

Col Mark Dakers – Director of the Military Department, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, Sanremo

Mark Dakers graduated in law from the University of Aberdeen in 1990 and qualified in Scotland. After a short period in private practice doing primarily court work, he joined the army in 1995 and was posted to Bielefeld, Germany. He spent most of the next 14 years in Germany in a variety of roles including a large amount of time prosecuting at Courts Martial. He also deployed on operational tours to Bosnia, Kosovo and Iraq. In 2009 following a tour with the last UK HQ in Southern Iraq and at the US Embassy in Baghdad he took up the post as the senior military legal adviser at the UK Permanent Joint Headquarters which commands all UK overseas deployments. This tour included deployment to Kabul as part of ISAF. He then moved to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), NATO's strategic HQ during which time he advised on the planning and conduct of all NATO operations including in Afghanistan, Libya and the Indian Ocean. After SHAPE he attended staff college in the UK and served as the legal adviser to the UK Intelligence Corps before returning to Staff College as an instructor. His last role before taking up post at the Institute in 2018 was within the Ministry of Defence providing legal advice on specific operations.

Col Dakers has presented, lectured and taught extensively on the Law of Armed Conflict in Europe and further afield including having been a member of the Institute teaching faculty on a number of occasions. He is a member of the Institute and of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War.