

CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

NOVEMBER 2007

UN STANDING POLICE CAPACITY

THE INCREASING demand for peacekeepers, and in particular for UN police officers has resulted in the creation of a UN Standing Police Capacity. The UN has just finished its first training course for its Standing Police Capacity (SPC). The course was held at a leading police training centre in the United Kingdom from October 8th to 19th.

The officers who attended the course were trained in policy, , project management, team-building, and other peacekeeping skills. Mentors carried out real-time exercises that simulated actual policing scenarios.

The SPC will have two important functions. It will assist in the start-up of future UN peacekeeping operations, and it will provide immediate support and technical assistance on UN missions. The SPC will fight organized crime, corruption , and other serious problems regarding the peacekeeping mandate.

After the SPC has completed its training, it will be operational and prepared for its first mission in Chad.

RESCUE DEVICES EXHIBITED

THE 'ERT', a device for helping soldiers escape from their vehicles, was one of the many innovations exhibited at the US Army 2007 Annual Meeting and Exposition last week.

The 'ERT' is a tool designed by Benchmade to help soldiers get out of their vehicles when they crash. The 'ERT' is similar to a knife, except that it has a hook instead of a blade. The 'ERT' can cut seat-belts, break windows, and has a push-button LED light.

The advantage of the ERT is that it is easy to use. It does not require strenuous movement to operate, so an injured soldier could use the device in an emergency.

PEACEKEEPERS REBUILD SCHOOL

SOLDIERS SERVING with the UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti have rebuilt a school building in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital that was damaged by armed gangs. The school re-opened last month, and more than 1,500 students are attending classes again.

Peacekeepers renovated and re-painted the buildings. In addition, they installed new toilets and fences. The project cost about \$1.7 million and was funded by various non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The re-opening of the school is only one sign of the progress in Haiti. Public institutions are functioning again, and economic activities are resuming. Many displaced people have returned to the capital city. J. Carter, head of the mission's civil affairs section stated "It's a moment of joy and hope because this school...will contribute to build a better future for Haiti."

CANINE SUPPORT UNIT

The Royal Army Veterinary Corps in Iraq are helping soldiers on ground operations in Basra. The Military Working Dog Support Unit is training dogs and dog handlers in peacekeeping skills.

The dogs offer extra safety to the troops. Their tasks include arms explosive search and vehicle search. In addition, they are also used in guarding and patrolling.

The dog handlers also have their own special vehicles(Armoured Land Rovers) to transport the dogs

'UN's Standing Police Capacity Completes Training in UK', *UN Daily News Service* 19 October 2007

<http://www.un.org/news/dh/pdf/english/2007/19102007.pdf>

Cox, Matthew 'Knives, Rescue Devices Featured at AUSA, *Army Times* 8 October 2008

<http://www.armytimes.com/news/ausa/story.php?F=3095438>

'Haiti: UN Peacekeepers Rebuild School in Troubled Neighbourhood of Capital', *UN Daily News Service* 19 October 2007

<http://www.un.org/news/dh/pdf/english/2007/19102007.pdf>

Vital role for dog unit in Iraq, *defence news* 27 July 2007

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/PeopleInDefence/VitalRoleForDogUnitInIraq.htm>

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Student Worksheet

Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to the definitions on the right.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1 leading | a) to show or display something to the public |
| 2 mentor | b) a new idea, method, or device |
| 3 start-up | c) to extend the usefulness of a device or improve its quality |
| 4 innovation | d) to clean, repair, and rebuild something |
| 5 to exhibit | e) a tutor or trainer |
| 6 hook | f) coming before all others in importance |
| 7 seat belts | g) the initial phase |
| 8 to renovate | h) a curved or bent device |
| 9 to upgrade | i) a person physically in charge of an animal |
| 10 handler | j) straps that hold a person securely in a seat |

Task 2: comprehension check

Write short answers to the following questions:

- 1 What does 'SPC' stand for?
- 2 What kind of skills did the officers learn on the course?
- 3 What will the SPC do?
- 4 What is the main advantage of the ERT ?
- 5 Why did the school in Haiti need rebuilding?
- 6 What kind of construction work did they do?
- 7 What is the role of the Military Working Dog Support Unit in Iraq?
- 8 How do dogs help troops?

