WHO SHOULD KEEP THE PEACE?
PROVIDING SECURITY FOR
TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY
PEACE OPERATIONS

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September 2006
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PREFACE

I am pleased to present the latest product from the Stimson Center’s Future of Peace Operations program. This work, by Senior Associate William Durch and Research Associate Tobias Berkman, addresses the supply of peacekeeping forces, in a world where the demand appears to be growing. As we go to print in the summer of 2006, the international community is seized with the question of how to bring stability and peace to the border area between Israel and Lebanon. All the enduring issues are in play there: What are the political prerequisites for a workable stabilization force? Should it be run by the UN or by a group of strong countries willing to use more robust rules of engagement if need be? Which countries, regional organizations, alliances, or international institutions can muster the right forces and the political will to engage? How long will they stay engaged? When they want to leave, to whom will they hand over their tasks? The new Stimson Center study provides important context, history and analysis to address these questions.

Bill Durch and Toby Berkman have produced a useful and thoughtful assessment of current trends in peacekeeping with a focus on the capacity of the international community to provide forces for diverse requirements. They explain the new complexities of peace operations, when responsibility passes from immediate post-conflict stabilization to longer challenges of peacebuilding, and highlight the development of new institutional collaborations and divisions of labor. They also discuss how the private sector is changing the dynamics of peace and stability operations and lay out the risks and the benefits that these changes entail.

The Stimson Center is deeply committed to examining issues of international security with an eye to identifying practical and achievable steps to enhance prospects for success. This new book is an important contribution to our work on peace operations and post-conflict issues. We hope it will be useful to policymakers, experts and concerned citizens as they work to find solutions to the enduring challenges of conflict in the twenty-first century.

Sincerely,

Ellen Laipson

Ellen Laipson
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In thanking those who helped make this slim volume possible, I would first like to acknowledge the United States Institute of Peace, its president, Richard Solomon, and its vice president for conflict analysis and prevention, Paul Stares, for their unstinting support of this effort, which was designed as a companion piece to the casebook, *Twenty-first-Century Peace Operations*. I would also like to thank Ellen Laipson, president of the Stimson Center, and Cheryl Ramp, its chief operating officer, for their continuing confidence and institutional support of this project.

I thank those experts who attended a May 2005 presentation to vet the basic concepts of this volume, including Doug Brooks, Beth de Grasse, Michael Dziedzic, Quentin Hodgson, Robert Perito, James Schear, Nina Serafino, Paul Stares, and James Thomas. Special thanks are also due to Mike Dziedzic for serving as the internal reader-critic for the US Institute of Peace, and to six external readers who offered essential commentary on later drafts of the work. They include Paul Diehl, Birger Heldt, Bruce Jones, Madalene O’Donnell, Paul Stares, and Karin von Hippel.

For invaluable research support as well as the drafting of key segments on peace operations doctrine and private security companies, I would like to thank my co-author and former research associate, Tobias Berkman, whose keen writing and analytic abilities are presently being applied to graduate work in international law and public policy at Harvard. I would also like to thank Katherine Andrews for her unerringly accurate data wrangling, keen organizing ability, and intuitive analytic skills; Jane Dorsey and Marvin Lim for skillfully combining the typescript and charts into a formatted final publication; and both Joshua Smith and Alix Boucher for their tireless proofreading of the manuscript and valuable substantive suggestions.

Any errors or omissions remaining are, of course, the responsibility of the authors.

William J. Durch
August 2006