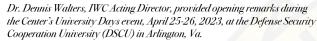
THE IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER

Spetlight Not 1:2 Amplify Illuminate Address May 2023





Dr. Sandor Fabian, IWC Chair of Engagements, led a presentation on the topic of "The Study of European Academia's Conceptualization of IW," during the Center's University Days event, April 25-26, 2023, at DSCU in Arlington, Va.

IWC Hosts University Days and PME Day

he newly established Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) hosted its fourth IW-themed event, University Days, April 25-26, 2023, at the Defense Security Cooperation University (DSCU) in Arlington, Va.

The purpose of the University Days event was to provide 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.

"University Days provided a tremendous opportunity to leverage the IWC's unique authorities to harness the broad and creative intellectual abilities already resident in universities across the United States, and use these abilities to improve our whole-of-government responses to irregular challenges," said Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Acting Director. "The amount of IW knowledge and expertise was prevalent throughout University Days, and the Center is excited to build upon future partnerships created through this extraordinary event."

The 2-day event included a variety of briefs led by IWC and DSCU leadership and irregular warfare SME's, breakout sessions, panel discussions with question and answer sessions, as well as networking opportunities throughout the day.

Attending educational institutions at University Days included: University of Maryland, Texas A&M-Bush School, University of Central Florida, Institute of World Politics, Georgetown University, Penn State University, Arizona State University, Regent University, Michigan State University, University of Alabama-Birmingham, Seton Hall University, University of South Florida, Johns Hopkins University, University of Virginia and Old Dominion University.

In conjunction with the University Days event, the Center hosted an accredited Professional Military Education (PME) Day for military educational institutions and a number of key stakeholders on April 27. PME Day offered participants the chance to express their educational needs of the IWC. These included the Center facilitating the sharing of curricula among the different institutions, providing a central repository for educational content and enabling future collaboration among the institutions. This is the first event in what is intended to be an ongoing dialogue to address the irregular warfare education tasks directed by Congress.

Attending educational institutions at PME Day included: Special Forces Warrant Officer Institute, Air University, Naval War College, John F Kennedy Special Warfare Center & School, Joint Special Operations University, Marine Corps University, Army War College, Naval Post Graduate School, U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies, Command and General Staff College, U.S. Air Force School



of Advanced Air and Space Studies, National Defense University, College of International Affairs, Joint Staff J-7 and Institute for the Study of War.

The 2022 National Defense Authorization Act directed the Secretary of Defense to establish the IWC with the authorities to reach out and create partnerships and collaborations with civilian institutions of higher learning to ensure the Center fully addressed strategic competition below the threshold of armed conflict.

University Days 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 irregular warfare education.



Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Acting Director, provided insight about the Center's mission and IW educational opportunities to academic institution representatives during the Center's University Days event, April 25-26, 2023, at the Defense Security Cooperation University (DSCU) in Arlington, Va.

"We educate for IW as much as we educate about IW," said Carolyne Davidson, Assistant Professor/IW Forum, Academic Coordinator at the National Defense University, College of International Security Affairs, Ft. Bragg. "Our goal is to be the catalyst that sparks a life-long intellectual curiosity that results in a military better prepared to take on the challenges that aren't yet on our radar. Education cannot just be about students; it has to be about faculty as well. It's important to consider who is teaching IW. The IWC can play an important role in faculty professional development to facilitate sharing best practices, pedagogical innovation, and ensuring connections between research and application are sustained."

The IWC recently hosted several informative and educational irregular warfare-themed events including its inaugural event, The IW Medical Resiliency Workgroup (Feb. 2022), IWC International IW Week (March 2023), IWC IW Seminar at Georgetown University (March 2023).

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.

IWC Director's Corner



Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Acting Director



The Irregular Warfare Center Team has been extremely busy this month as we continue to meet congressional intent in improving how the United States confronts irregular challenges. We are rapidly engaging with all the IW communities of interest and are aligning the Center's resources to address the needs of each of these diverse communities. For example, during University Week, we had the opportunity to meet with several schools from across the country doing amazing work in various fields related to IW. We are working to amplify their efforts and reinvent how we educate the force and our international partners.

