



## **U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's International Military Operations and Law Conference**

### **-- RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS -**

### **MILOPS 2022 - Executive Summary**

The relationships that were created or strengthened at the 33rd Annual International Military Operations and Law Conference have value.

The substantive information provided also had value.

But, it is our activity in the future that is the true measure of effectiveness for the success of this conference. A record of proceedings is provided in order to further enhance the development of consensus on legal issues impacting the region as well as to stimulate thought for further activities that would advance common ends to promote adherence to the rules-based international order and deter and counter any activities that would undermine this order.

This record of proceedings is a summary of the events of this conference as well as our assessment of key takeaways and resolutions we have made going forward. Any mischaracterizations below are unintentional and the result of our oversight. Please contact me directly to ensure any necessary corrections.

I look forward to your feedback as we continue to strengthen our legal partnerships and the rules based international order in this region.

/s/

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## Background

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command hosted the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Military Operations and Law Conference (MILOPS 2022) from August 14-18, 2022, in Bangkok, Thailand. The theme of MILOPS 2022 was “Strengthening Legal Partnerships to Uphold the Rule of Law – Tools for Peace, Stability, and a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

Returning after a two-year hiatus due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, conference attendance was limited in comparison to past years due to health and safety protocols. Despite such limitations, MILOPS 2022 brought together over 100 senior military leaders, government officials, legal advisors, and academics from more than 20 allied and partner nations from throughout the Indo-Pacific and beyond to discuss key aspects of international law, military cooperation, and the importance of the rules-based international order to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Participating nations included Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Palau, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also sent delegates.

MILOPS 2022 consisted of four days of substantive lectures, presentations, and panels, which included question-and-answer sessions, bi-lateral and multi-lateral engagements on the margins, and informal conversations during breaks and at social events. Whilst there was no explicit call for participants to agree on a set of pronouncements, discussion converged around certain issues and shared sentiments, to include:

- The importance of the rules-based international order in preserving peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific, exemplified by the concept of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific;
- The need for legal advisors to forge ties at the person-to-person level to help build consensus among states and organizations to uphold the rule of law, and to collectively oppose attempts to erode the rules-based international order;
- The growing threat to the rules-based international order posed by revisionist powers who rely on coercion, including “lawfare,” political warfare, disinformation, and other gray zone tactics that undermine basic rights like freedom of navigation and self-determination;



- The danger posed by illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing as an affront to international law that merits cooperation to challenge offending nations;
- The need for partnerships, alliances, agreements, and new cooperative endeavors to counter and delegitimize malicious actors who are advancing narratives that erode long-standing international law principles and norms.

MILOPS 22 also highlighted areas that merit further engagement to forge greater consensus. While the below is not intended to be exhaustive, it summarizes key takeaways from MILOPS 2022.

#### MILOPS 22 – KEY TAKEAWAY #1

LEGAL ADVISORS FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE KEEN TO STRENGTHEN LEGAL RELATIONS AS A MEANS TO UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW AND THE RULES-BASED INTERNATIONAL ORDER.

**Day 1: Legal Partnerships as a Strategic Imperative in Support of the Rules-Based International Order.** Introducing the theme of the conference, Captain Dom Flatt, U.S. Navy, the Staff Judge Advocate for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, emphasized the role of conferences like MILOPS 2022 as a tool to strengthen peer-to-peer connections. He emphasized how such connections are a powerful vector to overcome attempts to sow division, placing legal partnerships in the context of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command’s mission and the United States’ enduring commitment to the region.

Captain Narupon Joytongmool, Deputy Director, Legislation Division, Office of the Naval Judge Advocate of the Royal Thai Navy, presented opening remarks on behalf of the host nation. Captain Narupon noted that MILOPS 2022 was consistent with the commitment to advance people-to-people ties between Thailand and the United States expressed in a 10 July 2022 joint communique issued by U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai.

Building off the host’s comments, Mr. James Wayman, the Acting Deputy Chief of Mission for the U.S. Embassy in Thailand, noted that legal advisors serve as the connective tissue between diplomatic and military affairs. He emphasized that every state in the region—including those not represented at MILOPS 2022—have historically benefitted from a rules-based international order and every nation will suffer if the rules-based international order erodes.

