



About this newsletter

The Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI) compiled this newsletter to give you an impression of its 4th International Investigator Course that took place from 4–15 April 2005. The course was organized by the IICI in collaboration with the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies in The Hague and the Royal Netherlands Army School for Peace Missions in Amersfoort.



Tank recognition

The course

IIC4 was initially planned to take place in October 2004. It was deferred to 2005 to better balance the experience, gender and nationalities of participants. The conduct of the IIC forms a significant part of the IICI's expenditure and will only take place when the IICI is convinced that it has the correct balance of participants.

The International Investigator Course is a two-week residential course designed to more deeply familiarize the investigator with the concepts, areas of

expertise, and practical techniques vital to conducting investigations into serious violations of International Humanitarian Law.

The first week of the course is rather theoretical, with modules on Evidence, International Humanitarian Law, Reports and Statements, Ethics, Information Gathering, Intelligence and Analysis, Mission Planning, Child Soldiers, Sexual Violence and Working with Interpreters.

The photographs in this newsletter were taken during the second week of the course which is of a more practical nature. The theory from the first week is applied in practical exercises and demonstrations. At the army base in Amersfoort students have the chance to have a close look at military vehicles and weaponry, which illustrate the military lectures. They are also asked to do a crime scene search, to analyze craters, to go through a checkpoint and to practice probing an area for landmines.



Mine awareness

This time some of the practical exercises at the military base in Amersfoort were very realistic. During the exercises on checkpoint behavior and mass grave investigation the teams were confronted with heavy rain, tanks speeding by, helicopters and military forces crossing their path.

This was not planned by the School for Peace Missions but it certainly contributed to the realism of the exercise. During the final evaluation of the course one of the students said "I would like to do it all over again, exactly the same way, including the rain, the heli's and the tanks".



Crater analysis

A Thank you from the Executive Director John Ralston

First, I would like to thank everybody who contributed to making the IIC4 a success - our students for their enthusiasm, our moderators and teachers for their expertise and willingness to share this with others. Most importantly, on behalf of the Institute, I would like to thank the Danish, British and Irish governments, as well as the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for their financial support for this particular course. Without this assistance, the course would not have been possible and we would have missed the essential exchange of experiences by students who otherwise could not afford to join us in The Hague.

This is not to overlook the important donations of the Swedish and Canadian Governments which facilitated course development and the Office of the Mayor of The Hague for its support in creating our office in The Hague.

We are also grateful for the co-operation of the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies in The Hague and the Royal Netherlands Army School for Peace Missions in Amersfoort, which provided vital contributions to the Course.

2004 saw the IICI's vision of establishing its Headquarters in The Hague become a reality. Opened in December 2003, the office is now fully functional and is at the centre of all of the Institute's activities.

During the year we have continued to develop our training syllabus, improved our training manual and have also contributed significantly to various developments in the field of international justice. I look forward to building on that success in the future.



Checkpoint Behavior

Future plans

The next and fifth International Investigator Course is scheduled to take place in autumn 2005. With your continuing support and everybody's input, expertise and enthusiasm we hope to maintain and improve the standard set in the past Investigator courses. Also, the IICI will continue to promote and realize the training of investigators by exposing them, during the course, to the requirements of international legal norms.

Evaluation of the course

During the course students expressed their appreciation of the program and the different viewpoints and approaches to daily dilemmas they are confronted with. In order to evaluate the IICI program and to ensure it improves every time, the students are required to complete evaluation forms. This is just an extract of their comments:

“Believe me when I say that I really learnt a lot and I believe what I got from the course will facilitate and enhance my work”;

“It has been a great learning experience which will definitely enhance my knowledge and my career development”;

“I particularly liked the operational and practical way the course was taught. Many aspects that were not suspected to exist are now in perspective and will make it easier to take to the field”;

“A difficult subject matter that was made easy. I candidly enjoyed every bit of it”;

“I feel much more confident now, knowing the IHL cases but also where to find further information and how to apply it. It was totally rewarding to me as investigator. It delivered a direct and simple understanding of IHL and ICC”;

“It made me aware of what is at stake in the field. My confidence is rising by the day.”



Crime Scene Search

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Students

In selecting candidates for this and future investigator courses, the IICI tries to balance the geographic and gender diversity but also the experience of the participants. For IIC4 there was a very good mix. Students came from Bulgaria, Cambodia, Morocco, Australia, United States, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Peru, Italy, Ghana, Israel, Kenya, Tanzania, the Netherlands and Norway. They were drawn from the following institutions: Interpol, Europol, the Danish Serious International Crimes Office, the Norwegian War Crimes Unit, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, The Documentation Centre Cambodia, the University of Central Lancashire, the UN Mission in Afghanistan and MONUC (UN Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo) and from two human rights organizations. In addition, the Language Services Unit of the International Criminal Court sent a series of language staff experts (interpreters) to the course as observers, so that the staff could become more familiar with the terms of art and methodologies employed by investigators, the military and forensic scientists.

Moderators and subjects

This course would not have been possible without the expertise of the following persons:

- Ms. B. Vuleta (interpreter, role player during the practicum)
- Natasa Cakic (interpreter, role player during the practicum)
- Ana Letica (interpreter, role player during the practicum)
- Majda Bakocevic (interpreter, role player during the practicum)
- Snjezana Visnja Stankovic (interpreter, role player during the practicum)
- Diana Zunic (interpreter, role player during the practicum)
- Mr. B. O'Donnell (modules oral briefing and investigation management and evaluator for the practicum)
- Mr. D. Groome (module evidence and investigation management))
- Mr. Y. Roy (evaluator for the practicum)
- Mr. B. Bursic (module and practicum on crime scene management)
- Mr. D. Milner (evaluator for the practicum)
- Mr. D. Travers (military module and evaluator for the practicum)
- Mr. G. McMahon (military module)
- Mr. J. Ralston (modules witness statement, witness protection, ethics, information gathering and intelligence, mission planning and report writing)
- Ms. P. Huygebaert (module child soldiers)
- Mr. R. McGrath (evaluator for the practicum)
- Mr. R. Murphy (module international humanitarian law)
- Mr. W. Haglund (module forensics and practicum on crime scene)
- Ms. A. Karamuratovic (module on working with interpreters)
- Ms. M. Marcus (module on sexual violence)
- Mr. W. Schabas (module on the ICC)
- Ms. A. Oliver Tomic (module on working with interpreters and evaluator for the practicum)
- Ms. M. Rembe (module on analysis)
- The military instructors Te Lindert, Prins, van Leeuwen, Veldman, and Brandsma at the army base in Amersfoort (military modules on checkpoint behavior, recognition, ammunition awareness and crater analysis)