

**DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES
Resident Course Report**

**Law of Armed Conflict and Human Rights (LCHR)
18 April-5 May 2016; Newport, Rhode Island**

Areas of Emphasis:

International Human Rights Law (IHL)
Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC)
International Organizations
Rules of Engagement (ROE)

Key Issues:

Practical application of IHL and LOAC to military operations

International cooperation via international organizations and multinational operations, including UN Peace Ops

Participants: 33	
Military:	30
Civilian:	3
Gender	
Female	3
Regional	
AFRICOM	3
CENTCOM	9
EUCOM	10
NORTHCOM	0
PACOM	9
SOUTHCOM	1

LCHR course graduates are better prepared to:

- 1) Understand International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law principles; and**
- 2) Apply these principles in a variety of operational contexts.**

Background: The objective of the Law of Armed Conflict and Human Rights (LCHR) resident course is to enhance participants’ understanding of the international legal instruments, practices and doctrine that control the use of force and the treatment of persons in various types of military operations.

The course addresses the practical applications of international human rights law (IHRL) and international law of armed conflict (LOAC) in a variety of operational situations, including, gender violence as a tactic of war, terrorism and human rights, child soldiers, torture, command responsibility, transitional justice, transparency in military justice, impunity, gender mainstreaming and the Law of Armed Conflict, UN mechanisms for protecting human rights, targeting, detention operations, NGO relations and refugee issues.. It introduces participants to international organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations that promote legal protections, such as the United Nations, the International Criminal Court and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The course discussed the role of the operational lawyer and how to develop a solid working relationship with commanders. Throughout the course, participants engage in directed discussions that reinforce the course topics (see attached course schedule).

28 international participants from 22 countries attended LCHR. They expressed appreciation for

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the practical insights presented by experienced and knowledgeable instructors. They were particularly impressed with their visit to the United National Headquarters in New York City and the discussion of historical examples portrayed by instructional films and video clips.

DIILS conducted a number of field studies designed to introduce LCHR participants to American culture and provide some historical context for the democratic ideals reflected in the U.S. Constitution and laws. The visit to the Pequot Native American Museum provided an example of cultural diversity in the United States. The visit to Mystic Seaport focused on the maritime history of the U.S. during the 18th to 20th centuries and its impact on the American culture and economy. LCHR participants toured historic Newport, Rhode Island where they learned about New England colonial history and the development of human rights in colonial America. And during New York City trip, they took a tour of Manhattan and experienced the cultural diversity of a large American metropolis.

Goals and Objectives:

- Participants understand the organizations, structures and processes used to conduct military operations in accordance with the law of armed conflict and human rights law.
- Participants can identify legal questions that arise in the context of military operations and know the major provisions of international law that serve as standards for resolving these questions.
- Participants analyze how they and their respective countries can increase their contribution toward lawful conduct of military operations within and beyond national boundaries.
- Participants understand the value of the operational law attorney/commander relationship and how to establish it.

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Outcomes: LCHR provided participants with practical knowledge of international law applicable to military operations. DIILS conducts an exit survey to obtain objective and subjective feedback about the course from participants. In the examples below, participants indicate a level of overall satisfaction with this course that is consistent with previous LCHR courses.

Exit Survey Question	Class Average (10=Excellent)
To what extent did the course provide useful skills and knowledge?	9.5
Would you recommend this course to your colleagues?	9.8

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

Participant Comments:

Listed below are examples of participants' comments on the LCHR course:

Strengths of the LCHR Course:

- “The LCHR course is very important for legal advisers and also commanders, because they are responsible to provide understanding to troops about LOAC and HR.”
- “The LCHR course helped me understand the practical applications of international human rights law and international law of armed conflict (LOAC) in a variety of operational situations.”
- “Excellent lectures from the presenters and the professors, I really learnt a lot from this course.”
- “The course touched the students at a high emotional level, this is the typical sensitization training that should be given to military personnel to achieve the result of motivating behavior change.”
- “The multinational environment developed mutual understanding.”
- “Multimedia (movies and pictures) helped me to understand the issues.”

How LCHR will help me in my work?

- “I am going to use all topics during my deployments. Especially ROE, Use of force, Command responsibilities, etc.”

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- “I learned that a cover-up will have major negative repercussions on you and the organization you belong to, and that transparency is rudimentary in our age. I also learned that interactive training is very important and that documentaries and videos can be an effective tool to deliver a meaningful message.”

Future Plans:

- Add instruction on “Atrocity Crimes.”
- The next LCHR course is scheduled for 10-27 October 2016.

For more information:

See the attached course schedule

Go to WWW.DIILS.ORG or

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