

THE IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER

Spotlight

Vol 1 • 1 Amplify | Illuminate | Address April 2023



Dr. Sandor Fabian, IWC Chair of Engagements, led a panel discussion along with several international IW subject matter experts on how to compare and contrast the conceptualization of IW between different European institutions during the Center's International Irregular Warfare Week, March 16-17, 2023.

IWC Hosts International Irregular Warfare Week

The newly established Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) hosted its second IW-themed event, International Irregular Warfare Week, from March 16-17, 2023, in Arlington Va.

The IWC's International Irregular Warfare Week was a follow-up event for the survey and interviews conducted by the IWC Engagements Department with the intent to compare and contrast the conceptualization of IW between different European institutions.

"The first thing that attracted me to this event was the brand new Irregular Warfare Center and its mission," said LT COL Daniel Gomez, Army Reserves and Instructor at Joint Special Operations University. "I definitely wanted to experience the Center and meet everyone from the organization while taking the opportunity to learn great things about irregular warfare and network with a variety of IW experts across the European theatre."

The 2-day event included a variety of guest speakers and irregular warfare SMEs, various briefs on IW-related topics, question and answer sessions, as well as wargaming activities.

The value of the event is to expose U.S. stakeholders involved in the development of the new definition of IW and/or in IW activities to the

European conceptualization of IW to better understand differences and potential connection points enabling more effective international cooperation.

The 2022 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the Secretary of Defense to establish the IWC as the security cooperation hub for Irregular Warfare. In July 2022, Secretary Austin directed its formation, and the IWC began operations on October 1, 2022. Among one of its first initiatives, the IWC aims to engage and coordinate with Federal departments and agencies and with academia, nongovernmental organizations, civil society, and international partners to discuss and coordinate efforts on security challenges in irregular warfare.

International Irregular Warfare Week directly contributes to the successful execution of the IWC's task prescribed in the FY23 NDAA as "engage and coordinate with Federal departments and agencies and with academia, non-governmental organizations, civil society, and international partners to discuss and coordinate efforts on security challenges in irregular warfare."

"At the culmination of the event international guests expressed gratitude and stressed the importance of continued cooperation in the field of IW," said Dr. Sandor Fabian, Chair

of Engagements, Irregular Warfare Center. "The IWC will publish the full study and event report on its website and will continue exploring the conceptualization of IW in other regions important for U.S. national security to improve U.S. government and DoD effectiveness in addressing IW threats and challenges."

The IWC serves as the central mechanism for developing the Department of Defense's (DOD) irregular warfare knowledge and advancing the Department's understanding of irregular warfare concepts and doctrine in collaboration with key allies and partners.

The Center's foundation is built upon three Lines of Effort:

- AMPLIFY and collaborate to build an innovative and adaptable global networked IW community of interest.
- Strategically ILLUMINATE current and future irregular threats, crises, and obstacles.
- ADDRESS current and future irregular threats to the US, allies, and partners by providing optionality to leaders.

Through these LOEs, the Irregular Warfare Center addresses current and emerging security concerns and challenges with world-class research, rigorous analysis, top-tier strategic education and training for U.S. and international partners.

IWC Director's Corner



Dr. Dennis Walters,
IWC Acting Director



The first seven months of the Center's existence has been nothing short of phenomenal, and I am deeply honored to be working with such consummate professionals. We have gone from an idea to an effective Center charged with an inordinately complex mission faster than anyone thought possible. Our mission is important, perhaps the most important mission for any organization in recent memory. We are charged with integrating complex, hard-to-articulate concepts into every aspect of the Department's activities. In essence, doctrinalizing activities, and approaches that are by their very name irregular, and therefore not easily placed into doctrine. To accomplish this, we've brought together the best minds in the business, organized them into a flat, responsive team, and empowered them to do what they do best, which is understanding, and operationalizing complex ideas. To help us accomplish our mission Congress updated the Department's irregular warfare authority which gives us much needed flexibility.

The IWC is operating under a set of unique authorities provided in the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. These authorities allow us to reach broadly across the Interagency, out to civil society, and internationally. Luckily, we are building on over a decade of success working with our global partners and allies in IW education. As a result of this work, we have a powerful, and diverse global network of professionals who understand irregular warfare. We will draw on this experience to bridge any gaps and seams in our operational capability, and work toward building a true whole-of-government IW capability.

The gaps we face today won't be the ones we face in the future. Irregular problems are constantly evolving, and we will adapt to posture for emerging issues. We've adopted futures methodologies in how we organize and on where we place our focus. In addition to addressing well-understood IW problems, we are also looking at complex adaptive systems, and how various cultural systems react to change. I believe a better understanding of these things will prepare us for success in the population-centric problems we will face in the future.

Stay tuned for great things.

Dennis Walters

Staff Member of the Month



Varsha Koduvayur,
IWC Senior Analyst



Describe your role and responsibilities at IWC?

I'm a senior analyst working across all three programs of Education, Research, and Engagements, to support the chairs and leadership with any analytic tasks and research requests needed. I also track the workflow on the analysis side, helping to direct taskers across all five of us analysts. Lastly, I also work on the external publications component, helping to review and edit pitches we receive. In that line of effort, I am co-editing the IWC's first book (on the future trajectories of IW) and will also co-edit the IWC's second book (on IW in the Indo-Pacific.)

What do you enjoy most about working at IWC?

