

JUDr. Petra Ditrichová Ochmannová, Ph.D., is a Legal Advisor at the International Law Department, Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic where she has worked since 2007. She specializes in the Law of Armed Conflict and the legal framework and processes of NATO. She deals with all sorts of issues stemming from public international law (International treaties, MOUs, Legal aspects of deployment of troops, PMSCs, ROEs, International Human Rights Law, Detention etc.). As an external lecturer she cooperates with the Faculty of Law of Charles University in Prague. She is a co-founder of and the CZE MOD expert to the Czech Committee on Implementation of IHL, and an IHL expert for the Czech Red Cross.

From January 2019 to June 2020, she worked as an Associate Researcher at the Institute of International Relations in Prague, where she participated in a special project on current challenges related to international law. The project was commissioned by the CZE MFA.

From August 2017 to July 2018, she was posted in the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) in Capellen (Luxembourg) as Czech Liaison Officer. In this position she was responsible for preparing the Czech position for Agency Supervisory Board meetings and meetings of the Logistics and Finance, Audit and Control Committee regarding oversight of the NSPA. Furthermore, she was responsible for oversight and coordination of procurement activities of the CZE MOD in the NSPA, and promoting Czech Industry. From January to May 2018, she also provided a partial assistance to the NSPA Legal Office.

From January 2013 to December 2014, she worked in SHAPE, Mons (Belgium), where she pursued legal education and training for NATO Legal Community as Deputy Legal Adviser to NATO's Allied Command Transformation Staff Element Europe. As Editor-in-Chief of the NATO Legal Gazette she published 6 thematically focused issues (Gender, Operational Records, Proceedings from NATO Legal Conference, NATO Legal Cornerstones, NATO and EU, and Legal Issues of Cyber). In addition, she served as Deputy Officer of Primary Responsibility for NATO Legal Advisors and Operational Law courses delivered at the NATO School, Oberammergau. She also served as Secretary and national expert for the NATO Training Group Task Group developing the NATO Standard on training in Rules of Engagement (STANAG 2597). From 2009 to 2012, she participated as national expert and later as national Co-chairman in the NATO working group developing the NATO Standard on the training in Law of Armed Conflict (STANAG 2449).

Petra lectured at NATO School in Oberammergau, SWEDINT in Kungsangen, and at a LOAC course for Military LEGADs in Warsaw. For the Czech Armed Forces she designed and delivered a number of legal and training courses focused on International Law, LOAC, Human Rights Law, ROE, Detention, and NATO legal aspects.

She published on Private Security and Military Companies (Bakker, Sossai: Multilevel Regulation of Military and Security Contractors – The Interplay between International, European and Domestic Norms, HART Publishing, 2012; PRIV-WAR: Report on national legislation and case law), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (CYIL Vol 2, 2011; CYIL Vol. 7, 2016), Law of Armed Conflict (Iuridica 4/2009), NATO (NATO Legal Gazette, Leuven Manual on the International Law Applicable to Peace Operations, Cambridge University Press, 2017), Nuclear Weapons (Jaderné odzbrojení, 2021) or Domestic Military Deployment (Collins, Hall: Military Operation and Engagement in the Domestic Jurisdiction: Comparative Call-out Laws, Brill Nijhoff, 2022 forthcoming).

Petra holds a Doctoral degree in Public International Law from Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic (thesis: Legal Regulation of Activities of Non-State Armed Actors in Armed Conflict). She also holds a Diploma in the Introduction to English Law and the Law of the EU from the University of Cambridge.

Petra has been a BOD member of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War since 2009. From 2015 to 2021, she also served as this Society's President of the Committee on General Affairs.