Admiral John C. Aquilino, Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, also provided opening remarks. He stressed that all nations had an interest in maintaining the rules-based international



order, which provided a shared bedrock of prosperity and security in the region. He thanked participants for their engagement, stating that “strengthening our shared understanding and building consensus on key components of international law is necessary work, and I am grateful that you have assembled for this purpose.”

Following an official photo among participants, Vice Admiral Darse E. “Del” Crandall, the Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Navy, and Department of Defense Representative for Ocean Policy Affairs, defined the rules-based international order as “a reflection of the world’s shared aspiration for a mutually beneficial system based on the rule of law where goods, ideas, and people may flow freely.” He contrasted this with a system where states promote their unilateral interests at the expense of others, using coercion and pressure to extract concessions. He emphasized that when the rules-based international order requires refinement, it must be done cooperatively and peacefully, including through a global team of legal experts who leverage partnerships to develop aligned positions, identify gaps, converge around shared positions, and mitigate gaps between interpretations.

Captain Flatt, U.S. Navy, then provided a strategic overview of threats to the rules-based international order in the region. He emphasized that competition in the region is not between one or more states. It is between two competing visions for the international order. One is based on cooperation and commitment, the other on coercion and “might make right.”

Colonel Masaaki Abe, Chief of Legal Affairs of the Japanese Self Defense Force, recounted the role of the late Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in promoting the concept of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” Colonel Abe reaffirmed Japan’s openness to engage with any country which shares a vision of a peaceful and cooperative rules-based international order. Commentators agreed that the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” is a useful orienting principle for discussions.

Professor Neil S. Silva of the University of the Philippines College of Law’s Institute for Maritime Affairs and the Law of the Sea broadened conference participants’ understanding of what the term “rules-based international order” means and how the term may be operationalized.

He emphasized that it extends beyond international law to a shared set of norms. He noted, “if you focus only on law, law can be outflanked.”

Professor Raul “Pete” Pedrozo of the U.S. Naval War College’s Stockton Center for International Law gave a thought-provoking presentation on recent efforts to erode the rules-based international order. He re-emphasized the bedrock principle that all nations enjoy high-seas freedoms of navigation and overflight in international waters. Efforts to advance alternative





legal regimes that undermine navigational rights and freedoms afforded to all nations—including excessive straight baseline claims and other excessive maritime claims—are legally baseless.

Day 1 ended with a keynote from Mr. Robert Harris, Assistant Legal Advisor for East Asia and Pacific Affairs at the U.S. Department of State’s Office of the Legal Adviser. Mr. Harris provided insights on recent excessive maritime claims in the Indo-Pacific. He detailed the meticulous research and analysis that went into the U.S. State Department’s January 2022 Limits in the Seas #150 publication and its state practice supplement, debunking assertions that have no basis in the law of the sea or customary international law. He noted that the chorus of countries disputing maritime claims by the People’s Republic of China in the South China Sea since 2016 show how egregious such claims are considering the standards enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and how high the stakes are when excessive claims threaten the integrity of the law of the sea.

#### MILOPS 22 – KEY TAKEAWAY #2

LEGAL ADVISORS FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS SHARE MANY COMMON VIEWPOINTS ON THE RULES-BASED INTERNATIONAL ORDER AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN PRESERVING PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC.

### **Day 2: Recognizing and Countering Malign Activities**

Day 2 provided a granular focus on specific means and domains that malicious actors are using to undermine the rules-based international order to advance their objectives.

Professor Silva returned to discuss navigation rights and freedoms in the South China and East China Seas and Taiwan Strait. He emphasized that exclusive economic zones (EEZs) are economic, not security zones, under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and customary international law. Professor Silva proposed that parties committed to preserving respect for the law of the sea in the Indo-Pacific region should maximize, expand, and in some ways resurrect existing bilateral and multilateral arrangements to resist pressure campaigns of “gray zone” activity. As an example, he referenced the 1954 Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty (also known as the “Manila Pact”) of the former Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO). Professor Silva noted that the Manila Pact accounts for activity that endangers the peace but does not necessarily rise to the level of an armed attack or use of force under international law, citing this lower threshold for what merits a collective response as a model to emulate.

