



3.0 - INTRODUCTION: WAR

3.1 - NARRATION

War has been a fact of life throughout history. It brings out the best in us... but it also brings out the worst in us including rape, looting, senseless murder, torture, and terrorism as witnessed in conflicts through history. Whether in Syria, Iraq, Sudan, or Nigeria, the brutality of war is continually spotlighted on the nightly news.

What can be done to prevent such ruthlessness?

Click **Next** to continue.

3.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

The best in us

The worst in us

The conflicts through history

and the brutality of war



4.0 - INTRODUCTION: LOW

4.1 - NARRATION

One way, of course, is to stop wars altogether. Unfortunately, that has proven unattainable. The other way is to provide processes for protecting the basic human rights of those affected by war. This has already been addressed through international agreements regarding the conduct of war.

These rules apply to countries involved in conflict, including its Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen. They apply to declared wars like World War II, and undeclared wars like Vietnam and Korea. These rules define what's right and what's wrong during the conduct of war, bounded by the concepts of discipline, integrity and self-control.

As members of our country's Armed Services, we swear to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

Yet we are guided by our country's values of compassion, dignity and respect for basic human rights. As a nation, we endeavor to minimize unnecessary and inhumane behavior during conflicts. That is why the US has championed various modern rules of conduct spelled out by international customs and treaties, forming the foundation for this training.

Guided by our country's values. Guided by The Law of War.

Click **Next** to continue.

4.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

World Peace

World War

Basic human rights

International agreements

Rules that define what's right and what's wrong during the conduct of war

Guided by our country's values

Guided by the Law of War (LoW)



5.0 - LESSON OBJECTIVES

5.1 - NARRATION

The objectives for this course are to describe the need for the Law of War, identify the five basic principles of the Law of War and define the United States Airforce Rules for implementing the Law of War.

Click **Next** to continue.

5.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

The objectives for this course are:

- Describe the need for the Law of War.
- Identify the five basic principles of the Law of War.
- Define the United States Air Force Rules for implementing the Law of War.



6.0 - NEED FOR LOW: DEFINITION

6.1 - NARRATION

The following section will define Law of War (LoW).

What is LoW?

Click the highlighted link, then click **Next** to continue.

6.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

What is LoW?

LoW is defined as, “that part of international law that regulates the resort to armed force; the conduct of hostilities, and the protection of war victims in both international and non-international armed conflict; aggressive occupation; and the relationships between hostile, neutral, and non-hostile States.”

LoW is sometimes referred to as the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC). Both terms can be found in DOD directives and training materials. Additionally, International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is an alternative term for LoW that has the same applicable meaning as LoW.

6.3 - INTERACTION-SCREEN TEXT

Non-international Armed Conflict:

This type of conflict is defined as an “armed conflict,” not of an international character, taking place within the bounds of a single state’s borders; where the aggressors may be revolutionaries or insurgents fighting against their government.



7.0 - NEED FOR LOW: INITIAL EFFORTS

7.1 - NARRATION

Where does LoW come from?

LoW comes from concerns over constraining the behaviors of warring parties, and reducing the pain and suffering of combatants and the innocent. For centuries, numerous civilizations have attempted to introduce civility in an otherwise uncivil endeavor.

Explore each of these historical sources for LoW by clicking each position on the timeline.

7.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Ramayana, India, 4th Century, Sun Tzu, China, 5th Century, Early Islamic history, 7th Century, Chivalry, 12th Century, Dunant, the Battle of Solferino, France, 1859, The Lieber Code, 1863

7.3 - INTERACTION-SCREEN TEXT

Ramayana, India, 4th Century

In the 4th century BCE, Indian civilization acknowledged the need to minimize unnecessary suffering and to protect civilians. India's epic poem, Ramayana forbids the use of a weapon that can annihilate an enemy nation. The poem prohibits this type of destruction even though an opposing state may use this type of illegal warfare.

Sun Tzu, China, 5th Century

Sun Tzu, Chinese Warrior, accredited author of The Art of War, 5th century Before Common Era (BCE): "Treat captives well, and care for them. Attacks should only be lodged against the enemy's armies—the worst policy is to attack cities."

