

DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES
Resident Course Report
International Law of Military Operations (ILOMO)
4-21 June 2018; 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:	24
Civilian:	4
Female	9
AFRICOM	9
CENTCOM	7
EUCOM	8
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, 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 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) 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

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Navy ship simulator.

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?	9.1
Would you recommend this course to your colleagues?	9.9

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

Participant Comments:

Highlights of the Course

- “The atmosphere, the approach to training and networking, cultural side, motivating to further explore the subjects discussed.”
- “Knowing how each of the participants' countries understand and apply different aspects of the international law.”
-

Strengths of the ILOMO Course:

- “Opportunity to meet colleagues from all around the world.”
- “Exercises in small groups together with US participants.”
- “Openness to discuss a broad range of questions.”

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What they learned that can be used in the workplace:

- “Understanding of US perspectives in regard to OPLAW.”
- “Drafting different kinds of rules of engagement depending on the nature of different operations.”
- “The easiest way to explain LOAC to soldiers.”

Impressions of the United States gained from experience with ILOMO:

- “This course helped me to strengthen my positive impression of the U.S. I’ve experienced the U.S. lifestyle and have visited places about which I had only 'theoretical' knowledge.”
- “It gives me additional understanding about the American legal system and its fairness.”

Future plans:

- The next ILOMO course is scheduled for 3-20 June 2019.
- 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