

DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES
Resident Course Report
Legal Aspects of Defense Support of Civil Authorities (LADSCA)
24 July – 10 August 2017; Newport, Rhode Island

Areas of Emphasis:

Legal authority for use of the military in domestic operations

Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) and International Human Rights

Rules of Engagement (ROE) and Rules on Use of Force (RUF)

Combating Terrorism

Border Security

Military Support to Law Enforcement

Emergency Management and Response

Key Issues:

Practical application of international and national law for use of the military in support of civil authorities

Participants: 31	
Military:	27
Civilian:	4
Female	2
AFRICOM	9
CENTCOM	8
EUCOM	5
NORTHCOM	1
PACOM	6
SOUTHCOM	2

LADSCA participants are prepared to:

- 1) Develop and improve on national legal authorities for use of the military in support of civil authorities.**
- 2) Conduct military operations in support of civil authorities in accordance with international law standards.**

Background: The three week Legal Aspects of Defense Support of Civil Authorities (LADSCA) (MASL P176042) course promoted defense support of civil authorities (DSCA) that is consistent with democratic rule of law, protection of human rights and reasonable use of force. LADSCA participants learned about the U.S. approach to DSCA and compared their national approach with the approaches taken by the U.S. and other countries.

Basic principles from international law were applied to a variety of operational settings including internal armed conflict, narcotics trafficking, border security, cyber-attacks, natural disasters, pandemic and mass casualty events, domestic terrorism, special events security and detention operations. The advantage of interagency cooperation and clear legal authorities were emphasized throughout the course. A comprehensive exercise involving response to pandemic engaged the participants in all of the legal issues associated with the legal aspects of defense support of civil authorities.

Select participants presented case studies to the class on the use of the military assistance to civil authorities in response to migration at sea, terrorist insurgency, natural disaster and organized crime.

DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES
Resident Course Report
Legal Aspects of Defense Support of Civil Authorities (LADSCA)
24 July – 10 August 2017; Newport, Rhode Island

In keeping with course objectives, LADSCA participants visited New York City, where they received briefings by various federal, state and local subject matter experts regarding many of the topics discussed above. The video-based Firearms Training Simulator (FATS) training provided participants with practical experience with use of force legal issues.

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 Wall Street. These visits helped the participants understand the U.S. and global free-market institutions within the context of a diverse society.

Course 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?	9.6

Participant Comments:

What were the highlights of the course?

- The course taught me “how the military supports local authority in certain circumstances such as disease outbreaks, civil disturbance, disaster, refugees, law enforcement, terrorism and organized crime.”
- “Giving knowledge and awareness about problems that are usually not in the military area.”

What were the strengths of the course?

- “The participation of different organizations with very different approaches to the same topic.”
- “The opportunity to see how the U.S. government deals with crisis.”
- “Speakers who are (were) involved in DSCA in real life (military personnel, police officer, FBI etc)”

DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES
Resident Course Report
Legal Aspects of Defense Support of Civil Authorities (LADSCA)
24 July – 10 August 2017; Newport, Rhode Island

What I learned that is useful in workplace

- “I can use my knowledge in cooperating with international organizations. In different situations I can make proposals to my superiors and instruct my subordinates.”
- “Coordination between the different agencies when something happens (earthquake, flood, civil disturbance etc).”

Future plans:

- The next LADSCA course is scheduled for 23 July to 9 August 2018.

For more information:

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