Civilian, Military Experts Explore Cooperation in Conflict Zones
Local Representatives From MIIS, NPS, DLI & Red Cross Gather For Panel

Monterey, CA – The dangers inherent in living and working in one of the world’s many conflict zones are obvious, as is the courage of those who continue to do the difficult work of conflict resolution. What isn’t always obvious to outsiders is the parallel and at times very complementary efforts undertaken in conflict zones by both military and non-governmental organization (NGO) personnel to reduce violence and improve local conditions.

On April 29, a panel of civilian and military experts from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, the Naval Postgraduate School, the Defense Languages Institute, and the Red Cross will gather for a panel titled “Cooperation in Conflict Zones: A Civilian/Military Conversation.” The panel is sponsored and hosted by the Monterey Institute and its Conflict Resolution Association.

The focus of the panel is to address the challenges faced by both NGOs and military authorities in working with civilian populations living in conflict zones. As military forces and NGOs typically have differing approaches and practices, dialogue is crucial to fostering stability and effective cooperation. By discussing the impacts of outside policies and challenges to communication and protection, non-governmental bodies and the military can reduce the cultural barriers and preconceptions that persist between them, benefiting all involved in conflict resolution processes.

Participants on the April 29 panel will include:

- Cornel Rich Hoffman, retired US Army officer, is now the director for the Center for Civil-Military Relations at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS).
- Dr. Pushpa Iyer, professor of Conflict Resolution at MIIS, has extensive conflict zone experience with an NGO perspective.
- Maj. Jeff McCormick, graduate student in National Security Affairs at NPS, served two tours of duty with the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq in 2004 and 2007.
- Maj. Wesmond Andrews, currently the Associate Dean at the Asian School at the Defense Languages Institute, has served in the U.S. Air Force, is a former attaché US Embassy, Beijing, China, China Desk officer at the Pentagon, and Air Mobility Command
Ms. Jill Hofmann, currently teaches international humanitarian law with Carmel Chapter of the American Red Cross, and has served on International Secretariat of the International Federation of the Red Cross in Geneva.

This event is open to the public. For more information, contact Leloba Pahl at leloba.pahl@miis.edu.

What: Cooperation in Conflict Zones: A Civilian/Military Conversation

When: Wednesday, April 29, 2009, 6:00pm to 8:00 pm

Where: Irvine Auditorium
         McCone Building
         499 Pierce Street
         Monterey, CA 93940

The Monterey Institute of International Studies is at the forefront of international professional education, preparing students for global careers in the private, public, nonprofit and educational sectors. A private graduate institution located in Monterey, California and affiliated with Middlebury College, the Institute offers fully accredited degree programs in international business, translation and interpretation, international policy studies and language teaching. The Institute's approximately 800 students come from more than 50 countries. For more information about the Monterey Institute, visit www.miis.edu.

The Conflict Resolution Association (CRA), a complement to the Conflict Resolution specialization at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, provides an open forum for anyone interested in the conflict resolution field to seek and share knowledge about conflicts and mechanisms for nonviolent conflict resolution. The CRA raises awareness about current disputes, generates creative solutions, fosters community, and encourages participation from people of diverse backgrounds and fields of study.