Task 3: discussion

Three texts in this month's Campaign News Digest focus on military innovations. Your teacher is going to divide you into pairs. Make a list of the five most important military innovations or inventions. For each innovation, describe its characteristics, its functions, and why it is important to the military field. You will research as a team, but be prepared to give an individual oral presentation of your findings!

Task 4: writing

The first text in this month's Campaign News Digest focuses on the UN Standing Police Capacity. Do you think that the UN should have a Standing Army? Write an essay of about 300 words. State your opinion and give some reasons to support your position.

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Teacher's Notes

Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to a definition on the right. Encourage students to try to deduce the meaning of the words from the context using clues from the text.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1 leading | f) coming before all others in importance |
| 2 mentor | e) a tutor or trainer |
| 3 start-up | g) the initial phase |
| 4 innovation | b) a new idea, method, or device |
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| 8 to renovate | d) to clean, repair, and rebuild something |
| 9 to upgrade | c) to extend the usefulness of a device or improve its quality |
| 10 handler | i) a person physically in charge of an animal |

Task 2: comprehension check: short answer questions

Write short answers to the following questions.

- 1 SPC stands for 'UN Standing Police Capacity'.
- 2 Peacekeeping skills, policy, project management, team-building, and policing
- 3 It will assist in the start-up of new missions, and provide support and technical assistance on future missions.
- 4 The ERT is easy to operate, an injured soldier could use it in an emergency
- 5 The school was damaged by armed gangs.
- 6 They renovated the buildings, installed new toilets, and put up fences.
- 7 The unit trains dogs and dog handlers in peacekeeping skills.
- 8 They can help troops in guarding, patrolling, searching vehicles, and searching for arms and explosives.

Task 3: discussion

The aim of this exercise is to develop fluency. This is a ranking activity designed to encourage all students to talk freely. They research in pairs and then present their findings to a different partner so that everyone is talking.

As a lead-in, you could ask them if they know of any lists designed to rank the top items in a group (for example, lists ranking popular songs or video clips, etc.). Tell your students that they are going to compile a list of the top five military innovations. For each innovation, they should describe its characteristics, its functions, and why it is an important contribution to the military field.

Tell your students that they will choose the innovations as a pair, but they must be prepared to give an individual oral presentation of their decisions. Ask your students to divide themselves into pairs (alternatively, you may prefer to assign them to pairs yourself). Give them time to agree on the top five innovations. Once they have reached a consensus, ask them to make notes on the main characteristics and functions of each innovation, and how each contributes to the military field. Go around the class giving input where necessary.

When the students have finished their lists, ask them to change partners so that each student has a new partner. Each student should give an oral presentation of their findings to their new partner. Encourage your students to aim for fluency. Prompt your students to compare and discuss their findings after their presentations.

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Close the activity by asking your students to feedback and discuss any interesting findings as a class. You might want to ask your students take a vote on the top innovation.

Variation 1: Should your students lack the practical knowledge required for this activity, you could ask them to invent a piece of equipment or a device.

Variation 2: For larger classes, you could ask your students to work in groups of four. The activity becomes more animated, but you will need to organize the presentation of their findings so that every student is talking. This is easiest done by assigning each group member a letter (A,B,C and D) for the research.. For the presentations, reorganize the groups to include members from different groups, forming new groups composed of A,B,C and D.

Task 4: writing

As a lead-in, you could elicit some ideas from your students about whether or not the UN should have a Standing Army in addition to a Standing Police Capacity. You might want to first discuss what makes a UN Army different from other armies, or, what makes a UN army different from UN peacekeeping forces. The students are usually knowledgeable about this issue, but you may want to refer to this website before the lesson for background information: <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/peacekpg/reform/2006/0615army.htm>

To extend this activity, you could ask your students to debate the issue in class.