Introduction: The Center for Civil-Military Relations (CCMR) offers a peacekeeping training course entitled “United Nations Staff Officers Course” (UNSOC). The goal of this training is to assist nations in improving the abilities of their armed forces to better participate in United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations. The specific purpose of the UNSOC is to prepare and train staff officers (Captain - Lieutenant Colonel or civilian equivalents) for service as staff officers in UN multinational and sector headquarters or within national contingents to conduct peacekeeping operations. Upon completion of the UNSOC, participants are expected to be competent in the knowledge, skills and attributes of effective UN staff officers. CCMR conducts this course through the United States (US) Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) program.

This course has received Official Training Recognition by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Integrated Training Service. It also includes best practices from training conducted by other nations involved in peacekeeping training.

Course Details: The UNSOC can be conducted in residence at the Naval Postgraduate School (MASL P179045) or in a host country through a Mobile Education Team (MET) as a national (MASL P309389) or a regional (MASL P279389) course. If regional or in-residence, participants are invited from other participating countries in the area or worldwide to attend the UNSOC. The duration of the training is 17 calendar days inclusive of weekend/cultural/social programs. Participants could use GPOI funding, IMET/EIMET or be self-funded.

Training Objectives: The specific objectives of the UNSOC are to: a) examine major issues in peacekeeping; b) Understand UN role and responsibilities in peacekeeping; c) understand the Military Staff Functions and responsibilities in UN peacekeeping; and d) conduct operational staff planning processes for UN peacekeeping.

Course Instructors: The instructor staff for the UNSOC consists of three to four SMEs and one senior SME with experience as a staff officer in the field.

Participants: The optimum course size is 30 students selected from countries in the region or worldwide. Participant rank or grade should be equivalent to Captain - Lieutenant Colonel. Previous peacekeeping experience is desirable but not required.