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THEIR MISSION IS TO TRAIN PEACEKEEPERS

DOI: 10.35926/HDR.2021.1-2.7

ABSTRACT: The following article introduces four typical training centres, their national training solutions, organisation, and history of establishment show different characteristic features. The first centre is the Bangladeshi BIPSOT, which appears to be a “factory”; the second one is the 50-year-old Finnish FINCENT; the third centre is the internationally established Bosnian PSOTC; and the fourth one is the Hungarian PSTC. Through the introduction of the centres, they will be compared regarding organisation, chain of command, strength, training activities, and course fee systems, in order to highlight the main differences. The training centres were established in approximately identical circumstances. Three of the above mentioned training centres were created with the predominant function of serving the peacekeeping needs of the given country. The Bosnian PSOTC is an exception as it came into existence with some international assistance. This was due to the fact that the localisation and the development of peace support operations training were made an integral part of the peacebuilding process. It must be noted that all the four training centres perform national tasks; however, there is great emphasis on their international involvement as well. If a distinction needs to be drawn, it may be stated that FINCENT and PSOTC could rather be considered institutions of an international nature; however, BIPSOT also plays a major role in the regional training system. HDF PSTC basically serves national needs, but carries out increasing international engagement, too. It is these four basic types that dominate the architecture of training in the world.

KEYWORDS: peacekeeping, training

On 29 May 1948, the Security Council, in Resolution 50 (1948), called for a cessation of hostilities in Palestine and decided that the truce was to be supervised by the UN Mediator, with the assistance of a group of military observers. The first group of military observers, known as the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO),¹ arrived in the region in June 1948. In commemoration of this, 29 May is the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers every year.² Since 1948 the UN has launched 71 missions. Currently 15 missions are running under UN umbrella all over the world. 110 thousand men and women, out of whom 93 thousand are military personnel, serve in peacekeeping missions. The annual UN peacekeeping budget is about USD 6 billion. To date, 3,644 UN heroes have paid with their lives

¹ “The Palestine Question: S/RES/50 (1948)”. United Nations Security Council. 29 May 1948. [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/50\(1948\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/50(1948)), Accessed on 24 May 2019.

² “Peacekeeping Operations fact sheet”. Sep 2017. https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/pk_factsheet_09_17_e_sb.pdf, Accessed on 25 May

in peacekeeping missions. The training of 110 thousand peacekeepers requires a huge training architecture from the member states each year.³

In UN missions, the training of civilian, police, and military peacekeepers is the responsibility of the member states. In accordance with this training requirement, troop-contributing countries have established their own training institutions. Several countries have set up a training “factory” for peacekeepers, others have sent their mission candidates to regional or neighbouring training facilities. Some countries like Ethiopia (8,340), Bangladesh (7,053) and India (6,695) established a huge training capacity for the training of their troops, others like Finland, Norway, Denmark, etc. have few training staffs to organise peacekeeping training. Bosnia and Herzegovina has its PSOTC established by international partners, NATO, and EU organizations, and has transferred the commanding authority to the MOD of BiH. There are many interests and differences among the training solutions of the countries depending on their national needs and international efforts. It can easily be imagined how many different peacekeeping institutions exist all over the world. An annual conference for the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres is held with more than 240 centre commandant participants representing their training centres. In the following article, I introduce four typical training centres. Their national training solutions, organisation, and history of establishment show different characteristic features. The first centre is the Bangladeshi BIPSOT,⁴ which appears to be a “factory”; the second one is the 50-year-old Finnish FINCENT;⁵ the third centre is the internationally established Bosnian PSOTC;⁶ and the fourth one is the Hungarian PSTC.⁷ Through the introduction of the centres I would like to compare them regarding organisation, chain of command, strength, training activities and course fee systems. As a result, you will be able to identify the main differences.

BANGLADESH IN PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS

“Bangladesh started its peacekeeping journey by contributing a group of officers to United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) in August 1988 just after the Iran-Iraq war. Since then, peacekeeping under trying conditions have successfully proved their credibility.”⁸

Bangladeshi “peacekeepers are currently deployed in eleven countries and the nation is one of the highest troops contributing countries in the world.”⁹

According to them, “the daunting challenge is ‘to train regular troops for Peace Support Operations’. The 2nd Secretary General of the UN Dag Hammarskjöld aptly said ‘Peacekeeping is not a soldier’s job, but only a soldier can do it’.”¹⁰

³ “Summary of Troop Contributing Countries By Ranking”. United Nations Peacekeeping. 2017. http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/contributors/2017/jun17_2.pdf, Accessed on 25 May 2019.

⁴ Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training (BIPSOT)

⁵ Finnish Defence Forces International Centre (FINCENT)

⁶ Peace Support Operations Training Centre (PSOTC)

⁷ Peace Support Training Centre

⁸ “Commandant’s Welcome”. Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training. https://www.bipsot.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=47&Itemid=193, Accessed on 25 May 2019.

⁹ “Commandant’s Welcome”.

¹⁰ “Commandant’s Welcome”.

