

**DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES**  
**Resident Course Report**  
**Legal Aspects of Defense Support of Civil Authorities (LADSCA)**  
**23 July – 09 August 2018; 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

<b>Participants: 36</b>	
Military:	29
Civilian:	7
<b>Female</b>	
	7
AFRICOM	11
CENTCOM	8
EUCOM	8
NORTHCOM	
PACOM	8
SOUTHCOM	1

**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, terrorist insurgency, natural disaster and civil disturbance.

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The Legal Aspects of Defense Support to Civil Authorities 18010 course presented the inaugural Vincent Sowa Award to Group Captain Musa Sanda-Jika from Nigeria. The Sowa Award is to honor the memory of Lt Col Vincent Sowa from Sierra Leone. Lieutenant Colonel Sowa was a graduate of the inaugural LADSCA course in 2014 who went on to be guest instructor for the 2016 course when he shared his experience as a peacekeeping mission legal advisor and as an advisor during the West Africa Ebola outbreak. He died in 2017 during floods in Sierra Leone.

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 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 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:

<b>Post Course survey questions</b>	<b>Average Score (10=Excellent)</b>
	<b>Current</b>
To what extent did the course provide useful skills and knowledge?	9.4
Would you recommend this course to your colleagues?	9.8

**Participant Comments:**

*What were the highlights of the course?*

- “Learning new concepts.”
- “The diverse backgrounds and experiences of all participants and the instructors in and how they tackled different international and national issues.”
- “The highlight for me is the humility, respect of participants and friendliness displayed and shown by all staff of DIILS throughout the course.”
- “Practical exercises were an extraordinary opportunity to summarize the lessons learnt and to discuss problems and hear many different solutions and various opinions.”

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*What were the strengths of the course?*

- “Students are given exercises in each phase to gain better understanding about the lessons”
- “The chance to work with groups of officers and lawyers from different parts of the world.”
- “The fact that the instructors told the cons and pros of missions / disaster management that happened in the past (showing things the way they happened).”
- “Opportunity to hear and learn from internationally recognized authorities and experts in the field of international public law, and their openness for discussions and answering participants.”

*What I learned that is useful in the workplace*

- “It is always important to make partnerships and to communicate clearly your steps to public.”
- “Respecting domestic and international laws, the importance of cooperation between agencies, before and during intervention for the situation presented.”
- “That there were some limitations that I should take into considerations when asking military support in conducting maritime patrols or hot pursuit.”

**Future plans:**

- The next LADSCA course is scheduled for 22 July to 8 August 2019.

**For more information:**

- See attached course schedule.
- Go to [WWW.DIILS.ORG](http://WWW.DIILS.ORG) or
- Email: DSCA.DIILS.ResidentPgm@mail.mil