



School of Public Policy



# Peace Operations

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**D**ynamic. Rigorous. Respected. These are dominant characteristics of the Mason School of Public Policy, where students develop the skills to achieve and lead in their chosen professional fields and help change the world. ♦ The School of Public Policy is fully engaged in real-time research, dialogue, and problem solving with policymakers at the global, federal, state, regional, and local levels. Our faculty includes leading scholars and practitioners with expertise in conceptual modeling, reconstruction, stabilization operations, and humanitarian emergencies. Our students emerge from the school with a comprehensive skill set sought by employers in government and the private and nonprofit sectors. ♦ The school supports a full complement of disciplines, offering six different master's degrees and the nation's largest PhD program. It provides myriad opportunities for hands-on research. All of this is located at our convenient campus in Arlington, Virginia, on Metro's Orange Line, just a 15-minute ride from the White House. ♦ At the Mason School of Public Policy, the combination of access and acumen gives you a unique opportunity to make your mark on the world. Think big.

### **FACULTY HELPS ORDER EMERGE FROM CHAOS IN WORLD'S CONFLICT ZONES**

From Haiti and Liberia to Iraq and Bosnia, faculty in the Peace Operations master's degree program are working in the world's hot spots to improve the lives of people caught in the middle of conflict.

Professors Jim Narel and Kevin Avruch once spent two weeks in Haiti, where they met with U.S. diplomats and military advisors, members of the Haitian government, and the commander of the United Nations peacekeeping force. Their goal: to evaluate how well outside peacekeepers were communicating their humanitarian mission and accomplishments with the Haitian population.

Their work is typical of a program founded on three pillars: academics, research, and practice. It is led by a faculty with a mixed background in military and civilian work. In addition to the United Nations, the program's clients have included the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Science Applications International Corporation, and World Vision International.

"It's not just an academic program," Narel says. "Organizations and agencies

take us out to do work in the field."

The program also leverages technology and game theory in a way that brings people from diverse backgrounds together to work toward a common goal, such as economic prosperity or the proper role of government in a post-conflict society. Program Director Allison Frendak-Blume facilitates a popular computer simulation that helps government officials and nongovernmental actors practice their negotiating skills while experimenting with political, economic, and social decision making. The game's recent use with the Presidency Council in Iraq not only provided needed training to members of the body but was a significant first step in establishing coordination between the various presidential offices and other decision-making stakeholders.

Faculty member Janine Davidson was asked to serve in the Obama Administration as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Plans. She oversaw the development of the strategic planning guidance for the Combatant Commands and the review process for operational plans for the Secretary of Defense.



*Program Director Allison Frendak-Blume is a leader in the Peace Operations program at the School of Public Policy. She is part of an influential faculty who is actively engaged in field work, giving them real world experiences that shape their classroom instruction.*



## STUDENTS READY TO HELP WORLD'S VULNERABLE SURVIVE CRISES

For Ann Dandridge, enrolling in the Mason School of Public Policy's master's program in Peace Operations was something of a culture shock. Coming from a background working for what she calls a "mushy" nonprofit organization, she found herself thrust into a program influenced equally by military precision and save-the-world altruism. Yet, she soon discovered, the fusion made sense, forming the building blocks of one of the most unique and compelling graduate programs to be found.

"Suddenly I was expected to conduct presentations in this rigid communication style, adhering to 'military culture' that insisted that presentations be completed within explicitly allotted times, among other things," Dandridge recalls.

Dandridge now works as a Child Protection Specialist in the Office of Refugee Resettlement at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she has come to appreciate her exposure to colleagues from a military background.

The Master of Science in Peace Operations prepares students to analyze and help mitigate regional conflicts

around the world using a unique curriculum that prepares graduates to work at the United Nations, other multilateral organizations, and the companies and nonprofits that support them. The degree is focused on the study of intervention and the challenges third parties face in trying to bring relief, security, and stability to people in crisis.

Colin Chaperon, who grew up in Zimbabwe, spent much of his time as a student ready to respond to humanitarian disasters around the world. As director of operations for the Arlington, Virginia, chapter of the American Red Cross, Chaperon has been stationed in places such as Indonesia, Myanmar, and Haiti in order to respond to national disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

Chaperon enrolled in the program, he says, to bolster his real-life experience with a better understanding of the academic theory. He also encountered new ways of thinking.

"The diversity of opinions and experiences of the students who come from all industries has truly been an eye-opener," he says.

*From providing humanitarian assistance to improving security in conflict zones, students in the Peace Operations program at the School of Public Policy prepare to assume top positions in civilian and military organizations where they can make a difference in people's lives. The program attracts students from diverse backgrounds and challenges them to work collaboratively in ways that sharpen skills needed to advance in their careers.*



*Founders Hall, the new home of the School of Public Policy, opened in January 2011.*

#### **ADMISSIONS**

For information about application requirements and admissions deadlines, to request an information packet, or to download an application, please visit our web site at

*[policy.gmu.edu/admissions](http://policy.gmu.edu/admissions)*

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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