



**“OVERCOMING TRAINING CHALLENGES IN THE COVID ERA”**  
**Critical Gaps, Best Practices and Hybrid Approaches**  
9 – 10 November 2021  
Virtual Seminar

**Dear Peacekeeping Training Colleagues**

On behalf of the IAPTC Executive Committee we would like to welcome you to participate in a special “digital bridging IAPTC event” on 9 and 10 November 2021. While in the past the IAPTC has held an annual conference to bring interested parties together, clearly the on-going COVID-19 situation again prevents the community from holding an in person hosted meeting this year.

As members will recall, for more than two decades the IAPTC has served as a forum for exchanging experiences on peace operations education and training, seeking not only to improve training programs and processes but in particular to generate training partnerships and significantly enhance the understanding of the many multi-disciplinary contributors to today’s peace operations. At a normal annual conference, the IAPTC is an opportunity for attendees to hear presentations from experienced individuals who hold leadership positions, share ideas with colleagues in the content of functional, multifunctional and regional groups, learn about the latest education and training innovations, and members’ programs at an Ideas Bazaar, and meet informally on the margins with fellow educators and trainers from around the world to compare notes and approaches to common challenges.

This year however, instead of a traditional in person conference, the 2021 event, short formed as a “virtual seminar”, will take its place. It has been carefully designed to sustain the close education and training contact and partnerships between organisations and individuals with a responsibility and interest in peace operations. It also seeks to maintain the momentum from previous annual conferences by following up the many exchanges and discussions on today’s challenges.

This virtual seminar will be held on 9-10 November and the Executive Committee wishes to provide participants with a brief overview of the event. Registration and other administrative matters are sent separately to members and are available on the IAPTC website <https://iaptc.org/upcoming-events>.

***Theme for the 2021 IAPTC virtual Seminar***

Each year, the annual conference has been organised around a major theme, based on proposals by members, and elaborated by the Executive Committee.

This year’s theme is **“OVERCOMING TRAINING CHALLENGES IN THE COVID ERA: Critical Gaps, Best Practices and Hybrid Approaches”**, in recognition of the many issues confronting the education and training community at this particular time.

The Executive Committee, while recognising the overarching need to address ‘COVID training issues’, focused particularly on three areas – critical gaps, best practices and hybrid approaches.

In doing so, members’ suggestions forwarded in response to a Secretariat survey, as well as ideas from the 2019 annual general meeting in Peru, were carefully taken into account.

***The Programme***

The virtual seminar recognises the characteristics of an online event and, has developed a compact two-day programme whereby participants are expected to be online for a maximum of 3 and ¼ hours on each of the two days, depending upon their interests.



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In addition to the Opening and Closing sessions, the programme features five substantive sessions, including one which offers a choice for participants to select a particular area of interest.

Due to the nature of the programme every effort will be made to limit the number of speakers on each topic, and to keep the presentations themselves brief. Times in the programme are ‘UTC’ (Coordinated Universal Time – same as military Zulu time, and Greenwich meantime).

The first day will have two sessions, the second of which provides a choice for organisations/individuals to focus on. The second day includes three sessions and the webinar closing.

**Day 1 - Tuesday 9 November**

- The Opening brief 15-minute virtual seminar includes a welcome from the IAPTC Presidency (Ministry of Defence, Peru), as well as remarks about the IAPTC and the programme by the Secretariat (CCCPA, Egypt).
- The first substantive session focuses on ‘Gaps in Training’, including field and institutional perspectives, on civilians, police and military education and training, and looks at partnerships’ requirements and possibilities.
- The second session comprises three sub-sessions which will be conducted concurrently – participants can choose to attend either ‘training for this pandemic era, or a ‘leadership preparation focused sub-session’, or a ‘people-centered peace operations sub-session’. These sub-sessions provide the opportunity for participants to consider many ongoing and important challenges previously raised and discussed in the recent past 3 or 4 conferences, including Health matters, critical Leadership challenges, and Children, Gender, Environment and Communication issues.

**Day 2 - Wednesday 10 November**

- Session 3 is a specific UN activity, focused on Military and Police challenges and doctrinal responses in the current era, associated with training and capacity building issues.
- Session 4 focuses directly on training under COVID-19 conditions with perspectives from the UN, followed by regional views (Europe, Africa, Asia and Americas).
- The final substantive session includes the realism in 3 current field missions and the COVID-19 impact on mission training.
- The Closing session for this 2021 event is particularly important for the Association and to the Executive Committee. Members’ views on future conferences, on events such as the 2021 virtual seminar, and on the Articles of Association will be particularly welcomed.

For 2022, safety and security considered, it is planned to hold a live event – an annual conference hosted by Bangladesh. The IAPTC website will in due course feature updates on that event. Hopefully, the IAPTC can return to the necessary in person interaction amongst members, to the traditional bilateral and multilateral exchanges, to discussions in multi-disciplinary groups and to continued progress on the many education and training challenges confronting the international community.

Yours sincerely,  
IAPTC President and Members of the Executive Committee