



**CALL FOR PAPERS
FOR THE 2026 LIEBER SOCIETY
RICHARD R. BAXTER MILITARY WRITING PRIZE**

Background. Since 2007, the Lieber Society on the Law of Armed Conflict, an interest group of the American Society of International Law (ASIL), has annually recognized a paper that significantly enhances the understanding and implementation of the law of armed conflict (LOAC) (also known as international humanitarian law (IHL) or the law of war). The Richard R. Baxter Military Prize is awarded for exceptional writing in English by an active member of the regular or reserve armed forces, civilian employees of an armed force/Ministry of Defense (or Department of Defense for the United States), or military service veterans, regardless of nationality.

Prize & Recognition. The winner will be recognized at the ASIL Annual Meeting and presented a certificate as the recipient of the 2025 Lieber Society Richard R. Baxter Military Writing Prize, along with a one-year membership in the American Society of International Law (ASIL). The Baxter Prize Committee reserves the right to recognize additional authors to receive Lieber Society Richard R. Baxter Military Prize Certificates of Merit.

Request for Assistance. Any person receiving this Call for Papers who is aware of exceptional writing and author(s) that meets the qualifications of this competition is requested to nominate the paper directly to the Lieber Society and forward this Call to the author(s) of that paper.

Author Eligibility: The author or all authors of papers with multiple authors do not need to be current ASIL members, and there is no nationality requirement. However, all authors (sole or joint) must meet one of the following criteria:

- Member of the Armed Forces of a State, including active and reserve components;
- Veteran of the armed forces of a State, including former members and retirees, combat and non-combat; or
- Civil Servant employed by the Armed Forces of a State or Ministry of Defense (Department of Defense for the U.S.).

Number/Type of Submissions. Authors may be considered for one (1) sole and one (1) co-authored paper.

Paper Eligibility. Published and unpublished papers are eligible, but they shall have been published or written in 2025.

Eligible Topics. The Baxter Prize Committee will only accept and consider papers that are on topics in the field of LOAC/IHL.

For the purposes of this competition, LOAC/IHL is defined as the body of international law that regulates the recourse to and conduct of armed conflict (i.e. *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello*). Papers may address any topic or issue within those parameters, including but not limited to conflict classification; protected persons and objects; weapons; detainee or prisoner treatment; law of occupation; law of neutrality; intersection or inter-relationship of LOAC/IHL with other bodies of law; or as LOAC/IHL is operationalized or institutionalized through military doctrine, policy, operational processes and decisional tools.

While the Committee recognizes the significance of other bodies of law that are related to armed conflict or military operations, such as international human rights law (IHRL), international criminal law (ICL), international refugee law (IRL), military justice or other domestic law matters, these are distinct from LOAC/IHL and are generally not within the scope of this competition unless the paper deals with the inter-relationship between such bodies of law and LOAC/IHL.

Academic papers that relate to operational issues and problems confronted by armed forces are strongly encouraged.

Paper Requirements.

- **Language.** All papers must be submitted in English. Papers that were written or published in another language are eligible as long as an English translation is submitted.
- **Length and Format.** Papers may not exceed 35 pages in length at single-spacing or 70 pages with double-spacing, including footnotes. The length is further determined by standard 8.5" x 11" paper size with at least one-inch margins and no less than 12-point font.
- **Citation.** A bibliography is not required. Footnotes are the preferred method of citation, but formatting style (i.e. Bluebook) is not proscribed if the cited source is clear.
- **Redact author information.** To facilitate anonymous judging to the greatest extent possible, please ensure that the author's name and personal identifying information are removed or redacted from the submission.

- **Free of Publication Formatting.** Submissions must be free of any publication information and formatting to protect objective evaluations that judged each paper by its merits, not that of a publication.

Submission Instructions.

- All papers are to be submitted in PDF or Microsoft Word Document (.doc), or other compatible format
- Submit papers via e-mail to the Chair of the Baxter Military Prize Committee, Mr. Nicholas W. Mull, at Nicholas.w.mull@gmail.com, including the following information in the body of the e-mail:
 - Full name
 - Eligibility information (current or former rank in the armed forces or current civilian equivalent grade; status—active, reserve, retired, veteran, civil servant; and country serving (or served))
 - Contact information (e-mail and telephone number)
- If a person other than the author is making the submission, it must also contain the name and eligibility information of the author(s) and the contact information for the person submitting the paper.

Deadline for submitting papers. Papers for the 2026 competition must be received no later than **25 January 2026**.

Acknowledgement of Submissions. All submissions will be acknowledged by e-mail.

Notification to Authors. Authors can expect to be notified in on or before March 15, 2026 whether they have been selected as the winner or for other recognition by the Committee.

Announcement of Winner. The winner(s) and any persons receiving Certificates of Merit will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the ASIL in Washington, DC, April 22 – 25, 2026.

Disclaimer. This announcement is being sent for information purposes to notify personnel of events of common interest sponsored by a non-federal entity. This announcement does not constitute an endorsement of the Lieber Society on the Law of Armed Conflict or the American Society of International Law. Participation is completely voluntary.