Early Islamic history, 7th Century

Principles found in modern law on armed conflict were espoused in early Islamic history. Muhammad gave various injunctions to his forces and adopted practices toward the conduct of war. In the early 7th century, these laws were summarized by the first Caliph, Abu Bakr, in the form of ten rules for the Muslim army. Those rules prohibited things such as mutilating dead bodies; killing a child, woman, or an aged man; bringing harm to the trees, especially those with fruit; and slaying the enemy's flock. In addition, warriors were instructed to leave alone those people who had devoted their lives to monastic services.



Chivalry, 12th Century

The laws of chivalry were developed in medieval Western Europe, and along with that, rules limiting the way war may be waged were also instituted. Codes of chivalry were developed which, among other things, prohibited the use of certain weapons.

Dunant, the Battle of Solferino, France, 1859

The Father of the Red Cross, John Henri Dunant, arrived at Solferino where a battle between France and Austria occurred. He found thirty-eight thousand wounded, dying or dead that remained on the battlefield with little, if any, attempt to provide care or burial. Dunant organized the civilians to give aid and led the effort to purchase medical supplies. His actions and experience were the impetus for the Red Cross.

The Lieber Code, 1863

Both the Geneva Law and Hague Law draw upon the Lieber Code, approved by President Lincoln during the US Civil War. This code was the first attempt to codify rules of warfare.



8.0 - NEED FOR LOW: INTERNATIONAL LAW

8.1 - NARRATION

These early attempts at establishing rules for conflict manifest today under three main sources of LoW: The First Geneva Convention, The Hague Conventions, and Customary International Law.

Explore each of these sources by clicking each button on the screen.

8.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Three main sources of international law: The First Geneva Convention, The Hague Conventions, Customary International Law

8.3 - INTERACTION-SCREEN TEXT

The First Geneva Convention

Geneva Law: The First Geneva Convention was signed in 1864. The current Geneva Conventions went into effect after World War II and are comprised of four separate treaties and two additional protocols that serve to protect the victims of war and reduce their suffering. Primarily the Geneva Convention attempts to:

- Protect people and property that do not contribute to the adversary's warfighting capability.
- Protect both combatants and non-combatants from unnecessary suffering.
- Safeguard human rights of those who are captured – whether they are prisoners of war, wounded and sick, or civilians.
- Work towards restoring peace after hostilities.

The Hague Conventions

Hague law focuses on the means and methods of warfare. Modern treaties banning the use of chemical or biological weapons can trace their origins to The Hague Conventions.

Customary International Law

The last category consists of those customs of international law not captured in any treaty, but are generally followed by states out of a sense of obligation. In addition to customary international law, LoW also comprises a State's domestic laws governing the conduct of warfare.



9.0 - NEED FOR LOW: COMBATANTS VS. CIVILIANS

9.1 - NARRATION

The Geneva Conventions define combatants as the fighting forces of a state. They can be members of the regular armed forces, members of militias, or other forces authorized by the state to conduct armed conflict on its behalf.

Those who do not directly or indirectly take part in hostilities are considered civilians. Because ordinary citizens typically offer little to no resistance, it has long been recognized that there is no justification to attack them.

What becomes more difficult is how one defines a “civilian.” Some people in the population are not officially associated with a state’s military, but decide to take up arms anyway.

That is why LoW draws further distinctions amongst those classified as combatants and civilians.

Those distinctions include the following:

- Lawful Combatants
- Non-Combatants
- Unprivileged Belligerents
- Civilians

Explore each category by clicking the linked text.

9.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Distinctions of combatants:

9.3 - INTERACTION-SCREEN TEXT

Lawful Combatants

Lawful combatants are members of a State's fighting forces; be they a standing army, para-military forces, or militias. The conventions require these forces to have a distinct chain of command, wear uniforms or other markings to distinguish them from civilians, carry their weapons openly, and adhere to LoW. They are subject to capture and detention, but are accorded the privileges of the Geneva Conventions and LoW.

Non-Combatants

The term non-combatant has traditionally been applied to anyone not engaged in hostilities. However, the US takes the position that non-combatants are members of an armed force who are immune from attack based on their humanitarian duties. This group includes medical personnel and chaplains who are exclusively engaged in non-hostile activities.