I'm the type of person that enjoys getting to work on a wide range of projects, products, and lines of effort, and I love that that's exactly what I get to do for IWC. I get to research and write publications of my own; support chair- or leadership-level research requests; work on curriculum and training; work on our various research foci; and staff and assist with events as needed.

Upcoming Events

University Day
April 25-26, 2023
Defense Security Cooperation University,
Arlington, VA.
For more info,
[click here](#)



Purpose:
An opportunity for civilian academic institutions to learn more about the Center's programs and initiatives and meet IWC leadership to directly discuss future partnerships, research, publishing and grant opportunities.

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Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Acting Director, provided opening remarks during the Center's Irregular Warfare Seminar at Copley Hall on the campus of Georgetown University in Washington D.C.



Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Acting Director, and Dr. Sandor Fabian, IWC Chair of Futures, led a panel discussion and Q&A session during the Center's IW Seminar on the campus of Georgetown University.

IWC Hosts Irregular Warfare Seminar at Georgetown University

The Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) hosted its third IW-themed event in less than a month, the Georgetown IW Seminar, March 23, 2023, at Copley Hall on the historic campus of Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

In partnership with Georgetown University, the IWC hosted a seminar on the establishment of the Center, explored the definition of IW and examined a Ukrainian case-study with ROTC Cadets, Cadre, Military Graduate students from DoD, Veteran Students, and University Professors from Georgetown, American, George Washington, Naval War College, Joint Special Operations University, Institute of World Politics and Catholic Universities.

"The irregular warfare environment is rather complex, and the earlier Cadets can start thinking about it, visualizing it and preparing for it, I think is beneficial in the long run and that's where events such as the one held today play a key role in the future of IW," said Army ROTC CPT Pablo Chovil, Assistant Professor of Military Sciences, Georgetown University ROTC Program.

Attendees had the opportunity to hear from IWC leadership and network with other academics and professionals in the IW community after the seminar concluded.

"This event provided the Center an opportunity to showcase its capabilities while networking with future Army Officers, some of which will be IW SMEs," said Dr. Dennis Walter, IWC Acting Director. "It's my pleasure to represent and speak on behalf of the IWC at this much-needed event. The amount of knowledge, expertise, insight and prospective in the room was truly remarkable. As the Center continues to evolve, these types of networking and collaborative experiences will play a vital role in our mission."

The event included a variety of briefs led by IWC staff, leadership and irregular warfare SMEs, a case-study exercise, panel discussion with a question and answer session, as well as networking opportunities throughout the day.

"I'm thrilled and I'm very humbled to be a part of this event," said Chovil. "There's so much value and I'm excited to be a part of supporting the IWC and its important mission. Many of the Cadets have come up to me and expressed their excitement on how this was one of the best events of the year. The sentiment means a lot to me, and we all appreciate the IWC's efforts." The IWC recently hosted several informative and educational irregular warfare-themed events including its inaugural event, the IW Medical Resiliency Workgroup

in Feb. 2022 and IWC International IW Week earlier this month.

The IWC serves as the central mechanism for developing the Department of Defense's (DOD) irregular warfare knowledge and advancing the Department's understanding of irregular warfare concepts and doctrine in collaboration with key allies and partners.

The Center's next hosted event, University Day, is scheduled to take place April 25-26 in Arlington, Va.



Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Acting Director, provided an overview of the IWC during the Center's Irregular Warfare Seminar at Copley Hall on the campus of Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

IWC Hosts IW Medical Resiliency Workgroup

The IWC hosted the IW Medical Resiliency Workgroup, from Feb. 22-24, 2023, in Bethesda, Md. This event was the Center's initial working group for Irregular Warfare Medicine curriculum development. The event brought together U.S. and allied and partner nation surgeons to discuss medical capabilities in contested or non-permissive environments.

Opening remarks were provided by the Honorable Christopher P. Maier, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, Dr. Woodson, the President of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Acting Director.

"As the Center's first IW-themed event, we're extremely honored to have so many subject matter experts from across the globe on-hand to provide essential insight,

expertise, innovative ideas and forward thinking into the development of Irregular Warfare Medicine curriculum," said Walters. "The IWC team is proud and grateful to be part of a group of SMEs leading the way in making a distinctive difference for future generations."

Medical leaders from U.S. Special Operations Command, the theater special operations commands, Department of Defense medical security cooperation entities, the Department of State, the Department of Health and Human Services and several allied nations discussed the use of medical security cooperation as an integral part of medical support to IW.

"This event was an important first step by SOCOM to work with the community of interest to review existing Joint and Service requirements related to IW medical support and to identify if there are gaps in our capability development requirements," said Maj. Gen. Paul Frie-

drichs, Joint Staff Surgeon. "With the ongoing focus on medical support as a critical enabler for the Joint Warfighting Concept, this is the ideal time to expand those discussions to include IW medical support."

The 3-day event included a variety of guest speakers and irregular warfare SME's, various briefs on Irregular Warfare Medicine topics, as well as break-out sessions to identify capabilities, gaps and share findings to support the IWC's medical security cooperation efforts.

"Thanks to all of the distinguished guests, presenters, attendees and organizers for supporting and making the IW Medical Resiliency Workgroup a success," said Lori Leffler, IWC Chief of Staff. "This event showcased the IWC's foresight and proactive approach in finding innovative solutions for irregular problems."

Photo of the Month



Dr. Joshua Hastey, an IWC Senior Fellow and Regent University professor, leads a seminar in the most recent 5-week Comprehensive Security Cooperation (CSC) course for military, government, and civilian personnel to gather and address regional and global security topics at the Daniel K Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) in Honolulu.

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