Contents

Preface		page xix
ist	ist of Abbreviations	
	Introduction	1
	The Readership	4
1	General Background	6
	Purpose and Scope of the <i>Manual</i> Use of Footnotes, Sources, Cross-References and Signals	6
	in the <i>Manual</i>	7
	Definition of the Law of War	10
	Object and Nature of War	13
	War as a Legal Concept	14
	Law of War Distinguished from Certain Topics	16
	Treaties	19
	Customary International Law	21
	Subsidiary Means of Determining International Law	23
	Legal Force of the Law of War	24
	Jus ad Bellum	26
2	Principles	30
	Military Necessity	31
	Humanity	34
	Proportionality	36
	Distinction	37
	Honor	39

viii Contents

3	Application of the Law of War	42
	Situations to Which the Law of War Applies	45
	Status of the Parties and the Law of War	45
	When Jus in Bello Rules Apply	48
	Relationship between Jus in Bello and Jus ad Bellum	53
	Reciprocity and Law of War Rules	55
	Applying Rules by Analogy	57
	End of Hostilities and the Application of the Law	
	of War	58
	Law of War Duties also Applicable in Peace	59
4	Classes of Persons	60
	The Armed Forces and the Civilian Population	61
	Lawful Combatants and Unprivileged Belligerents	63
	Rights, Duties and Liabilities of Combatants	65
	Armed Forces of a State	68
	Other Militia and Volunteer Corps	71
	Levee en Masse	76
	Rights, Duties and Liabilities of Civilians	77
	Military Medical and Religious Personnel	78
	Rights, Duties and Liabilities of Military Medical and	
	Religious Personnel	80
	Authorized Staff of Voluntary Aid Societies	81
	Staff of a Recognized Aid Society of a Neutral Country	81
	Auxiliary Medical Personnel	82
	Personnel Engaged in Duties Relating to the Protection of	
	Cultural Property	83
	Persons Authorized to Accompany the Armed Forces	85
	Crews of Merchant Marine Vessels or Civil Aircraft	89
	Spies, Saboteurs and Other Persons Engaged in Similar Acts	
	Behind Enemy Lines	90
	Private Persons Who Engage in Hostilities	93
	Rights, Duties and Liabilities of Unprivileged Belligerents	96
	Children	98
	Mercenaries	100
	API Provisions on Civil Defense Personnel	101
	Law Enforcement Officers	101
	Journalists	102
	Delegates or Representatives of the Protecting Powers	102

Contents ix

	ICRC and Other Impartial Humanitarian Organizations	104
	Determining the Status of Detainees in Cases of Doubt	105
5	The Conduct of Hostilities	107
	Overview of the Rules for the Protection of Civilians	108
	Assessing Information under the Law of War	112
	Rules on Conducting Assaults, Bombardments and	
	Other Attacks	113
	Discrimination in Conducting Attacks and Military Objectives	118
	Combatants	123
	Civilians Taking a Direct Part in Hostilities	127
	Persons Placed Hors de Combat	129
	Feasible Precautions in Conducting Attacks to Reduce the	
	Risk of Harm to Protected Persons and Objects	131
	Proportionality in Conducting Attacks	134
	Attacks on Works, Facilities or Installations Containing	
	Dangerous Forces	138
	Feasible Precautions to Reduce the Risk of Harm to Protected	
	Persons and Objects by the Party Subject to Attack	139
	Undefended Cities, Towns and Villages	140
	Prohibition on Using Protected Persons and Objects to Shield,	
	Favor or Impede Military Operations	142
	Seizure and Destruction of Enemy Property	143
	Protection of Cultural Property during Hostilities	146
	Sieges and Encircled Areas	149
	Starvation	151
	Overview of Good Faith, Perfidy and Ruses	152
	Treachery or Perfidy Used to Kill or Wound	152
	Use of Enemy Flags, Insignia and Military Uniforms	153
	Improper Use of Certain Signs	154
	Ruses of War and Other Lawful Deceptions	154
	Non-Forcible Means and Methods of Warfare	155
	Prohibition Against Compelling Enemy Nationals to	
	Take Part in the Operations of War Directed Against	(
	Their Own Country	156
6	Weapons	157
	Introduction	157
	DoD Policy of Reviewing the Legality of Weapons	158

