

## COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE PARTICIPATION OF DEFENCE ACADEMIES AND SECURITY STUDIES INSTITUTES IN THE PFPC ANNUAL CONFERENCE PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE CONSORTIUM (JUNE, 2014)

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On 25-27 June 2014, a delegation of representatives from the National Defence University, Warsaw took part in 16. Annual Partnerships for a Peace Consortium of Defence Academies and Security Studies Institutes (PfPC) Conference in Bucharest. The subject was “*The Future of Euro-Atlantic Security: Education and Power*”. The delegation was headed by MG (ret.) Bogusław Pacek, Assoc. Prof., accompanied by the NDU Rector’s Representative for the Innovation, Capt. Navy (ret.) Piotr Gawliczek, Assoc. Prof. The conference, organised by NATO Headquarters, was co-hosted in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence of Romania.

The PfPC conference has been an important event for dealing with issues of security and defence, mainly with regard to military education. For many years, the PfP Consortium has constituted a unique expert environment. The event was attended by over 100 people, specialists from NATO, PfP countries and international organisations and institutions. Experts from many parts of the world, representing countries like Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Serbia, and Ukraine met during this year’s discussions.

The grand opening of the meeting was conducted by the State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning in the Ministry of Romania - Valeriu Nicut. The conference had been organised in the form of lectures and four thematic discussion panels. Within the second one, called *Capacity Building through Defence Education in Turbulent Times*, MG (ret.) Bogusław Pacek, Assoc. Prof. presented *Case Study: Ukraine*. He familiarised the participants with the essence of a programme to support the transformation of the military education system of Ukraine (*Defence Education Enhancement Program Ukraine – DEEP Ukraine*), which he leads. He stressed that, during the year, projects of the programme were attended by over 900 representatives of the Ukrainian side representing 8 military educational institutions and the MoD of Ukraine. DEEP Ukraine, presented during the conference panel, earned a very high evaluation from participants, highlighting the breadth and number of completed projects and the active stance of the Ukrainian side. It has been shown as an exemplary NATO educational activity. After MG (ret.) Assoc. Prof. Bogusław Pacek's speech the, conference participants asked many questions, showing an interest in the programme's future and predicted results.

During the conference, the participants of the *Senior Advisory Council – SAC*, appreciating the Polish contribution to the educational activities of NATO and the strong position of the National Defence University among the Alliance's military academies, decided to invite Poland to become a permanent member of the steering committee, which makes decisions about the nature of the PfP Consortium's activities. SAC consists of one permanent representative of the founding countries of the George C. Marshall Center (USA, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Canada) and one person from NATO. During the meetings strategic decisions are made about the structure, lines of action and the financing of all PfP Consortium projects.

The PfPC Conference was accompanied by meetings of two working groups, functioning under its aegis. MG (ret.) Bogusław Pacek, Assoc. Prof. took part in the annual meeting of the *Educational Development Working Group – EDWG*, while Capt. Navy (ret.) Piotr Gawliczek, Assoc. Prof. took part in the meeting *Advanced Distributed Learning Working Group – ADL WG*.

As a result of key personnel decisions, new co-chairs of the ADL WG were elected, who were - Paul Thurkettle (ACT NATO) and Greta Keremidicheva

(Bulgaria). Moreover, the new body was appointed - a five Advisory Council (Advisory Board), composed of Capt Navy (ret.) Piotr GAWLICZEK, Assoc. Prof. In addition, it was agreed that: (1) this year's meeting of the ADL WG will be held from 5-8 November in Sofia, (2) a working meeting of the Advisory Board will be held in the third week of September at the headquarters of ACT NATO in Norfolk, and all the costs of participation will be covered by NATO, (3) the National Defence University, Warsaw will be one of three NATO centres which will carry out weekly ADL training in the form of practical workshops next year - Cooperational Development & Training (costs covered by NATO, other centres are NATO ICT School Latina and NATO School Oberammegau). At the end of the conference, LTG (ret.) Keith W. Dayton, director of the George C. Marshall European Centre for Security Studies summarised the meeting. After that, LTG Erich Csitkovitz, Commandant of the Austrian National Defence Academy (*Landesverteidigungsakademie* – LvAK) invited the participants to next year's conference in Vienna, which will take place during the first week of July 2015.

The purpose of the conference was achieved. Participation in activities covered by the programme of the conference allows us to conclude that an important role was played by the National Defence University, Warsaw, in the PfP Consortium, with a particular focus on the tasks in the field of transformational projects to support military education countries covered by the DEEP and the sphere of distance education.