



NATO Security Force Assistance
Centre of Excellence
Rome, Italy



JULY 2023

NEWSLETTER

Special Issue

NATO SFA COE AS ACADEMIC HUB

for the editorial projects and international collaborations



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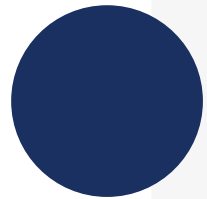
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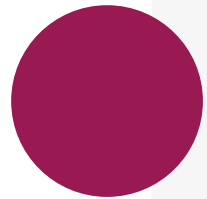
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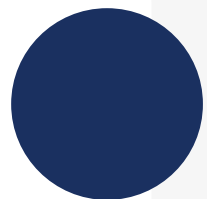
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Director's Foreword

Col. Massimo DI PIETRO



Dear readers,

I am pleased to share with you the July 2023 Newsletter Special Issue of the NATO Security Force Assistance Centre of Excellence (NATO SFA COE). The Centre is a multinational joint entity sponsored by Albania and Slovenia with Italy as the Framework Nation, and Austria as Contributing Participant, accredited by NATO in 2018. As the Alliance's key resource on Security Force Assistance, it plays a proactive role in advancing insights by academics and practitioners.

To this end, the Centre has strengthened cooperation with academic institutions and international organizations. For instance, the NATO SFA COE has signed cooperation agreements with the University of Ljubljana, the Military Academy of the Albanian Armed Forces (AFA), LUMSA University, the University of Verona and Luiss University in Italy and recently with York University's Glendon School of Public and International Affairs in Toronto, Canada. The NATO SFA COE was proud to take part in the Luiss Guido Carli's Career Day for Social Impact, offering an opportunity for students to become familiar with the Centre's work.

I am also proud to introduce the third editorial project of the NATO SFA COE: *Stabilization and Reconstruction in a Post-Conflict Environment*. This project builds on two recent editorial projects: *Promoting the Rule of Law and Good Governance: SFA Implications in International Initiatives* and *Insights on Strategic Advising for Security Force Assistance*. It explores a range of interdisciplinary issues that arise in post-conflict environments, with the aim of providing SFA advisors and NATO missions with practical tools.

In the pages below, you will find interviews with academia representatives involved in the Centre's work. Pancrazio Musilli of the Luiss Career Service, speaks about the importance of internships as a broader theme of civil-military cooperation. Senior Fellow Susan Pond and Professor Francis Garon of York University highlight the importance of the recent Letter of Cooperation with the Glendon School of Public and International Affairs. Professor Yael Vias Gvirsman of the Harry Radzyner Law School at Reichman University discusses her own academic collaboration with the Centre in the upcoming editorial project. The newsletter concludes with thoughts from NATO SFA COE Interns involved in the editorial projects designed and developed by the Centre.

Director
NATO Security Force Assistance
Centre of Excellence



During the last months, the NATO SFA COE has been devoting major attention towards the Centre's cooperation with academic institutions. In this regard, new cooperative agreements have been signed and partnership relations enhanced. The Centre's collaboration with Luiss University dates back to January 2020 when a Letter of Cooperation and an Internship Agreement were signed by both Parties.

On the 21st of February 2023, the NATO SFA COE was invited to participate in the Luiss Guido Carli's Career Day for Social Impact, a seasonal event dedicated to all the students and graduates, to give them the opportunity to meet recruiters and conduct one-to-one interviews, as well as granting a booth to all the organizations involved.



