

# THE IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER

# Spotlight

Vol 1 • 5

Amplify | Illuminate | Address

August 2023



Peter Wostenberg, Baylor University scholar, presents his research on cyber operations during the IWC's inaugural Colloquium July 27 in Arlington, Va.



Elizabeth Radziszewski, START Program scholar, University of Maryland, provides insight into her research on proxy war during a Q&A session of the IWC's inaugural Colloquium July 27 in Arlington, Va.

## Irregular Warfare Center Hosts Inaugural Colloquium

The newly established Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) hosted its inaugural IWC Colloquium event, July 27-28, 2023, at the AMA Conference Center in Arlington, VA.

"This event stems from our University Day event back in April and the possibility of hosting a research conference, which developed into a smaller colloquium for scholars to highlight the work that they are doing and to encourage practitioners to bring and share their research," said Joshua Hastey, IWC Chair of Research. "Part of the IWC's mandate is to engage with academia and to connect scholars who are working on IW-related projects with counterparts in government who work in the IW space both for the benefit of academics and our national security practitioners."

The colloquium encompassed reviewing submissions from more than 35 scholars and narrowing down finalists during the selection and nomination process. Submissions from each participant included a 250-word maximum description of the scholars' research and how it contributes to the Center's understanding of contemporary irregular warfare challenges.

"Irregular warfare has always been an interest of mine," said Annelese Preske, graduate student at Seton Hall University School of Diplomacy and International Relations. "I discovered the IWC on LinkedIn and visited their website to find out more about what they do and offer."

"I learned about this event when I attended IWC's University Days in April and met with the Center's leadership to discuss future research collaboration opportunities in the future," said Elizabeth Radziszewski, START Program scholar, University of Maryland. "When I learned about the IWC Colloquium I was interested in applying because I thought the research areas overlapped with the work we both do."

Sixteen scholars from fifteen different universities were selected as finalists and attended the two-day event to present their IW-related academic topics. These presentations drew upon the participants' research in all stages of its development and included preliminary prospectuses, case studies, theses, dissertations, working papers and other unpublished work.

"I was very excited to attend the event, but as a young scholar finishing my first year of graduate school I wasn't really sure what to expect," said Preske, who's also a member of the National Security Fellowship Program. "This was my very first conference and I'm so thankful that it was in a colloquium setting because we were able to engage with scholars and practitioners while receiving instant feedback. The overwhelmingly positive and constructive environment was truly amazing!"

Upon conclusion of the presentations, scholars were placed in small groups with nominees from other academic institutions who shared similar research interests and complementary capabilities. Each presentation served as the basis for peer discussions and planning for

further research.

Themes of particular interest to the Center for this colloquium included cyber operations; information and influence operations; resistance movements and occupation; proxy warfare; strategic competition below the threshold of war; and women, peace, and security. Nominees proposed topics that explored one or more of these themes and explained how their research might enhance the ability of the United States, allies, and partners to address the challenges posed by irregular warfare.

"Going into the event I didn't have any expectations, this was my first time presenting at a conference," said Asher Peck, graduate student at Regent University. "I went into it hoping to have a good experience, meet some interesting new people, make professional connections and receive some guidance from the practitioners for my project. It's been a phenomenal experience; it could not have gone any better!"

"The goal for this event is three-fold," said Hastey. "We are building a network and connecting junior scholars to senior scholars and IW SMEs; providing usable and actionable IW-related research to practitioners; building a repository of information and supporting the IWC's mission which includes providing information and education within the IW space." The Center would like to extend a special thank you to all the participating scholars and universities for taking part in this remarkable event!



IWC inaugural Colloquium scholars:

Ian Birdwell, Old Dominion University; Brian Hamel, CGSC; Elizabeth Radziszewski, University of Maryland; Joshua Smith, Seton Hall University; Nazar Syvak, Regent University; Griffin Windheuser, American University; Peter Wostenberg, Baylor University; Adam Knight, Notre Dame of Maryland University; Prescott Paulin, University of Illinois; Mason Remondelli, Uniformed Services University; Maria Harika, University of Alabama-Birmingham; Annelese Preske, Seton Hall University; Matthew Kuhlman, George Mason University; Allen Newton, National Intelligence University; Caroline Orr, University of Maryland; Asher Peck, Regent University and Rebecca Anderson, Penn State University.

"This event has been life-changing in a way that's helped me realize where my path lies and solidify those areas of interests that I already had within," said Preske. "This experience has helped me academically in where I want to take my research, and professionally to where I'd like to see my future self."

