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BICC's New Work Program

by Michael Brzoska and Peter J. Croll

At its meeting on 24 May 2004, BICC's Supervisory Board adopted a new Work Program for BICC for the five-year-period 2004-2008. With this Work Program—the third one since the beginning of BICC's activities in April 1994—BICC intends to continue on its successful path of work on conversion and to open up new areas of work where BICC's expertise can make a difference.

As priorities for work at the boundaries between civilian and military activities are shifting, BICC, too, is changing.

A major input to the new Work Program was the report of an evaluation commission, chaired by Prof. Wolfgang Vogt, who reviewed BICC's activities from 1998 to 2003. The report includes a large number of suggestions about the future of BICC.

The new Work Program was prepared by a core group of BICC staff following a meeting of all research staff in February 2004. In its discussions and deliberations they were guided by the overarching principle that BICC should promote conversion as a contribution to human development, disarmament and peace-building through practical conversion assistance as well as applied research and consultancy on conversion activities. A draft was presented and discussed at BICC's International Board meeting in Bonn in April 2004 and revised for the discussion in BICC's Supervisory Board.

The main difference to earlier Work Programs is an expansion and reorganization of the topics BICC is planning to work on. In addition to "zooming-out" of its traditional areas of work, BICC also intends to proactively enter into a few new areas (see figure 1). Issues related to conflict prevention, management and post-conflict rehabilitation have already increasingly gained importance in BICC's work. This trend will continue, as these issues are playing a significant role in the effort to promote the links between peace and development through a transformation of existing structures. BICC's expertise in dealing with conflict-related work will be gradually expanded. This

expansion will build on the existing capabilities of BICC and continue to focus on conversion—in a broad understanding of the term.

Following the recommendation of the above-mentioned evaluation committee, this broad understanding sees conversion as a special form of transformation. It focuses on issues on the borderlines of violent and peaceful, military and civilian ways of dealing with conflicts. Not all transformation is conversion, conversion is only part of all the transformation processes that need to take place to attain a more peaceful world with better living conditions for all mankind. As outlined above, conversion can make a contribution particularly, but not exclusively, in the prevention and management of

conflict, as well as in post-conflict situations.

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Disarmament in the narrow sense of a reduction in military expenditures, holdings of weapons and the release of assets, such as land,

from military use will continue to be a focus of BICC's work. In order to understand the issues, and be able to analyze and predict trends, BICC will continue to record and hold relevant data, for instance on military expenditures, holdings in major weapons, number of armed forces and employment in defense industry. It will remain a repository of expertise, on an international scale of knowledge, about small arms control, redevelopment of former military bases, arms production, the international arms trade, as well as trends in spending on military research and development. In the issue area of peace-building, BICC will combine some traditional fields of work—such as demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants as well as security sector reform—with the wider field of conversion-related topics. In the issue area of conflict, BICC plans to selectively expand its work to some aspects of conflict which have a relation to resource use. It is not BICC's aim to become another conflict research institute but rather to apply some of its expertise, such as on military expenditures, and the role of private business in economic development to conflict issues.

Dr Michael Brzoska is Head of the Research Department at BICC, Peter J. Croll is Director of BICC.

Figure 1

Overall goals of BICC's work	Peace ↔ Development		
Overall orientation of BICC's work	<i>Conversion = Transformation through civilianization of military functions and structures, objects and potentials for the benefit of society</i>		
Issue Areas of BICC	Arms & resources	Peacebuilding	Conflict
Long title of issue areas	<i>Management of disarmament and resource re-use</i>	<i>People and political structures in peacebuilding</i>	<i>Resource related violence and its management</i>
Current core fields of work at BICC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Small arms control ■ Small arms disposal ■ Base closures ■ Defense industry restructuring ■ Military expenditures ■ Arms trade ■ Arms embargoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Demobilization and reintegration of former combatants ■ Security sector reform ■ CIMIC (Civil-military cooperation) ■ Privatization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ External actors in violent conflict over natural resources ■ Water conflicts and their management
Additional fields of work at BICC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Disarmament and arms control ■ Military research and development institutions ■ ESDP (European Security and Defence Policy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Conversion as element in peacebuilding ■ Security-related aspects of state failure ■ Demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Civilian conflict prevention ■ Business and conflict ■ Analysis of 'new wars'
Crosscutting issues	Gender Good governance, transparency and accountability Concepts of security, human security		
Planned new fields of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ New military and dual-use technologies ■ Disposal of surplus weapons ■ Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Conversion-related aspects of HIV/AIDS ■ Governmental conflict regulation ■ Civil-military aspects of peacekeeping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Youth and war ■ Financing of conflicts ■ Codes of conduct for business in conflict

Staff Spotlight:



Volker Böge

Volker Böge joined BICC's "security and environment" program in October 2003. He is currently researching issues of water, conflict and cooperation predominantly in southern Africa.

