

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

**Law of Armed Conflict and Human Rights (LCHR)  
17 April – 4 May 2017; 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

<b>Participants: 32</b>	
Military:	30
Civilian:	2
<b>Female</b>	
	4
AFRICOM	5
CENTCOM	7
EUCOM	8
NORTHCOM	2
PACOM	6
SOUTHCOM	4

**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 addressed 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 introduced 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 engaged in directed discussions that reinforced the course topics (see attached course schedule).

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30 international participants from 20 countries attended LCHR. They expressed appreciation for the practical insights presented by experienced and knowledgeable instructors. They were particularly impressed with speakers from the United Nations 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.

<b>Exit Survey Question</b>	<b>Class Average (10=Excellent)</b>
To what extent did the course provide skills and knowledge you can apply in the workplace?	9.2
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:

*What was the highlight of the LCHR course?*

- “In my opinion, it was that we took together a lot of countries and listened to everyone’s opinion about international problems about human rights.”
- “The opportunity to share with people from all over the world.”
- “I appreciate especially the possibility to share the experiences of other nations and also the awesome approach of all engaged lecturers and employees of DIILS.”
- “The instructors and guest speakers were very effective as they have thorough knowledge and experiences on the topics they covered.”
- “The ability to have presentations from different specialists who are professionals in their field of expertise, and the ability to know differences in approach when allaying law from representatives from different countries as well as to know their perspective on different issues. I enjoyed how the presentations video materials where used to explain topic and gave better understanding on subject.”

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*What were the strengths of the LCHR course?*

- “I think documentary and movies were really helpful. It helped me better understand this course.”
- “The administration of the course was really excellent as it contributed a lot to the smooth running of the course. The inclusion of tours in Newport, The Museum/Mystic Port and in New York was of great help in learning about the history of the places and its uniqueness.”
- “Real life examples of past experiences that gives you the sense of reality and you realized that you do not work only by the books and rules but have to take in consideration many other social factors and work with other sections or departments to achieve maxim results.”

*What specifically did you learn that you anticipate using in the workplace?*

- “How to use the force in Human Rights scenarios, in my case in the office of military prisons it will be very important to instruct our security staff about how to use the force with detainees.”
- “We need to continue improving the training on HR/LOAC of our subordinates and our own knowledge about certain topics. Especially, it is necessary to have discussions with civilian lawyers and judicial system about the military position about these topics.”
- “This course taught me that we should be learning from our mistakes instead of hiding them.”

**Future Plans:**

- The next LCHR course is scheduled for 9 Oct – 26 Oct 2017.

For more information

See the attached course schedule

Go to [WWW.DIILS.ORG](http://WWW.DIILS.ORG) or

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