"I really enjoyed the warm atmosphere, and it helped set the stage for amazing networking and collaboration opportunities," said Radziszewski. "Another aspect of the event that was really appealing was the possibility of receiving grants and funding for research projects."

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.

## Upcoming Events

The Center will host an Irregular Warfare Logistics Resiliency Working Group in Bethesda, MD from 16-18 August. This event will mimic the intent of the previous Medical Resiliency Working Group to bring together various logistics professionals from the Department of Defense, academia and industry to work through challenges of logistic support to irregular warfare operations in denied environments.

IWC staff will partner with the Africa Center for Security Studies (AFCSS) for an AFCSS alumni education symposium in Nigeria and Benin to deliver presentations on national security efforts.

IWC staff will facilitate a panel for the International Studies Association – Asia Pacific Region Conference in Tokyo, Japan to present chapters of IWC's second book project, Irregular Warfare in the Indo-Pacific: Concepts and Case Studies.



Staff of the Center will attend the initial planning conference in Amsterdam to provide IW subject matter expertise in developing training concepts for Africa Command's largest exercise in FY24.

The Hybrid Center of Excellence in Helsinki, Finland is hosting staff from the IWC to attend an advanced wargaming exercise that will present cutting-edge platforms for conducting IW wargame scenarios.

IWC, along with WV Ridge Runner cadre, will attend the National Guard Association of the United States to further develop relationships with National Guard Adjutant Generals and discuss how the IWC can enhance the State Partnership Programs.



**IWC & WVNG  
Joint Exhibition Booth  
Showcasing Ridge Runner Program and more!!**



IWC will host an IW Medical Resiliency Wargame event Aug. 14-16 in Bethesda, MD with key U.S. Medical Stakeholders from the previous IW Medical Working Group. The Wargames will facilitate key leaders' strategic austere medical decisions to validate capabilities, identify critical gaps and develop TTPs for operational medics with focus on survivability, restricted communications, clandestine evacuation, and prolonged field care. <https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/event/iw-medical-resiliency-wargame/>

## Staff Member of the Month



Constance Besaw  
IWC Senior Travel  
Coordinator



Describe your role and responsibilities at IWC?

"As the Senior Travel Coordinator and Budget Admin Specialist for the IWC, I build strong bilateral and multilateral relationships between the government client and IWC admin department. I am responsible for producing accurate and meaningful reports in support of the IWC's mission to track expenses, travel, and other budget administrative requirements. I serve as a focal point for team members to access SOPs and documents necessary to complete administrative tasking."

What do you enjoy most about working at IWC?

"The cohesiveness of the group and our ability to collaborate and move forward at a rapid pace."

## Media Highlights

The Center is pleased to share the recent article, "Disrupting Moscow's Invasion Playbook: Lessons From Prague To Kyiv," published by the Modern Warfare Institute at West Point featuring authors Kevin D. Stringer, IWC Chair of Education and Heather S. Gregg. Dr. Stringer is a retired US Army colonel, the chair of education for the IWC, and visiting associate professor at the General Jonas Zemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania. With 30 years of commissioned military service, he was a Eurasian foreign area officer and strategist assigned to U.S. Special Operations Command-Europe and US Special Operations Command. Dr. Gregg is professor of irregular warfare at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Garmisch, Germany. She is also a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute. Prior to joining the Marshall Center, Dr. Gregg was a professor at the U.S. Army War College and the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, where she worked primarily with special operations forces. <https://mwi.westpoint.edu/disrupting-moscows-invasion-playbook-lessons-from-prague-to-kyiv/>

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## IWC Inaugural Colloquium Scholar Testimonials

**Maria Harika, University of Alabama-Birmingham**

*It was an honor to be selected to present at the Irregular Warfare Center (IWC)'s inaugural Colloquium last week, representing UAB's Computer Forensics Research Lab. I had the opportunity to showcase how our unique processes and tools can be used to enhance the ability of the United States, allies, and partners in addressing the challenges posed by irregular warfare—specifically involving influence and information operations. It was a pleasure to meet all the scholars and hear the exceptional research being conducted regarding irregular warfare. Thank you to Lori Leffler, Christopher Burns, Kathryn Newton, Joshua Hastey, Varsha Koduwayur, Andrew Lifyandchick and the whole IWC team.*

**Nazar Syvak, Regent University**

*It was an honor and a pleasure to join the Irregular Warfare University Colloquium hosted by Irregular Warfare Center (IWC). I got a chance to meet young and established scholars in the field of Irregular Warfare (IW) as well as present my research idea on examining the Russian irregular warfare against Central and Eastern European states.*

