EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE COLLEGE

The Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (POC)

- Standard Curriculum -

09 05 2014

Aim

- *The content of this training course reflects a broad interpretation of protection, which goes beyond the idea of providing protection from physical violence and includes the creation of protective environments and the implementation of activities to obtain full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with international humanitarian law, human rights and refugee law.*

- *Graduates of this course shall possess a comprehensive and critical understanding of the multiple dimensions and meanings of the protection of civilians in armed conflict. They can add value to international peacekeeping and crisis management operations and are trained to understand the roles and responsibilities of military, police, and civilian actors involved in protection work.*

- *They are able to analyze the specific threats and vulnerabilities affecting civilians during and in the aftermath of armed conflict, and can develop and implement context-sensitive, effective strategies and measures to improve their situation and protect them from harm.*

- *The training is also an excellent opportunity to network and exchange views with other professionals from different institutional, geographical and cultural backgrounds, all working towards improving the protection of civilians in complex environments.*

General description and Organisation

1. **Starting situation.**

The course targets international experts and decision-makers of the armed forces (battalion level and above), police (senior police officer and above), civil society (head of substantive section and above), political/civilian administration (head of division/department and above), with relevant experience in the area of peacekeeping or international crisis management.

2. **Cognitive Objectives.**

At the end of the course, graduates will be especially proficient in the following fields of competence:

   - ✓ *sound knowledge base regarding POC related legal frameworks and pertinent documentation*
   - ✓ *inter-institutional understanding concerning the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders involved in peacekeeping and international crisis management*
   - ✓ *ability to perform concrete threat and risk assessment for different vulnerable groups of civilians*
   - ✓ *ability to plan, carry out and supervise effective protection measures for the benefit of the civilian population affected by armed conflict, and capability to implement relevant knowledge in practical case studies and operational scenarios.*

3. **Affective objectives.**

At the end of the course, participants will:

- *Share the key concepts and principles guiding the Protection of Civilians and integrate them in their respective area of competence.*

- *Recognize the relevance of cooperation and networking among the various actors in the protection field.*

4. **Duration**.

The duration of the course is 6 days. In addition, the residential part of the course will be preceded by a preparatory phase using the ESDC IDL System (AKU 11: An introduction to gender-sensitive (peacekeeping) operations, AKU 13: An introduction to the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict).

5. **Methodology**

The methodology of the course was designed to transfer the content of each module in such a way that participants can later adapt and apply it to their daily work. Therefore, it is based on adult learning principles which allow the transfer of knowledge not only cognitively but also experientially. Practitioners and subject matter experts will be invited as trainers to provide in-depth and at the same time hands-on knowledge and to share their experience and lessons learned.

In order to establish common basic knowledge among participants in preparation for the course, a pre-course reading list will be sent out to the participants before the course. During the residential course, emphasis will be placed on a participatory co-learning methodology which will actively encourage participants to share and exchange their specific experiences and knowledge in order to create a rich and lively learning environment for all. This will be achieved through the active involvement of the participants by the facilitators and moderators during the lectures, as well as through the frequent use of group exercises and case studies, especially during the final part of the course.

A collection of scenario-based exercises will be used throughout the course for small group works and discussions as well as in a larger exercise in the final phase of the course.

Overall structure

6. **Module Programme.**

    See annex 1

The Course Programme can be adapted according to recent needs and to national education systems.

7. **Contents for teaching.**

    See annex 2

8. The presentations and discussions will focus on the following general topics:

    See annex 2

9. **Materials**

Materials will include the scenario documents, as well as the major policy and operational documents on POC produced by different organizations such as the UN and EU, as well as relevant resolutions, reports, presidential statements, PSC/Council conclusion, relevant international legal framework documents, policy briefs and articles on POC.

10. **List of Annexes:**

Annex 1: Module programme.

Annex 2: Contents for teaching and topics.

