For the October CPRF Colonel John Agoglia, Director of the US Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute, spoke on moving forward on civil-military relations. The second speaker, Nicole Ball, Senior Fellow at the Center for International Policy and visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Center for International Development and Conflict Management at the University of Maryland, College Park, spoke on reforming security sector governance as a contribution to conflict prevention.

John Agoglia spoke about the lack of communication between government and NGO’s. Need to open line of communication. Agoglia works for PKSOI – serves US military’s Center of Excellence in mastering peace, stability and reconstruction at the strategic and operational levels by shaping military and interagency policy, concept, and doctrine development. They conduct senior leadership education, support planning and execution of peace, stability and reconstruction of operations, facilitate integration of efforts among the US military, the interagency, international organizations, coalition partners and NGO’s.

Developmental aid and relief done from a rights base approach. This is not neutral and impartial because change cultural basis with aid providing. Need to have this type of theoretical discussion before go to Afghanistan, Iraq – this will prevent people from talking past each other on the ground.

Facilitation: Lack of discussion between government and NGO’s and between military and NGO’s. Need program to teach people to work together, so everyone understands his/her role on the ground. This is done through training programs.

Shaping stability operations: need to read publications because nothing is really new, history repeats itself. Need to do research.

Training education: education shapes how to think, not what to think. Room for curriculum development.

Operational integrations: need to talk before go to Iraq, Afghanistan etc, get operating policies before you are on ground level.

Operational integration: need to learn from the past. Lots of information available that must be read to learn from. Effective methods that used on the ground are not taught and talked about to organizations that later enter conflict zone. Need to capture helpful stories and utilize them in trainings and expand upon them.

Nicole Ball approached role of civil-military relations in conflict prevention by looking at the role of democracy governance of the security sector plays in reducing threat of violence for populations in conflict affected countries and the capacity of US gov to support better democratic security governance.