

THE IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER

Spotlight

Vol 1 • 7

Amplify | Illuminate | Address

October 2023

IWC Celebrates 1-Year Anniversary

The newly established Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) is proud to celebrate its one-year anniversary since reaching initial operating capacity in October 2022. Throughout the past year, the Center and its staff have worked at a momentous pace in establishing its external footprint on a global scale, growing an expansive community of interest and providing world-class IW research and educational capabilities across a variety of different industries, national defense and security spaces.

A few key milestones include establishing an organizational website to showcase the Center's mission, lines of effort and a plethora of IW-related resources, providing fluent and timely communication through three organizational social media platforms, as well as establishing key ongoing partnerships with the FBI, West Virginia National Guard Ridge Runner Program, George C. Marshall Center, Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, Irregular Warfare Initiative, Naval Postgraduate School, College of International Security Affairs, Joint Special Operations University, National Defense University, and more!

In support of our mission to AMPLIFY and collaborate to build an innovative and adaptable global networked IW community of interest; to strategically ILLUMINATE current and future irregular threats, crises, and obstacles; and to ADDRESS current and future irregular threats to the U.S., allies, and partners by providing optionality, here's a snapshot into a few of the Center's IW educational and research projects.

- Establishing a by-request translations service whereby the IWC provides English translations of previously unseen, original source Russian materials



- on thought and doctrine to interested academics, USG personnel, and partner nations. The translations service received great interest from U.S. military personnel, professional military education institutions, and civilian academics, with additional requests for access from 16 different allied and partner countries. The IWC will continue publishing by-request Russian translations and is building out similar services for other critical foreign languages.
- Producing and coauthoring the report on the conceptualization of IW in European institutions. The work eventually culminated in bringing together a room of diverse thinkers both in terms of geographic location and expertise, and filled a major gap in the IW literature on how U.S. partners and allies view IW.
- Educating on IW and its applications to law enforcement—specifically using case studies of IW examples that are real-world threats that law enforcement face—to a global audience of FBI agents and foreign law enforcement personnel.
- Establishing a high-quality, peer reviewed publications outlet for external publications on subject matter experts and thought leaders, thus shaping the ongoing debate, research, and analysis on all facets of IW, and making the IWC's mark on those fronts.
- Producing a comprehensive report on IW Medical Resiliency assessing the main findings from the IWC's Medical Resiliency Working Group and providing recommendations that address gaps in capabilities, policy, doctrine, and authorities on austere medicine.

In the past year the IWC has also implemented and established a variety of organizational irregular warfare-related publications including our Insights articles, Perspectives articles, opinion essays, research reports, translation materials and peer book reviews. Stay tuned for next month's edition of the IWC Spotlight Newsletter for a feature article expanding more on the growth and evolution of the Center in its first year.

Director's Corner



Dr. Dennis Walters
IWC Director



Greetings from the IWC team,

As the Center celebrates its one-year anniversary, I would like to take a moment to thank all the IWC staff, stakeholders, connecting organizations, IW subject matter experts, and our network of global partners who have supported and helped us grow at a rapid pace. The past year has been filled with many great accomplishments by our team and we are very much looking forward to carrying that momentum into the future!

The Center has been extremely active and has engaged with over 70 partner and ally nations around the world, amplifying resiliency, illuminating IW threat awareness, and developing strategic approaches to address irregular problems.

To highlight and recap some of these accomplishments in our short existence, I'd like to spotlight a few of our hosted informative and educational irregular warfare-themed events including our inaugural event, the IW Medical Resiliency Workgroup (Feb. 2022), IWC International IW Week (March 2023), IWC Seminar at Georgetown University (March 2023), University Days (April 2023), and Professional Military Education Day (April 2023), IWC Inaugural Colloquium (July 2023), IW Medical Resiliency Wargame & IW Logistics Resiliency Working Group (Aug. 2023) as well as the facilitating Transformational Irregular Warfare Leaders Thought Courses (TILT-C) for the U.S. interagency (March 2023), U.S. Special Operations Command (April 2023), the intelligence community (May 2023), and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) (June 2023), and the National Resistance Application Course (NRAC) in conjunction with this year's Ridge Runner planning conference (March 2023) and academic week (June 2023) and many other international programs with various allied and partner nations.

As 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, we must continue to be proactive, engaging, and vigilant in our efforts. We pride ourselves on staying on the cutting edge of essential IW-related topics including but not limited to medicine, logistics & sustainment, intelligence, communications, space, industry, information operations, technology software & hardware and more.

We're excited to transition into our second year of providing continuous development of a unified effort across the DoD, U.S. Interagency (IA) and multi-national partners that leverage IW capabilities as a core competency across all components of national defense & resiliency strategy.

Stay tuned for more great things!

Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Director

Grants & Research

IWC Research Grant Program

The Irregular Warfare Center is excited to announce that its IWC Research Grant Program is now live! Full details are in our listings on SAM.gov and Grants.gov, which outline a two-step application process. The first step is to submit a 500 word proposal to our grants mailbox: dscu.dscu.grants@mail.mil. Projects that pass initial review will be invited to submit a full proposal through the Grants.gov portal.

