

New Developments

Center for Law & Military Operations

CLAMO Publishes New *Rule of Law Handbook*¹

The Center for Law and Military Operations (CLAMO) has published the latest *Rule of Law Handbook*, which is now available online from CLAMO's website.² The new *Rule of Law Handbook* is in its fourth edition and has been updated to include the latest information from practitioners in the field and descriptions of recent rule of law projects.

The *Rule of Law Handbook* is designed to serve as an educational tool to assist judge advocates and paralegals involved in the rule of law mission during on-going military operations.³ Written primarily for judge advocates, the handbook is "not intended to serve as U.S. policy or military doctrine for rule of law operations" but should be used as a resource for judge advocates preparing to participate in rule of law development.⁴

The content of the current handbook shares much in common with earlier editions, though some material has been revised and new chapters have been added since the handbook was last published in 2009. The handbook begins by defining "rule of law" and describing key players in the joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational process. The handbook also outlines the legal framework for rule of law and highlights planning and fiscal considerations for rule of law operations. Theater-specific information for Iraq and Afghanistan is discussed in a separate chapter.

Two new sections have been added to the fourth edition. Chapter 9 discusses rule of law metrics and provides sample checklists to help judge advocates formulate their own "tailored set of metrics for the operation at hand."⁵ Chapter 10 explains how practitioners can use Human Terrain Teams to support rule of law initiatives. The discussion of sharia law in chapter 5 has also been substantially revised.

In addition, the handbook includes rule of law narratives provided by recently deployed practitioners. One article offers the British perspective on support to the informal justice sector in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Another, written by an Air Force judge advocate, discusses the Central Criminal Court of Iraq. An article by a Senior Legal Advisor with the Department of Justice describes the achievements of the Counter-Narcotics Justice Task Force in Afghanistan. Lastly, several Army judge advocates offer their insights on rule of law efforts undertaken at both the brigade and division levels, while judge advocates who served with the Asymmetric Warfare Group and with a Special Forces battalion also relate their experiences.

Judge advocates serve an important role during rule of law operations, and the *Rule of Law Handbook* represents a useful starting point and guide for practitioners engaged in the rule of law mission. As the handbook itself notes, "Even if the *Handbook* only serves as an introductory resource to further Judge Advocates' professional education on the topic, it will have served a vital purpose."⁶

—Captain Ronald T. P. Alcalá

¹ THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GEN.'S LEGAL CTR. & SCH., CTR. FOR LAW & MILITARY OPERATIONS, *RULE OF LAW HANDBOOK: A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE FOR JUDGE ADVOCATES* (2010) [hereinafter *ROL HANDBOOK*].

² Publications, Ctr. for Law & Military Operations, <https://www.jagcnet2.army.mil/8525751D00557EFF/0/A86D78669E17E6F9852574DA005E3ADF?opendocument> (follow "Rule of Law Handbook (2010)" hyperlink).

³ *ROL HANDBOOK*, *supra* note 1, at ii.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.* at 241.

⁶ *Id.* at iii.