

DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES

**Resident Course Report
Legal Aspects of Combating Terrorism (LCT)
19 March - 5 April 2018
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

Participants: 26	
Military:	22
Civilian:	4
Female	3
AFRICA	13
CENT	3
EUROPE	4
NORTH	0
PACIFIC	2
SOUTH	4

Mission Goal: 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 international 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. Small group discussions addressed the application of human rights, international law of armed conflict, rules of engagement and status of forces to operations 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 highlights of the New York City

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trip included a visit to the 9/11 site and a tour of the United Nations. These activities enhanced participants' understanding and 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:

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?	9.8

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

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Participant Comments:

“What is the highlight of the course?”

- “Obtaining a global perspective on terrorism from the representatives of the various countries.”
- “Gaining new information which will help me in the future in my workplace.”
- “Gaining a better understanding of U.S. culture, history and values.”

“What are the strengths of the course?”

- “Exchange of experiences and networking.”
- “Versatile speakers who are specialists in their own fields.”
- “Application of human rights law in combating terrorism.”
- “Understanding terrorism as a crime and how each country should prevent the threat.”
- “Good program planning.”
- “Good opportunity to make friends from different countries and cultures, and share with them their experience in combating terrorism.”

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

- “I learned specific knowledge about the international instruments regarding combatting terrorism and the other countries’ practice to combat terrorism.”
- “The strategies utilized by the U.S. in combating terrorism can be tweaked and adopted to improve policies and procedures in my jurisdiction.”
- “Always taking into account the legal side of any military decision.”
- “The importance of respect for international law in promotion and maintenance of international peace and security.”

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Future Plans:

- “The next Legal Aspects of Combating Terrorism (LCT) course (MASL P176028) will be offered 18 March to 4 April 2019.

For more information:

See the attached course schedule.

Go to WWW.DIILS.ORG or

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