The troops designated for PSO are given training in compliance with the Core Peacekeeping Training Materials (CPTM) of United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO). “To train officers and troops prior to their deployment in mission areas, a Peacekeeping Operation Training Centre, in short, PKOTC was raised on 24 June 1999. The institution was renamed as Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training, in short BIPSOT in the year 2002. Gradually, through hard work, utmost dedication in promoting world peace and sincere efforts of all concerned, BIPSOT has now emerged as one of the region’s premier peacekeeping centres, which is globally recognized.”¹¹ In BIPSOT, not only do they train “the Bangladeshi peacekeepers, but also the peacekeepers of other UN member states around the globe.”¹² The Bangladeshi “contribution has been duly recognised by friendly countries and the international communities as well. The mission of the Institute is ‘to impart specialized training to potential peacekeepers on UN peace support operations’ and developing and dynamic institution with the latest technological support.”¹³ BIPSOT likes “to take a leading role in peace support operations in the region”.

“During the 90s, peace support operations were re-evaluated in the wake of changing dimensions of conflicts, which were mostly intra-state and ethnical in nature. Mr Brahimi’s report of October 2001 paved the way for a new approach to peace support operations for effectively coping with the emerging complex situations. The recommendations of the Brahimi’s report were incorporated into our training curricula, which have required certain changes and review of the then training modalities.”¹⁴

PKOTC has been “remodelled to accommodate these changes; its scope was widened, newer dimensions were addressed and training aspects of all types of peace support operations were incorporated.”¹⁵

Training Facilities

“BIPSOT has a set of well-trained and experienced instructors from Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force. This Institution has established a Command & Staff Simulation Room (CSSR) and a modern Language Lab. BIPSOT has both left- and right-hand driving simulators to train our peacekeepers on driving before they are inducted in mission areas. All classrooms are computerized. To keep in touch with deployed forces and to obtain updated scenario of the missions, BIPSOT is connected with high-speed Internet. It has very well organized and highly equipped syndicate discussion rooms, a growing library and an auditorium with 300-men capacity.”¹⁶

¹¹ “Commandant’s Welcome”.

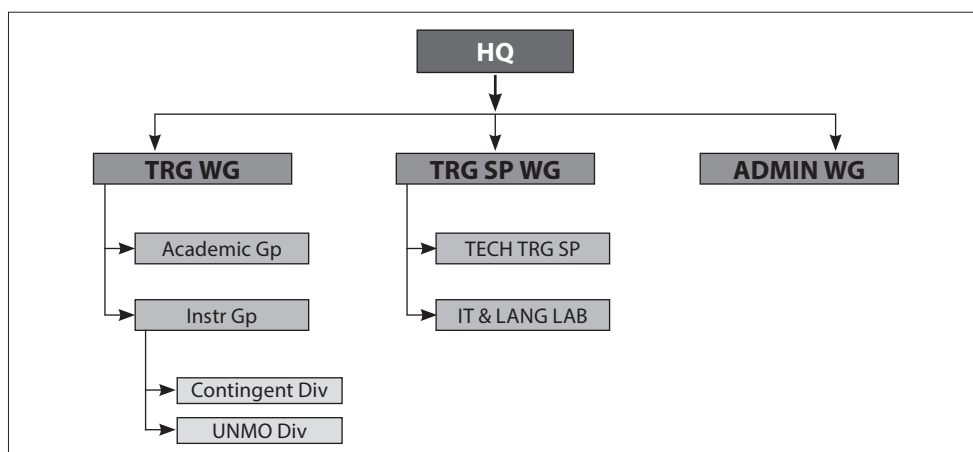
¹² “Commandant’s Welcome”.

¹³ “Commandant’s Welcome”.

¹⁴ “Background”. Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training. https://www.bipsot.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=177, Accessed on 25 May 2019.

¹⁵ “Background”.

¹⁶ “Facilities”. Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training. https://www.bipsot.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=27&Itemid=189, Accessed on 25 May 2019.



Picture 1 *Organogram of BIPSOT*

Training Support

“The institution has almost 50 acres of land for field training. In addition, other facilities available within Rajendrapur Cantonment are also used. An infantry battalion is affiliated and co-located with BIPSOT for providing necessary training support like conducting demonstration, exercise and necessary administrative assistance.”¹⁷

Accommodation

“BIPSOT has an officers’ mess with 60 rooms and an NCOs’ dormitory with 130 capacities.”¹⁸ “BIPSOT receives requests from UN for peacekeepers to work in different appointments and responsibilities and participates with contingents to perform tasks that can only be taken by military personnel, as observers and UN staff officers at field level. However, one may have to take responsibility peculiar to a particular mission.”¹⁹

Courses²⁰

- Field Training Exercise (FTX) of BANRDB/2 (38 EB), MONUSCO
- Refresher Trg – BANRDB/2 (38 EB), MONUSCO
- Pre-Deployment Training
- United Nations Staff Officer’s Course
- United Nations Contingent Commanders’ Course
- French Language Course
- United Nations Military Observer Course

¹⁷ “Facilities”.

¹⁸ “Facilities”.

¹⁹ “Concept of Training”. Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training. https://www.bipsot.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=55&Itemid=196, Accessed on 25 May 2019.

²⁰ “BIPSOT recent training”. Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training. https://www.bipsot.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=40&Itemid=222, Accessed on 25 May 2019.