Unprivileged Belligerents

Formerly referred to as unlawful combatants, this “third category” of persons is a recent distinction that describes those who decide to directly participate in hostilities, even though they are not authorized to do so by their nation’s military.

Examples include individual insurgents or members of an organized armed group [i.e., al Qaeda or Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)]. Because they choose to participate in hostilities, they may be the object of attack and subject to detention. However, they are not entitled to some of the protections/privileges accorded by LoW – meaning they are subject to trial and punishment by military tribunals for their unlawful belligerency.

Civilians

The Geneva Conventions, while differentiating between “combatants” and “civilian,” falls short in specifically defining a “civilian.” Instead, the treaty distinguishes civilians as being those who are not combatants. As such, the DOD Law of War Manual defines civilian as:

“A member of the civilian (general) population, i.e., a person who is neither part of nor associated with an armed force or group, nor otherwise engaging in hostilities.”

Therefore, because civilians are not engaged in hostilities, they may not be the object of an attack.



10.0 - NEED FOR LOW: APPLIED

10.1 - NARRATION

The full body of international law, including LoW, take effect at the beginning of hostilities between two or more countries. During internal conflicts, such as civil wars or insurgencies, only certain portions of the law take effect. Those portions generally call for the humane treatment of the victims of the non-international armed conflict.

10.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

When does LoW apply?

First Strike Gulf War Air Campaign 1991



11.0 - NEED FOR LOW: APPLICABILITY

11.1 - NARRATION

It may seem obvious, but it is critical to point out that all services and its members are required by policy to adhere to LoW. This mandate even includes government civilians and contractors that accompany the military forces.

Conversely, civilian members of a population also have obligations under LoW – that is – theirs is an obligation to refrain from directly taking part in hostilities, otherwise they forfeit their protected status.

Whereas the first LoW edict focuses on assisting mission accomplishment.

The remaining three focuses on minimizing the excessive use of military force, with an emphasis on reducing any inhumane activity that might produce undesired/unintended negative effects on enemy combatants and the civilian populace.

11.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Why must the USAF follow LoW?

Practical implications of LoW:

- To assist in mission accomplishment
- To regulate use of force
- To protect against unnecessary suffering
- To promote humane treatment



12.0 - THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF LOW: INTRODUCTION

12.1 - NARRATION

Central to LoW are five basic principles:

- Military Necessity
- Humanity
- Discrimination or Distinction
- Proportionality
- Honor

Understanding these principles will help you evaluate whether your actions in a conflict are within the bounds of international law.

Click each link to explore the Principles of LoW.

12.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

The Five Principles of LoW are:

- Military Necessity
- Humanity
- Discrimination or Distinction
- Proportionality
- Honor

Click each link to explore the Principles of LoW.



13.0 - THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF LOW: MILITARY NECESSITY

13.1 - NARRATION

Military Necessity

The first principle of LoW is that of military necessity, which is defined as: "...the principle that justifies the use of all measures needed to defeat the enemy as quickly and efficiently as possible that are not prohibited by LoW."

Military necessity may justify not only lethal actions, but also other means of countering the enemy. For example, military necessity may justify the capture of high value enemy persons...or allow the use of non-lethal measures, such as propaganda, intelligence-gathering, and cyber actions.

As commander's plan and execute their operations – oftentimes with lethal force – they must carefully balance mission goals with the intended effects their actions have on the enemy's forces and unintended effects on their civilian population. Click each link a commander must consider in developing the military objectives.

13.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Military Necessity

Use of all measures needed to defeat the enemy as quickly and efficiently as possible that are not prohibited by LoW.

Military Objectives:

- Conditions
- Objectives
- Tasks
- Effects

To this end, LoW provides a "scale" commanders and forces in the field may use to calibrate a balance between their actions and legal prohibitions.

13.3 - INTERACTION-SCREEN TEXT

Conditions

Conditions: Describe the state of the operational environment the commander wants to create (i.e., defending a state's sovereignty, regime change, or nullifying insurgent activity, etc.).

Objectives

Objectives: Are clearly defined, decisive, and attainable goals toward which an operation is directed.

Tasks

Tasks: Are the direct friendly actions to create desired effect(s).

