

# THE IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER

# Spotlight

Vol 2 • 1

Amplify | Illuminate | Address

January 2024



## Irregular Warfare Center Introduces New Community of Interest Newsletter to Expand Global Outreach

Our foreign adversaries actively employ offensive influence and deception operations, such as Russia's and China's continuing activities online. The narratives used in these adversarial operations may be meant to place "reflexive control" over Western decisionmakers. It's easy to fall into the trap of responding to these adversaries on their false terms. The OIE community has long assessed that a better approach is to develop narrative frames on our own terms, taking advantage of our adversaries' existing vulnerabilities.

To help the community get there, the IWC has developed a new product, called Tab D (named after the PSYOP tab traditionally required in a Joint Operations Plan). Tab D is a short unclassified informational report developed biweekly by the IWC and delivered to members of the Operations in the Information Environment (OIE) community. Tab D is a new way for the OIE community to quickly and easily understand a selection of current adversarial state and non-state narrative vulnerabilities. It's intended to support US and allied partners' efforts to gain narrative advantage over foreign adversaries. It uses machine learning and analyst-in-the-loop assessments to derive useful OIE opportunities from foreign state-originated media.

Here's an excerpt from a recent Tab D test publication:

"Pro-Russian media defenses of Russia's space agency now include open acknowledgement of problems: For the past few months, Russian media has worked to repair the reputation of Russia's space agency, Roscosmos, after its failed Luna-25 lunar landing in August and its manager's attempt to flee the country. Recent hopeful announcements of reforms and promises of new technology deliverables have shifted this week to at least one open acknowledgement of "profound structural changes" needed to repair the space agency, and one admission that Russia cannot find buyers for its Soyuz-5 launch vehicle. Roscosmos is likely vulnerable to accusations of fraud and technical incompetence."

The information presented in Tab D is not intended to direct OIE activities. Instead, Tab D is intended as a stimulus for OIE policy makers and analysts, encouraging new creative thinking about foreign adversaries' vulnerabil-

ities. Furthermore, Tab D is not intended as a comprehensive assessment of foreign adversaries' narrative vulnerabilities, and instead offers selective indicators. It supports the Department of Defense's (DoD's) 2023 Strategy for Operations in the Information Environment, which requires the Department "to improve its ability to shape the perceptions of our rivals and adversaries" through the novel application of "cutting edge technologies."

This effort to encourage new OIE thinking is an ideal role for the IWC. The IWC serves as the central mechanism for developing DoD's irregular warfare knowledge and advancing the Department's understanding of irregular warfare concepts and doctrine in collaboration with key allies and partners, including the subject of OIE. OIE is a fundamental element of irregular warfare and we look forward to OIE community input and collaboration on the best uses of products like Tab D.

### Director's Corner



Dr. Dennis Walters  
IWC Director



Greeting from the IWC,

This time of year is always one of great expectations and some trepidation on how to make the most of the coming 12 months. The IWC staff has been working diligently to take the trepidation out of the year and has laid the groundwork for an extremely impactful set of events and programs. It does not take a geopolitical strategist to see that in today's world IW competence is vitally important, and we're determined to set conditions for our success and that of the Center's partners and allies. Our plan for the coming year reflects our intention to do just that.

In the next few months, we are scheduled to host a number of impactful events, which showcase our ever-growing list of competencies including austere medicine, contested logistics/sustainment, intelligence (support to IW), and of course emerging technology in the IW space.

Our first program for the year is the IW Medical Resiliency Sustainment Wargame at the end of January. This will be followed by the IWC Community of Interest Symposium (IWCCOIS) in March. Here we will debut our concept for developing, empowering, and operationalizing international power-networks to provide a way to globally crowdsource solutions to complex problems. This will be followed closely by our Indo-Pacific IW Conceptualization Workshop.

As we close out the first month of 2024, we at the IWC are fully committed to helping the United States and our partners around the world be ready to counter IW threats and meet them with our own fully developed responses. We look forward to seeing you at our events, whether it's building upon established partnerships or developing new ones. Irregular Warfare is a team sport, and we need a deep bench.

As we continue to grow and evolve in our mission, it's imperative we stay vigilant and focused on the importance of our critical task at hand. With this growth comes the opportunity to expand our external outreach capabilities and interact more streamlined with our community of interest members. We have several new, engaging communications products in the works, and we look forward to unveiling them in the near future!

