



The Tufts University  
Field Exercise in Peace  
& Stability Operations  
April 8-9, 2011

# FIELDDEX2011



# Mission Statement

**T**ufts University's 3rd annual Field Exercise in Peace and Stability Operations (FIELDDEX) is a collaborative, interdisciplinary initiative led by undergraduates from the student group ALLIES (Alliance Linking Leaders in Education and the Services). FIELDDEX seeks to expose participants to the difficulties of decision making during conflict, the complementary and competing interests of the stakeholders involved, and the inter-agency collaboration essential to a successful mission.

## **FIELDDEX provides students with a unique experiential learning opportunity that:**

- 1. Encourages application of classroom theories to simulated real-world crises;*
- 2. Fosters greater understanding of the complexities of conflict;*
- 3. Develops leadership, decision-making, and crisis management skills in fast-paced and challenging scenarios;*
- 4. Offers insight into operational difficulties that students will likely face as future leaders in government, civilian, military, and non-governmental organizations.*



# Why FIELDEX?

Experts believe that we are entering into an era of persistent conflict characterized by continual, low-intensity fighting between religious, ethnic, and/or ideological groups. Conventional means have proved insufficient in resolving these conflicts, highlighting the increased significance of peace and stability operations. Thus all around the world we see international efforts to remove key factors of instability, improve rule of law, and provide emergency reconstruction and aid.

In order to contribute effectively to the discussion, development, and implementation of this change in strategy, it is essential that citizens—particularly future leaders—better understand the difficulties faced by civilian and military forces on the ground. While existing exercises in negotiation and diplomacy offer valuable opportunities for students to experience the nuances of policy making, FIELDEX challenges participants to actively engage with conflict. It pushes students to adopt competing group loyalties and personal interests in a conflict outcome; make difficult, ad hoc decisions in a high-stakes environment with limited options, and face the concrete consequences of their actions.

*“Six months after graduating, our alumni may be making decisions that decide the fates of hundreds—rendering their GPAs and essay-writing skills irrelevant. FIELDEX is a leadership and decision-making training tool, organized by students and for students who recognize that classroom academics alone are insufficient for preparing the type of leaders required in the modern age.”*

-Toby Bonthron  
Cultural Advisor  
US Army

FIELDEX participants walk away from the exercise with new perspectives on the challenges of policy implementation. When assessing the elections in Haiti, rules of engagement in Afghanistan, or the peace agreement in Sudan, they will be able to draw on the challenges that they faced in FIELDEX.



**F**ieldEx 2011 centers on a political and humanitarian crisis in a fragile, ethnically divided state. On the eve of a major political event, the prime minister, who has held the country together, is assassinated, exacerbating existing ethnic tensions between the minority group in power and the oppressed ethnic majority. The situation quickly turns violent, displacing hundreds of thousands.

With a humanitarian emergency looming, the international community (IC) intervenes to provide assistance for the displaced. But as the violence continues, the IC must reevaluate its mission in country. Is the provision of neutral humanitarian assistance enough? Or should they take a more active role in mediating an end to the violence?

### **Attempting to answer these and other questions, participants will role-play:**

- Host Nation Army
- Majority group politicians
- Minority group leaders
- Peace spoilers
- International NGOs
- United Nations Blue Helmets
- United Nations conflict resolution specialists
- Journalists

*(Please note that scenarios and roles are tentative and are subject to change.)*



# FIELDEx History

**FIELDEx 2011 builds upon two previous simulation exercises:**

## *2010: Election Monitoring*

FieldEx 2010 focused on provincial elections in Roshan, Mazalastan. After an international intervention toppled Mazalastan's oppressive government nearly a decade ago, Mazalastan was struggling to maintain stability and transition to democracy, with upcoming elections representing a turning point in the country's post-conflict reconstruction. The mission of the international presence has shifted focus to conducting free and fair elections and training and mentoring the local police forces in providing security.

