

ADMINISTRATION

The registration fee is €2,500 Euros per team (€2,000 Euros for a second team). This should be remitted before the start of the course online, or on arrival in cash or credit card.

The registration fee covers:

- Transport from/to Nice Airport
- Lunches and coffee breaks Monday – Friday
- Closing Dinner Thursday night
- Course materials
- Course Photographs, Diploma & Institute Plaque
- Competition Prizes

Transfers from/to the Nice airport to Sanremo will be arranged. Details of timing for this service will be provided as part of the registration process.

The registration fee does not cover all other expenses incurred by the participant such as hotel accommodations, laundry or telephone calls, or meals in the evenings. Participants must ensure that they bring with them sufficient funds to pay for such expenses.

Queries on the course including registration and administrative questions should be directed to: patrizia@iihl.org. For further information please consult our website www.iihl.org.

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International Institute of Humanitarian Law
Institut International de Droit Humanitaire
Istituto Internazionale di Diritto Umanitario

22ND LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT (LOAC) COMPETITION FOR MILITARY ACADEMIES

SANREMO, 18 – 22 MARCH 2024



PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Monday, 18 March 2024

*All meetings on Monday are in the Plenary Room

**Dress is uniform

- 08.30–09.00 **Registration**
- 09.00–09.10 **Opening Ceremony**
- 09.10–09.30 **Competition Information**
Co-Directors of the Competition
- 09.30–10.00 **Morning Coffee Break**
- 10.00–11.00 ***“Means & Methods of Warfare”* Lecture**
- 11.10–12.10 ***“Actors on the battlefield” and “Command Responsibility”* Lecture**
- 12.15–14.00 **Lunch & Competition Photographs**
- 14.00–15.00 ***“Law of the Sea”* Lecture**
- 15.00–15.20 **Afternoon Coffee Break**
- 15.20–16.20 ***“LOAC & Air Operations”* Lecture**
- 16.30–17.00 **Competition Discussion**
- 18.00–20.00 **Cultural Evening (*Glass House*)**
Each Academy Team will be provided a table to decorate and showcase your home country. Please bring a sampling of national food and drink to share for a “potluck” gathering.

Tuesday, 19 March 2024

*All JOC Sessions are held in the assigned classrooms

- 08.30–09.00 **Overview of JOC Instructions**
- JOC In–Brief
(Plenary Room)
- 09.20–11.00 **Report to JOC to Receive Initial Tasking from JOC Commander – Cadets will then be released for Mixed Team Preparation (*Assigned Classrooms*)**
- 09.30–09.50 **Morning Coffee Break**
- 11.00–12.30 **JOC Session 1 (Issues 1–3)**
- 12.30 –14.00 **Lunch**
- 14.00 –15.00 **JOC Session 2 (Issues 4–5)**
- 15.00 –15.20 **Afternoon Coffee Break**
- 15.20 –16.20 **JOC Session 3 (Issues 6–7)**

Wednesday, 20 March 2024

*All JOC Sessions are held in the assigned classrooms

- 08.30–10.00 **JOC Session 4**
- 10.00–10.20 **Morning Coffee**
- 10.20–12.15 **JOC Session 5**
- 12.15 –13.45 **Lunch**
- 13.45 –15.00 **JOC Session 6**
- 15.00–15.20 **Afternoon Coffee Break**
- 15.20–17.00 **JOC Session 7**

Thursday, 21 March 2024

*All JOC Sessions are held in the assigned classrooms

- 08.30–10.00 **JOC Session 8**
- 10.00–10.20 **Morning Coffee Break**
- 10.20–12.15 **JOC Session 9**
- 12.15–13.45 **Lunch**
- 13.45–15.00 **JOC Session 10**
- 15.00–15.20 **Afternoon Coffee Break**
- 15.20–17.00 **JOC Session 11**
- 17.00–17.30 **JOC & Judges Hot–Wash**
- 20.00–Late **Closing Dinner**

(Attire is suit or coat and tie/dress)

Friday, 22 March 2024

*All events on Friday are in the Plenary Room

- 10.00–11.00 **Competition Evaluation Forms**
- 11.00–12.00 **Closing Ceremony & Awards**
- 12.00 **Lunch – Dispersal**

EXPLANATION OF THE COMPETITION

The Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) Competition for Military Academies aims to teach cadets LOAC and its application within the context of contemporary armed conflict. It is intended to compliment the national training of LOAC and to ensure that military cadets develop an early appreciation of the critical importance of LOAC in multinational military operations. In 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Competition was successfully held online and 18 teams coming from 13 academies participated and contributed to the 19th edition. In short, the Competition offers a unique international forum where cadets from numerous countries with different cultural and linguistic backgrounds learn to work together in a stimulating environment.

All aspects of the Competition are conducted in English. For the majority of cadets, English is a second or third language, so it is important for everyone to remember to speak clearly and slowly. This is equally important for Anglophone cadets given the many different accents that non-Anglophones may have difficulty with. Clear enunciation will allow all cadets and evaluators to understand the arguments made. Presentation skills are taken into account in the scoring though not in a manner which provides any advantage to Anglophone cadets.

The Competition has two phases: the preliminary phase and a practical (competition) phase.