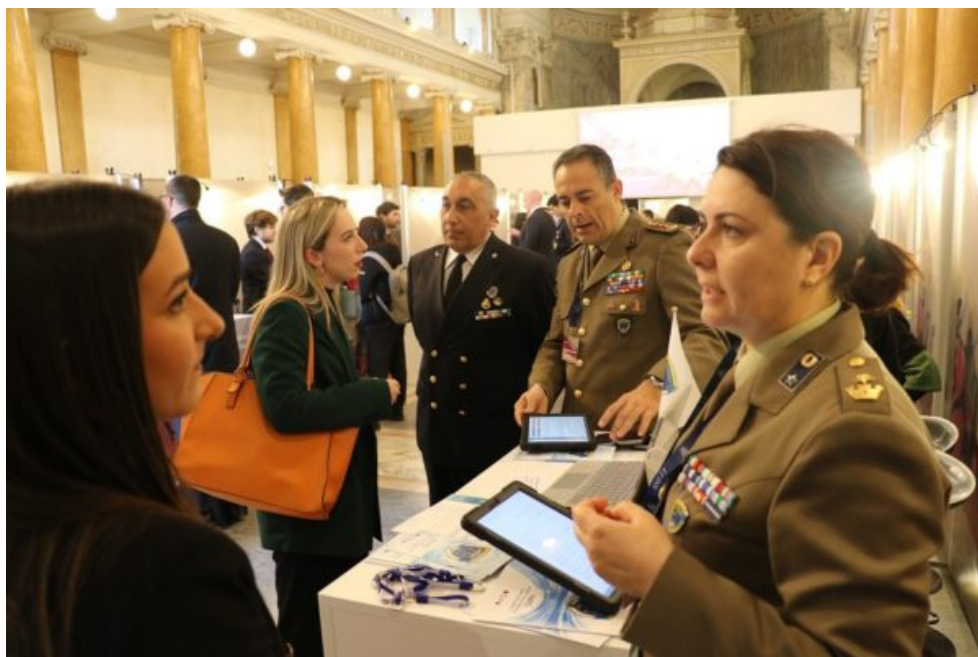
NATO SFA COE® delegation to Luiss Guido Carli's Career Day for Social Impact



It was a day to meet and network with recruiters and managers from organisations whose work generates social impact. Employers from the fields of Institutions, Public Affairs & Lobbying, NGOs & Nonprofits, International Organisations and Security & Law Enforcement offered interested students useful information and tips on how to embark on a worthwhile career path. During the event, the organisations' official recruitment channels, selection processes, required skills, volunteer experiences and career opportunities were presented.

The event was fundamental to meet the potential candidates for the periodic internship offered by the Centre, where particular importance was placed on the students' research, multidisciplinary approaches, different perspectives and interesting backgrounds of the interviewees.

The cooperation aims at an ever-closer relation between academia and the military institutions towards the common goal of promoting security and international cooperation.



NATO SFA COE© delegation to Luiss Guido Carli's Career Day for Social Impact

Speaker Spotlight: Pancrazio Musilli

Luiss Career Service



Interview by Martina Iafraite
Luiss University Student

How important is it for your University to be able to offer to its students this internship with the Centre?

Our University offers a specific course of study in International Relations with a Major in Security. In the latter course, we try to give students the opportunity to test themselves by seeking out and offering these internships. The Security Studies course requires a high level of experience and as a result, when students do internships with the NATO SFA COE or the security world in general, they are given the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and put into practice what they have learnt at university. The internship with the Centre is a source of prestige for Luiss, to be able to offer a complete course of practical experience for the students, to bring them into direct contact with experts of the sector and to make them delve into current geopolitical themes.

Are civil-military collaborations important?

An enhanced collaboration between military and civil entities is an added value to the nation's system and method of addressing security challenges in our current complex reality. Today's world presents challenges that require the comprehensive approach of both civil and military expertise. Threats to security are more efficiently addressed when a cooperation between the two approaches is in place. Coordination of resources allows for optimization and avoids duplication of efforts achieving a mutually beneficial response when governmental organizations are involved. Moreover, the military forces have to comply to promote Security and Stability, in line with Cross-Cutting Topics (CCTs). The latter matters can be better understood and addressed, in collaboration with civilian actors. Finally, in distressed areas, a collaboration of the two entities can allow understanding of the root causes of conflict and facilitate promotion of reconciliation efforts through diplomatic and negotiating actions. Eventually, cooperation enables sustainable peace and security, and helps to avoid the recurrence of violence.

What is the University's selection process to access this internship?

The call for applications is published on our Career Center's platform and is open to all our students meeting the essential requirements. To apply it is necessary to be enrolled in an International Relations, Law or related topics course, to have a C1 level in English, a grade average of at least 28/30 and a passion for the Security Sector. Students are also asked to send a CV and a cover letter. The shortlisting candidates will be interviewed by the Centre's personnel, through which a successful candidate is selected.