Day 2 next featured a panel on illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing. IUU fishing is a direct affront to international law and merits robust legal cooperation to ensure information sharing and enforcement efforts. Participants from the U.S. Coast Guard, the Maritime Institute



of Malaysia, and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Palau highlighted the threat that IUU poses in Oceania. For small island nations with large exclusive economic zones, IUU fishing is a threat to their sovereignty. Enforcement challenges require partnerships with other states for resource sharing, along with the authorities necessary to share information and prosecute offenders.

Ms. Cleo Pascal, Non-Resident Senior Fellow for the Indo-Pacific at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, continued the focus on the way in which malign activities undermine sovereignty in Oceania. Drawing on the maxim that geography determines history, Ms. Pascal argued that geopolitics, geo-economics, and geophysical changes caused by climate disruption are remaking geography, especially in the Indo-Pacific. She noted efforts by the People's Republic of China to use a variety of commercial, strategic, and illicit means to engender dependency among smaller nations. To counter such practices, she noted that throughout the region, "there are people of great courage and fortitude ready to stand up to coercive practices." Ms. Pascal added that one solution is for like-minded states to tackle the issue of corruption, which inevitably follows the influx of large sums of foreign capital into small but strategically located island states.

Air Commodore Christopher Robson of the Royal Australian Air Force, currently assigned to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, provided an overview of military engagement in the region, with a focus on cooperative exercises. Examples from recent years exemplify the value of wide-ranging partnerships to ensure interoperability.

Day 2 also convened a panel of experts from the University of Exeter, De La Salle University, the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, on the threat of gray zone operations. Speakers highlighted the danger of gray zone or hybrid actions meant to erode the rules-based international order that underpins the free and open Indo-Pacific. Participants and observers agreed that the peaceful status quo based on long-standing rules and norms is threatened by revisionist expansion and "gray-zone" coercion. Attendees agreed on the need to build and enforce codes of conduct; consolidate understandings of international law concepts abused by gray zone actors; maintain persistent presence through cooperation; name and shame violators; and utilize multilateral fora to oppose "divide and conquer" strategies by coercive states.

Filling in on short notice, Professor Kerry K. Gershaneck, a visiting scholar in Bangkok, gave a provocative, rousing lecture on the role that political warfare plays in the strategy of the People's Republic of China. While not all participants concurred with Professor Gershaneck's underlying assumptions and pronouncements, there seemed to be consensus that states must be prepared to recognize and renounce malign activities that fall under the umbrella of political warfare.



Day 2 ended with a keynote from U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for Cyber Policy, Ms. Mieke Eoyang. DASD Eoyang highlighted the critical importance of allies and partners in cyber security cooperation to defend against cyber-attacks, identify vulnerabilities, and strengthen efforts to hold malicious actors accountable. DASD Eoyang emphasized that cyberspace is more than just a domain for military operations, stating “there is life in this domain that we as national security professionals are trying to protect and preserve.” She noted that “cyber is an enabling arena” for a range of military and civilian activities that cross borders. She previewed that the forthcoming updated U.S. cybersecurity strategy will reemphasize the importance of allies and partners. Like-minded nations must continue to work together to preserve peace, protect shared networks, and maintain resilience in the face of urgent threats to critical infrastructure by malicious actors. DASD Eoyang’s comments stimulated a robust question-and-answer session on cooperation and conflict in cyberspace.

#### MILOPS 22 – KEY TAKEAWAY #3

LEGAL ADVISORS FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS NOTED THAT ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED, AND UNREPORTED FISHING IS A DIRECT AFFRONT TO INTERNATIONAL LAW AND MERITS ROBUST LEGAL COOPERATION TO ENSURE INFORMATION SHARING AND ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS.

#### MILOPS 22 - KEY TAKEAWAY #4

LEGAL ADVISORS FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS COMMENTED ON THE NEED TO BUILD AND ENFORCE CODES OF CONDUCT, CONSOLIDATE UNDERSTANDINGS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW CONCEPTS ABUSED IN THE GRAY ZONE, AND NAME AND SHAME VIOLATORS.

