

DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES
Resident Course Report
Legal Aspects of Peacekeeping Operations (LAPKO)
13-30 August 2018, Newport, Rhode Island

Areas of Emphasis:

UN Authorities and Standards
 Human Rights Protection
 International Agreements
 Peacekeeper Conduct and Discipline
 Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC)
 Rules of Engagement (ROE)

Key Issues:

Protection of civilians
 Prevention of Sexual
 Exploitation and Abuse
 Preparation for
 participation in UN
 peacekeeping iaw the
 rule of law

Participants: 11	
Military:	8
Civilian:	3
Female	
Female	3
AFRICOM	3
CENTCOM	0
EUCOM	5
NORTHCOM	0
PACOM	3
SOUTHCOM	0

LAPKO Participants are prepared to:

- 1) Understand the organizations, structures and processes used to conduct United Nations peacekeeping military operations in accordance with the law of armed conflict and human rights law.
- 2) Identify legal questions that arise in the context of peacekeeping operations and know the major applicable provisions of international law that serve as standards for resolving these questions.
- 3) Determine how their country can contribute more effectively to lawful conduct of peacekeeping operations.

Background:

This second offering of the LAPKO resident course offered a comprehensive analysis of the legal aspects of United Nations-sanctioned peacekeeping missions. It detailed the practical implications of the agreed legal basis for action on the mission, the rules of engagement challenges that derive from the respective UN authorities and the development of international agreements associated with peacekeeping missions. In addition, case studies and practical exercises enabled participants to exchange ideas and lessons learned from experience.

The LAPKO course featured an exceptionally high quality and well-qualified cadre of instructors. The course featured two mentors from Nigeria and Uruguay with recent experience as UN peacekeeping mission legal advisors, along with a French officer (current senior legal advisor to MINUSMA) with expertise in detainee operations, protection of civilians and use of force in peacekeeping. Participants also received presentations from current UN staff working in the areas of conduct and discipline, investigations, claims, SOFA/MOU, transitional justice, refugees, human rights and other legal issues. DIILS staff instructors with years of experience researching and instructing on legal aspects of peacekeeping provided the overall course design,

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additional presentations and exercise support.

The LAPKO course engaged participants with interactive exercises on the legal aspects of Security Council Resolutions, Misconduct Investigations, Status of Forces Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding, the Law of Armed Conflict, Use of Force and Detention. Selected LAPKO participants gave informative presentations about their recent experience as peacekeepers and on their national plans and policies regarding peacekeeping. Participants gained practical insights regarding operational law during exercises using a video-based Firearms Training Simulator (FATS).

In keeping with course objectives, LAPKO participants visited New York City and 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.

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.

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?	9.8
Would you recommend this course to your colleagues?	9.8

Participant Comments:

Highlights of the LAPKO Course

- “Having a legal advisor from the current UN mission as an instructor.”
- “The trip to New York and visit to UN and of course listening to all of the experts who work in UN.”

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Strengths of the LAPKO Course:

- “It included both theoretical and practical parts so we would always know how things really work in practice.”
- “Amazing experts available to answer questions.”

What they learned that can be used in the workplace:

- “How to cooperate with the UN to conduct investigations on sexual exploitation and abuse violations.”
- “Everything that a legal advisor needs to know before deploying on a mission.”
- “Subjects that were taught, may be included in our pre-deployment training back home.”

Future plans:

- Continue to improve/refine the course.
- The next LAPKO course is scheduled for 12-29 August 2019.

For more information:

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