

DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES

**Resident Course Report
Legal Aspects of Combating Terrorism (LCT)
21 March– 7 April 2016
Newport, Rhode Island**

Areas of Emphasis:

- 1) International Human Rights Law
- 2) International Law of Armed Conflict
- 3) Interagency Process and Structures

Protecting Human Rights

Interoperability and legal cooperation

International Cooperation

Interagency Structures and Cooperation

Participants: 31	
Military:	30
Civilian:	1
Female	4
AFRICA	11
CENT	3
EUROPE	8
NORTH	1
PACIFIC	4
SOUTH	4

Key Issues:

LCT participants are prepared to:

- 1) **Assist their countries to respond within the rule of law to terrorist threats using police and military power; and**
- 2) **Cooperate with the United States and other countries to counter multinational terrorism**

Background: Legal Aspects of Combating Terrorism (LCT) (MASL P176028) focuses on developing a cadre of alumni who carry out operations to combat terrorism consistent with the rule of law, using all instruments of national power, including military, with an emphasis on interagency cooperation. Participants gain a greater understanding of the U.S. approach to combating terrorism, including best practices and lessons learned from subject matter experts. For example, a brief about the Rhode Island Emergency Management Center and a visit to the Coast Guard Station for Sector New York City helped participants learn about U.S. models of interoperability that will help them build a basis for understanding, compatibility and cooperation with U.S. agencies combating terrorism.

Participants take part in cultural familiarization activities in Newport, RI, Boston, MA, and New York City as part of the DIILS Field Studies Program (FSP). These activities enhance participants’ understanding and appreciation of U.S. history, culture and values as well as the scale and impact of terrorism in the U.S.

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Mission Goal and Objectives:

- Explore means to combat terrorism that are effective and within the rule of law. Participants determine how they and their countries can contribute to military and law enforcement operations in response to terrorism.
- Familiarize participants with the international law that applies to combating terrorism as a crime, as a tactic of insurgents, and within armed conflict against international terrorist groups. They also explore U.S. domestic law to combat terrorism as crime in order to better assess their own national laws in this area.
- Familiarize participants with U.S. and international organizations and structures involved in the conduct of military and law enforcement operations in response to terrorism, and the processes used by these organizations and structures to reach decisions and take action.

Outcomes:

Participants responded to the following post-course survey questions:

Post-Course survey questions	Average Score (10 = Excellent)
To what extent did the course provide skills and knowledge that can be applied in the workplace?	9.2*
Would you recommend this course to your colleagues?	9.7*

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

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Participant Comments:

“What are the strengths of the course?”

- “The instructors as a team were able to answer any questions which were raised based upon their experience or knowledge of other historical events.”
- “I could see from practical examples how different states (especially the US) deal with the threat of terrorism and compare their approaches.”
- “Willingness of US to discuss its policies including weaknesses to learn the correct lessons.”
- “I learned that the best solutions to combating terrorism emerge when the commander and legal person combine together to solve all issues.”
- “The opportunity to meet people from all over the world having the same issues and sharing the way they are tackling them.”

“What, specifically did you learn that you anticipate using in your workplace?”

- “Importance of coordination of all government entities in combating terrorism.”
- “The fact that we are obliged always to respect human rights of the suspects in the cases of terrorism even though it is a crime that is the essence of evil.”
- “How to manage disasters and emergencies.”

Future Plans:

- Include discussion on use of drones for attacking terrorist groups.
- The next “Legal Aspects of Combating Terrorism” (LCT) course (MASL P176028) will be offered 20 March to 6 April 2017.

For more information:

See the attached course schedule.

Go to WWW.DIILS.ORG or

Email: DSCA.DIILS.ResidentPgm@mail.mil