- FTX – BANBAT/6 (5 BIR) & BANENGR (Constr)/6, MINUSMA
- United Nations Logistic Officers' Course
- Training of Trainers on Protection of Civilians
- Refresher Trg – BANBAT/6 (5 BIR) & BANENGR (Constr)/6, MINUSMA
- Comprehensive Protection of Civ
- FTX – BANENGR (Constr)/19, UNMISS
- ToT on International Humanitarian Law
- Refresher Trg – BANENGR (Constr)/19, UNMISS
- United Nations Contingent Commanders' Course
- English Language Course
- Medical First Responder Course
- UN Civil Military Coordination Course
- Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Course
- Conflict Related Sexual Violence
- Women, Peace and Security Course
- Ammunition Safety Management Course
- Security Sector Reform Course
- Opportunities for youths to contribute in UN and peace Support Operation.
- Engaging Host Nation during UN PKO
- Protection of children and women in UNPKO
- Current PKO sit and environment: Employment of New Technologies and mil measures



Picture 2 *The Main Building of BIPSOT*

Almost 10% of UN Peacekeepers have been trained by BIPSOT. It has become one of the largest and most famous training centres in the world. Its organization is under the direct command of the International Operation Headquarters. The Commander of BIPSOT is a two-star general, who directly cooperates with the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Bangladesh has been taking advantage from the UN reimbursement system, which means the Bangladeshi Defence Forces annually gets USD 300 million from the UN for peacekeepers and for the military equipment provided by Bangladesh for UN missions. This general income is one line in the annual government budget. Peacekeeping training has become an industry in Bangladesh and highlighted national interest. BIPSOT is frequently visited by UN Secretary-Generals, Presidents, Prime Ministers, and diplomats from all over the world. BIPSOT is the leading training institute of the Asia-Pacific Association of Training Centres, and serves as its secretariat. The personnel strength

of BIPSOT is not exactly known, it is confidential, but to my knowledge, it has 18 different course directorates and several additional subject matter experts. In my opinion, the core manpower of the centre is about 100. The total strength of the “Peacekeeper Industry” must be about 1,200 troops with logistic and garrison support.

BIH PEACE SUPPORT OPERATION TRAINING CENTRE

“PSOTC was established as the multinational project of twelve partner nations – Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK and USA – which signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) ‘Concerning Co-Operation in the Establishment and Operation of Peace Support Operations Training Centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina’ on 20 November 2003. The aim of the project was to provide education and training in peace support operations (PSO) for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and international attendees, as well as to promote benefits of inter-entity co-operation and to support the BiH defence reform. The Partners agreed to provide sufficient funding for the establishment, as well as to provide a certain number of military staff required for PSOTC. It was also agreed that the United Kingdom would act as the contracting agent on behalf of the Partners in relations with BiH. Albania, Austria, Croatia, Germany, Macedonia and Serbia also joined the Partners later.”²¹

Since its foundation, the Centre has evolved into an internationally recognized education and training (ET) institution that has extended its mandate to train candidates from across the region, including NCOs, police officers, and civilians. It became a Partnership Training and Education Centre (PTEC) in 2007, and was recognized as one of the regional training centres in 2009.

In December 2012, after a transition period, the Centre was handed over to BiH and has been fully integrated into the chain of command of BiH Armed Forces (AF BiH) since 1 January 2013. Even after the transition, the Centre has preserved its international profile by having international instructors in its staff, and by educating international students.



Picture 3 *The partners of PSOTC*

On average, PSOTC conducts around 30 education and training events per year, out of which 15–17 are residential courses and 6–8 Mobile Training Team (MTT) activities. From the delivery of its first course in 2005, until the end of 2017, PSOTC educated and trained almost eight thousand students, out of which more than 38% were international.²²

The quality of the education and training delivered by PSOTC was confirmed both nationally and internationally through course accreditations and institutional accreditations. In its course catalogue the Centre currently has six NATO approved courses, two UN certified courses and two courses accredited by the

²¹ “History”. Peace Support Operations Training Centre. <http://www.psotc.org/Content/Read/history>, Accessed on 25 August 2021.

²² “Course catalogue 2017”. PSOTC. http://mod.gov.ba/foto2015/04012016PSOTC%20Catalog%20for%202017_za_stampanje.pdf, Accessed on 25 May 2019.

local academia. In 2014, the US State Department awarded PSOTC with the Full Training Capability Certificate. In May 2016 the Centre received the NATO Quality Assurance Certificate, thus becoming one of the NATO Accredited Education and Training Facilities.²³

PSOTC performs training and education in the field of peace support operations (PSO) for the AF BiH and for members outside of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as acts as a NATO Partnership and Regional training centre for education and training in PSO in support of the partners, with the goal of reaching NATO and UN compatible standards and providing support to the AF BiH in overall efforts of BiH's contribution to international peace and security.²⁴ The PSOTC, a NATO Partnership education and training facility, continues to perform as a centre of excellence in PSO in order to support the professional development of the AF BiH, offering education and training to other BiH institutions as well as to NATO and international partners, while still preserving its global and regional reach.²⁵

Tasks of PSOTC

- Deliver high-quality, customer-oriented and internationally recognized (UN, NATO and EU) education and training.
- Support the education and training of the members of the Armed Forces and other security institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina for peace support operations.
- Contribute to NATO education and training efforts and thereby foster the integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into NATO.
- Strive for gender equality in the Centre through gender mainstreaming in accordance with relevant international and national regulations.
- Constantly improve learning and working environment which stimulates students' and staff's creativity, learning, interaction, and consensus-reaching ability.
- Maintain continuous improvement of all aspects of quality assurance, with emphasis on personnel development, education and training process, students' welfare and the provision of quality resources."²⁶

The creation of PSOTC was the result of initiatives of an international partners' community. In the first ten years, the partners provided funding and substantial help to build a basis hard enough so that the centre could function independently in the future. Since 2013, the PSOTC has been operating as one of the military training units in the organization of the BiH Armed Forces. The enhancement of PSOTC training is one of the best examples of the peace support activity (called training support) carried out by international partners in the NATO-led SFOR, and after 2004 (when the EU took over the leading position in the mission) by the EU-led EUFOR.

