



Welcome to the updated IHL newsletter. The IHL Unit has had a very busy summer! Along with our partners in the field we have been working hard to develop more IHL programming for the coming year. For our August/September newsletter we would like to introduce you to the new IHL Unit Director Randy Bagwell, update you about the status of our IHL Youth Action Campaign, discuss our recent training programs with the field on Healthcare in Danger and training of trainers, show you some of the activities that have been happening at NHQ, tell you about some of the IHL related trips the team has been on, and finally thank our summer intern team for their hard work. Without further ado I'll pass it over to Randy.

## American Red Cross Welcomes A New Director of International Humanitarian Law



Hello everyone. As the newest member of the IHL team, I want to introduce myself to everyone. I am Randy Bagwell, the new Director of IHL for the Red Cross. While I am new to the American Red Cross, I am not new to IHL. In June, I retired from active duty as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer with the U.S. Army. During my almost thirty-year army career, I worked most of my time in IHL in both teaching and operational assignments. As an IHL instructor, I have taught at the Army JAG School, the U.S. Naval War College, the Defense Institute of International Law, the NATO School and Institute of International Humanitarian Law. As an IHL legal advisor, I have deployed in support of the mission in Bosnia, twice to Afghanistan and once to Iraq. Along with this experience, I bring a passion for teaching, coaching and anything IHL related. I hope that I can help make the already strong IHL team even stronger going forward.

Speaking of going forward, I also want to layout some of our plans for the upcoming year. In addition to the Professional Training Course (PTC) that you all know about, we are also developing two other courses for our IHL trainers to offer to their communities. The first is a one-hour IHL course. Designed to be given with or without audio-visual support, this course can be presented in 45-60 minutes as an introduction to IHL. This is a great course to give over a lunch at something like the Rotary Club or Bar Association meeting. It should be ready for the field no later than November. The second course is a remake of the Born on the Battlefield. This is designed as a three to six-hour course that goes more in-depth in both IHL and the Red

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Cross movement. Finally, we have our eight-hour PTC course for those who want to get more in-depth into IHL.



We also have our IHL Youth Action Campaign. While each Division is appointing Youth Action Coordinators, there are opportunities for IHL volunteer trainers to serve as IHL mentors to the youth teams. This can be in person if you are local or by email or phone if you are not.

As I join the team I am really impressed by the work you all have done so far and excited about the great thing we can accomplish working together in the future.

## Youth Action Campaign

The IHL Youth Action Campaign program is getting ready to launch the Beta phase of the program. The IHL Youth Action Campaign encourages young people ages 13-24 to learn about International Humanitarian



Law and empowers participants to explore IHL topics through peer-to-peer education campaigns. We have conducted a pilot at NHQ with youth and were motivated by the enthusiasm and energy they brought to the program. Coordinators for the program have been selected from every division, and we are preparing for the in person coordinator training in Washington, D.C. on October 6, 2018. We look forward to sharing the creative educational activities our IHL youth teams will design for their peers after the launch, so stay tuned for updates! If you have any questions please email Esme Aston at [esme.aston@redcross.org](mailto:esme.aston@redcross.org).

## Healthcare In Danger

This year's theme for the IHL Team is Healthcare in Danger (HCiD). HCiD has is one of the main issues this year for the Red Cross Movement as a whole with both the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) focusing on it.

In New York City and Chicago, Randy Bagwell and Griffin Ferry led targeted training that aimed to educate the public on the protections afforded to medical personnel and infrastructure in armed conflict. HCiD is a three-hour training course specifically designed to inform people on the increasing dangers associated with healthcare workers, facilities, and supplies when operating in areas of armed conflict. The goal of the course is to raise awareness of this global threat and to inform on the specific aspects of IHL that protect healthcare workers. The trainings were hosted by the American Red Cross Greater New York Region and the American Red Cross of Chicago & Northern Illinois respectively.





## Professional Training Course Train-the-Trainers European and Southeast Divisions

Earlier this summer, Griffin Ferry, Esme Aston, and Noah O'Connor were invited to deliver a Train-the-Trainer course at Naval Station Rota in Spain. Over two days IHL volunteers from the Europe Division were trained to deliver the Professional Training Course (PTC) at their respective bases. Additionally the volunteers were treated to an early view of the IHL Youth Action Campaign training materials.

