

THE IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER

Spotlight



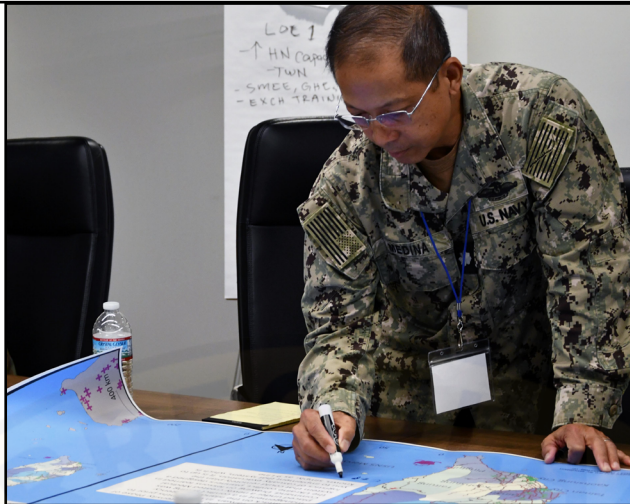
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September 2023



During the final day of the Center's IW Medical Resiliency Wargame event BC(R) Chris Burns, IWC Senior Advisor, describes the Center's mission and essential role in IW to Ms. Julia Sokol, Principal Director for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Irregular Warfare and Counterterrorism in the Pentagon, U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy and MG(R) Ed Dorman.



A participant at the Center's IW Medical Resiliency Wargame event maps out a supply route during one of the Day 2 wargame scenarios on Aug. 15 in Bethesda, Md.

IWC Hosts IW Medical Resiliency Wargame & IW Logistics Resiliency Working Group Events

The newly established Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) recently hosted two events including our first IW Medical Resiliency Wargame (Aug. 14-16, 2023) & IW Logistics Resiliency Working Group (Aug. 16-18, 2023) at the Henry Jackson Foundation in Bethesda, MD.

The IW Medical Resiliency Wargames featured more than 50 medical professionals from across the Department of Defense (DoD), academia, and industry who strategically challenged themselves in various scenarios encompassing medical care in denied and contested areas to identify gaps in doctrine and training and build current capabilities to improve prolonged casualty care in austere environments.

"This event provided an excellent opportunity to collaborate with different allies and partners to discuss ideas and gain different perspectives," said Navy LCDR Raymond Posey, United States Special Operations Command Surgeon's Office. "The IWC has the ability to bring in a wide range of SMEs and practitioners that we might not have had the opportunity to talk to before. The Center has the connections and resources to facilitate these types of events in a collaborative environment with folks from all over the world. It was beneficial specifically because we had one wargame scenario we were tasked with that was unconstrained, which allowed ideas to flow freely within our small working group."

The 3-day event featured three rounds of wargaming activities in both simulated real-world contested and denied scenarios (Round 1 Ukraine contested; Round 2 Taiwan denied; Round 3 Taiwan contested). Participants received briefings from IWC staff and IW SMEs to identify goals and objectives for the scenarios where they then dispersed in small working groups to craft a plan of action to work toward mission success. These simulated wargaming exercises are built to prepare and aid medical professionals during a variety of real-world situations.

"Whenever the IWC puts these types of events on they bring in many different entities and SMEs. This is very helpful, especially in small group settings, because we're able to gain valuable perspectives from different viewpoints," said Air Force Lt. Col. Joshua Peter, United

States Special Operations Command, Deputy Command Surgeon. "I appreciate the Center's willingness to host these events and bring us all in from different parts of the world. It's extremely beneficial, especially to have the opportunity to gain a multi-national perspective."

As the Center concluded the final day of the IW Medical Resiliency Wargame event, participants had the opportunity to discuss their wargame results while presenting key insights and recommendations to the IWC staff, IW SMEs, Ms. Julia Sokol, the Principal Director for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Irregular Warfare and Counterterrorism in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Policy) and MG(R) Ed Dorman.

"Everyone brings a different, unique perspective to the table. With partner nations I think it's important to ask what training they need, what plans do they have and how do we fit into it," said Richard Hines, Joint Special Operations Medical Training Group, Primary Instructor for Special Operations Medical Refresher Courses. "This will allow us to help better assist in furthering their goals. Working with other nations and having exposure to different perspectives, makes us better."

The IW Logistics Resiliency Working Group featured more than 40 interested stakeholders and subject matter experts from DoD, interagency, industry, and other departments. The focus of the 3-day event was to discuss logistic authorities, policy, doctrine and TTPs and determine critical gaps and capabilities in order to operate, train and or educate partner & ally forces on logistic support to operations in denied and contested areas. Day 1 & 2 featured a practitioners panel on Perspectives on Logistics Support Challenges in Future Contested and Denied Areas, various briefs on IW-related topics including the Ridge Runner and Ridge Sustainer programs, breakout-out sessions, group discussions and networking opportunities.

