

DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES
Resident Course Report
Military Law Development Program I (MLDP-I)
13 October to 18 December 2014; Newport, Rhode Island

Areas of Emphasis:

International Law
 Comparative Military Justice
 Administrative Law
 Operational Law

Key Issues:

Improving military legal systems through comparison
 Interoperability and legal cooperation
 Enhanced capability to provide legal advice on military operations
 Coalition Operations

Participants: 11	
Military:	10
Civilian:	1
AFRICOM	3
CENTCOM	3
EUCOM	2
NORTHCOM	0
PACOM	3
SOUTHCOM	0

At the conclusion of MLDP-I, participants are prepared to:

- 1) Interact and build more effective relationships with U.S. counterparts; and**
- 2) Lead their country in improving their national military rule of law systems.**

Background

MLDP I is designed for military legal advisors.

MLDP I has three components:

- 1) The Law of Armed Conflict and Human Rights (LCHR) course, which enables participants to understand and implement international legal instruments that regulate the use of force and treatment of persons in the context of all types of military operations. The LCHR course teaches MLDP participants to identify the legal issues that arise in an operational environment and understand the roles and responsibilities of key international actors;
- 2) The Military Justice System component, which discusses best practices for improving military discipline and protecting the human rights of military personnel. Participants attended lectures from Naval Justice School instructors, visited a crime laboratory and a state prison, and participated in a Naval Justice School mock trial exercise. They also learned about law of the sea and cyber law. MLDP participants completed a detailed questionnaire on their national military justice system and explained their system to a U.S. Judge Advocate. Each participant made a presentation to the class about their national military justice system. The Chief Counsel for AFRICOM Legal Engagements Division participated in participant briefings by

DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES

Resident Course Report

Military Law Development Program I (MLDP-I)

13 October-18 December 2014, Newport, Rhode Island

representatives from African countries. These activities prepared MLDP participants for future professional interaction with U.S. and other international coalition partners.

3) The Legal Aspects of Combating Corruption (LCC) course examined ways to improve national mechanisms to deter, detect, investigate and prosecute corrupt practices in the defense sector in accordance with international legal standards set out in the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. U.S. service-members and Department of Justice experts used case studies to provide practical feedback on strategies for fraud and corruption investigation and prosecution. MLDP-I participants can directly apply these strategies to analysis of corruption cases in their countries.

In accordance with IMET objectives, all participants took part in cultural familiarization activities in Newport, RI as well as the Pequot Native American Museum, Mystic Seaport, 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 reinforce their impressions of U.S. culture and values. These activities included visits to a Newport Mansion, Harvard University, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and monuments and museums in Washington D.C.

Course Objectives:

- Participants gain greater knowledge of international law applicable to military operations.
- Participants discover best practices for development of military justice systems from other participants attending the course from other countries.
- Participants prepare for military cooperation with other countries including the U.S., 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 useful skills and knowledge?	9.4
Would you recommend this course to your colleagues?	9.8

DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES
Resident Course Report
Military Law Development Program I (MLDP-I)
13 October-18 December 2014, Newport, Rhode Island

Participant Comments:

- “The program allowed me to learn from the experience of other (countries) which can be useful for my suggestions to my country in improving our military justice system.”
- “The various field trips further enhanced our understanding of the topic...we were able to observe the real experience such as visiting courts....”
- “The program was practical....covering issues that the participants deal with in the day to day execution of their duties.”
- “I learned ...the need for legal advisors to...have direct access to commanders.”

Future plans:

- Develop a case study involving international law of air space.
- Work with participants to create individual development plans.
- Collect feedback from U.S. JAGs participating in interviews to include advice to MLDP participants on how to improve communications with a U.S. audience.
- The next MLDP course (MLDP-II, MASL P176029) will be offered 13 April to 18 June 2015.

For more information:

View the sample course schedule.

Go to WWW.DIILS.ORG or

Email: dsca.pentagon.diils.list.residentpgm@mail.mil