Determined to rebuild and broaden the IHL Unit's cadre of volunteers, the Southeast and Caribbean Division hosted a Train-the-Trainer course in Miami, Florida. Over the two-day course, twelve IHL volunteers conducted intensive training in both IHL and presentation techniques. Upon completion of the course, they were certified to present the PTC throughout their respective regions. This is the third training of this type and the fourth will be delivered on Los Angeles at the end of October.



The PTC Train-the-Trainers course is a sixteen-hour course that trains and certifies volunteers as IHL instructors to teach the eight-hour PTC course. The Train-the-Trainer course includes the specifics of IHL, an overview of the PTC teaching materials, and training on specific teaching techniques. If you are interested in learning more about the course contact the IHL team at [IHLaw@redcross.org](mailto:IHLaw@redcross.org)

## International Young Leaders Assembly IHL Workshop



On August 8, 2018 the IHL Unit hosted a workshop for the International Young Leaders Assembly (IYLA). IHL Unit interns, Maria Muzaurieta and Andrew Johnson, taught 40 outstanding international youth and representatives from the several embassies to the US about the four fundamental IHL principles and other related topics. The two-hour program incorporated many of aspects of the upcoming Youth Action Campaign, including such exercises as Follow Your Feet. In one exercise the participants were asked to play the role of either military

commander or IHL legal advisor in addressing some of the tougher aspects of IHL decision making. The program led to many meaningful conversations and several participants inquired about further communications with the IHL unit. We look forward to a continued collaboration with IYLA to promote IHL.

## IHL Dialogues

The IHL Team participated in the 12th International Humanitarian Law Dialogues, August 26-28. The IHL Unit had the opportunity to participate in the 2018 IHL Dialogues in Chautauqua, New York. This year's theme was

“Is the justice we seek, the justice they want.” The Dialogues are an annual event that brings together justices from international tribunals to discuss the issues that have arisen with the courts over the past year and other topics of interest related to justice for IHL violations.



This year our Director of IHL, Randy Bagwell, had the opportunity to introduce the Clara Barton lecture and facilitate the discussion with the speaker. For fourteen years Mohamedou Ould Slahi was a detainee at the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Navy Base before being released pursuant to a Federal Court order. Mr. Slahi shared his experience in his book, Guantanamo Diary. Because he is still under house arrest in his home country, he joined the Dialogues via Skype. His story of his arrest at his home in Mauritania, his years in captivity and his life now were informative and inspiration. The full video of the discussion with Mr. Slahi can be found here [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTjpsgH\\_zZA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTjpsgH_zZA).



The team also heard from Ishmael Beah, a former child soldier and author of A Long Way Gone. His story of growing up in Sierra Leone, having his family killed and being pressed in the army of the government at just 13 is both tragic and inspiring. It was truly impressive to meet him and hear his story in person. Randy and Griffin highly recommend his book. Additionally Randy has asked Ishmael if he would do a webinar talk with us sometime in the future.

## Born On The (Antietam) Battlefield

While the Red Cross Movement was born on a battlefield in Europe, the American Red Cross was born on the battlefields of the Civil War. Nowhere was this more so than the Battle of Antietam. September 17, 1862 still stands as the single most bloody day in U.S. history. On that one day, 23,000 Americans were killed, wounded or missing. That is more than the number of casualties from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Mexican-American War combined. Driving her wagon of medical supplies into the middle of this carnage was Clara Barton. Inspired to act by the lack of medical support and supplies for the Union army, Ms. Barton took it upon herself to fill the gap. Despite having several near misses, including having a bullet pass through the sleeve of her dress and kill the soldier she was tending, she remained undaunted in her burning desire to help those in need.

**Battle of Antietam  
September 17, 1862**



**American Red Cross  
Staff Ride  
August 23, 2018**

On August 23rd, the IHL Unit had the opportunity to lead 28 members from the Service to Armed Forces and International Services divisions on a staff ride of the Antietam battlefield in Sharpsburg, Maryland. Staff rides are tradition in the U.S. military where members of a unit come together as a team to study the lessons of



Koby Langley and Clara Barton (Esme Aston) at the Clara Barton Monument

the past. The IHL staff ride continued that tradition by providing the SAF and ISD teams an opportunity to learn about the battle, Civil War medicine and the birth of the American Red Cross movement.



