



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

The Protection of Civilians

A mission essential imperative in
modern combat operations

Sanremo, 2nd - 6th June 2025

Official Programme

Course Directors

Colonel (ret'd) Jerry Lane (IRL)

Professor Chris Jenks (USA)

Teaching Staff

Colonel Arrigo Gareffi (ITA)

Dr Daragh Murray (GBR)

Ms. Esther Grisnich (NLD)

Mr. Iain King, CBE, (GBR)

Ms. Jelena Pejic (SRB)

Lt. Colonel Steve Szymanski (USA)

Major Rebecca Smith (GBR)

COURSE INFORMATION

This course aims to address and explore the vital topic of the Protection of Civilians (POC) and to place the POC in its context and importance for contemporary military operations.

The overarching teaching objectives of the course are to:

1. Equip participants with an understanding of the legal, ethical, and operational frameworks for POC, to include IHL and Human Rights.
2. Explore the challenges of contemporary conflict and evolving threats to civilians, including technology, i.e., cyber risks, AI, UAV, and the interplay of military and civilian actors.
3. Explore how the challenge of contemporary conflict complicates the protection of civilians.
4. Foster a culture of awareness of the nature and complexity of the need to protect civilians.
5. Promote practical application through scenario-based learning and interactive discussions, and exercises.

The course is designed for the following personnel:

- Civilian, military, and police personnel who are deployed on missions with POC mandates.
- Policy makers in defence, foreign affairs, interior, or law enforcement.
- Personnel working in IOs, NGOs, etc., and/or missions of the UN and any of the regional organisations.
- Our 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 POC-related issues. Exercises are facilitated by teaching staff utilising examples of POC situations experienced by deployed military, police and civilian officials. The focus throughout the course is an experienced based methodology which practically addresses the associated topics.

ADMINISTRATION

The registration fee is €1100 Euro. This should be remitted before the start of the course, or on arrival in cash or by credit card through the website.

The registration fee covers:

- Course materials
- Transport from/to Nice Airport
- Lunches and coffee breaks on working days
- Reception drinks and course dinner
- Course Photograph and Diploma

Transfers to/from Nice airport will be provided upon arrival. Details of timings 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 accommodation, laundry or telephone calls. Participants must ensure that they bring with them sufficient funds to pay for such expenses.

Registrations and administrative questions should be directed to **military.department@iihl.org**. For any further information please consult our website **www.iihl.org**.

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Monday, 2nd June 2025

Introduction to the POC

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	Course Opening Ceremony <i>Col. N. Heppenstall, Director Military Dept.</i>
09:15 – 09:45	Course introduction, followed by Introductions participants'– <i>Col Lane & Prof Jenks</i>
09:45 – 10:30	POC in the contemporary operating environment – Risk, Relevance, Reward. <i>Col Lane & Prof Jenks.</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:30	Framework 1 – The Law. IHL, IHRL, Refugees Law, UN Charter and UN SC Resolutions. – <i>Prof Jenks & Dr. Murray.</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Framework 2 –Applicable references NATO, EU, UN, US (C-HRM). – <i>Ms. Grisnich.</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Afternoon Tea
15:30 – 16:15	Takeaways 1: Realities of operations & the language of POC– risk, harm and mitigation. – <i>Prof Jenks</i>
16:15 – 17:00	Case Study: Iraq in 2025 (with discussion). <i>Ms. Grisnich.</i>
17:00 – 17:15	Reflections on Day 1. <i>All staff</i>
17:15	Welcome Reception

Tuesday, 3rd June 2025

POC in Situations of Violence

08:30 – 09:00	A. Morning Brief – Scar Island. B. Spotlight – EU doctrine for POC – <i>Col Lane.</i>
09:00 – 10:30	A. POC in situations of violence below the threshold of armed conflict. B. Case study – Haiti. <i>Col Lane.</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Morning Coffee

11:00 – 12:30	Takeaways 2: Urban challenges in large-scale combat operations (LCO) – <i>Prof Jenks and Col Lane.</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch & Course Picture
13:30 – 15:00	'Ethics: Basic concepts and where does the POC fit in?' – <i>Mr. Iain King</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Afternoon Tea
15:30 – 16:30	Focus: Hand in hand? Human Rights and POC. – <i>Dr. Murray</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Syndicate Presentation and reflections on Day 2. – <i>All staff</i>

Wednesday, 4th June 2025

The POC in NIAC and IAC

08:30 – 09:00	A. Morning Brief. B. Spotlight – UN doctrine for POC. <i>Col Lane</i>
09:00 – 10:30	A. POC in NIAC and IAC. B. Case study – Somalia/Sudan. C. Case study – Ukraine. <i>Prof Jenks & Dr. Murray.</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Morning Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Takeaways 3: Resilience, threat assessment, analysis and risk mitigation. – <i>Ms. Grisnich.</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Takeaways 4: Understanding and mapping the human environment (Vulnerable groups, thematic issues, e.g. GBV, CAAC, CR-SV, CPP, etc. <i>Ms. Grisnich</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Afternoon Tea
15:30 – 16:30	Takeaways 5: POC & Law Enforcement. – <i>Col Gareffi</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Syndicate Presentation and reflections on Day 3.

Thursday, 5th June 2025

Issues relevant to POC

08:30 – 09:00	A. Morning Brief. B. Spotlight – NATO doctrine for POC. <i>Col Lane</i>
09:00 – 10:30	Takeaways 6: Displaced persons (IDPs, Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Returnees, etc.) <i>Refugee Dept, IIHL</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:45	Takeaways 7: Detention and the POC.
11:45 – 12:30	The ICRC & the POC – <i>Ms. Jelena Pejic</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Focus: The benefits and responsibilities of technology, AI, cyber threats and POC: New frontiers of conflict. – <i>Dr Murray & Prof Jenks</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Afternoon Tea
15:30 – 16:30	Case study: Tough lessons learned? The UN and POC. – <i>Col Lane</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Syndicate Presentation & reflections on Day 4.
20:00	Course Dinner

Friday, 6th June 2025

POC is core business

08:30 – 09:00	Exercise Preparation
09:00 – 11:00	Exercise POC SIMEX (Simulation Exercise). All staff. (Coffee Break at 10:30)
11:00 – 11:30	Exercise Conclusion
11:30 – 12:00	POC is core business ... looking to the future & emerging issues. – <i>All teaching staff</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Course Closing Ceremony <i>Col. N. Heppenstall, Director Military Dept. IIHL</i>
13:00 – 13:30	Lunch & Departure