²³ "History". Peace Support Operations Training Centre. <http://www.psotc.org/Content/Read/history>, Accessed on 25 August 2021.

²⁴ "Mission". Peace Support Operations Training Centre. <http://www.psotc.org/Content/Read/mission>, Accessed on 25 August 2021.

²⁵ "Vision". Peace Support Operations Training Centre. <http://www.psotc.org/Content/Read/goals>, Accessed on 25 August 2021.

²⁶ "Goals". Peace Support Operations Training Centre. <http://www.psotc.org/Content/Read/goals>, Accessed on 25 August 2021.



Picture 4 *The building of PSOTC*

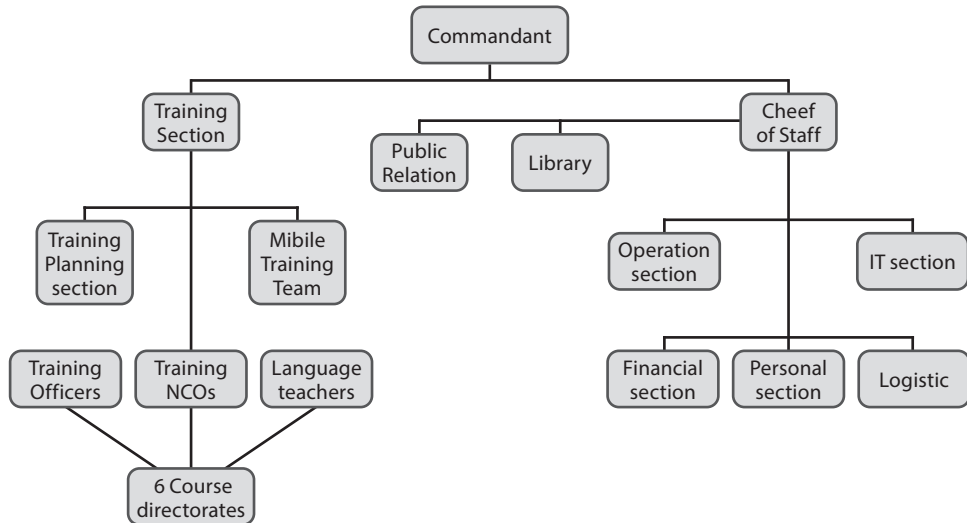
The centre itself is situated in Sarajevo, in Camp Butmir, the same base where the EUFOR and several other BiH Armed Forces Units are located. PSOTC has a modern building, equipped with 21st century technology, also erected by the international partners and handed over to the BiH Defence Forces in 2012 by the international maintaining body. PSOTC has no accommodation capacity and independent logistic support, apart from a small transportation element. The Centre has introduced a course fee system. Students from different parts of the world pay for accommodation, catering, and for the course. The course fees are deposited in an independent bank account, which is used to cover the travel costs of the PSOTC members. PSOTC has no independent PC network system that is why an exemption has been granted by the NATO recognition board.

The following courses are organized annually:²⁷

- Media management in PSO Course
- International Staff Officers Skills Course (ISOSC)
- Essential Staff NCO Skills Course
- UN Police Course
- Utility in gender in PSO Course
- Building integrity in PSO Course
- Defence Attaché Course
- PSO Staff NCO Course (PSOSNCOC)
- Building integrity for senior NCO Course
- Counterinsurgency Course (COIN)
- UN comprehensive protection of civilians Course
- UN Staff Officers Course (UNSOC)

²⁷ “Resident Courses”. Peace Support Operations Training Centre. <http://www.psotc.org/Course/List?category=1&id=seminars>, Accessed on 25 August, 2021.

- Euro-Atlantic Security Course
- Common security and defence policy orientation course
- Hazardous environment awareness training (HEAT)



Picture 5 The organogram of PSOTC

PSOTC has 32 training staff members. The organization chart is shown in *Picture 5*. Few staff work for coordination, and the training section operates in a course tutor system. The logistic support is provided by Camp Butmir and the BiH TRADOC. PSOTC is part of the international instructor exchange system, which provides and requests instructors from other similar training centres.

FINCENT

The Finnish Defence Forces International Centre (FINCENT), formerly known as the United Nations Training Centre, was founded in 1969. The Finnish Defence Forces International Centre, FINCENT is part of the Finnish National Defence University (FNDU). Almost 50 years of experience in peacekeeping and in pre-deployment training has been integrated into an academic environment with a high-level research status.²⁸ “FINCENT has been qualified by the UN (UN Certificate of Training Recognition), NATO (NATO ACT Quality Assurance) and FNDU (NDU Assurance of Training Quality).”²⁹ FINCENT has attained the ISO9001 certificate, which is the backbone of the education and training system.³⁰ FINCENT concentrates on military crisis management training and education for commanding and expert personnel. It conducts three types of courses. Firstly, training

²⁸ “Course and Activity Catalogue 2019”. Finnish Defence Forces International Centre. https://puolustusvoimat.fi/documents/1951249/2094941/Fincen Course_Catalogue_2019.pdf/d04855c5-8292-b60f-4f92-cd26159a0310/Fincen Course_Catalogue_2019.pdf.pdf. 2019.05.25, Accessed on 25 May 2019.