Annex 1 – Module Programme

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
INTRODUCTION	POC OVERVIEW / LEGAL DIMENSION	POC CONCEPTS AND GUIDELINES /COOPERATION BETWEEN POC ACTORS	SELECTED CHALLENGES IN THE FIELD OF POC / ENSURING POC	ENSURING POC / CARANA EXERCISE	CARANA EXERCISE
	Evolution and dimensions of the concept of protection of civilians	POC doctrine in the context of UN Peacekeeping Operations	Child Protection	Protection needs, threat and risk assessment	*Carana Exercise: Presentations*
	Who is Who in the protection field?	POC in the context of EU, AU, and NATO crisis management operations	Prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence	How to choose the right mix of tools	
	International legal frameworks for protection	The protection concept of humanitarian actors	(Internal) displacement and the protection of IDPs and refugees		Wrap-up, Feedback, Official Closing Ceremony
	Legal frameworks for armed and police forces	Cooperation – challenges and opportunities	SSR/DDR		
	Criminal responsibility			*Carana Exercise: Group work*	
Welcome and Introduction Introduction to the Carana Scenario	*Group work – Carana*	*Role Play: Coordination Exercise*	How to effectively plan protection measures		

Annex 2

CONTENTS FOR TEACHING AND TOPICS

Introductions:

Before starting with the substantive sessions of the course, the objectives of the course, the facilitators and the workshop participants will be introduced. Ground rules and participants' expectations will be discussed. The Carana Scenario as the basis for the main group works during the course will be introduced and explained.

Module 1: Overview of the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (POC)

Session 1: Evolution and dimensions of the concept of protection of civilians

- Explains the historic dimension of why POC has become a priority for peacekeeping operations and introduces different definitions of and approaches to protection.
- Familiarizes students with the objectives of protection and the range of threats to civilians.
- Discusses the consequences of failing to protect civilians and the impact on the credibility of peace operations and the respective organization.

Session 2: Who is who in the protection field?

- Maps all actors with a responsibility or role related to POC, including the host country authorities, peacekeeping missions and their components, troop contributing countries, international organisations, humanitarian protection actors, NGOs, local authorities and communities, etc.
- Explains the development and structure of integrated multi-dimensional peacekeeping missions, as well as the roles and functions of their components (civilian, police, military), in particular regarding POC.

Module 2: The legal dimension of POC

Session 1: International legal frameworks for protection

- Identifies the range of legal rules, authorities and obligations that govern the action of crisis management personnel with regard to POC.
- Describes the rights and obligations of personnel involved in peace operations (particulary with regard to the use of force) relevant for POC.
- Explains the meaning of critical language in missions' POC mandates.
- Describes how and where to seek legal guidance.

Session 2: Legal frameworks for armed and police forces

- Identifies the EU[1]/UN/NATO[2]/AU[3] legal frameworks for armed and police forces operating internationally and explains how these relate to POC, particularly regarding the use of force.
- Explains codes of conduct and the consequences of violating them.

Session 3: Criminal responsibility

- Explains the principles of individual criminal responsibility and command responsibility in case of violations of provisions related to POC and the challenges related to ensuring compliance with these provisions.
- Discusses the role of the ICC.

Module 3: Protection of Civilians concepts and guidelines

Session 1: POC doctrine in the context of UN Peacekeeping Operations

- Explains the UN Operational Concept on POC, detailing its tiers, phases and correspondent peacekeeping protection activities.
- Explains the UN Framework for Developing Mission-Wide Protection Strategies and provides concrete examples from current UN peacekeeping missions.
- Encourages discussion of experiences and lessons learned from the field.
- Discusses the key challenges in the implementation of POC.

Session 2: POC in the context of EU, AU and NATO crisis management operations

- Raises awareness of recent developments and experiences related to POC in organizations other than the UN, such as the EU, AU and NATO.
- Discusses issues of coordination between these actors as well as implementation challenges related to POC.