Effects

Effects: Any change in the environment resulting from the actions taken. Those actions may be kinetic or non-kinetic; with lethal or non-lethal impact. Also, effects can be immediate or they may result through a causal chain. Finally, effects may result in desired, undesired, intentional or unintentional outcomes.



14.0 - THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF LOW: HUMANITY

14.1 - NARRATION

Humanity

The second principle is that of humanity, which is defined as the principle that forbids the infliction of suffering, injury, or destruction deemed unnecessary to accomplish a legitimate military purpose. For example, if an enemy combatant has been incapacitated by being severely wounded or captured, no military purpose is served by continuing to attack them.

Furthermore, the application of this principle triggers other LoW precautions.

Please refer to the examples of LoW precautions on the screen.

14.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Humanity

Forbids the infliction of suffering, injury, or destruction deemed unnecessary to accomplish a legitimate military purpose.

Examples of LoW precautions:

- Protections for the civilian population and civilian objects
- Protections for military medical and religious personnel, units, and transports
- Prohibitions on weapons that are calculated to cause unnecessary injury
- Prohibitions on weapons that are inherently indiscriminate



15.0 - THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF LOW: DISCRIMINATION OR DISTINCTION

15.1 - NARRATION

Discrimination or Distinction

The third principle is that of discrimination, sometimes called Distinction, forces parties in a conflict to distinguish between their armed forces and the civilian population, and between unprotected and protected entities. Because the Geneva Conventions specifically define who is a combatant, the principle of distinction seeks to separate a State's armed forces from their civilian population, guided by the convention's classifications.

Therefore, those involved in a conflict must develop a framework to classify persons and objects by discriminately conducting attacks only against the combatants; and Identifying combatant personnel and equipment in one's own force.

Failure to do so may have severe consequences. For example, if enemy forces intermingle with civilians, then our forces may be unable to avoid harming innocent civilians.

15.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Discrimination or Distinction

Forces parties in a conflict to distinguish between their armed forces and the civilian population.

Framework to classify persons and objects by:

1. Discriminately conducting attacks only against the combatants
2. Identifying combatant personnel and equipment in one's own force



16.0 - THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF LOW: PROPORTIONALITY

16.1 - NARRATION

Proportionality

Proportionality may be defined as the principle that, even where you are justified in acting, you must not act in way that is unreasonable or excessive. In other words, the principle of proportionality challenges a commander to balance any military advantage gained by an attack against any anticipated unreasonable or excessive loss to civilian lives or property.

This dilemma usually comes into play when a legitimate target is located near a civilian population. Please review the following examples.

16.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Proportionality

According to the 9/11 Commission report, there were several opportunities to attack Osama bin Laden before the attack on the World Trade Center towers. At least two of those attacks were never carried out due to issues of proportionality.

May 1998: a plan to kidnap Osama bin Laden from his 80-building compound on the outskirts of the Kandahar airport was scrapped partially due to the concern that civilians might be killed.

December 1998: More missile strikes are planned near Kandahar, but are called off by President Clinton. According to the President, "...I could have killed him, but I would have to destroy a little town called Kandahar in Afghanistan and kill 300 innocent women and children, and then I would have been no better than him. And so, I didn't do it."



17.0 - THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF LOW: HONOR

17.1 - NARRATION

Honor

The fifth principle is that of Honor and demands a certain amount of fairness in offense and defense, and a certain mutual respect between opposing forces. Honor is sometimes referred to as chivalry, and is often associated with the behavior amongst knights in Europe during the Middle Ages.

A common complaint among friendly forces is that the enemy does not always abide by this principle. While this may be true, that argument targets the wrong actor. We are professional warfighters; and the enemy's lack of honor only serves to highlight why it is so important that Airmen abide by a higher standard.

17.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Honor

Even where you are justified in acting, you must not act in way that is unreasonable or excessive.



18.0 - THE 10 AIRMEN RULES OF LOW: INTRODUCTION.

18.1 - NARRATION

The 10 Airmen Rules of LoW

What this scale graphically represents is the careful balance between a commander's desire to achieve military objectives. Guided by the principle of Military Necessity, with a humane application of military power in order to avoid unintended and undesired effects on the enemy's forces and civilian populations. A commander does so by behaving honorably, largely by ensuring operations take into account the proportionality of the military action, all while continuously distinguishing enemy combatants from the civilian population.