Volker studied history, political science and German literature and has a Dr. phil. from the University of Hamburg. His involvement with peace and conflict studies goes back to the early 1980s, when he first worked as a research assistant with the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg. Later he was an advisor to the parliamentary group of the Green Party in the German Bundestag in Bonn, focusing mainly on arms control and security policy alternatives in the framework of the east-west confrontation. In the 1990s Volker worked with the Unit for the Study of Wars, Armaments and Development of the University of Hamburg and for the Swiss Peace Foundation's ENCOP project (Environment and Conflicts Project) based in Bern. From 2001 to October 2003 Volker then worked as a lecturer at the Institute for Development and Peace of the University of Duisburg.

In addition to his work as a peace researcher Volker has also worked on the contemporary history of his home city, Hamburg. Over the years he has actively been involved in diverse projects of a local history workshop there, specializing in the history of youth during the Nazi regime and in the 1950s.

Volker has published numerous papers, articles and books in the fields of peace research and contemporary history. His lifelong ties to Hamburg have not stopped him from forging strong links to other parts of the world, not least to some lovely Pacific islands and the neighboring continent of Australia, where he likes to spend extended holidays with his partner—she happens to come from there. The sea is in Volker's blood, and one of his favorite pastimes is strolling along island beaches both in the North Sea and the South Seas. Bonn may be far from the beach but offers plenty of opportunities for bike rides along the Rhine and hiking in its hinterland.

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Internationalization and Privatization of War and Peace

In this research project that started in early 2002 (to end in fall 2004) and is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation the observed trends of 'soldiers in search for a new role', specifically the trend of expanding new international military functions, the effects of military involvement in humanitarian action in war and emergency situations, and the privatization of security are being assessed; an undertaking which is of some importance in view of the developments in the past few years described below.

When the UN Security Council failed to intervene in Rwanda in 1994, Kofi Annan considered hiring private military companies to do the Blue Helmet job. The proposal was turned down and Kofi Annan said: "The world may not be ready to privatize peace." Apparently, it is ripe for the privatization of war. Private military and security firms have increasingly been used for over a decade. But it was only with the pictures of four killed US contract employees in Fallujah in Iraq at the end of March this year that the public became acutely aware of this issue. The sorrow and disgust about this outrageous criminal act turned into horror over the torture of Iraqi prisoners where both US soldiers and employees of private companies are implicated.

It is estimated that the US authorities have hired at least 60 private security companies with 20,000 security guards in Iraq to perform traditional police and military functions. In fact, this is the second largest armed contingent in Iraq only behind the 135,000 US troops and larger than all other coalition troops combined, and largely outside the control of parliament and only partially controlled by governments.

Outsourcing to the private sector takes missions away from the military, but the shift towards international intervention, for genuine humanitarian purposes or the 'war against terror' adds new, wider functions to the traditional role of territorial defense. Many of the armed forces serving abroad feel overstretched and turn to the private sector for relief.

The new types of international military missions of the armed forces combined with reductions after the end of the Cold War and the outsourcing of traditional military functions to private military companies constitute a qualitative change in the role of the military. If these trends continue at the present pace important security functions will be out of control of national governments and international authorities, and the state monopoly of violence—an achievement of civilization—is at stake.

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Demobilization and Reintegration of Young Combatants in Afghanistan

Since early 2002, BICC has been monitoring and analyzing the developments relating to the five main pillars of the security sector reform process in Afghanistan: military reform; police reform; judicial reform; counter-narcotics measures; and DD&R of ex-combatants.

BICC's new project aims to expand BICC's knowledge on the demobilization and reintegration process of underage soldiers in Afghanistan, of which—according to UNICEF—there are around 8,000 and to bring it to the attention of policy-makers, donors and the research and academic community. The first phase of the project will review the planning and implementation of initiatives undertaken by the international community and the Afghan Transitional Authority to demobilize and reintegrate youth. It will highlight concerns and needs of young people that have been involved in the fighting. Based on this research, lessons learned and best practices will be identified for the benefit of current and future actions.

In partnership with UNICEF Afghanistan, BICC is planning a second phase, starting in September 2004, in which the ongoing youth-DD&R process in Afghanistan is reviewed monitored and evaluated further.

