



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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International Committee of Military Medicine
Reference Centre for Education of
International Humanitarian Law and Ethics

Swiss Armed Forces
Medical Services Directorate

Course Announcement

17th Course on the International Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC)

&

3rd Course on Military Medical Ethics in Times of Armed Conflict

both courses are addressed to the Military Medical Personnel,
Military Medico-Legal Officers, and Chaplains

Mandated by the **International Committee of Military Medicine**

Organized by the **Swiss Armed Forces Medical Services Directorate**

14.-21. August 2015
Spiez, Switzerland

Course A – Law of Armed Conflict

17th Course on the International Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC)

by the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM)

14 – 21 August, 2015 in Spiez, Switzerland

The International Committee of Military Medicine, the *ICMM Reference Centre for Education of International Humanitarian Law and Ethics*, and the Swiss Armed Forces Medical Services Directorate wish to offer to Military Medical Personnel, Military Medico-Legal Officers, and Chaplains a

Course on International Law of Armed Conflict (LoAC) aimed to

- demonstrate relationships, responsibilities and interdependencies between the specific functions of the medical services and International Humanitarian Law.

The course serves to

- develop the responsibilities of the medical and spiritual personnel under International Humanitarian Law;
- familiarize course participants with International Humanitarian Law;
- establish connections of the International Humanitarian Law with the specific mission of the medical services;
- make opportunities and limits of the International Law of Armed Conflict known;
- recognize and analyze actual problems and challenges related to International Humanitarian Law and the medical ethics within the scope of military operations including peace-keeping operations, and help to look for possible solutions;
- motivate course participants to recognize their responsibility of training Humanitarian Law in their country.

The teaching and training focuses on the Law of Armed Conflict (LoAC)

- the Geneva Conventions
- their Additional Protocols
- the Hague Conventions
- other sources of International Humanitarian Law

Course Languages

- The course is organized as follows: two English speaking classes and one French speaking class. Plenary Lectures will be held in English and translated into French simultaneously.

Further information and the full program can be found on our homepage

→ <http://loac.melac.ch/>

Course B – Military Medical Ethics

3rd Course on **Military Medical Ethics in Times of Armed Conflict (MME)**

by the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM)

14 – 21 August, 2015 in Spiez, Switzerland

The International Committee of Military Medicine, the *ICMM Reference Centre for Education of International Humanitarian Law and Ethics*, and the Swiss Armed Forces Medical Services Directorate wish to offer to Military Medical Personnel, Military Medico-Legal Officers, and Chaplains as well as other interested members of the armed forces a

Course on *Military Medical Ethics and International Law of Armed Conflict* aimed at

- enabling participants to recognize and analyze situations that present *ethical and legal dilemmas* from contemporary military deployments;
- qualifying the participants to make legally *and* ethically correct decisions in situations where competences in international law *and* ethics are similarly relevant.

The course

- establishes connections of the Humanitarian Law with its ethical fundamentals;
- illustrates the ethically difficult role of the medical officer who plays a role between soldier and physician;
- familiarizes course participants with approaching ethically difficult situations and dilemmas by teaching them a framework for ethical decision making;
- recognizes and analyzes current problems and challenges related to International Humanitarian Law and military medical ethics within the scope of military operations including peace-keeping operations, and helps to identify possible solutions;
- motivates course participants to recognize their responsibility of training and disseminating International Humanitarian Law and Ethics.

The teaching and training focuses on Ethics

- Ethical Decision Making in Military Medical Ethics
- Ethical Foundations of IHL

The course presupposes

- **a solid knowledge of the fundamental norms of International Humanitarian Law** (Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols) on the level taught in the ICMM LOAC courses.

Course Language

- The course is held in English language.

Further information and the full program can be found on our homepage → <http://mme.melac.ch/>

General Course Information (for both A and B course)

1. Date, course location/hotel

The courses start officially on **Friday 14.08.2015 at 0800 a.m.** in "Ausbildungszentrum für Schweizer Fleischwirtschaft (ABZ)", Schachenstrasse 43, CH-3700 Spiez and last until **21.08.2015, 1000 p.m.** after the official closing ceremony.

