

DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES
Resident Course Report
Legal Aspects of Defense Support of Civil Authorities (LADSCA)
22 July – 08 August 2019; 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: 30	
Military:	26
Civilian:	4
Female	6
AFRICOM	8
CENTCOM	4
EUCOM	6
NORTHCOM	0
INDOPACOM	12
SOUTHCOM	0

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 a 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 their countries.

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The Legal Aspects of Defense Support to Civil Authorities 19010 course presented the Vincent Sowa Award to Major Mahmoud Magdy Mounir Hassan Farag from Egypt. The Sowa Award honors 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 United Nations, 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 the 9-11 Memorial, South Street Seaport and the Flat Iron District. 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?	9.2
Would you recommend this course to your colleagues?	9.5

Participant Comments:

What were the highlights of the course?

- The course promoted a lot of thoughts on domestic law and emergency/crises management in my country...I did some research on our national laws and regulations in force and came to conclusions that I will pass on to my superiors for further administration.
- The LADSCA course has been very interesting at all levels. All the faculties were outstanding and the presentations were great. For me, the highlight was the case studies, because, they showed us the best practices in the field and the gaps in policy or capability.

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- The course highlighted the international law standards that should be adhered to in the defense support to civil authorities. It also showed the lesson learned based on actual incidents.
- Some of the most renowned subject matter experts sharing their knowledge and experience. Exercises helped me to understand the classroom discussions better and how the knowledge maybe applied practically in a real situation.

What were the strengths of the course?

- Sharing information and practices of military support of civilian authorities of US and other countries.
- The cultural (Field Studies) program that was organized in a very good way to introduce all the international students to the experience of USA people.
- Well researched topics professionally delivered by experienced academics.
- The DSCA practical exercise which provided application of the course subjects in 5 phases.

What I learned that is useful in workplace

- I have identified the gaps in our national emergency crisis management system and will inform superiors on recommendations and concerns about what should be improved.
- I think I will have more focus on how human rights should be applied during major crisis. As a Riot Control Unit Commander I will prepare my unit to respond effectively during major crisis in support of civil authorities.

Future plans:

- The next LADSCA course is scheduled for 13 – 30 July 2020.

For more information:

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