



**SOLDIERS OF PEACE INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION**
(L' ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOLDATS
DE LA PAIX)
**AUSTRALIAN PRESIDENT,
OCEANIA REPRESENTATIVE**
P.O. BOX 552, TORQUAY, VICTORIA, 3228
AUSTRALIA

Affiliated with:
The Australian Peacekeeper
& Peacemaker Veterans'
Association.

Telephone & Fax: +61 3 5264 8244
Mobile: + 61 419 355 226
Email: spia.oceania@aisp.fr
Website: <http://aisp.fr/eng/>

General category 1 Consultative Status with the
Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

"We Believe"

3rd March 2010

SPIA Australia Overview

Introduction.

1. The Soldiers of Peace International Association (SPIA), also known as the L'Association Internationale des Soldats de la Paix (AISP)), is an International Peacekeeper Organisation based in Lyon, France.
2. The International President is Laurent Attar-Bayrou, who is the founding member of SPIA based in Lyon, France.
3. SPIA has Branches in the following:
 - a. Ireland. President is Eddie Doyle;
 - b. Kenya. President is John Chesum;
 - c. Senegal.
 - d. France.
 - e. Russia.
 - f. Ukraine.

Background.

4. SPIA/ASIP was established on the 19th of November 1988. SPIA is a Category 1 Non-Government Organisation (NGO), with Consultative Status on the Economic Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). This Consultative Status was approved on 25th June 1995.

"We Believe"

5. Thus the SPIA/AISP began to develop from a UN Peacekeeper veteran orientated organisation to a respectable NGO, providing a wide range of Humanitarian Activities to many countries around the world.
6. The SPIA has a proven record with a range of Humanitarian Activities, ranging from building a School in Cambodia, to Mine Clearance in the Balkans and further Mine Training in Chad and Senegal. SPIA conducts International Development in the following areas:
 - a. Mine Clearance Operations. This includes Victim assistance; Specialist Mine Clearance; Humanitarian De-Mining; Mine Awareness; Mine Training and Education Programs.
 - b. Humanitarian Development. This ranges from assistance to Orphanages, Construction, Aid work and other United Nations Programs in Third World countries. Assistance in Medical aid is another area of opportunity for the SPIA.
 - c. Emergency Disaster Response, Recovery and Re-building Operations and Projects.
 - d. International Community Development, including assistance with Law, Communications, Security, Local Community Development Programs, and other designated UN Programs.
7. The SPIA bid for UN Contracts in order to place experienced former Peacekeepers, Armed Forces and Police Personnel into volunteer or paid employment, which will draw on their vast range of skill-sets and backgrounds. This is not specifically restricted to ex-members of the Military or Police Forces and may include other identified people with the skill-sets required for the task.
8. Currently, the SPIA is developing a Peace Academy in France, which will be evolving with the consultation of the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The SPIA has made a number of proposals and has identified premises for the Peace Academy in Lyon.
9. The SPIA/AISP are a capable NGO in terms of supporting Peacekeeping Operations of a non-military nature.

Proposed Development.

10. In late September 2009, the Australian President of SPIA suggested the following plan for future development to the International President SPIA/AISP:
 - a. Have SPIA/AISP as a focal point for International Veterans; NGO; UN Veterans and other like organisations.
 - b. Provide Post Deployment Support to Peacekeeping Operations.
 - c. Provide Welfare Assistance to International Peacekeepers.
 - d. Assist killed, wounded or injured Peacekeepers and their families with Compensation Entitlements.
 - e. Establish Support Groups for UN Veterans or Peacekeeper Veterans.

- f. Promote the Sacrifice, service and courage of UN Troops and raise the profile of this service in terms of International Recognition.
- g. Provide feedback, evaluation and analytical assessments of pre-deployment, during deployment and post-deployment PKO to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) or the UN Security Council.

11. Another area that was discussed with the International President SPIA/AISP was to look at a short notice Humanitarian Task Force. It was suggested that the SPIA/AISP HQ in Lyon be the Focal Point of contact with the SPIA/AISP International Branches consulted for the provision of various skilled veterans.

12. The Humanitarian Task Force would ideally provide Humanitarian Development, Aid Relief to Disasters, Mines and to train selected candidates for training at the SPIA/AISP Peace Academy.