²⁹ “Course and Activity Catalogue 2019”.

³⁰ “Course and Activity Catalogue 2019”.

is provided for traditional stronghold courses such as the UN Military Experts on Mission Courses (UNMEM) that prepare military observers, liaison officers, and military advisers for any type of UN mission. Secondly, it arranges courses in cooperation with other national and international training centres. The third category consists of courses proposed by external parties and implemented or facilitated by Finland. FINCENT also provides instructor support by sending individual instructors, subject matter experts, and Mobile Education and Training Teams (national and Nordic) to national/international training centres. FINCENT wants to combine research and training to achieve a better understanding of training and education requirements. It is a great opportunity for FINCENT to fulfil those demands, as the task is to act as the Head of Comprehensive Crisis Management Research of the Finnish National Defence University. This task also supports FINCENT in its role as the Department Head of NATO Military Contribution to Peace Support (MC2PS). The goal of FINCENT is to be able to achieve better learning outcomes. Therefore, they are also looking forward to developing the training and education of instructors. FINCENT is looking for solutions on how to train and educate instructors to use more effective methods, for example, by using a wider spectrum of embedded training solutions. It is also very important that the instructors understand and accept the pedagogical ideas of FINCENT on how to support students in achieving their learning objectives more effectively. FINCENT cannot execute any activities without the support of national and international actors. Together, FINCENT and Crisis Management Centre (CMC) Finland, as the Finnish Centre of Expertise in Comprehensive Crisis Management, have been successful in cooperating and coordinating training and education for ten years now. FINCENT is in close cooperation with the Police University College. The staff of FINCENT is dedicated to offering high-quality courses that meet the needs of both national and international students and participants. They consider learning to be a life-long process. The motto of FINCENT is the following: “With valid attitudes, education and training there are always solutions – Every Action Matters.”³¹

The Military Island of Santahamina, Helsinki

“In 2015, FINCENT was relocated to the Santahamina Garrison in Helsinki, some ten kilometres from Helsinki city centre. The Santahamina Building was completed in early 2015. The building is used as premises for FINCENT and some other departments and services of the National Defence University in the campus area of the National Defence University within Santahamina Garrison. The Santahamina Building includes:

- a course hotel for 65 people with laundry facilities, kitchens, a gym, and a sauna,
- a café,
- classrooms and group study rooms,
- an auditorium,
- the National Defence University Library,
- physical training facility.

During courses, a wide variety of sports facilities and equipment are available for the students.”³²

³¹ “Course and Activity Catalogue 2019”.

³² “Course and Activity Catalogue 2019”.

Training Area in Niinisalo

“Some courses conducted by FINCENT, such as the United Nations Military Experts on Mission Course (UNMEM), are arranged partly in the Pori Brigade’s Exercise Area in Niinisalo, as the terrain there has proven to be excellent for the demanding exercises included in the courses.”³³

The Finnish Defence Forces International Centre FINCENT organises military crisis management training for command and expert personnel in crisis management operations led by the United Nations, NATO, the African Union and the European Union. FINCENT also focuses on assuring the quality of training and supervising crisis management education criteria.

“The mission of FINCENT is to execute and conduct the international training of leaders and experts in crisis management in cooperation with its national and international partners. FINCENT monitors and evaluates the range, execution and practices of crisis management training on a global scale and defines training solutions and responsibilities. FINCENT also supports other Finnish Defence Forces units with its expertise in terms of training and evaluation.”³⁴

The main tasks of the Finnish Defence Forces International Centre (FINCENT) are to:

- “Arrange and host national and international courses, exercises and seminars for the UN, the EU, NORDEF, NATO and NATO/Partnership and the AU.
- Act as a Department Head of NATO Military Contribution to Peace Support discipline to coordinate the military contribution to peace support training offered by other education and training centres.
- Act as a Finnish Operational Capabilities Concept Evaluation and Feedback Program (OCC E&F) Centre to support all Finnish Defence Forces services in NATO OCC E&F related matters.
- Support Finnish civilian crisis management efforts.
- Send Finnish officers to participate in crisis management courses abroad.
- Cooperate with international and national civilian and military partner organisations.
- Participate in research activities: For example, the IECEU-project that analyses and assesses best practices and lessons learned with a view to enhance the conflict prevention and peace building capabilities of EU.”³⁵

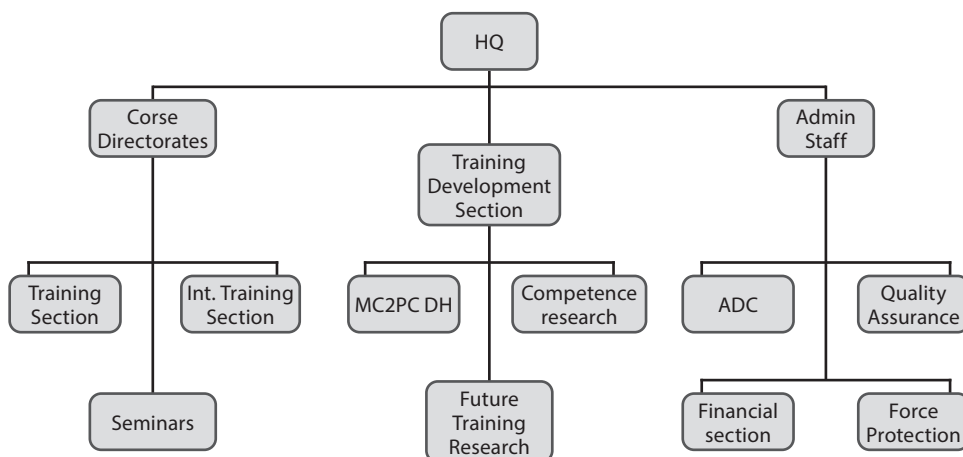
“A cooperation establishment between the Crisis Management Centre (CMC Finland) and FINCENT, called the Finnish Centre of Expertise in Comprehensive Crisis Management, provides common training for both military and civilian personnel in the multidimensional and complex field of comprehensive crisis management.”³⁶

³³ “Course and Activity Catalogue 2019”.