As you prepare for deployment, you must also be mindful of the delicate balance of these principles of LoW. To that end, the US Air Force has established the 10 Rules for Airmen, which highlight your humanitarian responsibilities to adhere to LoW. They are:

1. Fight only combatants.
2. Do not harm enemies who surrender.
3. Do not kill or torture personnel in their custody.
4. Collect and care for the wounded, whether friend or foe.
5. Treat civilians humanely.
6. Do not attack protected persons or protected places.
7. Destroy no more than the mission requires.
8. Respect private property and possessions.
9. Act with excellence and do their best to prevent violations of LoW.
10. Act with integrity and report all suspected LoW violations to their superiors.
11. Understanding these rules will help you evaluate whether your actions in a conflict are within the bounds of international law.

18.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

The 10 Rules for Airmen:

1. Fight only combatants.
2. Do not harm enemies who surrender.
3. Do not kill or torture personnel in their custody.
4. Collect and care for the wounded, whether friend or foe.
5. Treat civilians humanely.
6. Do not attack protected persons or protected places.
7. Destroy no more than the mission requires.
8. Respect private property and possessions.
9. Act with excellence and do their best to prevent violations of LoW.
10. Act with integrity and report all suspected LoW violations to their superiors.

Understanding these rules will help you evaluate whether your actions in a conflict are within the bounds of international law.

Click each rule for additional information.



19.0 - RULE NUMBER 1: AIRMEN FIGHT ONLY COMBATANTS.

19.1 - NARRATION

Rule Number 1: Airmen fight only combatants.

As you may recall, a combatant is any member of a nation's armed forces, or any member of an armed group that is a part of the conflict.

Remember, there are four types of individuals in a conflict:

- Lawful Combatants
- Non-combatants
- Unprivileged Belligerents
- Civilians

Determining those who are Unprivileged Belligerents from within the civilian population not only requires a thorough understanding of LoW, but also a functional understanding of a specific theater's rules of engagement. Both will inform you as to whether actions may be interpreted as hostile acts, or hostile intentions.

One example of this may be the necessity to engage Unprivileged Belligerents, from adults to children.

In this activity, using the 3rd principle of LoW - Discrimination or Distinction, choose the appropriate response.

In the following example, evaluate and determine what you would do.

19.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Rule Number 1: Airmen fight only combatants.

What would you do?

No matter what classification is assigned to whoever is engaging you, commanders still have an inherent right to defend their units, and Airmen have a right to self-defense. Therefore, anyone committing a hostile act or demonstrating hostile intent against you can legitimately be targeted due to their conduct. On the other hand, no matter the circumstances, you may not target civilians.

19.3 - MEDIA DESCRIPTION

There is a sequence of images a Soldier looking at boy that is being dressed in a suicide vest by his mother.



20.0 - RULE NUMBER 2: AIRMEN DO NOT HARM ENEMIES WHO SURRENDER.

20.1 - NARRATION

Rule Number 2: Airmen do not harm enemies who surrender.

The purpose of LoW is to safeguard certain fundamental rights of persons who fall into the hands of the armed forces, particularly prisoners of war, detainees, and internees. Treating these individuals humanely is required by international and US law.

Therefore, apply the following rules:

Treat all detainees humanely without:

- Cruel and degrading treatment
- Murder
- Torture
- Corporal punishment
- Mutilation
- Hostage taking
- Sensory deprivation
- Collective punishment
- Execution without trial

Treat all detainees humanely without:

- Rape
- Prostitution
- Assault and theft
- Insults
- Public curiosity
- Bodily injury
- Reprisals
- Medical, or scientific experimentation
- Threats, or acts of violence

There are special LoW protections for females against any attack on their honor. This includes:

- Rape
- Enforced prostitution
- Any form of indecent assault

From a practical standpoint, if the enemy believes they will be treated humanely upon capture, knowing so may be just the incentive they need to surrender, lessening their will to resist. On the other hand, our enemies may be more likely to resist and fight to the death if they feel they have no incentive to surrender because they think they will not be treated humanely.



20.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Rule Number 2: Airmen do not harm enemies who surrender.

