



CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT and Call for Papers



April 18-21, 2016
Lewis and Clark Center
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

Organizers: The United States Army Command and General Staff College, Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the CGSC Foundation, Inc. will co-host a symposium entitled, “*The Ethics of Humanitarian Military Operations and Intervention.*” The symposium will include a variety of guest speakers, panel sessions, and general discussions.

This year’s symposium will explore the ethical implications of committing the military in non-traditional roles. For the past several decades a growing debate has emerged regarding the roles of the military and the commitment of forces. This debate is largely in response to the rising number of crises around the world. These events often present widespread, complex problems that require significant resources and expertise. Many have come to view the US military as the nation’s “Swiss Army Knife”, an organization rich in talent and capabilities, able to project worldwide to solve many wide-ranging challenges.

Proposed Program: With this in mind, we are issuing a call for unpublished papers for the conference. We will invite authors to present their paper with audience discussion. The symposium will feature a reception on arrival day, a keynote speaker and discussion panels during the week. Send initial abstracts for consideration on, but not limited to, these topic areas:

- **National Interests**

- What constitutes our national interest?
- How does national interest relate to moral responsibility? How does national interest relate to the “responsibility to protect”?
- Should we commit military forces to solve problems outside our national interests?
- What are the criteria for commitment? How can the nation measure success?
- Should the military engage in nation-building?
- Can the military do nation-building? What are the obstacles, and their solutions?
- What challenges does such a mission present and how might they be met? (force structure, leadership, training, funding, etc.)
- What constraints does downsizing, sequestration and fiscal austerity place on the military’s ability to engage in operations other than war?

- **Failed States**

- What are the legal and ethical implications of intervention? What are the ethical implications of not intervening?
- What if American public doesn’t support the operation?
- What if soldiers do not support deployment in operations other than war? What are the leadership challenges? How might one inspire commitment beyond compliance?
- What is (is there) the doctrinal / ethical basis for the military’s engagement in operations

other than war?

-Should America intervene in a failed state unilaterally?

-What ethical lessons can we learn from efforts (or non-action) in recent decades regarding interventions, failed states, and so forth?

- **Preventing Genocide and Mass Atrocity**

-What are the limits of the force protection imperative?

-Should we risk our soldier's lives to protect foreign populations?

-Is moral authority sufficient justification for overturning a government that threatens its people?

-What are the legal-ethical justifications for intervention? Is national-sovereignty sacrosanct?

-What guidance does the just war tradition, the law of armed conflict and / or international law provide regarding military intervention and operations other than conventional war?

-What are the ethics of operations other than war? Do they differ from the ethics of war? If so, how?

-What are the particular ethical challenges a military faces while engaged in operations other than war?

-What are the ethical challenges related to participation in coalition forces? How should they be addressed?

- **Disease, Hunger, Natural Disasters, Displaced Populations**

-Should the military be involved in relief missions? Why or why not?

-How do we decide when and where to help or not?

-What are the criteria for commitment and success?

-Is a military force the right organization for relief operations? What challenges to organization and training do such operations present and how might they be met?

-Should we build robust capabilities in other U.S. government organizations? How might these other capabilities and organizations be structured and controlled? How would the military interact with them?

Abstract Submission

Send abstracts for individual unpublished papers to the conference coordinator:

Chaplain (Major) Jeff McKinney: jeffrey.t.mckinney3.mil@mail.mil

Abstract Format

Paper Title

Author Name, contact information (email and phone)

Abstract of 300-500 Words

Dates

4 December 2015: Deadline for Abstract Submission

18 December 2015: Notification of Selection

25 March 2016: Deadline for Papers for Presentation

Abstract Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation is a subjective process however, our editors will use the questions below to help evaluate papers more objectively.

- Is the paper interesting?
- Is the paper easy to read for a general audience?
- Does the paper avoid excessive acronyms or jargon?
- Will the paper contribute anything new to the topic?
- Will the paper offer well-thought-out and well-researched opinions about the ethics of humanitarian military operations?
- Will the paper offer plausible solutions to or recommendations about problems or issues?
- Will the paper fairly represent the background facts and provide a credible examination of the issues?
- Does the paper show evidence of research using accepted academic standards?
- Is the author's research backed up with endnotes?
- Is the paper organized? Does it move logically from a clear thesis through a well- developed argument using supporting evidence to yield persuasive conclusions?

The Command and General Staff College and CGSC Foundation, Inc. will publish the proceedings of the conference and selected papers on line. For additional information on the symposium please contact Chaplain McKinney at 913-684-3270; or Mr. Ted Ihrke at 913-684-4115.