³⁴ “Course and Activity Catalogue 2019”.

³⁵ “Course and Activity Catalogue 2019”.

³⁶ “Course Catalogue 2016”. Finnish Defence Forces International Centre. <https://logistiikkalaitos.fi/documents/1951249/2094941/FINCENT-Course-Catalogue-20162202.pdf/1ec7dfc3-fb03-45f7-a114-d8d855be6078/FINCENT-Course-Catalogue-20162202.pdf>, Accessed on 25 May 2019.



Picture 6 *The organogram of FINCENT*

Courses conducted by FINCENT³⁷

- United Nations Courses
 - UNMEM – NORDEFECO United Nations Military Experts on Mission Course
 - UNCPOC – NORDEFECO United Nations Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Course
- European Union Courses
 - SSR – European Security and Defence College Core Course on Security Sector Reform
 - EUIACM – European Union Integrated Approach on Crisis Management Course
- NATO Courses
 - LOC – NATO/Partnership Logistics Course
 - OCC Database – Operational Capabilities Concept Database Training
 - S5-54-A COPC – NATO Comprehensive Operations Planning Course
- General Courses
 - ICM – NORDEFECO Integrated Crisis Management Course
 - PSOCC – Peace Support Operations Cooperation Course (Tactical level)
 - SAFOC – NORDEFECO Safety Officer Course
 - NCGM METT – NORDEFECO Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations Gender Training of Trainers Mobile Education and Training Team Course
- Language Courses
 - METC – Military English Terminology Course
 - MFTC – Military French Terminology Course
- Tailored Courses and Seminars
- Distance Learning

³⁷ “Course and Activity Catalogue 2019”.

FINCENT has no logistic support of its own on Santahamina, but the FNDU has a School Support Battalion (SSB) for training and for logistics as well. The logistic support is available on request for peacekeeping training in the garrison. The role-players are provided by SSB and by the University, and through special contracts by civilian organisations. FINCENT has a budget to pay them a daily allowance of 120 EUR. FINCENT charges the highest course fees in Europe. Students are expected to pay about 1,000 EUR per week for the course in order to cover the daily food and transportation. FINCENT runs 40 different courses annually, and receives 500 students from all over the world. Approximately 150 out of the 500 students are international. FINCENT MTTs operated in 18 countries last year. 26 foreign instructors provided training assistance to FINCENT, and 126 Finnish instructors were deployed in different countries for training support. In 2017, FINCENT worked in cooperation with 72 countries in the field of peacekeeping. The organisation of FINCENT is shown in *Picture 6*. FINCENT employs the fewest staff members in the training centre, including 24 permanent members, 40 additional subject matter experts and 105 contracted researchers.³⁸

HDF PEACE SUPPORT TRAINING CENTRE (PSTC)

“The legal predecessor of the Hungarian Defence Forces Peace Support Training Centre was established on 1st October 2000 within the structure of the Hungarian Defence Forces 1st Light Mixed Infantry Regiment and since 27th May 2004 it has conducted its activity as an independent element in the structure of the HDF. At that time the Centre was founded in order to provide pre-deployment preparation and training of military personnel for two major peacekeeping missions: UNFICYP (United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus) and MFO (Multinational Forces and Observers) on the Sinai Peninsula. With the increased participation of the Hungarian Defence Forces in international activities the range of the missions of our military unit also further grew. A new element emerged in the activities of the Centre: the preparation of staff officers and non-commissioned officers for various missions in the Balkans theatre, for ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) in Afghanistan, and the organisation of IMOC and other NATO and UN seminars, training and retraining courses. On 28th September 2006 the Training Centre was awarded a unit colour by the President of the Republic of Hungary. The scope of the unit – taking into consideration the short- and medium-term objectives of the HDF special operations capacity development – was increased in 2007. As new elements, the organisation and conduct of national then international special operations basic training courses were included in the activities of the Centre between 2007 and 2011. On 1st August 2020, the HDF PSTC was transferred from the subordination of the HDF Augmentation, Preparation, and Training Command into that of the HDF Transformation Command.”³⁹