"The Center would like to extend a special thank you to all of the event participants, staff and distinguished visitors for playing a pivotal role in furthering the research and education of IW medicine and logistics," said Lori Lefler, IWC Deputy Director & Chief of Staff. "The insights and perspectives shared by stakeholders and subject matter experts from DoD, interagency, industry, and other departments are invaluable in helping the IWC continue to serve and support so many facets of irregular warfare."



Derek Jones, IWC SME, provides an overview of the IW Medical Resiliency Wargame event Aug. 14 in Bethesda, Md. The event featured more than 50 medical professionals from across the DoD, academia, and industry.



Participants at the Center's IW Medical Resiliency Wargame event discuss a recent scenario update during one of the Day 2 wargame scenarios on Aug. 15 in Bethesda, Md.

Grants & Research

Announcing the 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.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.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?oppId=349804>

DoD WHS Academic Research Opportunity

The Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) recently announced that the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services/Acquisition Directorate, issued a notice to obtain information to assist the Defense Security Cooperation Agency/IWC in providing research services. The purpose was to identify a pool of qualified organizations to perform academic research that will enable the IWC's expansion in curriculum, event development, and partnership activity design to achieve its mission.

While this research opportunity is currently closed, please stay tuned for future IWC research and grant opportunities!! For more information, please visit <https://sam.gov/content/home>. Then search AMM08112023.

Staff Member of the Month



Madison Urban
IWC Analyst



Describe your role and responsibilities at IWC?

◇ "I am an analyst and work across a range of topical and geographic issue sets to support the Center's research, education, and engagement efforts."

What do you enjoy most about working at IWC?

◇ "It is a blessing to work with incredibly talented people who are genuinely passionate about the mission of the IWC. I also love that I have the ability to contribute to a variety of projects and that they do not exist in a vacuum but support our global engagements and efforts to address major challenges."

Media Highlights

◇ The Newest Weapon in Irregular Warfare – Artificial Intelligence BY Mohamad Mirghahari
<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/perspectives/the-newest-weapon-in-irregular-warfare-artificial-intelligence/>

◇ IWC Spotlight monthly newsletter archive:
<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/category/news/newsletter/>

◇ 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 below.
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IWC & WVNG Jointly Exhibit at NGAUS 145th General Conference & Exhibition



The Center teamed up with the West Virginia National Guard's (WVNG) Ridge Runner program to exhibit at the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) 145th General Conference & Exhibition from Aug. 18-21 in Reno, NV.

The purpose of the joint exhibition was to provide attendees with an opportunity to learn more about the IWC, WVNG, the Ridge Runner program and the Center's essential partnership with the WVNG.

The NGAUS General Conference is the Association's annual business meeting. More than 2,000 Army and Air National Guard officers from all 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia gathered to network, set their legislative agenda and hear from America's civilian and military leaders. Family members, industry representatives and local officials were also welcomed to attend. The event showcased more than 320 companies and organizations on the exhibition floor.

The theme for this year's conference is America's National Guard: A Local Force with Global Reach. The NGAUS board of directors chose the theme during its March meeting. MG Janson "Durr" Boyles, the board chairman, said that the slogan was fitting as this year marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Guard's State Partnership Program.

For more information about the NGAUS General Conference & Exhibition, please visit <https://www.ngaus.org/events/145th-general-conference-exhibition>

Ridge Runner is jointly supported through the IWC and provides a validation venue for deploying U.S. Military organizations. Ridge Runner exercises offer 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.

"We look forward to highlighting the work taking place in the irregular warfare space through Ridge Runner and talking with other states and territories on further expansion of this dynamic exercise program," stated U.S. Army MAJ Mike Susick, Ridge Runner program director.

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.

The IWC recently hosted a variety of 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), University Days (April 2023), and PME Day (April 2023), IWC Inaugural Colloquium (July 2023), IW Medical Resiliency Wargame & IW Logistics Resiliency Working Group (August 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.

IWC Partners with Hybrid CoE & NPS for Wargaming Course

The IWC recently sponsored a wargaming course in Helsinki, Finland from 14-24 August 2023, hosted by the Hybrid CoE, and run by distinguished faculty members of the Naval Postgraduate School. Participants representing 14 different nations and various government ministries, academia, and the private sector are building wargames focused on addressing hybrid threats, broadening understanding of future threats, and building a collaborative network to address complex challenges.



Photo of the Month



ISOU research professor, Dr. Patricia Blocksme, presented her paper, "Porcupines, Poisonous Shrimp, and Hedgehogs: A comparative study of national security strategies in Taiwan, Singapore, and Vietnam" at the International Studies Association - Asia Pacific (ISA-AP) academic conference in Tokyo, Japan. Dr. Blocksme's attendance at the ISA-AP was sponsored by the DOD's Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) as part of their hosted panel: Irregular Warfare in the Indo-Pacific: Concepts and Case Studies.

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