



**XIII<sup>th</sup> Seminar for Legal Advisors of the Armed Forces**  
**20-23 June 2023, United States Military Academy**  
**West Point (NY) , United States of America**

**Reference: ISMLLW 1135 N E 2**

Brussels, 20 March 2023

Dear Madam,  
Dear Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War (ISMLLW) will organise its XIII<sup>th</sup> International Seminar for Legal Advisors of the Armed Forces from 20 to 23 June 2023 at the United States Military Academy at West Point (New York), United States of America. We gratefully acknowledge the support provided by the co-organizers, the Department of Law of the United States Military Academy and the Lieber Institute for Law & Warfare at West Point.

The central theme of this Seminar is **“Fault Lines in the Laws of War”**. The international and non-international armed conflicts that have plagued the 21<sup>st</sup> Century have revealed fault lines in the laws that govern them. These fault lines may appear as disagreements between States regarding the content, interpretation, or application of the relevant rules or simply as uncertainty regarding their content. They can hamper joint and combined operations, lead to operational indecision, or hinder consensus condemnation of unlawful behavior. States may even exploit these “grey zones” in the law to secure strategic or operational advantage or to split alliances.

This Seminar will bring together legal advisors and academics to discuss law of war fault lines. Optimally, it will allow participants to find common ground that can serve to minimize their impact. At the least, the discussions will help participants to better understand the views of other States and assess their consequences. This will enable them to optimize their operations and decisions in the face of disagreement or uncertainty.

We are delighted that the Seminar will take place at West Point and that a fortification tour at the perimeters of West Point will be part of the programme.

The central theme is divided into different sub-themes as you will find in the enclosed draft programme. The sub-themes will be elaborated upon during lectures in plenary and during working sessions, chaired by distinguished scholars and senior officers. Highly experienced speakers will address case law and specific operational situations.

In line with the successful seminars in Budapest (2002), Strasbourg (2005), Windhoek (2008), Riga (2010), Muenster (2013), Galway (2014), Stockholm (2017) and Geneva (2019) this Seminar is intended for military legal advisors holding the ranks of captain to colonel and civilian experts with comparable civilian rank. Assuming a general knowledge of the law of armed conflict, the Seminar will further train the participants in various aspects of its practical implementation.

The language during the plenary sessions of the Seminar will be English. A reasonable command of this language is strongly recommended.

You are kindly requested to register as quickly as possible, however **no later than 1 May 2023**. The participation fee amounts to € 435,- per person for members of the Society and € 485,- for non-members. This fee also covers coffee/tea during Seminar sessions and several meals as stipulated in the programme, as well as the fortification tour mentioned earlier. The Seminar does not offer any facilities or any programme for accompanying persons.

Please find enclosed the provisional programme of the Seminar as well as an application form. Details for the transfer of the participation fee will be provided by the General Secretariat in Brussels after the application form has been received. The participation fee is due no later than 15 May 2023.

The venue for the Seminar is the United States Military Academy at West Point (USMA). Direct flights to Newark Liberty International Airport (NJ) are available from numerous countries. We are grateful that USMA will provide transportation from Newark to West Point on Monday 19 June and back to Newark on Friday 23th June, and daily from several hotels to West Point and back. For more information, please see the attached application form, the hotel information sheet and the transport itinerary. Non-U.S. participants may have to apply for a visa or other travel document at the appropriate Embassy or Consulate of the United States of America. Participants are responsible for timely application for their visa and/or other documents, and travel to, from and in the United States of America is an individual responsibility.

The international composition of the group will offer a truly unique opportunity to exchange experiences and ideas and will prepare participants for future international assignments. The International Society for Military Law and the Law of War very much welcomes you to this Seminar.

Yours respectfully,



Aart Jan DE HAAN

Director of Seminars  
International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

Brigadier General, Military Legal Service  
Royal Netherlands Army

Attachments:

1. Provisional Seminar Programme
2. Application Form
3. Hotel Information Sheet
4. Transport Itinerary

**Mailing address & Seat/Adresse de correspondance & Siège:**

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