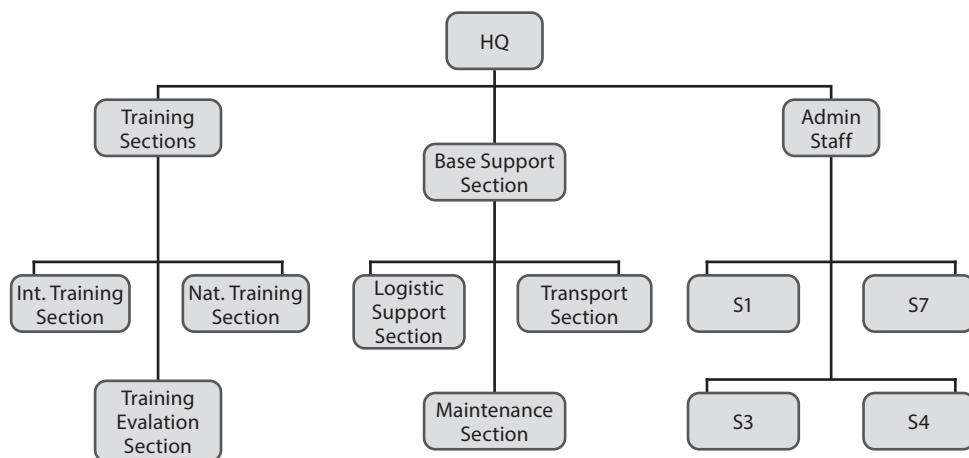
³⁸ “Partnership Training and Education Centres”. NATO ACT. <https://www.act.nato.int/ptecs-news>, Accessed on 10 June 2019.

³⁹ Drót L. (ed.) *Kiképzés a békéért: MH Békétámogató Kiképző Központ. Training For Peace, HDF Peace Support Training Centre*. Budapest: Zrínyi Kiadó, 2018. 12.

Missions

„HDF PSTC is engaged in a number of diverse missions which involve:

- organising and conducting training and preparation programs for Hungarian and international participants assigned for peace support and humanitarian operations organised and led by various international organisations, such as NATO, the UN, the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe), and the EU;
- providing training and preparation both in Hungary and abroad for contingents, selected for international crisis management missions, staff officers, non-commissioned officers, and military observers;
- cooperating with the bodies or departments of NATO, UN, OSCE, and the EU, responsible for training;
- active involvement in the joint working groups of the PTEC (Partnership Training and Education Centres), and in instructor exchange programs;
- providing opportunity to participate in English-language professional training courses with the PTEC member states, organised in Hungary;
- processing the lessons learned by the personnel in peace support operations, organising and conducting professional conferences, and integrating the lessons learned during training into the preparation programs;
- cooperating with the Police Training and Education Centre of the Ministry of Interior in the field of IMOC-, PSOCC-, and UNFICYP-preparation with the involvement of police trainees and trainers, and the V4 police crisis management Command Post Exercise (CPX) was also supported by an instructor of the HDF PSTC;
- conducting language assessments, preparations, courses, and English maintenance course in the framework of distance learning courses (Military English Terminology Course – METC) with the use of ILIAS distance learning framework system;
- cooperating both in the assessment of entry requirements of missions, and in the execution of career and qualification testing;
- preserving traditions.⁴⁰



Picture 7 The organogram of PSTC

⁴⁰ Drót. Kiképzés a békéért... 13.

Infrastructure

The Centre has highly developed IT and educational technology equipment. The unit has nine classrooms, allowing the simultaneous training of 300 persons. Our institution is capable of housing nearly 150 persons, and the mess hall provides meals for 120 people simultaneously. The personnel of the Centre and the participants of our training and retraining programs have the opportunity to use our sports facilities, such as a well-equipped gym, all-weather running track, football field covered with artificial turf, and tennis and basketball courts.⁴¹

International and national activities

International training courses have always been in the focus of attention in the life of the HDF Peace Support Training Centre. The genuine indicators of the activities of a training establishment – particularly of one with its main profile of training in the field of international crisis response and peace operations – are the results and achievements of international training courses planned and organised by the training institution.

The “flagship” of the nearly 20-year-long international activities of the HDF PSTC is the International Military Observers’ Course, which was conducted for the 38th time in 2019 IMOC, held in Hungary, was accredited by the United Nations Organisation for the fourth time, which proves not only that the training course meets the expectations of the UN, but also the fact that the training is conducted on the basis of a unified training material – in line with directives and guidelines identified by the UN – and in accordance with control criteria stemming from operational lessons learned. The certificate for the successful completion of the training course is accepted all over the world as a valid document entitling its owner to take an observer position in any type of UN or OSCE missions.

In the past few years, a significant change took place in the international activities of the Centre. Its previous multilateral relations have further developed besides the membership in IAPTC (International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres) and EAPTC (European Association of Peace Operations Training Centres). Taking into consideration the proportion and ambition level of the involvement of the Hungarian Defence Forces in international peacekeeping operations, it became inevitable to shift towards NATO, parallel with the previous UN orientation. Following a nearly one-year-long preparation phase, the Centre became a full member of the community of the NATO PTEC (Partnership Training and Education Centres).

The membership in NATO PTEC not only allows a wider publicity for our international training courses but also brings along an active involvement in the activities of various working groups (MC2PS – Military Contribution to Peace Support; NATO TEPSCO – NATO Training and Education for Peace Support Operations), and the conduct of bilateral instructors’ exchange programs. In order to increase the range of international activities of the Centre, new training courses are being introduced which have already proven to be successful in the international arena. The Peace Support Operation Cooperation Course (PSOCC) provides trainees with theoretical and practical skills that can be applied in any bilateral or multilateral allied operation under UN, NATO, EU, or AU aegis. Besides traditional liaison

⁴¹ Drót. *Kiképzés a békéért...* 14.

activities, the relationship maintenance, open-source intelligence, and efficient information and situation analysis may successfully be completed with such capabilities.