#### MILOPS 22 - RESOLUTION #1

MILOPS PLANNERS RESOLVED TO INCLUDE A DISCUSSION OF CORRUPTION AND ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS IN THE 34TH ANNUAL MILOPS CONFERENCE.



### **Day 3: New Frontiers of Legal Collaboration and Competition**

Day 3 continued to look forward to emerging areas of law, with a focus on practical ways to build consensus and lay the groundwork for multi-lateral cooperation in support of the rules-based international order.

Professor Dale Stephens, Director of the Research Unit on Military Law and Ethics at Adelaide University and Chair of the Woomera Project Governance Board kicked off Day 3 discussing the new legal frontier of space, specifically the application of treaties and customary international law to military and civilian activity in space. “Space superiority is the future of warfare. The high ground is space.” He previewed the Woomera Manual on the International Law of Military Space Activities and Operations. The consultative process by which the Woomera Manual has sought a wide range of inputs, notably on state practice, presents a model by which to build consensus and clearly articulate gaps in the law.

This was followed by a presentation on the importance of the information environment by Dr. Jacob Wallis from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute’s (ASPI) International Policy Centre. Dr. Wallis serves as ASPI’s Head of Program for Information Operations and Disinformation. Dr. Wallis articulated the critical importance of partnerships between government and industry in combating transnational disinformation and attributing malicious behavior to malign actors. Dr. Wallis proposed the establishment of an Indo-Pacific hybrid threat center to marshal resources and expertise to counter the growing threat of disinformation. He used case studies to show how disinformation is used as a form of political warfare. Placing disinformation in the context of erosion of the rules-based international order, Dr. Wallis emphasized that disinformation is not just about transmitting false information, it is also about transnational digital repression, power projection, and imposing costs on those who oppose coercion.

Mr. Stephen Hunnewell, the first Information Director for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, provided insight into how information is operationalized in the context of military operations. His points on the value of speed and first-mover advantage in the information domain underscored the need for like-minded states to recalibrate both the authorities that underlie their use of information and their risk calculus in the information domain.

Day 3 was highlighted by a panel on “lawfare” and counter-lawfare in legal operations with experts from U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, National Defense University, and NATO. The speakers presented definitions and taxonomies of lawfare, described tools used in counter-lawfare efforts, and stressed the need to form lawfare coordination mechanisms among allies and partners. One speaker framed the urgent need to conceptualize law as a contested domain by stating, “law, like any other weapon, can be used for good or evil. We are not using it enough for good.” The panel led to a robust question-and-answer session. Participants echoed the sentiment





of the panelists that sophisticated uses of lawfare by revisionist powers requires a robust counter-lawfare response.

Captain Ian Park of the United Kingdom Royal Navy followed this up with a lecture on the UK’s “tilt” towards the Indo-Pacific. He utilized examples of cooperative initiatives, recent deployments, and ongoing legal disputes in the region involving the United Kingdom to argue that economic, military, and other strategic factors all necessitate greater engagement in the Indo-Pacific.

Ms. Lauren Shneier, Acting Director of International Government Agreements and Arrangements at the Australian Department of Defence, continued the theme of providing examples of how legal interoperability contributes to operational effectiveness. She provided examples of bespoke international agreements adding efficiency to cooperative defense activities. She concluded by proposing areas where like-minded states can continue to streamline cooperation on international agreements and related instruments.

Day 3 concluded with a historically informed presentation on the United States’ One-China Policy concerning the unresolved status of Taiwan. The lecture dissected the diversity of “One-China” policies among other states and illustrated how One-China policies differ in marked contrast from the People’s Republic of China’s stated One-China Principle. In a question-and-answer session, conference attendees reiterated the importance of self-determination under international law and the bedrock commitment of all to peaceful dispute resolution.

#### MILOPS 22 – KEY TAKEAWAY #5

LEGAL ADVISORS FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO PRESERVE PEACE, PROTECT SHARED NETWORKS, AND MAINTAIN RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF URGENT THREATS TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE BY MALICIOUS ACTORS.

#### MILOPS 22 – KEY TAKEAWAY #6

LEGAL ADVISORS FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SOPHISTICATED USE OF LAWFARE REQUIRES A COORDINATED COUNTER-LAWFARE RESPONSE.