Therefore, apply the following rules:

- Treat all detainees humanely.
- Respect and protect them.
- Provide special protection for females.



21.0 - RULE NUMBER 3: AIRMEN DO NOT KILL OR TORTURE PERSONNEL IN THEIR CUSTODY.

21.1 - NARRATION

Rule Number 3: Airmen do not kill or torture personnel in their custody.

Killing or torturing detainees – or lesser forms of mistreatment – are crimes under LoW and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. If committed by civilians, even they can be prosecuted under federal law. Humane treatment is the minimum standard for all detainees. Torture is not only unlawful, but studies show it frequently produces unreliable information and leaves lasting psychological scars on those who commit it. US forces should not torture detainees – ever!

Airmen are instructed to protect detained personnel from violence, intimidation, insults, and public curiosity. Photographing an enemy prisoner of war (EPW) for aiding in identification is not a violation. However, photos taken or “staged” to degrade or humiliate an EPW serve no lawful military purpose.

Females shall be treated with all the regard due to their sex and shall in all cases be treated as humanely as any gender.

21.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Rule Number 3: Airmen do not kill or torture personnel in their custody.

An Airman does not:

- Kill, or torture detainees
- Publicize, or humiliate detainees
- Treat females different than any male



22.0 - RULE NUMBER 4: AIRMEN COLLECT AND CARE FOR THE WOUNDED, WHETHER FRIEND OR FOE.

22.1 - NARRATION

Rule Number 4: Airmen collect and care for the wounded, whether friend or foe.

Individuals who are sick or wounded, and who cease to fight, shall be treated humanely, without any distinctions based on race, nationality, religion, sex, or any other similar criteria. They are to be respected and protected in all circumstances. However, doing so depends on mission execution, self-defense/defense of unit members, and other operational necessities present when collection and care of the wounded is needed. Use common sense and best judgment based on the tactical situation and resources available. There is no such thing as a “mercy killing” in the eyes of LoW. You have a duty to attempt to provide medical treatment to the sick and wounded. Failure to follow this principle may result in prosecution as with this soldier in Iraq.

News media headlined in stating:

BAGHDAD, December 11, 2004 - A US soldier was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to killing a severely wounded 16-year-old Iraqi male. The soldier also received a reduction in rank to private, forfeiture of wages and a dishonorable discharge. He pleaded guilty to one count of unpremeditated murder and one count of soliciting another Soldier to commit unpremeditated murder.

The obligation to collect and protect the wounded extends to the dead, as well. Mutilation or desecration of dead bodies is a violation of LoW, and is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice as well.

For example:

Two US Marines were criminally charged for allegedly urinating on the corpses of Taliban fighters on camera. The two staff sergeants were officially charged with “posing for unofficial photographs with human casualties,” and failing to properly prevent or report misconduct by junior Marines under their command.

22.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Rule Number 4: Airmen collect and care for the wounded, whether friend or foe. An Airman does not:

- Mercy kill
- Disrespect the dead



23.0 - RULE NUMBER 5: AIRMEN TREAT CIVILIANS HUMANELY.

23.1 - NARRATION

Rule Number 5: Airmen treat civilians humanely.

Never intentionally target civilians!

However, civilians have a responsibility not to take a direct part in hostile acts, or exhibit hostile intent.

You don't have to stop your mission to care for them.

However, do help civilians if safe to do so, and it doesn't interfere with your mission.

23.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Rule Number 5: Airmen treat civilians humanely.

- Civilians are not hostile.
- Do not stop your mission.
- Help civilians if safe.



24.0 - RULE NUMBER 6: AIRMEN DO NOT ATTACK PROTECTED PERSONS OR PROTECTED PLACES.

24.1 - NARRATION

Rule Number 6: Airmen do not attack protected persons or protected places.

LoW generally prohibits the intentional targeting of protected persons, such as civilians and medical/religious personnel, under any circumstances. There are three recognized medical marking emblems under the Geneva Conventions and Protocol identifying medical personnel, transports and facilities: The Red Cross, The Red Crescent, and the Red Crystal.

Also, civilian objects, such as historical and religious sites, are protected from intentional attack or destruction, so long as they are not being used for military purposes, or there is no military necessity for their destruction or seizure. The circumstances justifying such actions are based on information reasonably available to the commander at the time of the decision. Objects or individuals marked with these symbols are to be respected and protected from attack.