When discussing international operations, the importance of language training must also be mentioned as an essential part of pre-deployment training programs. In most missions the language of command is English or French, which highlights the importance of foreign language training. To date, the methodology and system of foreign language training in the Hungarian Defence Forces are characterised by mostly traditional ways (frontal teaching, small-group language classes). In 2016, the Centre introduced an experimental, blended training course in the field of English military terminology, which consists of several days of classroom training and a four-week-long distance learning phase. It can be stated that the demand for such blended foreign language training has continuously been increasing, thanks to its flexibility and adjustability to individual capacities and requirements. Besides international preparations, domestic training programs also need mentioning. The objective of preparations for operations or specific deployments is to allow soldiers (sometimes police officers or civilians) to successfully perform their activities with the skills and knowledge acquired at the Centre. An important objective is for each military service member deployed in a mission area to possess clear and unified knowledge. During the preparations, topics and issues essential for the participants' integration in a multinational environment and for accomplishing missions are studied and discussed. Complying with the principle of graduated approach, theoretical and practical classes alternate during the training programs. Through the development of individual capacities and skills, soldiers become capable of completing high-level and more complex tasks. By the end of the preparation, each soldier acquires the knowledge which enables them to work in a sub-unit or a higher-level headquarters.⁴²

SUMMARY

The training centres were established in approximately identical circumstances. Three of the above-mentioned training centres were created with the predominant function of serving the peacekeeping needs of the given country. The Bosnian PSOTC is an exception as it came into existence with some international assistance. This was due to the fact that the localisation and the development of peace support operations training were made an integral part of the peacebuilding process. It must be noted that all the four training centres perform national tasks; however, there is great emphasis on their international involvement as well. If a distinction needs to be drawn, it may be stated that FINCENT and PSOTC could rather be considered institutions of an international nature; however, BIPSOT also plays a major role in the regional training system. HDF PSTC basically serves national needs, but carries out increasing international engagement, too.

The second point of comparison is the question of subordination. Among the four training centres, PSOTC and HDF PSTC operate in subordination to the commands in charge of training and recruitment: TRADOC in Bosnia and HDF Transformation Command in Hungary. Both centres are part of the central training systems. BIPSOT is subordinated to the operational command, in the same way HDF PSTC was until December 2016. FINCENT has a special status since it operates subordinated to the Finnish National Defence University,

⁴² "MH BTKK Kiképzési kalendárium: 2019". https://pstc.hu/rovatok/felkeszitesek/kalendarium/kikepzesi-kalendarium/kikepzesi%20kalendarium_2019.pdf, Accessed on 10 June 2019.

as its integral part. Subordination may lead one to infer what the activities of the training centres are focused on. Accordingly, PSOTC and HDF PSTC should focus on training. Currently, PSOTC is not doing so; therefore, in my opinion, its subordinated status is not appropriate; or at least it is not adapted to its tasks and responsibilities. HDF PSTC is an institution that mainly serves the purpose of conducting courses of academic character, depending on its unengaged capacities and the extent of its international involvement. BIPSOT trains peacekeeping units for UN operations both nationally and regionally, hence their training can be described as mission-oriented. FINCENT, on the other hand, has a significant role solely in national and international research, training and education as their being part of the Finnish National Defence University, similarly to PSOTC. The number of staff employed and the organigram of these organisations lend themselves as bases for further comparison. Therefore, the largest institution is BIPSOT with its own staff of 100 and its serving and support staff of nearly 1,000 personnel. The reason for that is the sufficient number necessary to cater for the 15–20 thousand persons' training annually. The operation of BIPSOT can be modified according to the needs, there is no upper limit. HDF PSTC has a staff of 79, out of which the staff directly involved in training are 24 persons. The staff of PSOTC consists of 32 persons and 18 of them are directly involved in training. FINCENT employs the smallest number of 24 persons but they have an unlimited access to resources. The fact that they can employ as many as 40 experts from a pool makes the composition of their training courses highly flexible. The support for their operation comes simultaneously from the budget of the Finnish National Defence University and that of the Finnish Defence Forces. This is due to the fact that FINCENT has taken on a role of national leadership in some significant international projects. Another measurable figure is the number of personnel trained at these institutions: BIPSOT has trained 15 thousand soldiers, PSOTC 718 persons, HDF PSTC 591 and FINCENT 522 trainees.⁴³

In summary, the scopes of activity of the four training centres are rather similar. There are some shifts in emphasis, but basically, all four training centres perform their tasks to meet the requirements and standards defined by international organisations. Representing national interests takes priority. In Bangladesh's case, it is to provide large contingents for the United Nations, and to consolidate their regional leading role (which is considerably difficult besides India and Nepal). In the case of FINCENT, it is to enhance their key role of a scientific research institute and their diplomatic participation in peace operations. PSOTC, as a NATO accredited regional training centre, is the most important one in the West-Balkans and is a significant diplomatic actor. HDF PSTC is the centre for national peace operation training, and is becoming increasingly successful in the fields of international and civilian training. It is extremely difficult to establish hierarchy among these training centres since they operate in different frameworks but still carry out their tasks as defined by the same international standards.

The reason why I have selected these four institutions to analyse training centres is that they fall into different categories. BIPSOT functions as an *industrial training factory*; FINCENT is a research centre and a diplomatic tool; PSOTC acts as a regional institution, fairly similar to FINCENT, created by international actors trying to find their role in the Bosnian armed forces. HDF PSTC is a military unit that focuses on national training and, when their capacity permits, on organising international courses. Over the past 70 years, several attempts have been made to shape the organisational framework of peace operations training. It is these four basic types that dominate the architecture of training in the world.

⁴³ "Partnership Training and Education Centres".

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