#### MILOPS 22 – KEY TAKEAWAY #7

LEGAL ADVISORS FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONCURRED THAT A BEDROCK PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IS THE COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES.

#### MILOPS 22 - RESOLUTION #2

MILOPS PLANNERS RESOLVED TO DEVELOP A PUBLIC FACING WEBSITE WHERE MULTILATERAL LEGAL POSITIONS ON IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE RULE OF LAW CAN BE ARTICULATED, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES PUBLICIZED AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LEGAL ADVISORS ACROSS THE REGION ARE DISSEMINATED.

### **Day 4: Operationalizing Legal Partnerships**

Day 4 focused on how legal partnerships enhance peace and stability through military operations, offering concise pathways for allies and partners to act on the conference’s overarching theme.

Air Commodore Robson returned to provide an operators’ perspective on how legal practitioners, when appropriately integrated into military exercise planning cycles, help build scenarios by which militaries train to respond to challenges to the rules-based international order. He highlighted examples which account for human rights violations and women, peace, and security.

In a dual-presentation, Ms. Grace Corbiau, Director of the Australian Defense Force’s Indo-Pacific Centre for Military Law and Lieutenant Colonel Shessy Davis from U.S. Indo-Pacific Command revisited the strategic value of person-to-person relationships among legal advisors. They provided concrete suggestions by which participants could use legal partnerships to protect, build, and defend the legal infrastructure that supports the free and open Indo-Pacific. Among these suggestions was the combined development of a public facing website where multi-lateral legal positions on important aspects of the Rule of Law can be articulated (e.g. Tactical Aids, professional articles, legal opinions, etc); combined training opportunities within the Indo-Pacific region; and the development of a regional legal contact directory.



Finally, to close MILOPS 2022, a distinguished panel of senior uniformed legal advisors, representing their respective military legal services, from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, India, and Japan reflected on the conference and areas for future cooperation. One participant noted that a unified commitment to the rule of law is a form of deterrence, elevating the cost for would-be aggressors and helping to ensure peace in the Indo-Pacific region. Another committed to providing staff effort to aid in the building of stronger partnerships between national legal offices. Yet another observed that opportunities for exchange among legal advisors will pay tremendous dividends over time and encouraged participants to share such opportunities following the conference. One participant added that despite all the achievements of MILOPS 2022, much work remained for participants to develop common positions on divergent areas of international law and bring those to their governments, to facilitate engagements at the national and strategic level.

#### MILOPS 22 - RESOLUTION #3

**MILOPS PLANNERS RESOLVED TO SUPPORT EVENTS AND EXCHANGES ORGANIZED BY PARTNERS AND ALLIES**

#### **Beyond MILOPS 2022: Sustaining Legal Partnerships, Building Shared Consensus**

MILOPS 2022 accomplished its primary goal: strengthening legal partnerships to uphold the rule of law in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific, with a focus on building connections at the person-to-person level. Participants agreed that two necessary next steps are to sustain these peer-to-peer connections and to use these connections to build consensus around shared legal positions and norms at the military-to-military and government-to-government level.

MILOPS 2022 accomplished its secondary goal of re-starting an event that has taken place annually since 1986, following a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. U.S. Indo-Pacific Command is in the process of arranging for the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual MILOPS, to be held in 2023. Staff from U.S. Indo-Pacific Command expressed their support not only to continue to strengthen legal partnerships in the context of future MILOPS conferences, but in support of similar events and exchanges organized by partners and allies.

Overall, the ability for MILOPS 2022 to bring together uniformed and civilian government legal advisors, academics, and representatives of non-governmental organizations helped sustain the connective tissue of the rules-based international order. Participants look forward to building on this progress through future engagements.



