

DIILS Mission

The Defense Institute of International Legal Studies (DIILS) serves as the lead U.S. Department of Defense Security Cooperation resource for global legal engagement with Partner Nation security sector institutions and personnel. We work to advance U.S. national security and foreign policy interests by building the capacity of foreign security forces to respond to shared security challenges in a responsible, accountable, and legally compliant manner. We strive to strengthen Partner Nation legal capacity through activities that promote the rule of law, enhance compliance with human rights and international humanitarian law standards, and support effective and responsible democratic governance and oversight of security institutions and forces.

What is Legal ICB?

★ DIILS Legal Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) programs facilitate Partner Nation development of enduring institutional structures, policies, and processes that are necessary to sustain or manage important security capabilities through advisory and consulting services. DIILS is the primary Department of Defense (DOD) implementer of Legal ICB activities.

★ DOD ICB activities are executed using various modes of engagement, including facilitated discussion and tabletop exercises, which are designed to achieve shared program objectives that can be monitored and evaluated. Leahy vetting is required for all ICB engagements.

DIILS Legal ICB Focus Areas



Legal Authorities, Doctrine, and Policies



Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response



Cyber, Space and Emergent Technology



Human Rights



Law of Armed Conflict



Maritime Security and Domain Awareness



Women, Peace, and Security



Climate Change and National Security

Legal ICB Impact

★ Legal ICB activities support Partner Nations' capacity to:

- Integrate legal matters into the authorities, doctrine, and policies of the Partner Nation's defense or security-related forces
- Build legal capacity of the forces and personnel of security-related ministries to ensure equitable, transparent, and accountable institutions
- Provide appropriate legal support to operational commanders
- Establish military justice systems that are objective, transparent, and impartial
- Promote understanding and observance of the law of armed conflict; human rights and fundamental freedoms; the rule of law; and civilian control of the military

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