Education is not the only area in need of reinvention, as our irregular challenges cannot be addressed with yesterday's solutions. In his recent book, The Origins of Victory, Andrew Krepinevich writes about disruptive military innovation. While his book primarily focuses on technological innovation, the same disruptive concept must be applied to our thinking. We must change how we think about competition and conflict and learn new ways to conceptualize solutions. This thinking starts in the classroom but rapidly transcends traditional ideas of teacher and student and moves into new areas of global crowd-sourcing and integral educational technologies.

Are we looking at the next revolution in military affairs? Perhaps, but I think it is much broader. We are at an inflection point where we must adapt and expand the national security enterprise beyond traditional military responses to challenges, and this is more of a revolution in national security affairs. The IWC will take the lead in charting a path forward. The ride will be bumpy, but disruptive thinking usually is. Best put your seatbelts on.

Stay tuned for great things.

Dennis Walters

Staff Member of the Month



Sandor Fabian, IWC Chair of Engagements



Describe your role and responsibilities at IWC?

As the chair of the Engagements Department, I am responsible for outreach, coordination and collaboration with IW stakeholders across all sectors of the U.S. society and international allies and partners. I also conduct world class research in support of IWC's mission to better understand the conceptualization of IW and to improve the DOD's knowledge and understanding related to IW.

What do you enjoy most about working at IWC?

 IW has been my passion for over a decade. Being able to work with likeminded individuals, having meaningful and well-informed debates with experts across all sectors of society and international allies and partners. The opportunity to effect change domestically and internationally by helping governments in better addressing modern day complex challenges.

Upcoming Events

- The Irregular Warfare Center has released a call for universities to nominate graduate students and postdocs to contribute to our Irregular Warfare Colloquium, which is scheduled for July 13-14, 2023. The Colloquium will bring together nominees from a wide range of excellent colleges and universities to share their ongoing work on irregular warfare concepts and help them develop their projects into impactful peer-reviewed publications.
- Join us for the Irregular Warfare (IW) Summit, 4 days of unparalleled confluence of the brightest minds and most influential voices in irregular warfare. We welcome attendees from the Department of Defense, Interagency, International Partners, State and Local Governments, Academia. and Industry.
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 -SEPTEMBER 19-22, 2023: MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW!!

Media Highlights

- \(\text{IWC's 1st Book Review: The Defender's Dilemma: Identifying and Deterring Gray-Zone Aggression by author Elisabeth Braw.} \)
- Perspectives #5: A "Post-Like-Share" Revolution: Strategic Messaging and Social Media as a Tool of Irregular Warfare by author Mohamad Mirghahari.
- Insights #4: "The Benefits of Wargaming and Futurism for Irregular Warfare Professionals," by Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Acting Director and Madison Urban, IWC Analyst.

THE IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER

Amplify | Illuminate | Address Vol 1 - 2 May 2023



Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Acting Director, provided insight about the Center's mission and current initiatives during the IW Symposium at Fort Bragg, N.C., from May 1-3, 2023. The May Symposium blended two events, (1) the CISA-Fort Bragg student thesis presentations, and (2) the IW Forum.

IWC Leadership Participates in IW Symposium

leadership team of IW subject matter experts representing the Ir-N.C., from May 1-3, 2023. The event was hosted by the National Defense University (CISA) in conjunction with the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

The May Symposium blended two events, (1) the CISA-Fort Bragg student thesis presentations, and (2) the IW Forum.

CISA-Fort Bragg students are officers, warrants, and non-commissioned officers, regular Warfare Center attended the and included two USASOC civilians, two Irregular Warfare Symposium at Fort Bragg, Department of State, and three international The 3-day event included a variety of CISA students for AY22-23. Two CISA-McNair students also joined the Symposium, from (NDU) and College of International Affairs Estonia and Office of the Director of Nation- nities, presentations, workshops and more. al Intelligence (ODNI).