*As an alumnus of the Colloquium, I would highly recommend it to all fellow researchers of IW. The format of the Colloquium allowed its participants to present their research topic and then gain constructive feedback from their colleagues and senior scholars. The feedback session lasted for 40 minutes for each group of two participants with similar topics. These led to deep discussions and were a wonderful experience to take part in. I personally gained valuable new ideas to address my topic and am excited to implement those into my final research. However, I found the opportunity to meet researchers of IW and establish connections and an academic community together as the main outcome of the event. Such connections are integral for me as a young scholar, and I am sure that they will result in developing the IW research and potential joint projects. Thank you again IWC for organizing the event and investing in the academic study of IW.*

**Brian Hamel, U.S. Army Command General and Staff College**

*Fortunate to represent the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS), and present my thesis at the seminal Irregular Warfare Center (IWC)'s Colloquium, elucidating the SOF-Space relationship of USASOC HQ's SOF-Cyberspace-Space Triad. Many thanks to the IWC staff, and those along the way that made this possible.*

**Anneliese Preske, Seton Hall University**

*It was an honor to be selected to present at the Irregular Warfare Center (IWC)'s Colloquium last week. I presented my research on information operations, violent extremism, and emerging technology. During the 40-minute question and answer period, I received some excellent feedback from experts, which allowed me to enhance facets of my research.*

*Thank you to the IWC for putting on such an incredible colloquium. This event not only provided guidance on an academic and professional level but also brought me into contact with other early-career scholars. I listened to presentations on various topics, everything from strategic competition to cyber operations and special operations forces. I am grateful that the IWC organized this event, encouraging the 2023 cohort to forge new relationships with irregular warfare scholars and practitioners. Thank you, Joshua Hastey, PhD Christopher Burns, Lori Leffler, Varsha Koduwayur and all of the IWC Team that made the 2023 Colloquium possible.*

**Mason Remondelli, Uniformed Services University**

*Last week, I had the privilege to present my research at the inaugural Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) University Colloquium. During my presentation, I discussed the importance of medical resiliency and casualty care nodes and web networks on the future multi-domain battlefield. It will be crucial for irregular warfare practitioners and military medical providers to utilize innovative means to maintain force sustainment and regeneration in a protracted conflict against peer adversaries.*

*I want to thank the entire IWC staff, including Christopher Burns and Joshua Hastey, for putting together a great event. I hope to continue to contribute to the Irregular Warfare Medical Resiliency effort!*

**Joshua Smith, Seton Hall University**

*I was honored to be invited and the experience was invaluable. Being able to present my research and refine it by receiving advice from a wide range of high-level scholars inspired me to pursue my work to the best of my ability. I feel as if I've grown from the experience, both personally and professionally. Thank you so much for an incredible conference!*

## IWC & WVNG Ridge Runner Program visit Europe

The Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) and West Virginia National Guard (WVNG) Ridge Runner Program recently completed multiple key leader engagements with strategic partners focused on irregular warfare activities.

After recent completion of Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare Exercise (RRIWX) 23-01, The Adjutant General of the WVNG, MG Bill Crane, and Senior Advisor of the IWC, Chris Burns, traveled to the U.K., Germany and Poland to meet with the UK 3 Rangers, EUCOM Deputy J5, SOCEUR Commanding General and Polish Territorial Defense Forces.

The engagements covered lessons learned from RR IWX 23-01, identified future Ridge Runner initiatives, and showcased the partnership with IWC and WVNG. The trip was successful in providing awareness to EUCOM J5, SOCEUR Command Team and strengthened partnerships with UK 3 Rangers and the Polish TDF.



*The Adjutant General of the WVNG, MG Bill Crane (right center), and Senior Advisor of the IWC, Chris Burns (top left), traveled to London, U.K., Stuttgart, Germany, and Warsaw, Poland to meet with the UK 3 Rangers, EUCOM Deputy J5, SOCEUR Commanding General and Polish Territorial Defense Forces to discuss the Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare Exercise (RRIWX) 23-01 and showcase the IWC & WVNG partnership.*

## Photo of the Month



*IWC Senior Advisor Chris Burns discusses the benefits of the Strength Finder exercise during an IWC staff team-building event July 26, 2023, in Arlington, Va. The event provided an opportunity for the Center's staff to gather and discuss essential IWC mission initiatives and upcoming events.*

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