We are excited to fund worthy research projects related to irregular warfare. The list of themes of interest to the center includes, but not limited to: cyber operations; information and influence operations; resistance movements and occupation; proxy warfare; strategic competition below the threshold of war; IW in the cultural and religious landscape; and women, peace, and security.

We are happy to answer any questions you might have. Feel free to address any technical questions about the process to our grants mailbox: dscu.dscu.grants@mail.mil. Please find all of the application instructions here:

- Grants.gov (Notice of Funding Opportunity): <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?op-id=349804>



Irregular Warfare Forum

Preparing for Strategic Competition through Policy, Doctrine, Training, and Education

The Irregular Warfare Forum is coming to the National Capital Region December 5-7, 2023.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Hon. Christopher P. Maier
Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Special Operations
and Low-Intensity Conflict

General Charles A. Flynn
Commanding General
U.S. Army Pacific



RSVP by November 20, 2023.

Sponsored by the Irregular Warfare Center, the Irregular Warfare Forum is a collaboration between National Defense University's College of International Security Affairs and the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, U.S. Army Special Operations Center of Excellence.



IWC Supports FBI in Belgium



IWC's Chair of Research, Dr. Joshua Haste, and Senior Analyst, Varsha Koduvayur presented at the FBI National Academy Associates' 39th Annual Europe Chapter Retrainer in Ghent, Belgium. Photo by Danielle Masucci.

The IWC's Chair of Research, Dr. Joshua Haste, and Senior Analyst, Varsha Koduvayur presented at the FBI National Academy Associates' 39th Annual Europe Chapter Retrainer in Ghent, Belgium. The IWC delivered a talk on hybrid threats and law enforcement to an audience of 100+ law enforcement personnel and FBI National Academy graduates from several different European countries, educating law enforcement personnel on how irregular warfare is already an issue set they work on.

Utilizing case studies, such as al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's involvement in the Charlie Hebdo attacks in France and the rise of generative AI in information operations, IWC personnel illuminated how law enforcement's daily work encompasses aspects of irregular warfare, such as violent nonstate actors, malign actors' information operations, and more. IWC personnel also shared the various platforms the Center provides for further engagement, including the IWC's courses, working groups, research program, and in-country engagement, which garnered significant interest from the Retrainer attendees. The IWC looks forward to continued positive collaboration with FBINAA alumni.

Staff Member of the Month



Suzanne Schaffrath
IWC Administrative Assistant



Describe your role and responsibilities at IWC?

- "My role at the IWC is designed to support the director and deputy director and, by extension, the entire leadership team. I think the most accurate description is as 'right hand,' coordinating and managing calendars and speaking engagements, identifying and anticipating leadership needs, capturing engagement notes, and working with leadership and IWC teammates to identify and prioritize mission objectives."

What do you enjoy most about working at IWC?

- "The IWC is composed of a great team from the leadership down; it's a 'roll up your sleeves and get the job done,' mission-oriented culture composed of a tremendous group of folks whose backgrounds are awe-inspiring and humbling. I'm grateful to be a part of it!"

Media Highlights

IWC Perspectives article, "[Influenced by Disinformation: What the U.S. Can Do to Counter Disinformation Operations](#)," by authors Del Sanders and Peter Roberto. In this article, both authors discuss some of the disinformation operations Russia and China execute to influence opinions in and on the United States - and what the United States should prioritize to counter these effects.

U.S. Army War College Parameters article, "[Urban Resistance to Occupation: An Underestimated Element of Land Warfare](#)," by Dr. Kevin Stringer, IWC Chair of Education, and Jelle Hooiveld. Due to a global trend toward urbanization and Russian and Chinese aggression toward Ukraine and Taiwan, respectively, urban resistance to occupation merits greater study. The research presents a much-needed and unique analysis of Dutch-language primary sources on the Netherlands' World War II urban resistance to occupation.

For the most up-to-date information regarding IWC events, publications, articles and much more, please sign up and subscribe to our email distro list at <https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/subscribe/>

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IWC Translation: Russian Special Ops Journal Article

As part of its ongoing efforts to help scholars and practitioners understand Russia's approach to irregular warfare, the Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) has translated a 33-page Russian special operations journal article, *The Fundamentals of Partisan Warfare: Theory and Practice*.

The Russian article is now available by request on the IWC website:

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/translations/>

This Russian article, published in a Russian special operations journal by a Spetsnaz operator, discusses a wide range of IW subjects ranging from IW medicine to SOF tactics to resistance strategy. Meant as a reflection on lessons learned in Chechnya, the article provides both a sober evaluation of Russian partisan warfare and SOF capabilities, with a comparison to those of the U.S., and a vision for the future of Russian special operations forces.

Two accompanying Insights articles titled "The Fall from Grace of Russian SOF: The Danger of Forgetting Lessons Learned" and "The Art of Partisan Warfare Is Not Dead: How old Russian military theories can give new insight into resistance to occupation in Ukraine," by authors Sandor Fabian, Ph.D., IWC Chair of Engagements, Derek Jones, Col. (Ret.), US Army, IWC Subject Matter Expert and Andrew Lifyandchick, IWC Analyst, have been posted to the Irregular Warfare Center website in support of the translation.

