

# **DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES**

## **Resident Course Report Legal Aspects of Combating Terrorism (LCT) 20 March– 6 April 2017 Newport, Rhode Island**

### **Areas of Emphasis:**

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

### **Key Issues:**

- Protecting Human Rights  
Interoperability and legal cooperation  
International Cooperation  
Interagency Structures and Cooperation

| <b>Participants: 41</b> |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Military:               | 35 |
| Civilian:               | 6  |
| Female                  | 5  |
| AFRICA                  | 14 |
| CENT                    | 10 |
| EUROPE                  | 7  |
| NORTH                   | 2  |
| PACIFIC                 | 4  |
| SOUTH                   | 4  |

### **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) focused 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 gained 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. Small group discussions and participant presentations reinforced the topics presented and allowed the participants to learn about different national perspectives for combating terrorism.

Participants took part in cultural familiarization activities in Newport, RI, Boston, MA, and New York City as part of the DIILS Field Studies Program (FSP). A highlight of the New York City trip was a visit to the 9/11 site. These activities enhanced participants' understanding and

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appreciation of U.S. history, culture and values as well as the scale and impact of terrorism in the U.S.

### **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:

| <b>Post-Course survey questions</b>  | <b>Average Score (10 = Excellent)</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| To what extent did the course provide skills and knowledge that can be applied in the workplace? | 9.3                                   |
| 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 course enabled me to understand how international organizations and other countries go about combating terrorism in accordance with the rule of law.”
- “The instruction included discussion questions for which voting was used as a means to gauge responses.”
- “Through interacting with all the member countries and sharing experiences on terror related matters and one can learn how best to address such issues in your own country.”
- “The course was very interesting and full of new materials. That is important for me as an army officer.”
- “The learning environment that is created at DIILS and the knowledge provided to the participants was a course strength.”

*“What is the highlight of the course?”*

- “The field studies visits to the UN, Rhode Island Emergency Management Operations Center, and the visit to the Coast Guard.”
- “The highlight of the course was understanding what constitutes a terrorist act and when and how to use force in dealing with terrorism within the rule of law.”

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

- “I learned that other countries have ROE for every mission and not just one set of ROE and that they provide. I have a better idea about the amount of training needed to enable our troops to understand targeting and ROE. Learning about the U.S. Joint Task Force helped me understand the importance of coordination of all government entities in combating terrorism.”
- “This course focused my attention more to the particular legal tools that are useful in conducting Special Operations against Terrorism.”
- “Working together between many agencies is not easy. Mindset changing from 'need to know' to 'need to share' is important in combating terrorism.”
- “For prosecution in terrorism matters, you need the cooperation of all the actors beginning with the investigation stage so as to be able to present the case well in court.”
- “I learned about the US law and the way the US combats terrorism and how my country can use the US for example in the fight against terrorism.”

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**Future Plans:**

- “The next Legal Aspects of Combating Terrorism (LCT) course (MASL P176028) will be offered 19 March to 5 April 2018.
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For more information:

See the attached course schedule.

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

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