Monday comprises the preliminary phase of the Competition which includes a day of interactive lectures on various aspects of LOAC to ensure all cadets have a base level of knowledge. Our lecturers will structure their presentations to enable the participation of the cadets who are encouraged to respond to and ask questions.

The practical phase begins on Tuesday when the Scenario Background and initial problems are handed out to all teams. This phase is conducted in the format of a simulated Joint Operations Centre (JOC).

The JOC is composed of “mixed teams” of three cadets from different military academies. There are a number of reasons why we do this:

1. The presence of mixed teams reduces the competitive stress between military academies;
2. With mixed teams, cadets are required to work in a multilingual and multicultural environment and must overcome these challenges to work effectively;
3. The Competition is in English and in principle we attempt to include one Anglophone per mixed team. The mixed team approach thus reduces linguistic difficulties; and
4. A mixed team environment promotes friendship and maximises the cultural exposure during the short duration of the Competition.
5. Multinational military operations are becoming more common, and this environment will best prepare officer candidates to succeed in their careers.

In the JOC sessions, each mixed team represents a fictitious country which is given specific instructions from its government and has different political and military priorities. The judges are aware of these various instructions, and cadets are evaluated on how they balance their national instructions while respecting LOAC. Each JOC has a JOC Leader who is an experienced military lawyer and who will question and challenge each team on the various problems that arise during the exercise.

During the JOC sessions, the mixed teams must demonstrate that they can deal effectively with the reality of a complex geopolitical situation, national priorities, and the rule of law, while at the same time conducting an efficient military operation in accordance with their mandate and mission. The aim is to realistically replicate the different pressures which impact real-world military operations.

The JOC’s will be conducted to represent as much as possible the realities, uncertainties, and stress of a JOC. Be prepared for Clausewitz’s “Fog and Friction” of War. Not only will the scenarios challenge you to think critically, but the approach of each JOC Leader may also vary to keep you on your toes.

Just as the composition of the participants is rich in military diversity, the fictitious JOC scenario mirrors such diversity with fictitious nations of all sizes, military capabilities, and international influence. As cadets represent the future military leaders from their respective countries, the focus of the Competition is to enable cadets to become familiar with the “bigger strategic picture” in addition to what happens at the lower operational levels of command.

It is important for participating cadets to have a basic knowledge of LOAC so they can identify and apply the various key LOAC treaties to the issues that arise during the Competition. These treaties will be provided to the cadets in the JOC, and they will be expected to refer to them when presenting their advice on the various issues that arise. The Competition will deal mainly with the following treaties:

1. UN Charter
2. 1907 Hague Conventions
3. 1949 Geneva Conventions
4. 1976 ENMOD Convention
5. 1977 Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions
6. 1980 Conventional Weapons Convention and its Protocols
7. Chemical Weapons Convention
8. Biological Weapons Convention
9. Cultural Property Conventions and their Protocols
10. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
11. Rome Statute of the ICC
12. Ottawa Convention (relating to Anti-personnel Landmines)
13. Oslo Convention (relating to Cluster Munitions)

This list does not imply that cadets should have specific articles memorized or that they have even studied them in great detail

prior to the Competition. All relevant legal texts will be furnished in English, French, and Spanish. Cadets are welcome to bring their own legal texts to Sanremo; however, they will not be allowed to refer to these materials or to the internet during the actual JOC sessions.

Cadets should be generally familiar with some of the key provisions within the documents mentioned above, know how to locate them during the sessions, and most importantly, be able to apply the principles embodied within these treaties to an armed conflict setting. Pragmatic application of LOAC within the operational context will be the key.

We very much hope that you will enjoy the experience, make new friends, enjoy Sanremo, and learn the law.

The evaluation of the mixed teams is conducted by a committee composed of experienced LOAC experts from around the world who act as the judges and sit in each JOC and assess and score all cadets and teams on their performance. The evaluation committee members are instructed to evaluate the cadets/teams as follows:

1. Knowledge of LOAC. Knowledge of LOAC can be demonstrated in several ways: Was the cadet/team able to identify the legal issue(s)? Was the cadet/team able to work effectively with the specified issue(s) and the law? Did the cadet/team propose or find a viable practical solution? Please Note: Cadets will be evaluated on their knowledge of LOAC and not how readily they can paraphrase their respective national positions.
2. Effective Communication. Was the cadet/team able to clearly structure their arguments and communicate it to the JOC Leader?
3. Effective Teamwork. Was the cadet/team able to work effectively within his/her team? Did all team members participate and contribute to the team?
4. Did the cadet/team contribute effectively in an international setting? Did the cadet/team merge the various political, diplomatic, legal, and military imperatives in an effective manner?
5. Did the cadet/team effectively deal with its linguistic and cultural differences?

At the close of the Competition, the evaluation committee, using the criteria listed above, will select the best mixed teams and the best individual cadets. Prizes will be given for 1st through 5th place in each category. The highest honour for the Competition will be for the best mixed team, as that team will have best demonstrated the purposes of the Competition, as described above. In addition, there will be a special prize awarded by the President of the IHL for the individual cadet, Academy, or mixed team who during the Competition most embodies the “Spirit of Sanremo.”