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European Security and Defence Policy

No one could have expected the rapid development of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) when the term was introduced only a few years ago. Since 2000, BICC and ten other institutions have studied the issues of transparency and accountability with regard to the growing EU integration process. Georgi Penchev researches the impact of international influences on transparency in defence planning and budgeting and is working on a study on implications of the accession processes to NATO and the EU on the military budgeting in Bulgaria.

As shown in the recently adopted European Security Strategy, EU security policy can not rely on military means alone. An assessment of civilian actions is also necessary. Joakim Kreutz is working on a paper on EU arms embargoes that will provide an overview and give information on all aspects of when, how, and why the EU has chosen this tool.

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BICC Publications

In addition to its annual *conversion survey*, the BICC/DCAF *security sector governance and conversion studies* and other books, BICC publishes *reports*, *briefs*, and *papers*. These series analyze the international conversion process, report on conversion projects and experience gained, and offer scientific as well as practical know-how. Further details can be obtained at www.bicc.de/publications/.

BICC 2004. *Conversion Survey 2004: Global Disarmament, Demilitarization and Demobilization*. Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden, May 2004

forthcoming:

BICC/DCAF security sector governance and conversion studies:

no. 8: Marina Caparini (ed.). 2004. *Media in Security and Governance. The Role of the News Media in Security Oversight and Accountability*. Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden

no. 9: Jocelyn Mawdsley, Marta Martinelli and Eric Remacle (eds.). 2004. *Europe and the Global Arms Agenda: Security, Trade and Accountability*. Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden

BICC Notes

This year's *Conversion Survey 2004* has been and will be presented in various cities: On 28 May 2004 it was launched at a national press conference in the Federal Press Office in Bonn. On 7 June, Peter Croll presented the *Conversion Survey* to the Norwegian public at the premises of NUPI (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs) in Oslo. On 17 June, Michael Brzoska presented main results of BICC's yearbook in Geneva at the Palais des Nations, at the invitation of the Geneva Forum, introduced by the German Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, Botschafter Heinsberg. On 23 July, Peter Croll will visit the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and present the *Conversion Survey* to the public in Stockholm.

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On 3 June 2004, BICC—in cooperation with the Berlin Information-center for Transatlantic Security (BITS) and the German United Nations Association (DGVN)—held the **international interdisciplinary workshop “Energy–Security–EnergySecurity”** on its premises. The oil crisis in the seventies, three wars in the Gulf region and the developments since the 9-11 terror attacks have made increasingly clear that the world is dependent upon secure supplies of gas and oil. World peace is closely linked to questions of energy policy. An international group of 35 researchers, politicians and government officials dealing with energy, security and development issues discussed various closely related questions during the workshop.

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On 14 June 2004, the *Friedensgutachten 2004*, the joint annual book publication and report of the five major peace research institutes in Germany (BICC,

INEF, FEST, IFSH and HFSK), was presented to the President of the German Parliament, Wolfgang Thierse. On 15 June, it was introduced to the public at the Federal Press Office in Berlin.

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The German Foreign Office organized its **10th “Forum Global Questions”** (Forum Globale Fragen), held at the Wasserwerk in Bonn on 24–25 June 2004. BICC was co-organizer of this forum, together with the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and was responsible for one of four panels directed at the issue of non-state actors in conflict and post-conflict situations. The general theme of the Forum was the relation between security and development.

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Within the framework of the **“Partnership for Peace and Development”** with the City of Bonn in 2004, BICC presented its work during the “Science Night” on 2 July 2004 and the “Open House of the Town Hall” on 3 July in the old town hall in Bonn. Apart from presenting general information on its work, BICC showed the exhibitions *“Small Arms—A global threat”* and *“10 Years of Conversion in North Rhine-Westphalia”*.

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The *forum ZFD* (Ziviler Friedensdienst) e.V., in cooperation with CIC (Center for International Cooperation Bonn GmbH) and BICC organized a **panel discussion on “Civil society and the military—Opportunities for and limitations of cooperation: Kosovo, an example”** which took place at the S-Gangolf Event Center in Bonn on 7 July 2004. Among others, State Secretary Erich Stather (German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) and Neidhart Höfer-Wissing (Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN, Geneva) participated in the discussion which was moderated by Andreas Heinemann-Grüder (BICC).

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In cooperation with the European Commission (representation in Bonn), BICC is planning a topical discussion on **“Cyprus: What kind of security is necessary for reunification?”** which will take place on 15 July 2004, 2 p.m. at the European Commission in Bonn. Jerry Sommer, political scientist and journalist, and Leopold Maurer, Enlargement Directorate General, Head of Unit “Cyprus” of the European Commission in Brussels will both give a presentation on the subject.

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