PKSOI named by Army as Army and Joint Proponent for Peace and Stability Ops.

Army names Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute as Army and Joint Proponent for Peace and Stability Operations

PKSOI celebrates 20 years of collaborative contributions to Peace & Stability Operations

The Army on Oct. 28, 2013, named PKSOI as the Lead Agent for the Army for peacekeeping and stability operations; the Army is Joint Proponent. The Army decision reflects the USAWC organization’s expert knowledge and its network of relationships throughout the DoD, interagency community, and international community.

PKSOI, known for its experience and expertise as advisors, educators, partners, collaborators, integrators and publishers, will take lead for the Army and DoD in collaborative development and integration of joint capabilities for peacekeeping operations and stability operations.

As proponent lead, PKSOI will leverage existing relationships to partner with key organizations of the P&SO communities – among them USMC Small War Center; Naval Post Graduate School’s Center for Civil Military Relations and Peace Training Center; NDU’s Center for Complex Operations; USUN; USMOG; U.S. Institute for Peace, Department of State; U.S. Agency for International Development; and numerous non-governmental organizations and think tanks.

Recent initiatives and activities attest to the strength of PKSOI expertise and networks:

--As the Army and DoD lead for the Joint Stability Operations Capabilities-Based Assessment, PKSOI successfully resolved controversial issues such as the need for a DoD-Interagency planning framework; increased capacity to provide post-phase 3 law enforcement, and education for transitional governance roles and responsibilities. The Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff signed Joint Requirements Oversight Council Memorandum 172-13, Nov. 4, 2013, in a validation of this comprehensive DOTMLPF-P Change Recommendation.

--PKSOI provides Regionally Aligned Forces with specialized training concerning UN PK missions,
protection of civilians, and peace support tasks not currently covered in the Army’s Decisive Action METL/Training Plan.

--Most recently, PKSOI supported 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division preparation for USAFRICOM missions.

--When 1st Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division serves as a Regionally Aligned Force in support of the NATO French Rapid Reaction Corps, its leaders will be armed with insights about what U.S. Forces can expect as members of a NATO-led multinational exercise force. The insights were provided in pre-deployment training by PKSOI staff Col. Dave Krall and German Lt. Col. Jurgen Prandtner; and two International Fellows, Hungarian Col. Romulusz Ruszin and Romanian Col. Iulian Berdila.

Brig. Gen. Koko-Eissen of Nigeria briefs his multi-national ECOWAS staff during Exercise Western Accord in June at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Center, Accra, Ghana.

--PKSOI trained ECOWAS staff officers to work as a staff team to command and control a multinational peacekeeping operation in Africa. In fact, many of those involved with the training will do so as members of the newly formed UN-mandated mission in the country of Mali. Col. Bo Balcavage taught Command-and-Control, Interoperability, and Multinational Operations. Col. Ed Lowe reviewed International Policing and Police Reform concepts. Col. James McFadden taught the officers about International Law and the Law of Armed Conflict, and Tony Lieto introduced Governance Reform and Security Assistance.

--PKSOI was co-lead with Pakistan for the Peace and Stability Operations Challenges Forum in Stockholm in October: the fourth in a series of meetings spanning 18 months. PKSOI supports the Challenges Forum as a Department of State co-representative, working with the International Organizations Secretariat.

--PKSOI collaborated across the P&SO community to review and update Army FM 3-07.

--PKSOI co-hosted the Sept. 2013 Army Security Cooperation Planners’ Course in partnership with
Lectures and small-group discussions culminate in a five-part practical exercise that includes partner country land forces assessment, geographic combatant command country planning, country support planning, indicators and measures of performance and effectiveness, and activities and resource planning. U.S. Army Africa Deputy Commander Maj. Gen. Vollmecke provided the capstone lecture and graduation remarks to about 50 planners at the course, offered quarterly at Carlisle.

--The Protection of Civilians Military Reference Guide, published in 2013 by PKSOI, surveys planning considerations for PoC as a moral, political, legal and strategic priority for all military operations. The guide is a resource for military commanders and staffs who must consider Protection of Civilians while conducting operations. The guide’s value extends to international organizations, national militaries, training centers, and civilian and police officials, at http://pksoi.army.mil/PKM/publications/collaborative/collaborative.cfn

--PKSOI supported the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) deployment preparation for the 353rd Civil Affairs Command in August with PKSOI’s interagency team Doctor (PhD) Jim Embrey; Doctor (PhD) Mike Spangler of the State Department; and Carol Horning of USAID. The unit was challenged with a new computer-facilitated tool that simulates a dynamic environment in which leaders confront the multitude of players with varying complementary, independent or competing purposes in a conflict zone. "The beauty of the SENSE was that it took the 353rd CA out of their comfort zone by presenting them new problems in greater depth and complexity than they’d experienced in previous exercises,” said Spangler, whose dual role was to mentor the deploying leaders with security sector experience while assessing the utility of SENSE as an experiential learning tool for The War College.

--PKSOI is working with the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Developments Command, Small Wars Center and Irregular Warfare Integration Division, and the Center for Advanced Cultural Learning to incorporate host nation culture lessons into stability operations functions.

Next, for PKSOI --

--On Nov. 25, former Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Gordon Sullivan will lead featured speakers at the PKSOI 20th Anniversary Celebration hosted by AUSA at its headquarters in Arlington, Va. The event, "The Future of Peacekeeping and Stability and PKSOI’s Role” will commemorate PKSOI’s collaborative contributions to the greater communities of interest and practice in peacekeeping and stability operations over the past 20 years and will celebrate PKSOI’s recent designations as the Army and Joint lead for peacekeeping and stability operations.

--The 2014 Peace and Stability Operations Training and Education Workshop, at George Mason University, Jan. 13-16, is a partner effort among the GMU Peace Operations Policy Program, the Simons Center, USIP FSI, CAC, Joint Staff J7, Army Staff G3/5/7 and PKSOI. A wide range of military, international, academic,
and interagency professionals will develop recommendations for the best ways to develop effective partnerships during peacekeeping and stability operations through innovative educational and training efforts.

--The Joint Humanitarian Operations Course will be hosted by PKSOI in January; the course provides opportunity for collaboration with the Center for the Study of Civil-Military Operations.

--PKSOI is part of the core planning group for the May 2014 Interagency Exercise Working Group.

Join the PKSOI collaboration --

--The SOLLIMS collaborative, interagency, open-access lessons-learned forum is populated by insights from practitioners and academics. Users appreciate the specific communities of practice, e.g., the lessons captures on the Mali COP within the Stability Operations Lessons Learned Information Management System, or SOLLIMS.