workshop participants represented a wide range of expertise in the PS&RO arena, including all services of the U.S. military, Department of Defense civilians, Department of State, the United Nations, civilian educational institutions, and representatives of international and non-governmental organizations (IO/NGO). Workshop facilitators were drawn from PKSOI and the Army War College.

Methodology

We constructed the workshop to maximize the contributions of each participant towards achieving workshop goals. This was accomplished by setting the workshop environment during the first day through a series of presentations by organizations actively engaged in PS&RO education in a plenary session.

Following the plenary presentations the assemblage was broken down into six break out groups: three to examine the best methods of integrating

PS&RO into current curricula while the other three examined the question of how we prepare and develop educators/instructors to stimulate thought on the evolving challenges associated with PS&RO. The second day all six break out groups discussed the same questions of determining the resources, current practices, gaps, and proposed solutions for education programs.

Presentations

Some initial presentations provided a foundation for the breakout groups to answer their specific questions. The first was the U.S. Army's Task Force Irregular Challenges briefing outlining the problems of asymmetric warfare and their implications on the US military. Next, the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization (S/CRS) provided an overview of its genesis, mission, and organization. The Marine Corps University then discussed current education within that service at the operational and strategic levels. The National War College outlined best practices and the future of PS&RO curricula in the joint arena. The National Defense University then provided a report on the 26/27 July Interagency Education Conference. Finally, the NGO Fund for Peace described the methodology of its conflict assessment system tool (CAST).

Secretary of the Army Presentation

The Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Francis J. Harvey, spoke at dinner about the transformation going on within the Army and entire Department of Defense to develop capabilities to assist and deal with failed and emerging states. He noted that PS&RO is being recognized as a core competency of the Army, just as important as the traditional combat requirements.

Working Groups

The six diverse breakout groups made many recommendations to improve (PS&RO) education. Those recommendations reflected the varied and wide-ranging organizations from which the individual members came, but several common threads emerged. In order to make the recommendations of the various working groups a reality, PKSOI is currently discussing with many actors the idea of establishing communities of practice (COP), associations of like-minded organizations formed for:

- curriculum development
- sharing and development of educational resources and information
- educator and operator development

Conclusion

The primary goal of the workshop had been to establish/maintain a continuing dialogue among entities/individuals in the PS&RO community. In that the workshop succeeded greatly. The community now has stronger networks of personal and organizational contacts to draw upon.

PKSOI has taken the lead in attempting to organize the way ahead by developing communities of practice. In the area of curriculum development PKSOI is soliciting research through an Academic Consortium in cooperation with George Mason University. We are challenging the community to establish an Interagency Education Council to standardize PS&RO terminology and create a base line of educational objectives.

In coordination with OASD/Networks and Information Integration and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), PKSOI is working to develop a PS&RO web-based hub that integrates existing portals, electronic library/repository of case studies, syllabi, instruction materials, databases, simulations, points of contact, etc. that serves as a clearinghouse for information. This will give the community the ability to share information across agencies, services, and internationally.

Educator and operator development will be advanced through the annual PKSOI Education Workshop. Goals for this COP will be to develop an educator development course, including a portable web based “teach-the-teacher” program, foster Interagency exchanges of educators/operators, and develop tools to leverage student experience from the field.

PKSOI will facilitate a process to achieve success in the development of doctrine and educational tenants for peace, stability, and reconstruction operations.