

DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES
Resident Course Report
International Law of Military Operations (ILOMO)
5-22 June 2017; 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: 28 | |
| Military: | 22 |
| Civilian: | 6 |
| Female | |
| Female | 6 |
| AFRICOM | 6 |
| CENTCOM | 5 |
| EUCOM | 13 |
| NORTHCOM | 0 |
| PACOM | 4 |
| 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 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 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:

Strengths of the ILOMO Course:

- “Familiarization with other nations’ legal opinion on legal subjects.”
- “Assembling all the students from different parts of the world to exchange experience and ideas.”
- “Most subjects were taught by soldiers (practitioners) not just theoreticians.”
- “A very open and collegiate atmosphere, and the willingness to listen to one another.”
- “It brings out the real legal aspect of every situation.”
- “The opportunity to mix and work with US JAGs.”
- “Understanding US interpretation of International law.”
- “Highly experienced instructors and self-explanatory slides followed by the exercises within a group on the same topic made the class so effective.”
- “The various exercises given were easily understood as a result of group discussion.”

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What they learned that can be used in the workplace:

- “After this course it will be easier for me to plan operations using what I have learned.”
- “How to integrate ROE in the operational planning process.”

Impressions of the United States gained from experience with ILOMO:

- “I noticed by eye and ear how this nation is big in all aspects of powerfulness and higher ethics.”
- “My impressions are positive. I liked the people, cities, the diversity in culture, and the feeling of safety.”
- “I was impressed by the fact that the USA is willing to spend their money on educating other countries’ Legal Advisors to enable them to provide appropriate legal advice.”
- “My impression of the US has not changed, it has deepened. I was really impressed by the respect of the people given to soldiers, the discipline and devotion of men and women serving in the military that I saw on the base - all the things that I knew from the movies I could felt on my own skin. And also the kindness of the people in Newport has impressed me. Thank you very much for the opportunity to be a part of such a community for 3 weeks!”

Future plans:

- The next ILOMO course is scheduled for 4-21 June 2018.
- Provide more read ahead materials to participants on the DIILS GlobalNET web site.

For more information:

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