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/insights/the-fall-from-grace-of-russian-sof-the-danger-of-forgetting-lessons-learned/>

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/insights/the-art-of-partisan-warfare-is-not-dead-how-old-russian-military-theories-can-give-new-insight-into-resistance-to-occupation-in-ukraine/>

We invite you to visit the Irregular Warfare Center website to read this article and join the conversation. Our goal is to continue to provide valuable resources and insights to our community, and this publication is just the latest example of that commitment.

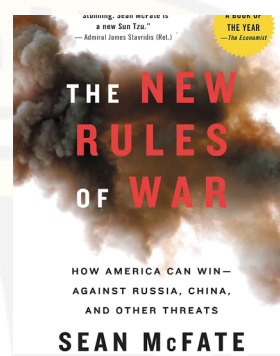
The IWC provides translations of original Russian and Chinese language primary source material on irregular warfare-related topics to facilitate fair use of the provided publication by researchers, practitioners, and partners upon request. IWC shares these translations as part of our mandate to inform research efforts aimed at illuminating and addressing irregular threats and threat trends. The translation and publication do not constitute approval by the U.S. Government of the contents, inferences, findings, and conclusions contained therein. Unauthorized posting of provided translated material online or further distribution of provided translated material is prohibited. Provision of translated materials is solely to further U.S. Government collaboration with a non-commercial entity seeking to use the provided translated materials to create an original work that analyzes the provided translated materials.



IWC Book Review: The New Rules of War

The Center's recent book review of Sean McFate's, PhD "The New Rules of War, Victory in the Age of Durable Disorder" is now available on our website.

In *The New Rules of War: Victory in the Age of Durable Disorder*, McFate takes readers on a compelling journey through the evolving landscape of modern warfare, dissecting the shifts in tactics, strategies, and actors that have reshaped the nature of conflict. With a keen focus on unconventional warfare, McFate presents an urgent exploration of how non-state actors, technological advancements, and ideological battles are redefining the rules of engagement on the global stage.



In this dynamic and insightful book, McFate challenges conventional doctrine about modern conflict and offers fresh perspectives on how nations and non-state actors engage in warfare in today's complex and ever-evolving world.

Exploring the intricacies of irregular warfare, hybrid threats, and the changing nature of conflict, "The New Rules of War" delves deep into the strategies and tactics that shape our security landscape.

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/book-reviews/the-new-rules-of-war-victory-in-the-age-of-durable-disorder/>

Special thank you to Patrick Camatcho for all of your exceptional review efforts and expertise!

IWC Explores Space Domain

A review of *Understanding Hostilities in Space Short of War: Harnessing an Irregular Warfare Model on Orbit* (Episode 148) from The Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies.



Commander John 'Patsy' Klein, USN (Ret), Colonel El Gardner, Director Space Strategy, Policy, and Plans HQ USSF, and Henry Heren, Senior Fellow for Spacepower Studies, MI-SPACE, chat with host - Tim Ryan, Senior Fellow for Spacepower Studies, The Mitchell Institute Spacepower Advantage Center of Excellence (MI-SPACE)

<https://mitchellaerospacepower.org/episode-148-understanding-hostilities-in-space-short-of-war-harnessing-an-irregular-warfare-model-on-orbit/>

At the Center, we are looking forward to future dialogues incorporating these baseline themes into effective security cooperation efforts with partner nations as they develop irregular warfare capabilities. As we examine the space domain, the IWC will be looking at the seams and gray areas to see how space capabilities and warfare will be part of landscape of irregular conflict.

IWC Supports NDU's CISAs' MET Course in Bulgaria

The Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) is proud to announce Dr. Sandor Fabian (Ph. D.), IWC Chair of Engagements, and Teodora Mocanu, Program Analyst Regional Defense Fellowship Program, recently supported the National Defense University's College of International Security Affairs' mobile education team course, *Strategic Competition in the Cognitive Domain: From Analysis to Action* in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The course was attended by more than 60 participants from all sectors of Bulgarian society. Given the topic of the course, Bulgaria's membership in NATO and its close alliance with the United States, supporting the delivery of the course enabled IWC to engage and coordinate with allies and partners, and to improve Bulgarian state experts' knowledge and understanding related to irregular warfare. The engagement also enabled IWC to further strengthen its already existing strong relationship



IWC Supports CDWG

IWC SME's recently supported the Comprehensive Defense Working Group event in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The weeklong workshop began with two days of engaging lectures by Mongolian and Naval Postgraduate School faculty exploring Mongolia's security challenges. The remainder of the week focused on a tabletop exercise (TTX) exploring whole-of-government responses to security threats.

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For media-related inquiries, please contact us at media@irregularwarfarecenter.org

IWC Spotlight Newsletter Editor-In-Chief
David Wycaver
IWC Public Affairs &
Strategic Communications Manager