x Contents

	Prohibited Weapons and Lawful Weapons	159
	Weapons Calculated to Cause Superfluous Injury	164
	Inherently Indiscriminate Weapons	165
	Poison, Poisoned Weapons, Poisonous Gases and Other	
	Chemical Weapons	166
	Biological Weapons	168
	Certain Environmental Modification Techniques	168
	Weapons Injuring by Fragments Not Detectable by X-Rays	169
	Landmines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices	169
	Cluster Munitions	173
	Incendiary Weapons	174
	Laser Weapons	176
	Riot Control Agents	177
	Herbicides	178
	Nuclear Weapons	178
	Explosive Ordnance	179
	Explosive Remnants of War	179
7	Wounded, Sick, Shipwrecked, Dead and the	
	Medical Services	181
	Introduction	181
	Application of the Protections	182
	Respect for and Protection of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked	183
	Search, Collection and Affirmative Protection	185
	Humane Treatment and Care of Enemy Military Wounded,	
	Sick and Shipwrecked in the Power of a Party to	
	the Conflict	186
	Accountability Information from Enemy Wounded, Sick,	
	Shipwrecked and Dead	188
	Treatment and Handling of Enemy Military Dead	188
	Respect and Protection of Categories of Medical and	
	Religious Personnel	189
	Captured Medical and Religious Personnel	190
	Military Medical Units and Facilities	192
	Ground Transports of the Wounded and Sick, or of	
	Medical Equipment	194
	Hospital Ships, Sick Bays in Warships and Coastal	
	Rescue Craft	194
	Military Medical Aircraft	196
	Display of the Distinctive Emblem to Facilitate Identification	197

Contents xi

	Protection of Civilians Who Are Wounded, Sick, Infirm or	
	Expectant Mothers	198
	Civilian Hospitals and Their Personnel	199
	Land and Sea Civilian Hospital Convoys	199
	Civilian Medical Aircraft	199
	API Provisions on the Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked	200
8	Detention - Overview and Baseline Rules	201
	Introduction	201
	Humane Treatment of Detainees	204
	Security Measures	205
	Interrogation	206
	Medical Care	207
	Criminal Procedure and Punishment	211
	Concluding Remarks	212
9	Prisoners of War	213
	Introduction	213
	General Principles Applicable to the Treatment of PWs	213
	Entitlement to PW Status	214
	National-Level GPW Implementation	216
	Humane Treatment and Basic Protections for PWs	216
	Security Measures with Respect to PWs	218
	Interrogation of PWs	219
	Evacuation from Combat Areas	220
	Transit or Screening Facilities	221
	General Conditions in PW Camps - Location, Safety, Hygiene	
	and Living Conditions	221
	Segregation of PWs	223
	Food, Water, Tobacco and Clothing for PWs	223
	Medical Attention for Interned PWs	224
	Intellectual, Physical and Recreational Activities	225
	Canteens for PWs	226
	Financial Resources of PWs	226
	PW Labor	227
	PW Correspondence	229
	Private Legal Matters of PWs	230
	Internal Discipline of PW Camps	231
	PW Requests, Complaints and Reports about Conditions	
	of Captivity	232

xii Contents

	PW Representatives	233
	PW Escapes	234
	General Principles Applicable to PW Discipline	235
	Disciplinary Proceedings and Punishment	236
	Judicial Proceedings and Punishment	237
	Transfer of PWs from the PW Camp	239
	Transfer of PWs to the Custody of Another Detaining Power	239
	National Accounting of the Detention of PWs	239
	Role of the Protecting Power in GPW	240
	Access to PWs by the Protecting Powers, ICRC and Relief	
	Organizations	240
	Death of PWs	241
	Exchanges and Other Release and Repatriation of PWs	
	during Hostilities	242
	Direct Repatriation and Accommodation in Neutral Countries	
	during Hostilities	242
	Release and Repatriation after Hostilities	243
	PWs Whom the Detaining Power Is Not Required to	
	Repatriate	244
	Procedure on Release and Repatriation after Hostilities	245
	Concluding Remarks	245
10	Civilians in the Hands of a Party to the Conflict	2 47
	Introduction	247
	National-Level GC Implementation Measures	248
	Protected Person Status	248
	Derogation for Security Reasons	250
	Humane Treatment and Other Basic Protections for	
	Protected Persons	251
	Measures of Control and Security	252
	General Treatment of Protected Persons in a Belligerent's	
	Own Territory	254
	Expulsion from Areas within a Belligerent's Home Territory	
	and Departure and Transfers of Protected Persons from a	
	Belligerent's Home Territory	255
	Internment	256
	Segregation of Internees	258
	Safety, Hygiene and Living Conditions in Places of Internment	258
	Canteens for Internees	259
	Food, Water, Tobacco and Clothing for Internees	259