2. Arrival/Departure

The registration of all participants will take place **on August 13, 2015** preferably at **Zurich-Kloten or Bern-Belp airport**. A pick-up service and transfer to the course hotel in Spiez will be arranged upon arrival at the airport.

Participants from several flights will be met and may have to wait for other passengers until a common transport; this **is possible only with filled pickup schedule addressed to the course administration secretary office LOAC, with the arrival date, time and number of flight**. Meeting point, staff personal still waits: the information desk or exit terminal.

Transfer to the airport Zurich-Kloten or Bern-Belp will also be available for departure **on August 21, 2015 and not later**.

Participants arriving by train will be picked up at the railway station of **Spiez or Bern**.

Homepage of the Swiss Railways: <http://fahrplan.sbb.ch/bin/query.exe/dn>

3. Dress

For travel:	civilian dress (you may not enter in Switzerland wearing a uniform!)
During the course:	military uniform, working dress (class room)
For the opening and final ceremony:	military uniform, formal dress (attire: jacket and tie/female equivalent)

To obtain permission to wear a military uniform in Switzerland, participants are requested to contact **their** national authorities for special information in order to take the necessary formalities.

4. Visa

For entering Switzerland, a valid passport with a respective visa if needed (valid for the entire duration of the course) or a European identity card is required. The travel arrangement from your country to Switzerland will be taken care of by your national authorities. **Be sure to make a request for the respective visa in good time**. The secretariat of the Course takes contact with the authorities but does not occupy itself to in any case to organize the visas.

However, if you don't have a visa before leaving your country to Switzerland, please notify immediately this to the secretariat of the course.

5. Media Information

If you would like to talk to the media or a wider public, please request an official permission from your Armed Forces to talk about the content of this course and your activities in the field of LOAC in your country.

6. Accommodation / Venue

Accommodation is planned at ABZ in Spiez, where the courses will take place.

- Ausbildungszentrum für die Schweizer Fleischwirtschaft (ABZ)
Schachenstrasse 43
CH-3700 Spiez
www.abzspiez.ch

The courses can only be attended with registration and after having received the letter of confirmation. For organisational reasons, no specific programme for accompanying person (spouses, family, friend, etc) will be planned. However, accompanying persons are welcome to join during the cultural programme and other social events. Accompanying persons must also register in a timely manner, so that reservations for suitable accommodation can be made.

7. Payment

In the price of **CHF 1380.00** are included for **8 days / nights:**

13.08. – 21.08.2015, hotel accommodation, food, non-alcoholic beverages: CHF 1300.00
and the course fee: CHF 80.00.

Extensive course documents, cultural events and excursions with transfers are free of charge for participants and will be paid by the Swiss Confederation.

Accompanying person for 8 days / nights 13.08. – 21.08.2015:

Adult: CHF 1300.00

Children: 4 – 12 year old CHF 975.00

Participants who plan to arrive earlier or to leave later than the official duration of the course (**13.08. – 21.08.2015**) are kindly requested to pay the additional costs.

Participants are requested to pay the course fee in CHF (cash or credit-cards) on the day of their arrival at the registration desk. Participants shall bear their travelling costs to and from Switzerland.

8. Insurance / Liability

Basic medical service is provided free of charge. Adequate insurance – particularly accident, liability and health – is the participants' own responsibility.

9. Time schedule (not definitely)

Will be provided in late spring 2015 via the website <http://melac.ch>

10. Application form

Will be provided in late spring 2015 via the website <http://melac.ch>

Registration deadline will be: **July 6, 2015.**

11. Pick-up form

Will be provided to registered participants separately.

12. Homepage with further information

For further information you may also consult our homepages:

<http://www.melac.ch>

<http://www.armeesanitaetsdienst.ch>

<http://www.cimm-icmm.org>

13. Course Secretariat Course on International Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC)

Medical Services Directorate

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Application Form

An application form will be provided via the homepages mentioned above in May 2015.