> This year's Forum theme was "Getting to How: Organizing and Educating for Irregular Warfare." The event brought together approximately 100 diverse participants from across the policy, academic, interagency

and military communities to share ideas and research on the theory and practice of IW.

student thesis panels, IW breakout sessions, IW plenaries, networking & collaboration opportu-

The National Defense University educates joint warfighters and other national security leaders in critical thinking and the creative application of military power to inform national strategy and globally integrated operations, under conditions of disruptive change, in order to prevail in war, peace, and competition.

NDU's master's degree in strategic security studies program is designed to prepare practitioners for the challenges of operating in an environment marked by strategic competition, particularly through irregular warfare. All students complete an MA thesis project, along with courses as broad as "politics and legitimacy," and as specific as "information and influence."

The College of International Security Affairs is the Department of Defense flagship for education and the building of partner capacity in combating terrorism, irregular warfare, and integrated deterrence at the strategic level. Since 2021, CISA-Bragg has run a bi-annual Irregular Warfare Forum with policy, IA, civilian, military and PME participation.

The College of International Security Affairs at Fort Bragg provides select special operators and special operations enablers from across the joint force, along with interagency and international partners, a comprehensive grounding in strategic security studies paired with in-depth course offerings on issues of contemporary operational and strategic relevance.

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 IWC also serves as the only global DOD center which works in close collaboration to amplify regional centers' IW efforts.







IWC To Provide Support for WVNG's Upcoming Ridge Runner Exercise

he West Virginia National Guard's Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare program hosted European Allies and partners from United Kingdom, Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland, along with U.S. Special Forces elements March 21-25, 2023, at Camp Dawson, West Virginia for a mid-planning conference (MPC) for the upcoming Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare Exercise 23-01 (RR IWX).

The purpose of the MPC was to confirm training scenario prior to the inaugural June exercise, which will provide validation for deploying U.S. special forces elements.

RR-IWX 23-01 will utilize six irregular warfare lanes across the State of West Virginia comprised of permissive, semi-permissive, and denied environments to accomplish U.S. special operations forces, allied and partner nation training objectives. Additionally, Joint Special Operations University and the Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) will provide an irregular warfare academics program of instruction period

followed by a field exercise.

In addition to allies and partners previously mentioned, Ridge Runner will host observers from Taiwan, Georgia, Moldova, Hungary, Qatar, Romanian, and Canada during the event.

Throughout the MPC, syndicate working groups refined the scenario injects while participants received overview briefs from the Army Space Division, objectives, coordinate exercise support and refine the DEVCOM Army Research Labs Catalyst-Pathfinder, and the IWC. The IWC provided a brief synopsis of the National Resistance Application Seminar to attendees which will facilitate future discussion and interaction during the academic portion of RR-IWX

> "This mid planning conference was a big step in ensuring we have everything on the right path to host a premier irregular warfare exercise for our participants, allies and partners in attendance," state U.S. Army Maj. Michael Susick, Ridge Runner director. "There has been so much work and collaboration

between Ridge Runner, IWC and our participants that has brought us to this point. I have no doubt that the exercise in June will ensure that the deploying units are tactically proficient in unconventional and irregular warfare, have demonstrated their ability to be interoperable with partner and allied forces, and are prepared to carry out their missions while

Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare Exercise is jointly supported through the newly established Irregular Warfare Center and will provide a validation venue for deploying Special Forces elements. The RR IWX will provide a dynamic and realistic platform to conduct irregular warfare training, develop interoperability between coalition special operations and conventional forces, enable training on mission essential tasks, and assess readiness while enhancing strategic irregular warfare capabilities.

Participants will reconvene at Camp Dawson, West Virginia in late April to complete a final planning event before the exercise kicks off in late May.

Photo of the Month



Derek Jones represented the IWC and provided essential insight on the Center's partnership with the WVNG and the upcoming Ridge Runner exercise. The mid-planning conference for Ridge Runner covered a variety of topics including the IWC's role of providing an irregular warfare academics program of instruction period followed by a field exercise.

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