Proposal for SPIA Australia.

13. The Proposed Business Plan outline for SPIA Australia is to firstly establish an SPIA Australia Council. This is suggested to consist of the following:

President – Paul Copeland;
 Vice President – Steven Wright;
 Secretariat – TBA;
 Council Member – APPVA National President;
 Council Member – TBA; and
 Council Member – TBA.

14. The Steps of the Australian Plan:

- a. Establish the SPIA Australia Council.
- b. Register with Australian Government and Major NGO. This includes the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT); Aus Aid; Australian Council for International Development (ACFID); Australian Red Cross/Crescent; Red R; Care Australia; Emergency Management Australia (EMA) and other NGO.
- c. Business Practice and Governance Established.
- d. Fund-Raising activities from potential Sponsors.
- e. Register of Volunteers or Interested People. This will utilise a web-based registration system, of which people must be members of the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans Association (APPVA), to register and be considered for assignments.

Current Issues.

15. There are three projects currently being bid for Senegal, North West Africa for Jan-Dec 2010, with the contract being worth approximately \$3M AUD.

16. SPIA Australia and the SPIA International HQ will be lobbying to have the retrospective Force Assignment of the Australian Training Support Team to East Timor (ATST-EM), to receive the UN Medal with East Timor Ribband.

17. SPIA/AISP continues to lobby the UN for official recognition of the Nobel Peace Prize to UN Peacekeepers on and before 10 December 1988, along with subsequent service.

18. The SPIA/AISP advocates and commemorate the service of UN and other Peacekeepers.

Website:

Please visit the SPIA/AISP Website:

http://www.fname.info/aisp/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=10&Itemid=2 for further information.

Conclusion.

19. The SPIA Australia/Oceania body has significant potential to evolve into an NGO for ex-serving ADF and Police veterans, along with ideally suited civilians, that will provide a quality Humanitarian and International Community focussed organisation, utilising the skills and experiences of these veterans.

20. The SPIA has a strong ethos in assisting the International Community in the quest to assist with world Peace and Security.

Prepared by:

P. A. Copeland, OAM, JP,

CBus; Adv Dip Comms Mgt; Dip FM; Dip Proj Mgt; Dip TAS

Attachment:

1. SPIA/AISP – Who are we?
2. SPIA/AISP Humanitarian Development.
3. SPIA/AISP Mines.

SPIA/AISP – WHO ARE WE?

The Soldiers of Peace International Association (SPIA) was created in 1988, in Lyon (France). In 2001 SPIA became a solidarity cooperation and international organization recognized by U.N. Our N.G.O. was granted a general consultative status with the ECOSOC. The organization gathers civilians and soldiers (notably former Blue Helmets) who have carried out Peacekeeping Operations under the U.N. aegis since 1948.

Our deminers and personnel remain at the disposal of the U.N. and have served in different operations in countries such as Angola, Bosnia and Cambodia. Some members of our association are also qualified in other areas of mine action such as mine-free and explosive remnants of war - related advocacy, Victim (survivor) Assistance , and Mine Risk Education (MRE).

SPIA operates in mine-related emergency and humanitarian development and particularly in the following areas of mine action :

- (1) • Mine Risk Education (MRE)
- (2) • Mine Clearance, Survey, Quality Assessment, etc.
- (3) • Assistance and Training for Stockpile destruction
- (4) • Victim (Survivor) Assistance and assistance in the promulgation of Victim Assistance Legislation
- (5) • Mine and Explosive Remnants of War-related advocacy.

Current Actions, Missions and Projects:

- SPIA has just launched a Socio-economic Victim Assistance Rehabilitation Program in Angola and is collecting funds for similar initiatives in Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and Uganda.
- In Angola, SPIA started an MRE program in January 2006 with a local partner, who has the particularity to involve mine survivors in its MRE teams.
- In France and Europe, SPIA participates to advocate efforts led by the Cluster Munition Coalition.

In the past, SPIA carried out other mine-related activities in countries such Bosnia, Rwanda, Cambodia and Lebanon.

