

DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES
International Law of Military Operations Course (ILOMO)
3-20 June 2019; Newport, Rhode Island

Areas of Emphasis:

Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC)
 Rules of Engagement (ROE)
 Law of the Sea
 Counter-Piracy
 Cyber attacks
 Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (HA/DR)

Key Issues:

Practical application of international and national law to military operations
 Interoperability between U.S. and other country military legal advisors

Participants: 30	
Military:	27
Civilian:	3
Female	
Female	9
AFRICOM	
AFRICOM	8
CENTCOM	
CENTCOM	4
EUCOM	
EUCOM	14
NORTHCOM	
NORTHCOM	0
INDOPACOM	
INDOPACOM	4
SOUTHCOM	
SOUTHCOM	0

ILOMO Participants are prepared to:

- 1) Give accurate and constructive legal advice to operational/combat commanders.**
- 2) Work more effectively with U.S. counterparts in coalition operations.**

Background: The three-week ILOMO course provides military legal advisors advanced education on contemporary legal issues affecting terrorism, piracy, cyber-attack and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. The goal is to increase participants’ awareness of policies, procedures and military cultures of other countries, including the United States, in order for ILOMO participating countries to interoperate more effectively in coalition operations.

ILOMO participants join U.S. Judge Advocates attending the Naval Justice School “Coalition Operational Law” course for collective exercises and presentations from subject matter experts with recent and relevant practical experience from the Naval War College Stockton Center for the Study of International Law, Naval Justice School, International Committee for the Red Cross/Red Crescent, NATO and DIILS, as well as experienced military legal advisors from Japan and UK. ILOMO participants worked in small groups, composed of international and U.S. legal advisors, on exercises in cyber warfare, humanitarian assistance, targeting, detention operations, status of forces agreements, law of armed conflict, rules of engagement, law of the sea and legal aspects of combating terrorism. Presentations on the application of international law to unmanned systems (drones), and direct participation in hostilities were provided by International Committee for the Red Cross and Naval War College experts.

In keeping with course objectives, ILOMO participants visited New York City, received briefings by United Nations officials, including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the UN Office of Legal Affairs. Participants gained practical insights regarding operational law during exercises using a video-based Firearms Training Simulator (FATS) and a Navy ship simulator.

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In accordance with IMET objectives, participants also took part in cultural familiarization activities in Newport, RI; Boston, MA; and New York City as part of the DIILS Field Studies Program. The visit to New York featured a guided tour of historical and cultural sites, such as the 9/11 Memorial. Participants also enjoyed a tour of the United Nations Headquarters. These visits helped the participants understand U.S. and international political and global free-market institutions within the context of a diverse society.

Mission Goal and Objectives:

- Enhance knowledge and skill of military legal advisors in the area of operational law.
- Enhance interoperability through sharing of national perspectives on operational law.

Outcomes:

Participants responded to the following post-course survey questions:

Post Course survey questions	Average Score (10=Excellent)
	Current
To what extent did the course provide useful skills and knowledge?	8.7
Would you recommend this course to your colleagues?	9.7

Participant Comments:

Highlights of the Course:

- Opportunity for different countries to understand and apply different aspects of international law.
- The FSP program was the highlight for me because I learned a lot from them.
- The highlight of the course was the drafting of the Rules of Engagement and the Targeting exercise.

Strengths of the ILOMO Course:

- Very convenient facilities. Very comfortable lodging and conference hall.
- Personal care shown by faculty.
- Wide coverage of topics on International Law.
- Working in small group and practical insight regarding operational law.
- The efficiency and good coordination of the program.

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What they learned that can be used in the workplace:

- What I anticipate is being a very reliable resource person that my commanders may utilize as a legal advisor in military operations, rules of engagement and the principles involved in the law of armed conflict.
- Decision making keeping law applicable in mind.

Impressions of the United States gained from experience with ILOMO:

- My impression of the United States has greatly changed. I have come to learn that Americans are friendly.
- I have known that US doing very well to bring peace in the world. Thank you for that.

Future plans:

- The next ILOMO course is scheduled for 1-18 June 2020.
- Provide more case studies on actual cases involving the application of law to military operations.

For more information:

- See attached course schedule
- Go to WWW.DIILS.ORG or
- Email: DSCA.DIILS.ResidentPgm@mail.mil