



Blue Helmet Forum Austria 2015

An Initiative of the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers

Engaging for Peace

New Challenges in Contemporary Peace Operations

October 21st- 23th, 2015
National Defence Academy
Stiftgasse 2a, 1070 Wien, Austria



UN Photo/Marco Dormino

www.peacekeeper.at

In cooperation with



Directorate General for Security Policy
of the Austrian Ministry of Defence



National Defence Academy



Institute for Strategy and Security Policy

Programme

Wednesday, October 21st

18:15-18:30 Arrival at the Officers' Club, National Defence Academy (NDA)

18:30-18:45 Welcome to participants
Günther G. GREINDL, GEN (ret),
President of the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers

Erich CSITKOVITS, LTG,
Commander of the National Defence Academy

18:45-21:00 **Meet and Greet**

Buffet hosted by Erich CSITKOVITS, LTG, Commander of the National Defence Academy, and Günther G. GREINDL, GEN (ret), President of the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers

Thursday, October 22nd

8:00-9:00 Registration

9:00-10:30 Opening Remarks, President AAP and Director ISS

Session: Characteristics of Contemporary Peace Operations

Chair: Nasra HASSAN, former Director of the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) in Vienna

Introductory remarks by the chair

Rory KEANE, Head of Office, UNLOPS, Departments of Peace-keeping, Political Affairs and Field Support, Brussels

Hermann LOIDOLT, MG (ret), former CMO/FC UNMOGIP

Michael R. PHILLIPS, LTC, USAFRICOM

Questions and Answers

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:30

Session: Military Actors

Chair: Günther G. GREINDL, President AAP

Introductory remarks by the chair

Friedrich SCHRÖTTER, BG, Director Operational Requirements, MoD Austria

Heinz GÄRTNER, University of Vienna

Questions and Answers

12:30-13:30 **Lunch**, hosted by the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers

13:30-15:30 **Session: Lessons from Contemporary Operations**
Chair: Günter HÖFLER, LTG, Austrian MilRep EU

Introductory remarks by the chair

Carl-Magnus R. SVENSSON, LTC, Swedish Defense HQ, Department for Policy and Plans

Maurice TIMMERMANS, COL, Deputy Chief of Staff - Operations, MINUSMA Force HQ

Margarethe MATIC, Deputy Chief of Staff, MINUSMA

Günter HÖFLER, LTG, Austrian MilRep EU
Questions and Answers

16:30-18:30 **Visit to Austrian Armed Forces International Centre (AUTINT)**,
Götzendorf

18:30-22:00 **Visit to a typical Austrian “Heuriger”**

Friday, October 23th

9:00-10:15 **Session: Challenges for Austria’s Engagement**
Chair: Erwin A. SCHMIDL, Director ISS, NDA
Expert discussion
Rapporteur: Herwig JEDLAUCNIK, LTG, ISS

Introductory remarks by the chair

EU Crisis Management - The Military Contribution:
Wolfgang WOSOLSOBE, LTG, Director General EUMS

The Austrian Ambition: Gerhard JANDL, Minister, MoFA Austria

10:15-10:45 Coffee break and Official Conference Photo

10:45-12:30 **Session: Challenges for Austria’s Engagement (continued)**

Introductory Statement:

Johann PUCHER, MG (ret), former Head of Directorate General for Security Policy

12:30-12:45 **Concluding statement by the chair**
Award of certificates by **Günther G. GREINDL**, GEN (ret)

12:45-13:30 **Lunch at Officers Club (optional)**

New Challenges in Contemporary Peace Operations

The Association of Austrian Peacekeepers supports Austria's engagement in peacekeeping activities and promotes the ideals of the United Nations in civil society. Under the umbrella of the United Nations Vienna the Austrian Peacekeepers participate in the Network for Peace, which brings together peacekeepers from Central and South East Europe. In this context the Association annually organises the Blue Helmet Forum Austria (BHFA) in cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Defence and other relevant institutions.

In 2000, the UN started a major exercise to analyse its peacekeeping experience, and introduce a series of reforms to strengthen its capacity to manage and sustain field operations. This was brought about by the surge in demand for UN peacekeepers, with the 'blue helmets' being increasingly asked to deploy to remote and often volatile environments. Peacekeeping also faced challenges such as: deploying increasingly complex operations; executing transition strategies for operations where stability has been achieved; equipping communities as far as possible with capacity to ensure long-term peace and stability. This evaluation resulted in the Brahimi Report, which was the basis for a Peacekeeping Policy & Strategy Reform aiming at defining and strengthening the UN's capacity in major pillars of its policies and programmes.

Some 14 years later, in September 2014, the International Commission on Multilateralism was launched, which, inter alia, is also focusing on strengthening the effectiveness of peace operations. In October, the UN Secretary General established a High-level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations, for a comprehensive assessment of the state of UN peace operations today, and the emerging needs of the future, as the world was changing and peace operations must change with it if they are to remain an indispensable and effective tool in promoting international peace and security.

This evolution has direct relevance not only for new Rules of Engagement (with specific reference to combat), but also for troop contributing countries as well as for regional organizations such as EU & NATO.

The Blue Helmet Forum should provide an opportunity to address the complex issues of new challenges of contemporary peace support operations. The invitations for participation are directed towards experts from the military field and high ranking personalities from politics, business, media, science and diplomacy, for whom the knowledge of the military aspects of peace support operations and civil-military co-operation is of relevance. The Forum will be held in English and will be open to a limited number of participants. The conference fee covers all costs for administration, meals, conference documents and the cultural program. Accompanying partners are welcome to participate in all social and cultural events at a reduced fee. The publication of the Forum proceedings will be sent to all participants and relevant organizations and offices.

President: GEN Günther GREINDL (ret)
Academic Directors: Dr Erwin A. SCHMIDL, Director ISS
Mag. Thomas ACHLEITNER, AAP

Blue Helmet Forum Austria 2015
c/o Association of Austrian Peacekeepers:
Mariahilfer Straße 22/4/1/3, A-1070 Wien, Austria;
Fax: +43 1 9906871
E-mail: bhfa@austrian-peacekeepers.at

www.peacekeeper.at