**Annexes**

- A. Senior National Representation - MILOPS 22
- B. Photo Highlights - MILOPS 22
- C. Key Takeaways and Resolutions

**Annex A**

Senior National Representation – MILOPS 22

AIRCDRE	Patrick	Keane	DGMLS-ADF	Australia	
LCDR	Elizabeth	Steele	DJAG	Canada	
CMDR	Aisake	Rabuku	A/DALS	Fiji	
Mr.	Tim	Brown	RC - ASFP	ICRC	
CAPT	Gurpeet	Khurana	DS-INWC	India	
CAPT	Dedi	Susilo	LSO-IN	Indonesia	
COL	Eiji	Nozaki	LAG-MOD	Japan	
Mr.	Abdullah	Ariff	PA	Malaysia	
CAPT	Abdulla	Ismail		Maldives	
COL	Gombosuran	Enkhbold	LA-CLD	Mongolia	
Mr.	Joses	Gallen	SEC JUSTICE	FSM	
Mr.	Andrés	Mosquera	DACO/SHAPE	NATO	
BGEN	Jeeban	Dahal	JAG-Army	Nepal	
LTCOL	Matt	Harding	DLS	New Zealand	
Mr.	Neil	Silva	LO-IMA	Philippines	
CMDR	Jaeho	Han	CNOL-OJA	Republic Korea	
AG	Ernestine	Rengiil	AG-MJ	Republic Palau	
Mr.	Leong	Ian	DLS	Singapore	
COL	Jayantha	Senanayake	SSO-LAO	Sri Lanka	
CAPT	Narupon	Joytongmool	DDLD-ONJA	Thailand	
AVM	Tamara	Jennings	DLS-RAF	UK	
ADM	John	Aquilino	COM-INDOPACOM	US	
Ms.	Mieke	Eoyang	DASD-CP	US	
Ms.	Carrie	Ricci	GC-US Army	US	
VADM	Darse	Crandall	TJAG-N	US	
Dr	Nguyen	Son	VP-DAV	Vietnam	





**Annex B**

Photo Highlights – MILOPS 22



Questions on ‘Erosion of International Norms’ – Day 1





Expert International Panel on IUU fishing – Day 2



Expert International Panel on Gray Zone Operations – Day 2







Strengthening legal partnerships in the breaks – Day 3



Senior Lawyer Multinational Panel – Day 4





Group Photo MILOPS 22

**Annex C**

**KEY TAKEAWAYS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM THE 33RD ANNUAL MILITARY OPERATIONS AND LAW CONFERENCE, BANGKOK, THAILAND, 14-18 AUGUST 2022**

1. LEGAL ADVISORS FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE KEEN TO STRENGTHEN LEGAL RELATIONS AS A MEANS TO UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW AND THE RULES-BASED INTERNATIONAL ORDER.
2. LEGAL ADVISORS FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS SHARE MANY COMMON VIEWPOINTS ON THE RULES-BASED INTERNATIONAL ORDER AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN PRESERVING PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC.
3. LEGAL ADVISORS FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS NOTED THAT ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED, AND UNREPORTED FISHING IS A DIRECT AFFRONT TO INTERNATIONAL LAW AND MERITS ROBUST LEGAL COOPERATION TO ENSURE INFORMATION SHARING AND ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS.
4. LEGAL ADVISORS FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS COMMENTED ON THE NEED TO BUILD AND ENFORCE CODES OF CONDUCT, CONSOLIDATE UNDERSTANDINGS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW CONCEPTS ABUSED IN THE GRAY ZONE, AND NAME AND SHAME VIOLATORS.
5. LEGAL ADVISORS FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO PRESERVE PEACE, PROTECT SHARED NETWORKS, AND MAINTAIN RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF URGENT THREATS TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE BY MALICIOUS ACTORS.
6. LEGAL ADVISORS FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SOPHISTICATED USE OF LAWFARE REQUIRES A COORDINATED COUNTER-LAWFARE RESPONSE.
7. LEGAL ADVISORS FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONCURRED THAT A BEDROCK PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IS THE COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES.





## USINDOPACOM MILOPS PLANNERS RESOLVED

1. TO INCLUDE A DISCUSSION OF CORRUPTION AND ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS IN THE 34TH ANNUAL MILOPS CONFERENCE.
2. TO DEVELOP A PUBLIC FACING WEBSITE WHERE MULTILATERAL LEGAL POSITIONS ON IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE RULE OF LAW CAN BE ARTICULATED, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES PUBLICIZED AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LEGAL ADVISORS ACROSS THE REGION ARE DISSEMINATED.
3. TO SUPPORT EVENTS AND EXCHANGES ORGANIZED BY PARTNERS AND ALLIES