NATO SFA COE meets York University

By Sarah Manney
Stanford Law School Student



NATO SFA COE is honoured to announce that a new cooperation project has started with York University. York is a modern multi-campus University located in Toronto (Canada), particularly known as a research centre and innovation promoter.



Photo courtesy of York University©

The collaboration will focus on topics of common interest, such as issuing and co-authoring publications, providing mutual access to each other's libraries, and conducting joint research projects. The partnership has the potential to be mutually beneficial thanks to the coherent aims of both institutions. In line with the NATO SFA COE's objective to further research in order to promote an advanced understanding of Security Force Assistance, York University also works in a parallel manner to increase knowledge in the service of society. The University is active in its internationalization and dedication towards collaboration projects to allow its students to acquire a comprehensive knowledge of international dynamics and further its global engagement.



NATO SFA COE© Signature of the Letter of Cooperation

Speaker Spotlight: Susan Pond

Senior Fellow, School of Public and International Affairs,
Glendon College, York University



Interview by Sarah Manney
Stanford Law School Student



What are the benefits of the recent Letter of Cooperation concluded between the Glendon School of Public and International Affairs in Toronto and the NATO SFA COE in Rome?

Universities are about the exchange of ideas and enhancing decision making skills. It is only natural that we would seek to develop a partnership with an institution that shares our commitment to excellence. The Letter of Cooperation is open ended but starts with the creation of Internships. Glendon students completing an internship at the NATO SFA COE have a unique opportunity to work with a multinational staff engaged in peace, security and development. We are very pleased to be the first North American university to have concluded such an arrangement.

You had a long career with NATO working in Norfolk, Kyiv and Brussels. What do you see as some key accomplishments?

My NATO career coincided with the collapse of the Berlin Wall. These were exciting and uncertain times. I was lucky to be part of the first contact teams "extending the hand of friendship" to nations of the former Warsaw Pact and former Soviet Union. I was also part of the first "Partnership for Peace" office developing and implementing practical activities with former adversaries. From the outset my interests were associated with good governance and building capacity in the defence and security sector. These efforts led to NATO Heads of State and Government at the Warsaw Summit agreeing the Building Integrity (BI) Policy recognizing corruption as a security risk. Efforts to implement the BI policy in countries such as Ukraine are an integral part of the "Defence Institution and Capacity Building Directorate" in the Operations Division.

How would you describe the importance of building integrity for NATO today and the link with the Centre's editorial project Stabilization and Reconstruction in a Post-Conflict Environment, of which you are a co-editor?

Corruption risks are high in post-conflict situations. The publication under development will better prepare civilian and military staff to understand corruption risks, good practices to mitigate risks as well as detection and prosecution; ensuring taxpayers' resources are used for their intended purposes. This research and publication project is another example of the Centre's efforts to promote the transfer of knowledge and sharing of good practices. The publication includes a range of expert contributions addressing issues confronting those working in a post-conflict environment, human rights, impact of migration, and cooperation with other international organizations.

Speaker Spotlight: Francis Garon

Associate Professor, Graduate Program Director, Master's in
Public and International Affairs, Glendon College, York
University



Interview by Sarah Manney
Stanford Law School Student

Please tell us about your experience leading York University's internship program (or academic program) and the importance for a cooperation with International Organizations such as the NATO SFA COE.

The Master of Public and International Affairs at Glendon College, York University, is a two year, bilingual (French / English), and interdisciplinary program. The internship takes place in the summer between year one and year two, and it is one of the main features of the program. The agreement with the NATO SFA COE allows our students to experience working in an international organization dedicated to security issues. In fact, this agreement is the first that the program signed with an international organization, which makes it very special. Most of our students are interested in international affairs, broadly defined, which makes this agreement timely and highly relevant.

What advice do you have for students and young people hoping to join an internship?

My advice to the students who will be joining this internship would be to open their minds and take everything they can from the experience. Doing an internship means realizing a set of tasks, but it is also a human and cultural experience. It is where students begin to learn how organizations function and how to interact with others in different contexts. So I would tell them to invest themselves in their new environment and learn as much as they can on the issues, but also on the dynamics and practices that they will observe.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

As the Director of the program, I'm delighted that our students will have the opportunity to do their internship with the NATO SFA COE. The mandate and objectives of the organization fit perfectly with our program and the needs of our students.

