|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Participants: 14** | |
| Military: | 13 |
| Civilian: | 1 |
| Female | 2 |
| AFRICOM | 3 |
| CENTCOM | 3 |
| EUCOM | 4 |
| NORTHCOM | 0 |
| PACOM | 3 |
| SOUTHCOM | 1 |

**Areas of Emphasis:**

Human rights and military justice

Comparative military justice procedures

Military discipline measures

Trial practice

**Key Issues:**

Improving military legal systems through comparison

Interoperability and legal cooperation

Human rights protection through military discipline

**At the conclusion of MJ, participants are prepared to:**

1. **Interact and build more effective relationships with U.S. counterparts; and**
2. **Apply international best practices in developing law their own country.**

**Background**

The Military Justice (MJ) course is designed for individuals whose legal training qualifies them to practice law in their nation (military judges, prosecutors, investigators, staff legal advisors). Staff officers supporting military discipline processes, or military commanders interested in learning more about use of military justice as a means for promoting good order and discipline may also find the MJ course useful.

The three week Military Justice (MJ) course provided a comprehensive overview of the U.S. military justice system and comparative analysis of other military justice systems. Topics included substantive and procedural due process, evidentiary practice, trial advocacy, non-judicial alternatives to courts martial, appeals, the role of judges and transparency. Participants will be able to determine best practices in military justice based upon comparison of the U.S. and other military justice systems. Participants visited U.S. military prosecutors, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C.

Trial practice exercises on charge drafting, closing argument and direct examination of witnesses were based on a recent sexual assault case involving UN peacekeeping soldiers. This case study enabled the participants to learn how to use their own national military justice systems to investigate and prosecute serious offenses committed outside of national boundaries.

Lectures on the “International Criminal Court”, “Perspective of a Military Judge” and “Role of Military Legal Advisors beyond Military Justice” gave participants opportunities to learn from senior officials with many years of experience

Visits to the Rhode Island Federal District Court and the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces were cited as highlights in participant course critiques. During the District Court visit the participants witnessessed a criminal case guilty plea trial and later spoke with the Judge.

In accordance with IMET objectives, all participants took part in cultural familiarization activities in Newport, RI, Boston, MA, and Washington D.C. as part of the DIILS Field Studies Program (FSP). Discussions with participants before, during and after these visits helped to deepen their understanding of U.S. culture and values. These activities included visits to a Newport Mansion, Harvard University Law School, war memorials in Washington D.C. on Veteran’s day and a tour of the U.S. Capitol.

**Course Objectives:**

* Participants discover good ideas for development of military justice systems from other countries.
* Participants prepare for military cooperation with other countries by gaining better mutual understanding.

**Outcomes:**

Participants responded to the following post course survey questions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Post-Course survey questions** | **Average Score (10=Excellent)** |
| To what extent did the course provide skills or knowledge you can apply in your workplace? | 9.2 |
| Would you recommend this course to your colleagues? | 9.8 |

**Participant Comments:**

* “The course helped me be become familiar with the common law systems.”
* “The proof analysis, draft charging, closing argument exercises were the best three exercises I have ever done in a course. “
* “Sitting in the court room and witnessing the verdict being handed by a judge and meeting him in person (was a highlight).”
* “I liked hearing the U.S. Army Trial Judge’s personal perspective of being a judge in the military justice system.”
* “Everything I learned can be useful for my job involving national lawmaking. I am participating in drafting a disciplinary code of military in my country, and also in drafting amendments for the administrative offences code. I will be participating in lot of such issues in the future because of my functions. So the education, experience and information about different law systems will be beneficial and useful for me.”

**Future plans:**

* Provide more instruction on substantive criminal law and charge drafting.
* Include a visit to the U.S. Supreme Court in the spring MJ course.
* The next Military Justice course (MJ)( P176003) will be offered 6-26 May 2016.

**For more information please**

See the attached course schedule

Go to [WWW.DIILS.ORG](http://WWW.DIILS.ORG) or

Email: DSCA.DIILS.ResidentPgm@mail.mil