

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

**Law of Armed Conflict and Human Rights (LCHR)  
15 April – 2 May 2019; 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: 16</b>	
Military:	15
Civilian:	1
Female	4
AFRICOM	7
CENTCOM	0
EUCOM	7
NORTHCOM	0
INDOPACOM	2
SOUTHCOM	0

**LCHR course graduates are prepared to:**

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

**Background:** The goal of the Law of Armed Conflict and Human Rights (LCHR) resident course was 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. These included gender violence as a tactic of war, child soldiers, torture, and command responsibility. The course also addressed, cyber operations, gender mainstreaming and UN mechanisms for protecting human rights, application of LOAC to hybrid warfare and refugee issues. The LCHR course 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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The course was attended by 16 international participants from 14 countries. These participants expressed appreciation for the practical insights presented by experienced and knowledgeable instructors. They were particularly impressed with speakers with experience applying law to military operations 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.

**Course Outcomes:** LCHR provided participants with practical knowledge of international law applicable to military operations. DIILS conducted an exit survey to obtain objective and subjective feedback about the course from participants.

<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?	9.3
Would you recommend this course to your colleagues?	9.9

\*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:

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*What were the strengths of the LCHR course?*

- Diversity of the class,
- Knowledgeable instructors with rich experience in this scope,
- The program used a holistic approach using classroom discussion vis-a-vis case studies, film showing and simulation exercise,
- Freedom to express opinion as participants.

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

- The most important thing I learned in this program is about the concept of legitimacy as a crucial factor in military operations such that it can actually undermine the intended military results if it will not be,
- How to make Rules of Engagement (ROE) clear to all the personnel before deployments,
- The use of non-international law of armed conflict in fighting terrorists. Also the knowledge I got from the topic on human rights violations and why they are the basic reason behind creating insurgents,
- Distinction between Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) and International Human Rights Law and its application. Also new knowledge about cyber technology in armed conflicts. Backgrounds of application of LOAC and its specificities,
- The way how to teach basic LOAC,
- How to be a better and more knowledgeable legal advisor to my commander.

**Future Plans:**

- In future iterations, LCHR will continue to focus on practical exercises to reinforce lecture topics, but an effort will be made to reduce group size during exercises.
- We will begin developing and distributing read ahead material for upcoming lectures. This will provide students with more foundation and allow for deeper discussion during practical exercises.
- Instructors will be instructed to clearly define and explain the differences between LOAC and Human Rights Law and the times when each applies.
- The Course Director will use reading material and lectures to build a course narrative, linking together all of the various lectures into several distinct themes.
- The next LCHR course is scheduled for 14-31 October 2019.

For more information

See the attached course schedule

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