



Media Advisory (for information only – no official document)

24 April 2009

Course for Potential Future Leaders of UN Peace Operations to be Held for the First Time in Austria

What: The traditional two-week UN course for potential future military, police and political leaders of international peace operations (SMLC) is being organized by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Defence and Sports, and will be held for the first time in Austria.

When: The opening ceremony will be held on 4 May 2009, 09:00 hours, at the Monastery Casern (Stiftskaserne), Sala Terrena, Stiftsgasse 2 a, 1070 Vienna.

The closing event will take place on 15 May 2009, 16:00 hours, at the Austrian Army Museum, Ghegastrasse 1, 1030 Vienna.

Where: The course itself will be held from 4-15 May 2009 at the National Defence Academy, Ministry of Defence and Sports.

Who: Twenty-six high-ranking officials from 19 UN Member States are being prepared to be deployed for service as military, police or political leaders for UN peace operations worldwide. Among the mentors and lecturers are renowned present and former special representatives of the United Nations Secretary-General, as well as military commanders and police officers of peacekeeping missions.

Why: As part of its activities as non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Austria is holding the training course for future potential UN executives in Vienna for the first time. Political, military and administrative decision-makers will be prepared for leadership positions in peacekeeping operations under the authority of the United Nations. Austrian participation in UN peacekeeping missions will also be highlighted.

Media arrangements: Media representatives are cordially invited to the opening ceremony and the closing event, which will be attended by high-ranking representatives of involved ministries. On 30 April 2009, a detailed press release with background information on the course will be distributed by email.

Experienced peacekeepers, present and former special representatives of the United Nations Secretary-General and other high-ranking UN experts including Tom Koenigs, Patrick Cammaert, and Antero Lopes, will be available for questions upon request.

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For further details, as well as interview arrangements, please contact:

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