



# Law of Armed Conflict

- Basic Principles
- Rules of Targeting/ Engagement
- Legal/Illegal Weapons
- Detainees
- Reporting requirements
- Consequences for Violating LOAC





## TERMS

**Law of Armed Conflict**– the set of minimum generalized rules that apply during an armed conflict.

**International law** – established rules that regulate the conduct of nations.

**Rules of Engagement** – Specific instructions telling forces how to operate during a specific conflict or military operation.

**Customs and Tradition** – practices which nations have complied with which have become binding.



## Focused Force

- LOAC considers post-conflict recovery
- LOAC conserves resources
- LOAC maximizes mission effectiveness



## It's Mandatory

- International Law
- Treaties
- International Agreements
- UCMJ
- Domestic Law



## PRINCIPLES OF LOAC

### **Military Necessity**

- Complete the mission

### **Humanity**

- No unnecessary suffering

### **Proportionality**

- Minimum force necessary

### **Distinction**

- Fight hostile combatants





## LOAC & Rules of Engagement (ROE)

### LOAC

Constant No Matter Where  
the operation is located

LOAC International Law  
Approved by Nations

### ROE

Specifically written based  
mission concerns

- Legal, political,  
operational, and  
diplomatic concerns

ROE written by COCOM  
and approved by  
President and SecDef

ROE



LOAC



## CONSISTENT RULE

Inherent right of **self defense** to protect themselves, their units and other US units from **hostile acts** or **hostile intent**

**Must use proportional force**



## RULES FOR TARGETING

We can lawfully target certain people, places and things

**Legal targets:** military personnel and civilians directly participating in hostilities, military infrastructure, facilities, equipment and civilian property being used by the enemy

### Noncombatants

- ⊗ Medical personnel, chaplains, POWs, wounded, shipwrecked, air crews escaping disabled aircraft

### Protected Property or Places.

- ⊗ Medical facilities or equipment marked with Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Star of David, other protected symbols
- ⊗ Cultural places
- ⊗ Religious places



Protected targets who take part in hostilities lose their protected status. When directly participating.





# WEAPONS

## Legal Weapons

- Those issued to you includes napalm, flame throwers, white phosphorous
- May be limited by Rules of Engagement (ROE)
- Cannot modify weapons or ammunition



## Illegal weapons

- ⊗ Poisons (gases, liquids)
- ⊗ Asphyxiating agents
- ⊗ Blister Agents
- ⊗ Biological & Bacteriological weapons
- ⊗ "Dum-Dum" or hollow point small arms ammunition
- ⊗ Glass projectiles
- ⊗ Chemical weapons
- ⊗ Barbed lances



## ILLEGAL METHODS

Treachery / perfidy – examples:

- Feigning injury
- Feigning surrender
- Feigning civilian, noncombatant status while engaging in hostilities
- Feigning protected status
- Misuse of protected symbols
- Misuse of recognized distress signals



## DETAINEES

**POWs** – combatants, to include civilians accompanying armed crews, are entitled to POW status.

POWs are not returned until the end of conflict.

**Retained Personnel** - Medical personnel and chaplains cannot be held as POWs. They may be retained to treat our troops. Once finished, should be returned. May not be held to end of conflict.



## HANDLING DETAINEES

### MUST PROVIDE:

- Food
- Water
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Shelter
- Medical treatment
- Humane Treatment





## POWs

- POWs must be kept separate from the battlefield
- POW camps must be clearly marked
- POWs cannot be mentally or physically abused or used for scientific experiments
- POWs cannot be punished for failure to answer questions or for actions of other POWs
- POWs cannot be kept in a confined area at sea or exposed to combat fire
- POWs cannot be kept in restraints indefinitely
- POWs cannot be used to keep areas free of attack
- POWs cannot be used for public display/ satisfy curiosity/propaganda
- POWs entitled to humane treatment
- POWs are entitled to certain personal items
- POWs are entitled to protective gear



## POWs - continued

- Female POWs are entitled to appropriate care/separate facilities
- Enlisted POWs can be required to do physical labor not directly related to war activity
- Captor responsible for care/upkeep and sanitation of the POW camp
- POWs can lawfully complain about conditions in the POW camp and seek redress
- Breaches of discipline by POWs are dealt with according to camp rules and punishment limited by Geneva Convention



## DUTY TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

You have an affirmative duty to report any suspected LOAC violation: BY enemy, US, or any allied forces. Report to supervisor or commander. May also contact the IG, Legal Office, Air Force OSI, or security forces.



## "JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS"

- Ask for clarification if suspect order is not legal
- Must refuse to obey an order to violate LOAC
- Subject to prosecution for violations



All Airmen are required to know LOAC, adhere to ROE, and report violations

**You can be prosecuted for failing to report**





# For additional information-

Site Actions -

**Ancillary Training** - Home

NOB AID - ADMIRAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION **Ancillary Training** Formal Schools PHE Qualification Training CDC CCAP

Functional Areas  
Force Development Office  
Program Training Managers  
Functional Managers  
School Liaisons  
Finance Office  
Resources

Essential Information  
All Docs  
Guidance  
Messages  
Forums  
Contacts  
Links  
UTA Schedule  
ANG UTA Schedule

Recycle Bin  
 All Site Content

## ANG Ancillary Training Program

[Our Team & Mission](#) [Program Guidance](#) [Schedule / Requirements](#) [Top 10 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

### COURSE INFORMATION

Required for All ANG	Required for Some ANG	No Longer Required As Individual Courses (but still of value)	Training Systems
<a href="#">Force Protection</a>	<a href="#">Expeditionary Skills</a>	<a href="#">Lautenberg Amendment</a>	
<a href="#">Free Exercise of Religion</a>	<a href="#">GTCC</a>	<a href="#">Suicide Prevention</a>	<a href="#">ADLS</a>
<a href="#">Green Dot - SAPR, Suicide, WP Violence</a>	<a href="#">No FEAR</a>	<a href="#">Warrior and Survivor Care</a>	<a href="#">G081</a>
<a href="#">Human Relations</a>			<a href="#">IMDS</a>
<a href="#">Information Assurance (Cyber Awareness)</a>			



## Law Of Armed Conflict

Now for some questions  
from your facilitator.

By sending this code to your Supervisor, you are confirming that you read the material above.  
Send this code to your supervisor:  
LOAC000COMPLETE