However, if these symbols are misused to commit hostile acts, then the protection they afford is forfeited.

24.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Rule Number 6: Airmen do not attack protected persons or protected places.

Emblems under the Geneva Conventions and Protocol III:

- The Red Cross
- The Red Crescent
- The Red Crystal
- Protected historical sites symbol

24.3 - MEDIA DESCRIPTION

There are images of protected symbols: The Red Cross, The Red Crescent, the Red Crystal and Protected historical sites.



25.0 - RULE NUMBER 7: AIRMEN DESTROY NO MORE THAN THE MISSION REQUIRES.

25.1 - NARRATION

Rule Number 7: Airmen destroy no more than the mission requires.

Airmen do not target, or attack what isn't required to accomplish a mission or achieve the military objective. The attack or bombardment – by whatever means – of towns, villages, dwellings, or buildings which are undefended, IS PROHIBITED.

Airmen limit attacks to only military objectives, such as combatants, and those objectives which contribute to a definite military advantage.

Airmen do not engage in destruction for destruction's sake. Consider achieving the mission as efficiently and effectively as possible, while minimizing carnage against the civilian populace and structures.

25.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Rule Number 7: Airmen destroy no more than the mission requires.

- Destroy only what is required for the mission objective.
- Do not attack civilians, or property that does not support the mission objective.
- Achieve the mission as efficiently and effectively as possible.

25.3 - INTERACTION-SCREEN TEXT

Monte Cassino Abbey

Allied military commanders were conflicted as to whether the Germans were using the Monte Cassino Abbey as a observation outpost for their artillery barrages against Allied forces in Italy. Major General Kippenberger of the New Zealand Corps HQ believed that the monastery was probably being used as the Germans' main vantage point for artillery spotting, since it was so perfectly situated that no army could refrain.

Yet Major General Alfred Gruenther remained unconvinced of the "military necessity" of attacking the abbey, stating, "I don't know, but I don't believe the enemy is in the convent." Based on the best intelligence assessments available, the order was given to bombard the abbey.

So on 15 February 1944, 142 B-17 heavy bombers followed by 47 B-25s and 40 B-26s dropped 1,150 tons of high explosives and incendiary bombs on the abbey, reducing the entire top of Monte Cassino to a smoking mass of rubble.



26.0 - RULE NUMBER 8: AIRMEN RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS.

26.1 - NARRATION

Rule Number 8: Airmen respect private property and possessions.

Anytime property is taken, it must be accounted for with both the property owner and your command. The exception is usually in the form of collecting contraband. No pillaging, under any circumstances – and at any location – or you may be subject to disciplinary action.

26.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Rule Number 8: Airmen respect private property and possessions.

26.3 - INTERACTION-SCREEN TEXT

July 29 2004: FORT CAMPBELL, KY

July 29 2004: FORT CAMPBELL, KY — A military jury found a Soldier guilty of armed robbery for taking an Iraqi sheik's sport utility vehicle (SUV) at gunpoint. He faced up to 15 years in prison. The Soldier maintained that he helped take the SUV only because his lieutenant had ordered him to procure a vehicle and because he did not think it was a criminal act.

Additionally, the Soldier helped orchestrate a story that the vehicle was found abandoned.



27.0 - RULE NUMBER 9: AIRMEN ACT WITH EXCELLENCE AND DO THEIR BEST TO PREVENT VIOLATIONS OF LOW.

27.1 - NARRATION

Rule Number 9: Airmen act with excellence and do their best to prevent violations of LoW.

Moral courage and self-discipline are the hallmarks of a professional warrior. This is not always easy when confronted with the fog of war or the stress of combat.

Click the image below for an example of how catastrophic disregard of this tenant can be, and the extraordinary courage it takes to prevent its violation.

27.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Rule Number 9: Airmen act with excellence and do their best to prevent violations of LoW.

27.3 - INTERACTION-SCREEN TEXT

In 1968 US Soldiers killed over 300 civilian villagers in My Lai and My Khe, Vietnam—mostly children, women, and elderly. One platoon leader, 2LT William Calley, was tried and convicted for murder, though he claimed he was merely following orders and that other orders given were ambiguous. The event haunted those present and severely damaged US credibility during and after the Vietnam conflict.