Editorial Project: *Stabilization and Reconstruction in a Post-Conflict Environment*

In cooperation with SHAPE and IIHL



Major Ludovica Glorioso

NATO SFA COE Legal Advisor and Co-editor



In the framework of its core mission, the NATO SFA COE is currently working on a new specialised publication in collaboration with SHAPE ACO Office of Legal Affairs (ACO OLA) and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (Sanremo, Italy). The project, entitled *Stabilization and Reconstruction in a Post-Conflict Environment*, responds to the emerging need to mitigate the instability factors in post-conflict areas, in order to collect and study the best possible practices potentially applicable to various crisis-affected regions and guarantee their resilience post-intervention.

On the 6th of July 2023, the NATO SFA COE held an Editorial Roundtable with authors of the upcoming book project, *Stabilization and Reconstruction in a Post-Conflict Environment*. The NATO SFA COE Director, Colonel Massimo Di Pietro, opened the session with an overview of why post-conflict reconstruction is particularly important in today's geopolitical context and where the Centre can help to convene scholarship that will aid SFA advisors for years to come. With the co-editors and associated editors of the book, Susan Pond (York University), Borja Montes Toscano (SHAPE) and Edoardo Gimigliano (IIHL), the importance of academic partnerships in advancing interdisciplinary research was underscored.

Professor Fabrizio Lucioli, President of the Italian Atlantic Committee and NATO SFA COE Senior Fellow, then delivered a strong address focused on the importance of SFA in dynamic and challenging contexts, emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary cooperation.

With authors representing a range of prestigious think tanks, institutes, universities, and multilateral bodies, including the NATO Mission Iraq (NMI), the Roundtable convened four panels according to the main preliminary themes of the paper, all related to the common topic of threats to human security: Gender, Culture and Institutions, Anti-Corruption and Transparency, and Protection of Civilians (POC). In the pages below, you can find an interview with an author of one of the chapters in the Gender section, Yael Vias Gvirsman, discussing her collaboration with the project and the importance of an intersectional lens on human security.



Participants in the Culture and Institutions panel discussed a range of topics from religion and cultural heritage to training and contracting, with a focus on what SFA Advisors can practically use in the field. The Anti-Corruption and Transparency panel defined these terms broadly, looking at all dimensions of citizen participation and accountability in key post-conflict decisions. Finally, the panel on POC considered various types of vulnerable groups, such as children, and a focus on all aspects of human security such as access to water and vital resources.

In line with the Centre's mission to support academic collaboration and foster emerging research in the field of SFA, the book project will also give an opportunity to highlight student research. Among our accepted authors are some students pursuing diverse degree programs in law, policy, economics and international relations at premier institutions around the world. As part of our cooperation with universities, the NATO SFA COE Interns also have the chance to contribute to the editorial process throughout the development of the topics and chapters.



NATO SFA COE Virtual Roundtable

Overall, the Roundtable was a fruitful session where authors learned more about the goals of the editorial project and the work of the Centre whilst speaking about their diverse institutional affiliations, and contributing to the exchange of ideas and past lived experiences.

Comments from Partners: SHAPE and IIHL



Andrés Munoz Mosquera

Director, NATO ACO/SHAPE Office of Legal Affairs



Borja Montes Toscano

e-LAWFAS Content Manager CTR, ESP ACO/SHAPE Office of Legal Affairs



“SHAPE’s cooperation with the NATO SFA COE is aimed at strengthening different areas of cooperation, such as the organisation of joint academic events, exchange of staff, as well as fostering joint publications. ACO OLA hopes that the book *Stabilization and Reconstruction in a Post-Conflict Environment* will be a long-term reference for the NATO community, reinforcing lessons learned and building resilience to fill gaps and address today’s non-conventional threats”.

