

BLUE HELMET FORUM AUSTRIA 2011  
International Disaster Relief Assistance - What Role for the Military?

The Association of Austrian Peacekeepers supports Austria's engagement in peacekeeping activities and promotes the ideals of the United Nations in civil society. Under the umbrella of the United Nations Vienna the Austrian peacekeepers participate in the Network for Peace, which brings together peacekeepers from Central and South East Europe. In this context the Association annually organises the BLUE HELMET FORUM AUSTRIA (BHFA) in cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Defence.

The dimensions, frequency, and complexity of natural disasters are increasing, exacerbated by climate change factors, environmental degradation, food scarcity, and rapid urbanization. Consequently, the pressures on international disaster relief assistance are growing, necessitating an innovative response that will quickly and efficiently meet the needs of those affected. Military and civil defence assets, prepared for responding to disasters, can fill the gap. They can enable traditional humanitarian assistance providers to leverage their resources, and provide in addition a rapid surge of assistance capacity. The Oslo Guidelines of 1994 stipulate that "Military and civil defence assets should be seen as a tool complementing existing relief mechanisms in order to provide specific support to specific requirements, in response to the acknowledged "humanitarian gap" between disaster needs that the relief community is being asked to satisfy and the resources available to meet them." Recently there has been a significant increase in deployment of Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA) to support international disaster relief efforts. While many lessons have been learned from these deployments there remains still a significant challenge for effective civil military coordination.

The FORUM should provide an opportunity to address the complex issues of international emergency relief with a focus on civil military coordination. The invitations for participation are directed towards experts from the military field and high ranking personalities from politics, business, media, science and diplomacy, for whom the knowledge of the military aspects of "Emergency Relief Operations" and civil military cooperation is of relevance. The FORUM will be held in English and will be open to a limited number of participants. The conference fee covers all costs for administration, meals, conference documents and the cultural program. Accompanying partners are welcome to participate in all social and cultural events at a reduced fee. The publication of the FORUM proceedings will be sent to all participants and relevant organizations and offices.

President: GEN Günther GREINDL (ret)  
Academic Directors: Thomas ACHLEITNER (AAP) & COL Georg EBNER (NDA)  
Director Administration: Andrea GRASSER

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Engaging for Peace

# Blue Helmet Forum Austria 2011

An Initiative of the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers

## International Disaster Relief Assistance - What Role for the Military?

Vienna, September 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011



[www.austrian-peacekeepers.at](http://www.austrian-peacekeepers.at)

In cooperation with



Directorate General for Security Policy  
of the Austrian Ministry of Defence



National Defence Academy



Institute for  
Humanities & Social Sciences

# PROGRAM

**Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011**

**15:00 - 16:30**    **Arrival and registration**

**16:30 - 17:00**    **Opening of the BLUE HELMET FORUM AUSTRIA 2011**  
(Language German or English)  
**Welcome to participants**

**Günther GREINDL**, GEN (ret.)  
President of the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers

**Erich CSITKOVITS**, LTG  
Commandant of the National Defence Academy

## **Opening Address**

**Johann PUCHER**, MG  
Head of the Directorate General for Security Policy of the Austrian  
Ministry of Defence

**17:00 - 18:15**    **Keynote Speeches and Discussion**

**Chair: Günther GREINDL**, President AAP

**Hansjörg STROHMEYER**, UN OCHA

**Asif Yasin MALIK**, LTG, Commander 11 Corps, Pakistan

**18:15 - 18:30**    **Official conference photo**

**18:30 - 22:00**    **Buffet at the Officers Club**, National Defence Academy

**Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011**

**9:00 - 10:30**    **Session: Practical Experiences**  
**Chair: Alois HIRSCHMUGL**, BG, Directorate General for Security  
Policy of the Austrian Ministry of Defence

## **Introductory presentations**

**Rudolf MÜLLER**, Chief Emergency Services Branch, UN OCHA,  
Geneva

**Maki SHINOHARA**, Senior Officer UNHCR

## **Question and answer**

**10:30 - 11:00**    **Coffee break**

**11:00 - 12:30**    **Session: Humanitarian Actors**  
**Chair: Dr. Kurt BERGMANN**, co-founder “Nachbar in Not”, Austria

## **Introductory presentations**

**Dr. Wolf-Dieter EBERWEIN**, President Voluntary Organisations in  
Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE), Brussels

**David LYNCH**, Project Manager Emergency Response, IFRC

## **Question and answer**

**12:30 - 13:30**    **Lunch**

**13:30 - 15:30**    **Session: Military Actors**  
**Chair: Christian SEGUR-CABANAC**, LTG, MoD

## **Introductory presentations**

**Asif Yasin MALIK**, LTG, Commander 11 Corps, Pakistan

**Vincenzo PURI**, BG, EUMS

**Simeon TROMBITAS**, MG, CDR USARMY SOUTH

## **Question and answer**

**16:30 - 18:30**    **Visit to AFDRU, NBC Defence School, Korneuburg**  
**Michael SCHUSTER**, COL, Commander NBC Defence School,  
Briefing and practical introduction

**18:30 - 22:00**    **Visit to a typical Viennese *Heuriger***

**Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**

**9:00 - 10:00**    **Session: Improving Civil Military Coordination**  
**Chair: Nasra HASAN**, Director International Relations AAP

## **Introductory presentations**

**Toni FRISCH**, Chairman UN MCDA Consultative Group

**N.N.**

**10:00 - 10:15**    **Coffee break**

**10:15 - 11:30**    **Session: Improving Civil Military Coordination continued**

## **Expert discussion**

**11:30 - 12:00**    **Closing remarks and award of certificates**  
**Günther GREINDL**, GEN (ret)

**12:00 - 13:00**    **Lunch**