You can call upon our services by using the following contacts:

AISP – Association Internationale des Soldats de la Paix
 SPIA – Soldiers of Peace International Association
 178, rue Garibaldi
 69003 Lyon FRANCE
 Tel: +33-(0)4 78 60 80 58
 Fax: +33-(0) 4 78 60 32 98

SPIA/AISP Humanitarian Development.

History

One of SPIA main goals is to continue developing **on humanitarian and diplomatic levels**, the actions of the peacekeepers, civilian or soldier, who work for the U.N.

Since its creation, SPIA has participated in emergency and development missions such as:

- Building schools in the Svray Rieng area, in Cambodia and sending to Chum-Kiri a specialist in the cleansing of water,
- In Rwanda, a vaccination campaign against polio offered to 50,000 children,
- Food, drugs and clothes convoyed to ex-Yugoslavia between 1991 and 1997,
- Reconstruction of Porto Novo hospital, in Benin.

On-going missions and projects

SPIA participates in 3 major projects :

- Solidarity with the tsunami victims in Pondichéry, India
- Influenza vaccination campaign in Lebanon
- solidarity with the earthquake victims in Bam, Islamic Republic of Iran

To help these victims. Please send your gift to :

FRANCE- Check payable to : AISP – 178 rue Garibaldi – 69003 Lyon

OVERSEAS - Wire Transfer : AISP – **for Asia**

IBAN No. FR52 2004 1010 0714 1989 6N03 853

Thank you for your generosity.

SPIA/AISP MINES.

History

SPIA - Mines is an association run under French law and is a specific branch of SPIA working in the mine action field. The Soldiers of Peace International Association (SPIA) was created in 1988, in Lyon (France). SPIA - Mines is an international solidarity and cooperation organization created in 2001. Our N.G.O. was granted a general consultative status with the ECOSOC in 1995.

The organization gathers civilians and military (notably former Blue Helmets) who have carried out Peacekeeping Operations under the UN aegis since 1948. Our deminers and personnel remain at the disposal of the UN and have served in many operations in countries such as Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon or Pakistan. Some members of our association are also qualified in other areas as in mine action, mine-free and explosive remnants of war-related advocacy, victim assistance and mine risk education (MRE). SPIA Mines is now part of the Cluster Munitions Coalition, which advocates the banning of cluster munitions.

SPIA operates in mine-related emergency and development, particularly in mine action of the following areas :

Mine Risk Education (MRE)

- **Raise awareness** on the danger of landmines among the affected population
- **Create and disseminate** mine risk education materials
- **Educate** the population on first-aid emergency gestures whenever an accident occurs

Mine Clearance

- Setting up emergency mine clearance teams for short and punctual intervention. These teams may also carry out surveys, quality assessment and marking off suspected areas on behalf of international organizations and operations.
- Provide Mine Clearance Training to affected countries using mine action specialists via SPIA network (notably former Blue Helmets).

Assistance in Stockpile Destruction

- To support all countries in their obligation of Stockpile destruction within a time limit.

Assistance to victims

- **Provide Assistance to Victim (Survivor)** in the affected countries such as first-aid emergency, medical materials, creation of first-aid and social & professional rehabilitation centers.
- **Participate**, take into account the responsibility regarding disabled war victims (civil personnel and soldier), and the promulgation of the national legislations in the affected countries and other international rules on this subject.
- **Sensitize** affected countries and their people to the need of assisting mine clearance and help the survivors.

- **Collect funds** to finance projects in various sphere of activities against the mines.

Mine and ERW - related advocacy

- **Take part** in international conferences on this subject, in particular, meetings of the States Parties and inter-session of the Ottawa Convention and those relating to the CCW.
- **Participate** in international debates on the evolution of Humanitarian International Law concerning all types of Explosive Remnants of War (including cluster munitions, anti-tank mines, UXO, etc).
- **Sensitize** International Community and general public to the consequences of landmines and other similar devices.
- **Collect** funds to finance projects in different areas of mine actions.

Current Actions, Missions and Projects

SPIA is involved in different projects:

- **SPIA** has just launched a Socio-economic Victim Reintegration Assistance Program and is collecting funds for similar initiatives .
- **SPIA** started an MRE program in January 2006 with a local partner, which has the particularity to involve mine survivors in its MRE teams.
- In Europe, **SPIA** participates to advocate efforts led by Cluster Munitions Coalition.