Prof. Edoardo Greppi

President of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law



Edoardo Gimigliano

Coordinator, Special Projects Department, International Institute of Humanitarian Law



“Over the years, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law has gained an international reputation as a centre of excellence in the fields of training, analysis and dissemination of international humanitarian law and many related fields. In light of this, the editorial collaboration of the Institute with the NATO SFA COE is for many reasons responding to its institutional objectives. In these challenging times, the Sanremo Institute is indeed increasingly committed to fostering research studies focusing on compliance with the IIHL rules and principles of many actors, with the main aim of contributing to the protection of civilians in the event of armed conflicts. I am sincerely confident that this new project and partnership will be fruitful and functional to this goal”.

Speaker Spotlight:

Prof. Yael Vias Gvirsman

Founding Director of the International Criminal and Humanitarian Law Clinic at the Harry Radzyner Law School at Reichman University



Interview by Martina lafrate
Luiss University Student

Please talk to us about the project of the Law Clinic you are carrying out in collaboration with SHAPE. How is this project relevant for younger generations?

The International Criminal and Humanitarian Law Clinic was established in 2014 and in 2019 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the SHAPE Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) was signed. Since then, there has been a fruitful collaboration: research was carried out with law students to contribute in legal operations, based on top notch issues of international criminal law. This cooperation is fundamental for the younger generation of new lawyers and especially important for the context of the Clinic, an apolitical Clinic working in a conflict situation where it is increasingly important to provide students with the necessary experience to cope with the crisis environment.

Please tell us more about your chapter in the upcoming publication Stabilization and Reconstruction in a Post-Conflict Environment. What is the focus and how is it going to contribute to the aim of the book?

The topic of the chapter is women in international criminal law, agencies for stabilization and reconstruction. The main aim is to describe what used to be a blind spot of international criminal law: women as both victims of crimes and a solution for peace; and how this is now included in the international agenda. Focusing on the legal perspective and on the legal tools: how this is put into practice and how women are now pivotal for this outcome.

One piece of advice you would give to your younger self?

Be fearless, believe in yourself, you will look back 20 years from now and know it was all worth it.

Interns' voices as contributors in the editorial publications



Sarah Manney

Stanford Law School – Juris Doctor

“I am proud to be an intern at the NATO SFA COE with the hope of enriching research and knowledge on post-conflict reconstruction. As a law and policy student at Stanford Law School and the University of Cambridge, I appreciate the chance to further academic collaboration with the Centre on topics affecting security and stabilization in challenging environments. The NATO SFA COE plays an important role in supporting academic partnerships and I hope to support this work throughout my studies and future research”.

Sara Jurkovič

University of Ljubljana – Defence Studies



“Throughout my study years, NATO has always been a major theme of our discussions. It is such an important actor in today’s security community, and coming from its small member – Slovenia – makes me realize the importance of collective security even more. To me, this internship represents an opportunity to get an insight into how theory and practice work hand in hand and participating in such work is also an opportunity to contribute to NATO’s values”.

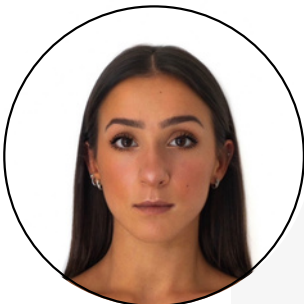
Interns' voices as contributors in the editorial publications

Flavia Troisi

Luiss University, International Relations – Security



“During my internship at the NATO SFA COE I had the incredible opportunity to assist the Centre in its ongoing work of development of the strategic advisory sector. By working alongside dedicated professionals and international experts, I gained invaluable insights into various aspects and challenges of security advising in crisis areas. A major focus of my intern experience was assisting in the editing of the Centre’s flagship research project, “Insight on Strategic Advising for Security Force Assistance“. This internship not only broadened my knowledge but also sparked a deep passion for fostering international stability and cooperation”.



Martina Iafrate

Luiss University, International Relations – Security

“I have always been fascinated by national and international security, which is the reason why I decided to send my application to the NATO SFA COE. It was a highly educational experience, full of challenges and at the same time rewarding. It has been truly amazing to be part of this reality. I am proud to have contributed to the Centre’s work of research, and to have been an integral part of this stimulating and formative environment. I am confident that this experience will accompany me towards my ambition of contributing to promote security and stabilization in the international scenario”.

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