

PfPC SAC/CSC Intro Sheet

What is the Partnership for Peace Consortium?

The Partnership for Peace Consortium (PfPC) of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes is a multinational government organization, originally established in 1999 by the U.S. Department of Defense and German Federal Ministry of Defence, in coordination with NATO.

The PfPC's mission is to "strengthen partner defense education and security sectors while fostering a trusted global network of defense educators, research professionals, and security sector practitioners." The PfPC carries out this work through a community of practice comprised of thousands of subject-matter experts from hundreds of defense academies and security studies institutes across approximately 60 countries.

PfPC Leadership

The PfPC is overseen by two leadership panels comprised of multinational "governance stakeholders," and the PfPC Secretariat manages the day-to-day work.

Governance Stakeholders

The nine (9) stakeholder nations, along with NATO International Staff (NATO IS), are: Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, NATO IS, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. These nations and NATO have formally joined the Consortium leadership, and senior defense officials from each have been appointed to the two leadership committees.

Senior Advisory Council

Strategically, PfPC is overseen by the Senior Advisory Council (SAC). The SAC is the senior governance body and is composed of senior representatives (general and flag officer level or civilian equivalent) appointed by each governance stakeholder nation and NATO. In addition, the George C. Marshall Center, which hosts the PfPC Secretariat, delegates one leader, and the PfPC Executive Director serves as the secretary. Often, the SAC delegates are the Commandants of the respective national defense academies.

The SAC provides strategic-level guidance and broad direction for PfPC activities and structure. Each representative on the SAC is expected to provide national (or international) guidance from his or her originating organization and, in turn, to update those organizations routinely about PfPC activities.

Steering Committee

The Consortium Steering Committee (CSC) operationalizes the strategic direction provided by the SAC, and the CSC provides oversight to ensure effective execution of programs, projects, and tasks aligned to that guidance. The CSC consists of representatives from the governance stakeholder nations and NATO, as well as all the chairpersons from all PfPC working group chairs. (Sometimes the national delegate and a working group chair are the same person.)

The CSC ensures successful execution of PfPC activities and monitors annual performance towards its strategic goals. The CSC actively looks for opportunities to strengthen partner nation capacities, to assess and address common transnational threats, and to contribute to sustainable strengthening of security and defense sectors.

Secretariat

The PfPC Secretariat (which is essentially the HQ staff) is managed by US Defense Department and German Federal Ministry of Defence personnel, and is situated in the George C. Marshall Center in Garmisch, Germany.

Governance Meetings

There are four regular meetings per year in which the governance bodies meet: One combined SAC/CSC meeting, one SAC-only meeting, one CSC-only meeting, and one annual conference. In addition, there are quarterly virtual CSC check-ins (i.e., 60 to 90-minute online videoconferences). SAC and CSC members are expected to attend three of these in-person meetings a year, but two of the meetings are typically held concurrently to reduce additional travel requirements. In practice, this translates to roughly two in-person meetings per year, and these are typically held in Europe.

A list of previous and upcoming governance events is provided below, to give an idea of the typical SAC/CSC schedule.

2024 Meetings

- Annual CSC Meeting: 14-16 February 2024, Garmisch, Germany
- Annual SAC Meeting: 13-14 June 2024, Sofia, Bulgaria
- Combined SAC/CSC Meeting: 13-14 November 2024, Munich, Germany
- PfPC Conference: 28-30 January 2025, Vienna, Austria

2025 Meetings

- Annual CSC Meeting: 31 January 2025, Vienna, Austria
- Annual SAC Meeting: 19-20 May 2025, Berlin, Germany
- Combined SAC/CSC Meeting: Dates to be determined
- PfPC 2025 Conference: 9-11 December 2025, Gdynia, Poland

PfPC Activities

The PfPC runs a number of different working groups who collaborate on security-related topics (e.g., supporting “training while we fight” in Ukraine, discussing civil control of the military with Central European lawmakers, developing recommendations for confronting Cognitive Warfare). The working groups often host weeklong meetings with Whole of Society participants, and they produce various knowledge projects, such as policy recommendations, scholarly journal articles, and reference curricula. PfPC also co-manages the Defense Education Enhancement Program (DEEP) in coordination with NATO. DEEP sends subject-matter experts to developing partner nations, to help them modernize their professional military education.

Reading

As a new member of the PfPC, please familiarize yourself with the following:

1. **Terms of Reference:** This document defines the mission and governance processes for the PfPC
2. **[A Theory of Change:](#)** 25 Years of the Partnership for Peace Consortium: This article summarizes the history and mission of the PfPC