Session 3: The protection concept of humanitarian actors

- Gives a better understanding of the concept of humanitarian protection, its principles and legal foundations.
- Educates about the tasks, mandates, codes of conduct, principles, and self-perceptions of selected organizations active in humanitarian protection work.
- Discusses what is seen as effective POC from a humanitarian perspective.
- Explains the humanitarian cluster system and its relevance for POC.

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[1] EU = European Union
[2] NATO = North Atlantic Treaty Organization
[3] AU = African Union

Module 4: Challenges and Opportunities for Civil-Military Coordination and Cooperation in POC

Session 1: Challenges and Opportunities

- Creates an understanding of the complexities of coordination within the POC community and discusses ways to address them.
- Discusses coordination and cooperation between multiple POC actors and its relevance for protection.
- Creates awareness of the different roles of police, military, civilian staff and humanitarian workers.
- Explains the importance and challenges of civil-military coordination among stakeholders involved in protection work as well as the consequences of failed cooperation.
- Encourages the sharing of experiences and good practices.

Session 2: Role Play: Coordination Exercise

- Addresses the necessity of inter-institutional and cross-stakeholder cooperation for the protection of civilians, and the demand for a protection-oriented comprehensive approach in international crisis-management, as well as the complexity and challenges of coordination within the broader protection community.

Module 5: Challenges in the field of POC

Session 1: Child Protection (CP)

- Provides an overview of the relation between child protection and POC.
- Discusses the legal framework and guidance documents relating to children in armed conflict.
- Explains the roles and responsibilities of different actors (civilian, police, military) involved in child protection.
- Discusses challenges and good practices in the implementation of CP mandates.

Session 2: Prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence

- Explains the nature of sexual violence in armed conflict and enables participants to consider and implement protection tasks intended to prevent or address sexual violence.
- Develops a gender-sensitive needs analysis based on a thorough understanding of the real life situations of vulnerable women, men, boys and girls in armed conflict, as well as practical solutions to effectively address these needs with a view to the maximum protection of human rights.
- Discusses military command measures associated with the protection of civilians under the imminent threat of violence, in particular sexual violence.

Session 3: (Internal) displacement and the protection of IDPs[4] and refugees

- Asks participants to develop a needs analysis based on a thorough understanding of the particular vulnerabilities of displaced groups and individuals, including unaccompanied minors.

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[4] IDPs = Internally displaced persons

- Discusses practical solutions to effectively address these needs with a view to the maximum protection of the human rights of the affected populations.

Session 4: Security Sector Reform (SSR) and DDR

- Addresses the link between SSR, DDR and POC.
- Explains the purpose and principles of SSR.
- Discusses challenges and experiences regarding SSR/DDR and POC.

Module 6: Ensuring the Protection of Civilians

Session 1: How to effectively plan protection measures

- Establishes a common understanding regarding the key questions and challenges of comprehensive POC and mission planning.

Session 2: Protection needs, threat and risk assessment

- Familiarizes participants with the needs of particular groups of civilians and addresses related protection threats, civilian vulnerabilities and risks.
- Explains how to prioritize risks and allocate resources.
- Discusses how different types of threats and vulnerabilities impact the response.
- Presents strategies to reduce threats and vulnerabilities and introduces practical tools for POC threat and risk assessment.

Session 3: How to choose the right mix of tools

- Addresses the importance of expectation management.
- Discusses tools to translate mission POC strategies into concrete tasks/activities for effective protection.
- Identifies information gathering as the critical tool to predict and pre-empt violence and how good public information campaign is vital to manage expectations.
- Discuss how dynamic mission posture can be adopted to deter violence, involving all components of the mission operating in synergy.
- Brings out that leadership is the most critical tool– and realistic training is prudent for effective protection.

Module 7: Scenario-Based Exercise

- Provides a broad range of challenges that might confront the different components of an international peacekeeping mission mandated to protect civilians, as well as protection actors operating alongside the mission.
- Gives practical context to the theoretical and policy-level issues arising out of the preceding training modules.
- As a problem-based exercise, it tasks participants to develop comprehensive protection measures/mechanisms addressing different aspects of POC.