

MILITARY LAW CENTRE/ASIA PACIFIC CENTRE FOR MILITARY LAW

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

224 - RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING FOR LEGAL TRAINING MODULE COURSE SUBJECTS

Reference:

- A. Career and Professional Development Committee (CPDC) Decision 242/04 - Policy – Recognition of Prior Academic Qualifications

Purpose

1. The purpose of this SOP is to articulate the processes for recognising prior learning for Legal Training Module (LTM) course subjects forming the training component of the Legal Officer Specialist Officer Career Structure (LOSOCS) within the ADF Legal Services. It implements the Military Law Centre (MLC) component of the CPDC Decision at the reference.

RPL Concepts

2. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is the evidence-based **assessment** of skills and knowledge that an individual has achieved outside of a particular training system; in this case, outside of the LTM training system.

3. The RPL process is to uphold the integrity of the outcomes claimed. Therefore, RPL processes are to ensure the evidence provided is **equivalent** to the intention and standard of the training outcome claimed.

4. The Recognition principles are:

- a. **Authenticity:** the applicant has actually demonstrated the course subject outcomes or equivalent that is being claimed.
- b. **Currency:** the learning or competency is still valid and performable.
- c. **Quality:** the learning claimed is at the required level.
- d. **Relevance:** the learning is applicable to the area claimed.
- e. **Transferability:** the learning can be applied in the context sought, if it was learned in a different context.
- f. **Comparability:** the assessment mechanisms adopted are to be evidence-based and ensure that learning is comparable in content and standard with the learning for which RPL or credit transfer is sought. The standards applied are to be the same as those applied to assessments conducted in LTM training.

5. As this RPL process relates to LTM course subjects that involve tertiary education, RPL will not be granted based solely on demonstrated work-experience. By way of example, RPL for LTM 2 Discipline Law would not be granted based on postings to positions with significant or even sole discipline work. However, demonstrated work-experience may be used to support an application for RPL in combination with a tertiary subject other than LTM 2 Discipline Law.

6. There are two possible outcomes of an RPL assessment:
 - a. RPL is granted for the LTM course subject; or
 - b. RPL is not granted (due to incomplete or inappropriate alignment against training outcomes).

RPL Procedure

7. **LTM 1.** RPL is not given for LTM 1 as this is the course that introduces all new ADF Legal Officers to legal work within the ADF and does not involve tertiary education.

8. **LTM 2 and 3 Subjects.** The process, illustrated in a flowchart at annex A, is as follows:

- a. The applicant Legal Officer provides an evidence-based submission to the CPDC (Form AG1). It is to demonstrate how the evidence equates to the LTM course subject outcomes, therefore the application should include the LTM course subject objectives and program outline¹.
- b. If the application has initial merit, the CPDC forwards the submission to the Director Military Law Centre (DMLC).
- c. DMLC assesses the application, consulting other subject matter experts as required, applying the Recognition principles. DMLC passes a recommendation to the CPDC.
- d. The CPDC determines whether to offer RPL and its extent. The applicant is informed of the decision.
- e. If the application is unsuccessful, the applicant has the right to submit a request for a reconsideration of this decision to the CPDC together with any new or additional evidence.
- f. The CPDC considers the reconsideration and may pass it back to DMLC for a recommendation.



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Annex:

A. LTM 2 and 3 Subjects - Recognition of Prior Learning Process Flowchart

¹ LTM course subject objectives and program outline are available on request from the Director Military Law Centre

LTM 2 and 3 Subjects - Recognition of Prior Learning Process Flowchart

