

## GENERAL COURSE PROFILE

### Aim

This course aims to address the IHL impact of new technology weapons through the vital topic of legal reviews of new weapons, means and methods of warfare.

### Objectives

The overarching teaching objectives of the course are to:

1. Equip participants with an understanding of the history, sources, objectives and development of international law regulating weapons and munitions.
2. Understand the sources and scope of the legal review obligation.
3. Explore how new technology weapons including autonomous, cyber and AI-enabled decision support tools impact the legal review of new weapons, means and methods of warfare.
4. Develop a practical understanding of the legal review process and reporting outcomes.
5. Introduction to the functional approach to the legal review of new technology weapons.

The course is designed for the following personnel:

- Military legal advisors who are or may become responsible for the conduct of legal reviews of new weapons.
- Policy makers and project managers who work in defence weapons procurement organisations.
- Diplomatic personnel working in arms control and counter-proliferation.
- Industry representatives responsible for the development of new technology weapons.
- Academic partners.

The teaching methodology used for this course comprises a combination of presentations, case studies, panel discussions and syndicate work. Attendees will participate in group case study exercises addressing current legal review issues. Exercises are facilitated by teaching staff utilising examples of new weapons, means and methods of warfare. The focus throughout the course is an experienced based methodology which practically addresses topics.

## ADMINISTRATION

The registration fee is €1,100. The fee should be remitted before the start of the course, cash or Credit cards are also accepted. The registration fee covers:

- Transfers to/from Nice Airport.
- Course materials.
- Lunch and coffee breaks on working days.
- Welcome Reception.
- Course dinner.
- Photograph, and Diploma

The registration fee does not cover all other expenses incurred by the participant such as hotel accommodation, laundry or telephone calls, or any other incidentals. Accordingly, participants should bring with them sufficient funds to pay for such expenses or have access to such funds in Sanremo via their bank.

Registrations and administrative questions should be directed to [military.department@iihl.org](mailto:military.department@iihl.org). For any further information please consult our website [www.iihl.org](http://www.iihl.org).

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

## The Legal Review of New Technology Weapons

Addressing the challenges in the legal review of new technology weapons including autonomous weapons.

27th – 31st October 2025  
Sanremo

## PROGRAMME



Dr (COL Rtd) Damian Copeland  
Article 36 Legal

Dr (AIRCDRE Rtd) Bill Boothby  
UK

LCDR Linda Leece  
Australian Defence Force

**Monday, 27 October 2025 - Introduction to Weapons Law**

08.30 - 09.00	<b>Registration of participants.</b>
09.00 - 09.15	<b>Course opening:</b> Lt Gen G. Battisti, President, IIHL, Dr G. Beruto, A/Sec General, IIHL, Col. N. Heppenstall, Director Military Dept.
09.15 - 09.45	<b>Course Introduction, followed by Participants Introductions.</b> Dr Copeland & Dr Boothby.
09.45 - 10.30	<b>Framework 1 - Introduction to Weapons Law</b> Dr Copeland & Dr Boothby
10.30 - 11.00	<b>Morning Coffee</b> (incl. Course photograph).
11.00 - 12.30	<b>Framework 2 – General Weapons Law prohibitions.</b> Dr Copeland & LCDR Leece
12.30 - 13.30	<b>Lunch.</b>
13.30 - 15.00	<b>Framework 3 - Specific Weapon Law Prohibitions and Restrictions.</b> Dr Boothby & LCDR Leece
15.00 - 15.30	<b>Afternoon Tea.</b>
15.30 - 16.15	<b>Takeaways 1: Realities of Weapons Law Development.</b> Dr Boothby
16.15 - 17.00	<b>Case Study: CCW GGE on LAWS</b> (with discussion). Dr Copeland
17.00 - 17.15	<b>Reflections on Day 1.</b> All staff.
17.15	<b>Welcome Reception.</b>

**Tuesday, 28 October 2025 – New Technology Weapons**

0830-0930	<b>A. Spotlight on Cyber Weapons.</b> Dr Boothby
09.30-10.30	<b>B. Spotlight on Autonomous Weapons.</b> Dr Copeland
10.30-11.00	<b>Morning Coffee.</b>
11.00-12.30	<b>C. Spotlight on AI Command Decision Tools and other technologies.</b> Dr Copeland & LCDR Leece
12.30-13.30	<b>Lunch.</b>
13.30-15.15	<b>Takeaways 2: Application of Weapons law to new technologies.</b> Dr Boothby
15.15-15.30	<b>Afternoon Tea.</b>
15.30-16.30	<b>Course themes - Challenges in the regulation of new technology weapons.</b> Dr Copeland
16.30-17.00	<b>Reflections on Day 2.</b> All staff.

**Wednesday, 29 October 2025 - The Legal Review Obligation**

08.30-09.30	<b>Framework 4. The sources and scope of the legal review obligation.</b> Dr. Boothby
09.30-10.30	<b>Framework 5. Traditional legal review process (steps)</b> Dr. Copeland
10.30-11.00	<b>Morning Coffee.</b>
11.00-12.30	<b>Framework 5.1. Traditional legal review process (standards and outcomes)</b> Dr. Boothby
12.30-13.30	<b>Lunch.</b>
13.30-15.00	<b>Syndicate Discussions: Apply the traditional legal review process to specific weapons and munitions</b> All Staff.
15.00-15.30	<b>Afternoon Tea.</b>
15.30-17.00	<b>Syndicate Presentation and Reflections on Day 3</b>

**Thursday, 30th October 2025 – The Functional Approach**

08.30-09.30	<b>Themes: Challenges in the legal review of new technology weapons</b> Dr Boothby
09.30-10.30	<b>Framework 6. A functional approach to the legal review of autonomous and cyber-Weapons (basis, scope)</b> Dr Copeland
10.30-11.00	<b>Morning Coffee.</b>
11.00-12.30	<b>Framework 6.1: A Functional Approach to the legal review of autonomous and cyber weapons (elements)</b> Dr Copeland
12.30-13.30	<b>Lunch.</b>
13.30-15.00	<b>Syndicate Discussions: Apply the functional approach to the legal review of autonomous and cyber weapons</b> All Staff.
15.00-15.30	<b>Afternoon Tea.</b>
15.30-1700	<b>Syndicate presentations &amp; reflections on Day 4.</b>
20.00	<b>Course Dinner.</b>

**Friday, 31st October 2025 – Review and Look Forward**

08.30-09.00	<b>Legal review exercise preparation</b> Dr. Copeland
09.00-11.00	<b>Conduct legal review exercise</b> All staff.
11.00-11.30	<b>Exercise conclusion</b>
11.30-12.15	<b>Course reflections: looking to the future &amp; emerging issues.</b> All staff.
12.30-13.00	<b>Course closing ceremony.</b> Lt Gen G. Battisti, President, IIHL, Dr G. Beruto, A/ Secretary General, IIHL, Col. N. Heppenstall, Director Military Dept. IIH
13.00-13.30	<b>Lunch.</b>