

DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES
Resident Course Report
International Law of Military Operations (ILOMO)
6-23 June 2016; 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: 26	
Military:	22
Civilian:	4
Female	4
AFRICOM	5
CENTCOM	5
EUCOM	13
NORTHCOM	0
PACOM	3
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 (HA/DR) 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, and DIILS, as well as experienced military legal advisors from Netherlands, 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 and law of the sea. Presentations on the application of international law to unmanned systems (drones), direct participation in hostilities and aspects of operational planning 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) military legal advisor and officials from 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 take 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 Museum of the City of New York and 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?	9.0
Would you recommend this course to your colleagues?	9.6

*Average scores of participant response to this survey are consistent with scores for previous ILOMO courses.

Participant Comments:

Highlights:

- “The interaction and mutual respect between the international and US course attendees - I hope that will carry on in coalition operations and in future.”
- “The understanding of the role of military legal advisers in military operational planning.”

Strengths:

- “The multinational participation that provides intriguing discussions and effective networking.”
- “Diversity of participants and inclusion of external instructors from UN and ICRC as well as comparative study of legal systems and state practices.”
- “FSP is definitely one of the strong points for international students, who gain first-hand knowledge about US norms and customs by getting in touch with natives and laymen.”

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- “The wide diversity of presentations from students was an added value to the course.”

What they learned that can be used in the workplace:

- “Being able to know and refer to other nations' perspective and opinions regarding operational and legal matters.”
- “Armed Forces may play an important role while dealing with humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. But this role is not their main mission.”
- “My involvement (as a legal adviser) at every level of operational planning.”
- “I met really great US soldiers, made some friends, received US point of view of military operations. I understand the stance of US in international environment. Although, I’m not always agreeing with this. Still I respect this and understand. As a member of NATO forces, I think there should be more sharing of legal perspectives among all the allies in the military environment. Every culture is different and I’m happy that this is so.”

Future plans:

- The next ILOMO course is scheduled for June 2017.
- Major changes to the comprehensive discussion problem.

For more information:

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