Contents	X111

Medical Attention for Internees	260
Religious Exercise by Internees	261
Intellectual, Physical and Recreational Activities	261
Internee Labor	262
Internees' Articles of Personal Use	262
Financial Resources of Internees	262
Administration of Places of Internment and Discipline	263
Internee Petitions, Complaints and Reports about Conditions	
of Internment	264
Internee Committees	265
Internee Correspondence and Relief Shipments	265
Private Legal Matters of Internees	267
Internees and Visits of Families and Friends	268
Internee Escapes	268
General Provisions Applicable to Both Judicial and	
Disciplinary Sanctions Regarding Internees	268
Disciplinary Proceedings and Punishment	269
Judicial Proceedings Regarding Protected Persons	
in Occupied Territory or Internees in a Belligerent's	
Home Territory	270
Transfers of Internees from the Place of Internment	271
National Accounting for Protected Persons in Its Power	272
Role of the Protecting Power in GC	274
Access to Internees by Protecting Powers, ICRC and Other	
Relief Organizations	274
Death of Internees	275
Release, Return, Repatriation of Internees after the Close	
of Hostilities	276
Concluding Remarks	276
Military Occupation	278
Introduction	278
When Military Occupation Law Applies	282
End of Occupation and Duration of GC Obligations	284
Legal Position of the Occupying Power	285
Duty of the Occupying Power to Ensure Public Order	
and Safety	285
Protection of the Population of an Occupied Territory	286
Authority of the Occupying Power over Inhabitants	287
Administration of Occupied Territory	288

xiv Contents

	Local Law and Legislation	288
	Ordinary Courts in Occupied Territory	289
	Criminal Law in Occupied Territory	290
	Movement of Persons in Occupied Territory	292
	Protection of Children in Occupied Territory	293
	Food and Medical Supplies for the Civilian Population	294
	Public Health and Hygiene	294
	Spiritual Assistance	295
	Relief Efforts and Consignments	295
	Enemy Property during Occupation	297
	Protection of Cultural Property during Occupation	300
	Labor of Protected Persons in Occupied Territory	301
	Judges and Other Public Officials	303
	Public Finances and Taxes	303
	Other Economic Regulation of Occupied Territory	305
	Concluding Remarks	306
12	Non-Hostile Relations between Belligerents	308
	Introduction	308
	Principle of Good Faith in Non-Hostile Relations	309
	Methods of Communication between Belligerents	309
	The White Flag of Truce to Initiate Negotiations	310
	Rules for Parlementaires	311
	Military Passports, Safe-Conducts and Safeguards	313
	Cartels	314
	Capitulations – Negotiated Instruments of Surrender	314
	Capitulations – Subjects Usually Addressed	316
	Capitulations – Violations and Denunciation	317
	Armistices and Other Cease-Fire Agreements	318
	Armistices – Subjects Usually Addressed	319
	Armistices – Violations and Denunciation	321
	UN Security Council Cease-Fires	322
13	Naval Warfare	323
	Law of the Sea	324
	Overview of Rules for Naval Engagements	326
	Fundamentals of the Law of Naval Warfare	326
	Other Aspects Dealt With in Section 13.3	328
	Enemy Warships	331
	Enemy Merchant Vessels	332

XV

	Enemy Vessels Exempt from Capture or Destruction	336
	Submarine Warfare	338
	Belligerent Control of the Immediate Area of Naval Operations	339
	Maritime and Airspace Zones – Exclusion, War, Operational,	-
	Warning and Safety	341
	Blockade	345
	Naval Mines	347
	Torpedoes	350
	Deception by Naval Forces, Including the Use of Enemy or	250
	Neutral Flags	350
	Concluding Remarks	351
14	Air and Space Warfare	352
	Introduction	352
	Legal Boundaries of Airspace	354
	Aircraft Status	357
	Status of Aircrew on Military Aircraft	359
	Measures Short of Attack - Interception, Diversion	
	and Capture	361
	Belligerent Control of Aviation in the Immediate Vicinity	
	of Hostilities	362
	Airspace Zones	363
	Attacks Against Military Objectives in the Air	363
	Air Attacks Against Military Objectives on the Ground	366
	International Law and Warfare in Outer Space	368
	Concluding Remarks	370
15	The Law of Neutrality	371
	Introduction	373
	Application of the Law of Neutrality	375
	Overview of the Law of Neutrality's Framework of Reciprocal	
	Rights and Duties	377
	Remedies for Violations of Neutrality Law	377
	Prohibition on the Use of Neutral Territory as a Base	
	of Operations	378
	Neutral Persons	379
	Neutral Waters	380
	Passage of Belligerent Vessels and Aircraft through	
	International Straits and Archipelagic Sea Lanes	382
	Sections 15.9 and 15.10	382

