

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United States Air Force Academy's International Humanitarian Law Competition Team Excels in 2019

This spring the **United States Air Force Academy's** (USAFA) International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Competition Teams shined. **Lt Col Shawn McKelvy, Department of Law (DFL)** professor taught all of the cadets in his Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) course where each was selected to represent USAFA. Thereafter, they were enrolled in Advanced LOAC taught by **Prof Chad Austin (DFL)** and **Lt Col McKelvy** to better prepare them for the various competitions.

From 25-29 March, **C1C Noah Gavenus, C1C Hunter Maxwell,** and **C2C Trey Duvall,** competed at the 18th Annual Law of Armed Conflict Competition for Military Academies in San Remo, Italy. A total of 86 cadets from 23 military academies and 16 different countries participated in the week-long competition providing legal advice to a coalition commander on a variety of fictitious but realistic issues. After the smoke settled and the war was won, **C1C Gavenus, of Burnsville, NC, son of the Honorable Gary and Ms. Suzanne Gavenus,** was selected as the **#2 Best Individual Cadet.** He was also on the **#5 Best Mixed Team.** C1C Maxwell was on the **#3 Best Mixed Team** and C2C Duvall was on the **#4 Best Mixed Team.** DFL professor **Lt Col McKelvy** is in his 11th year serving as the Competition's Co-Director and primary author of all scenarios.



C1C Maxwell, C1C Gavenus, C2C Duvall & Lt Col McKelvy



C1C Gavenus receiving #2 Best Cadet Award

The group was able to embark upon a short cultural immersion in Florence, Pompeii, and Rome, Italy, after the competition. Highlights of their tour included visiting the priceless works of art like Michelangelo's masterpiece, "David", as well as touring the Vatican and iconic sites of Imperial Rome such as the Colosseum and the Roman Forum.



Pompeii, Italy



Michelangelo's David in Florence



The Colosseum in Rome

DFL would like to publically thank **Dr Mike (USAFA '68)** and **Marie Parkinson** for their continued financial support of all three of the above competitions. For the past six years the **Parkinsons** have

completely funded these competitions, along with the cultural immersions, providing cadets with life-changing experiences that would not have been otherwise possible.