To enhance the learning experienced (okay, who are we kidding, it was just fun) the IHL team dressed in period costumes for the day. In addition to learning about the battle, the participants also learned about the early development of IHL with a discussion of the Lieber Code, one of the earliest IHL documents, the Emancipation Proclamation, and Civil War medicine complete with a visit to the Pry House Civil War Medical Museum.



Left to right—Randy Bagwell, Esme Aston, Noah O'Connor and Griffin Ferry

## Farewell IHL Interns!

Over the course of the summer the IHL Unit has been fortunate to work with a group of extremely talented interns. Legal interns Andrew Johnson, Caroline Sell, and Grant Loriaux drafted the 2019 Clara Barton Competition problems, researched and performed a debate on intersections of artificial intelligence and IHL, and assisted in staging several professional training courses. Program intern Maria Muzaurieta assisted in writing Youth Action Campaign materials, created a campaign social media toolkit, and facilitated a discussion of IHL during an International Young Leaders Assembly event. At the end of their internships Koby Langley, Senior Vice President of Service to the Armed Forces and International Services, personally thanked each intern for their hard work by presenting them with a certificate of appreciation, Service to Armed Forces hat, and an American Red Cross challenge coin. We hope you will join us in thanking our hardworking and talented interns!



Left photo—Koby Langley, Andrew Johnson and Randy Bagwell.



Right photo—Koby Langley, Maria Muzaurieta, Esme Aston and Randy Bagwell.

# Future IHL Training Opportunities



## September

- September 17th **Attacks on Medical Care in Armed Conflict**, this panel is co-hosted by the ICRC and the American Red Cross in cooperation with the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, on Monday, September 17th, 12:30—2:00 p.m. in 2043 Rayburn House Office Building. Attendance is RSVP only. **RSVP** to Alejandra Portillo-Taylor at [aportillotaylor@icrc.org](mailto:aportillotaylor@icrc.org) by **Wednesday, September 12**.
- September 22nd **IHL Professional Training Course**, Saturday, September 27th, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. at **Greater New York City Region Headquarters**, 520 W 49th St, New York, NY. Contact Sara Onvani at [sara.onvani2@redcross.org](mailto:sara.onvani2@redcross.org) for additional information.
- September 27th **IHL Professional Training Course**, Thursday, September 27th, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. at **National Headquarters**, 17th Street building, Washington, D.C., Contact [IHLaw@redcross.org](mailto:IHLaw@redcross.org) for additional information.

## October

- October 6th **Youth Action Coordinator Training**, Saturday, October 6th, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. at **National Headquarters**, 17th Street building. By invitation only.
- October 11th **IHL Professional Training Course**, Thursday, October 11th, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. at **National Headquarters**, 17th Street building, Washington, D.C., Contact [IHLaw@redcross.org](mailto:IHLaw@redcross.org) for additional information.
- October 16th **Youth Action Coordinator Virtual Training**, Tuesday, October 16th, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time). Contact Esme Aston at [esme.aston@redcross.org](mailto:esme.aston@redcross.org) for information on this online event.
- October 27-28 **IHL PTC Train-the-Trainer Course**, Saturday and Sunday, October 27-28, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. each day. Hosted by the Pacific Division at the **Los Angeles Regional Headquarters**, 11355 Ohio Ave, Los Angeles, CA. Contact [IHLaw@redcross.org](mailto:IHLaw@redcross.org) for information on this event.

## November

- November 5-8 **Far East IHL Institute**, Monday through Friday, 5-8 November in Okinawa, Japan. Hosted by the Far East Division. Contact [IHLaw@redcross.org](mailto:IHLaw@redcross.org) for additional information.
- November 15th **IHL Professional Training Course**, Thursday, November 15th, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. at **National Headquarters**, 17th Street building, Washington, D.C., Contact [IHLaw@redcross.org](mailto:IHLaw@redcross.org) for additional information.
- November 17th **IHL Professional Training Course**, Saturday, November 17th, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. at **Greater New York City Region Headquarters**, 520 W 49th St, New York, NY. Contact Sara Onvani at [sara.onvani2@redcross.org](mailto:sara.onvani2@redcross.org) for additional information.

## December

- December 6th **IHL Professional Training Course**, Thursday, November 15th, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. at **National Headquarters**, 17th Street building, Washington, D.C., Contact [IHLaw@redcross.org](mailto:IHLaw@redcross.org) for additional information.