xvi Contents

	Right of Angary	383
	Neutral Commerce and Carriage of Contraband	383
	Belligerent Right of Visit and Search of Merchant Vessels and	
	Civil Aircraft	386
	Acquisition of Enemy Character by Neutral-Flagged Merchant	
	Vessels and Neutral-Marked Civil Aircraft	387
	Capture of Neutral Vessels and Aircraft	388
	Sections 15.16, 15.17 and 15.18	388
	Concluding Remarks	389
16	Cyber Operations	390
	Introduction	390
	Application of the Law of War to Cyber Operations	391
	Cyber Operations and the Jus ad Bellum	393
	Cyber Operations and the Law of Neutrality	395
	Cyber Operations and Jus in Bello	396
	Legal Review of Weapons That Employ Cyber Capabilities	400
	Concluding Remarks	400
17	Non-International Armed Conflict	401
	Introduction	402
	Application of International Law to Non-International	
	Armed Conflicts	404
	Sections 17.3 and 17.4	406
	Principle of Distinction	407
	Respect and Humane Treatment of Persons Taking no Active	
	Part in Hostilities in Non-International Armed Conflict	409
	Rules on Conducting Attacks in Non-International	
	Armed Conflict	410
	Sections 17.8 and 17.9	410
	Protection of Children in Non-International Armed Conflict	412
	Protection of Cultural Property in Non-International	
	Armed Conflict	412
	Use of Captured or Surrendered Enemy Personnel in	
	Non-International Armed Conflict	412
	Weapons in Non-International Armed Conflict	413
	Protection of the Wounded, Sick, Shipwrecked and Dead	413
	Medical and Religious Personnel and Medical Transports	414
	Display of the Distinctive Emblem	415
	Detention in Non-International Armed Conflict	415

	Contents	xvii
	Non-Intervention and Neutral Duties in Non-International	
	Armed Conflict	416
	Concluding Remarks	418
18	Implementation and Enforcement of the Law of War	419
	Introduction	419
	Prudential Reasons Supporting the Implementation and	
	Enforcement of the Law of War	421
	Duties of Individual Members of the Armed Forces	421
	Sections 18.4 to 18.8	421
	States' Obligations with Respect to Violations of the Law	
	of War	422
	State Responses to Violations of the Law of War by	
	the Enemy	422
	War Crimes	425
	Concluding Remarks	426
19	Documentary Appendix - Notes on Treaties and Other	
	Relevant Documents	428
	Lists of Treaties and Other Documents	428
	The Lieber Code	430
	1856 Paris Declaration Respecting Maritime Law	430
	1864 GWS	431
	1868 St Petersburg Declaration	431
	1899 and 1907 Hague Declarations on Weapons	431
	1899 Hague Convention II and 1907 Hague Convention IV	
	and Their Annexed Regulations	432
	1923 Hague Air and Radio Rules	433
	1925 Geneva Gas and Bacteriological Protocol	434
	1929 Geneva Conventions	434
	1930 London Treaty for the Limitation and Reduction of Naval	
	Armament and 1936 London Protocol	434
	1935 Roerich Pact	435
	1949 Geneva Conventions	435
	1954 Hague Cultural Property Convention	437
	Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties	437
	Biological Weapons Convention	437

Additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions

CCW, CCW Amended Article 1 and CCW Protocols

437

438

440

xviii Contents

	Chemical Weapons Convention	442
	Rome Statute	443
	1999 UN Secretary General's Bulletin for UN Forces	443
	2005 ICRC Study on Customary International	, , ,
	Humanitarian Law	444
20	Post-Publication Amendments	445
	May 2016 Amendments	445
	December 2016 Amendments	440