*Participants from the Tufts undergraduate community, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and the three U.S. military service academies role-played:*

- Coalition Forces (CF)
- Mazalastan National Police (MNP)
- UN Assistance Mission-Mazalastan (UNAMM)
- Villagers (political candidates, religious leaders, etc)
- Mazalastan Liberation Front
- Journalists

## *2009: Counterinsurgency*

The "Counterinsurgency-Humanitarian Exercise" (COINEX) 2009 took place in 2009, in the border regions of the nation of Antede. Violence in a neighboring state had caused a massive refugee flow into the area, which was isolated from the more prosperous Antedean heartland and contested by a small band of extremists fighting for regional autonomy. A Canadian military force is sent to assist and coordinate with NGOs providing humanitarian aid, maintain security, and counter the growing extremist movement.

*Participants from ExCollege's counterinsurgency seminar, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and the Tufts undergraduate community role-played:*

- Canadian military forces
- Extremist group
- NGOs
- Local villagers

# "I've Learned That..."

"As the MNP senior NCO I gained considerable insight into the interaction that takes place between host nation forces and coalition forces. The exercise proved very valuable at portraying complexities which I believe can be described in a classroom, but not fully understood until practiced."

-Ryan Cobb (USAFA '11)

"Mazalastan National Police (MNP) Team Leader"

"You have to work on intra-agency before working inter-agency... When under confusion/stress, and most in need of support/cooperation from another cohort, you are the least likely to want to reach out of your own group or organization."

- Margaret O'Conner, (Tufts '10/Friedman School of Nutrition '11)

"Village religious leader"

"This weekend was the first time in my life where I understood the marginalization of sex. Never before have I ever felt that I couldn't do something just because of my gender...every step I took I felt I was blocked by a dozen structural barriers that prevented me from achieving anything despite my best attempts. While I have lived my whole life believing I can do anything, in most parts of the world that is simply not true."

- Katie Monson (Tufts '13)

"Female political candidate"

# The Professionals Say...

"The Tufts FieldEx is one of the finest civil-military exercises in the academic community today. No other experience available to students can match the intensity, reality, or complexity of executing governmental or private organization's policies on today's battlefield."

- COL Dale Buckner, US Army  
2009-2010 Military Fellow, Fletcher School  
Currently deployed to Afghanistan

"Pundits, think tanks and talk-show hosts provide an endless supply of (mostly unfounded) opinions on how stability operations "should" be done. By contrast, the Tufts FieldEx serves as a unique laboratory for actually TESTING different techniques and interventions - to identify what techniques, in what combinations, actually stand a chance of promoting peace, democracy, prosperity and stability."

- 1LT Rob Ness, US Army-Civil Affairs  
Simulation Advisor

"This kind of learning opportunity - role play involving both civilian and military students - is vitally important to building the leaders that will successfully navigate the emerging challenges of human security."

-LT Ann Gibbon, US Navy  
Assistant Director, Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership,  
US Naval Academy  
ALLIES-USNA Advisor

"The FieldEx gave our cadets a unique opportunity to work with their civilian counterparts on some very complex issues that they will likely face in places like Afghanistan. This type of Civ-Mil exposure is critical if we are to ever become proficient in implementing strategies like 'whole-of-government' approach to national security."

-MAJ Kent Park  
Instructor of American Politics, Policy, and Strategy,  
United States Military Academy  
ALLIES-USMA advisor



# Get Involved

Registration for FIELDDEX 2011 begins March 7 at:

***<http://www.fieldex.org>***

For more information, contact us at: *[tuftsfieldex@gmail.com](mailto:tuftsfieldex@gmail.com)*

FIELDDEX 2011 is brought to you by:

**Tufts**  
UNIVERSITY



**ALLIES**  
ALLIANCE LINKING LEADERS IN EDUCATION AND THE SERVICES

*FIELDDEX 2011 will be held at:*

**The Ultimate Battleground**

Bourne, MA

<http://www.ultimatebattleground.com>