Exhibiting extraordinary moral courage and self-discipline was then-Warrant Officer Hugh C. Thompson, Jr., who landed his helicopter in the line of fire between fleeing Vietnamese civilians and those pursuing them. He confronted Lt Calley, helped evacuate several civilians, and reported the massacre to his superiors, prompting an order to cease fire. Though initially criticized and threatened, Thompson and others later received the Soldier's Medal for their personal courage and ethical conduct that stopped a massacre.



28.0 - RULE NUMBER 10: AIRMEN ACT WITH INTEGRITY AND REPORT ALL SUSPECTED LOW VIOLATIONS TO THEIR SUPERIORS.

28.1 - NARRATION

Rule Number 10: Airmen act with integrity and report all suspected LoW violations to their superiors.

If you see or suspect a LoW violation, you are required to report it to your chain of command, whether committed by US or other forces. Your chain of command will initiate an investigation into what happened. If you are not comfortable going through your chain of command, go to the Judge Advocate General (JAG), the Inspector General (IG), or the Chaplain to report the incident. The fact that there is an investigation does not automatically mean someone is in trouble. Often, an investigation helps the command identify changes in policy or training that make us stronger and better as a fighting force.

It is not easy to speak up, but the truth is worth telling. Ask for clarification of an order that appears illegal. Do not follow orders you know violate LoW or are otherwise illegal. Do your best to prevent LoW violations, and report any LoW violations you see or hear about.

28.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

Rule Number 10: Airmen act with integrity and report all suspected LoW violations to their superiors.

See Something, Say Something:

- Ask for clarification of an order that appears illegal.
- Do not follow orders that violate LoW.
- Do your best to prevent LoW violations.



29.0 - CONCLUSION

29.1 - NARRATION

Congratulations! You completed the Law of War course.

This course described the need for the Law of War, identified the five basic principles of the Law of War and defined the United States Air Force Rules for implementing the Law of War.

29.2 - ON-SCREEN TEXT

This course covered the following objectives:

- Describe the need for the Law of War
- Identify the five basic principles of the Law of War.
- Define the United States Air Force Rules for implementing the Law of War.

Click **Exit** to close.



30.0 - APPENDIX A – ACRONYMS / GLOSSARY

30.1 - ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY TERMS USED IN THIS LESSON

ACRONYM/TERM	DEFINITION
AP III	Protocol (III) Additional to the Geneva Conventions
BAR	Basic Airman Readiness
EPW	Enemy Prisoner of War
ICTR	International Criminal Tribunal
IG	Inspector General
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IMT	International Military Tribunal
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
JAG	Judge Advocate General
LOAC	Law of Armed Conflict
LoW	Law of War
POW	Prisoner of War

30.2 - REFERENCES USED TO DEVELOP THIS LESSON

Number	REFERENCE
1.	AFH 31-115V1 , <i>Security Forces Support to Threat Information Integration (Certified Current)</i> , 7 Apr 2016
2.	AFI 14-119 , <i>Intelligence Support to Force Protection (FP) (Incorporating Change 2)</i> , 31 Mar 2016
3.	AFTTP 3-4 , <i>Airman's Manual (Incorporating Change 1)</i> , 5 Aug 2015
4.	AFTTP 3-4.8 , <i>Operating in an Improvised Explosive Device Environment</i> , 30 Sep 2015
5.	<i>DOD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms</i> , Aug 2017
6.	AFPD 51-4 , <i>Compliance with the Law of Armed Conflict</i> , 4 Aug 2011
7.	<i>US Army Standard Training Package (STP), Law of Armed Conflict</i> , 11 Jun 2016
8.	<i>Department of Defense Law of War Manual</i> , 12 Jun 2015
9.	Operational Law Handbook
10.	Headquarters Air Force, <i>Operations and International Law Directorate (AF/JAO)</i> , (Com) 703-695-9631, (DSN) 225-9631
11.	CJCSI 3121.01C , <i>Standing Rules of Engagement (SROE)/Standing Rules for the Use of Force (SRUF) for U.S. Forces</i> , 13 Jun 2005