Without the daily efforts of our amazing staff and the support of each and every one of our valued audience members, our extraordinary advancement wouldn't be possible. Thank you for all that you do, the future is bright and innovative!

Stay tuned for more great things!

Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Director



### Upcoming IWC Events



#### 1 IW Medical Resiliency Sustainment Working Group

**WHO:** Hosted by the Irregular Warfare Center  
**WHAT:** The Working Group 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.

**WHERE:** Bethesda, Md.  
**WHEN:** 30 January - 2 February 2024

#### 2 IWC Community of Interest Symposium (IWCCOIS)

**WHO:** Hosted by the Irregular Warfare Center  
**WHAT:**

- An assembly of senior practitioners, Defense Industrial Base leaders, interagency organizations, industry, academia, and non-governmental organizations to reflect on the past year of the irregular warfare (IW) efforts and cast a vision of how IW looks in the future and how IW communities of interest (COI) can mutually support each other.
- The theme for the symposium will be the three Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) lines of effort (LOE)—amplify, illuminate, and address—to assess the remaining gaps and seams that the IW community should focus on over the next five years. Each thematic discussion and panel will amplify various IW organizations to further develop communities and illuminate current and future threats, threat trends, and the impacts of technology and ever-changing geopolitics.
- Organizations and participants will discuss current efforts to address hybrid threats, integrated deterrence and building resiliency to counter or conduct a broad continuum of irregular activities to gain optionality, impart costs on or hold our adversaries at risk to gain strategic advantage.

**WHERE:** Tyson's Corner, Va.  
**WHEN:** 11-13 March 2024

#### 3 INDOPACOM IW Conceptualization Workshop

**WHO:** Hosted by the Irregular Warfare Center  
**WHAT:** The event is a follow-up to a study the IWC conducted, comparing and contrasting the conceptualization of irregular warfare (IW) between different academic institutions in the Indo-Pacific Region. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss the conceptualization of IW in order to better understand differences and potential connection points enabling more effective international cooperation on the topic.

**WHERE:** Tyson's Corner, Va.  
**WHEN:** 14-15 March 2024

### Meet The Center's Team



Dr. Jeffrey V. Gardner  
IWC Faculty Senior Associate  
& Chief of Curriculum

Describe your role and responsibilities at IWC?

"I serve as the IWC Faculty Senior Associate & Chief of Curriculum with a focus on curriculum development with an in-depth knowledge of Irregular Warfare (IW). I collaborate across the IW spectrum engaging within DoD, interagency, civil society, academia, and allies/partners. I'm responsible for developing curriculum that carries out the mission of the organization to advance the Departments IW knowledge and concepts. I also design, develop and execute strategic-level curriculum of IW concepts and practices with government and contract personnel."

What do you enjoy most about working at IWC?

"I especially enjoy developing and conducting important courses overseas for frontline nations facing a wide range of irregular threats. This is the applications side of the IWC where the rubber meets the road and we can help partners and allies address IW threats abroad."

### Media Highlights

The Benefits of Wargaming and Futurism for Irregular Warfare Professionals by Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Acting Director and Madison Urban, IWC Analyst

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/insights/the-benefits-of-wargaming-and-futurism-for-irregular-warfare-professionals/>

The Fall from Grace of Russian SOF: The Danger of Forgetting Lessons Learned by Andrew Liffyandchick, IWC Analyst, Derek Jones, Col. (Ret.), US Army - IWC Subject Matter Expert and Sandor Fabian, Ph.D., IWC Chair of Engagements

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

The Conceptualization of Irregular Warfare in Europe by Sandor Fabian, Ph.D., IWC Chair of Engagements and Gabrielle Kennedy, IWC Analyst

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/research-reports/the-conceptualization-of-irregular-warfare-in-europe/>

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## IWC Publishes Latest Translation Project: Russian Information Warfare Strategy Article

**Translation  
of**

**RUSSIAN INFORMATION  
WARFARE STRATEGY  
ARTICLE**

**By Irregular Warfare Center**

Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Department of Defense, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, or the Irregular Warfare Center.

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 Russian academic journal article titled Information in Support of National Security: Information Warfare Strategy for official release.

Written by a prominent Russian expert on hybrid warfare and strategic competition, Alexander Bartosh, the Russian article explores various information warfare strategies, the goals behind them, and how they should be applied during hybrid wars and color revolutions. It concludes by analyzing past NATO operations and outlining how Russia should build countermeasures against information attacks.

As revealed in the translation, the way in which Russian academics and practitioners view operations in the information environment (OIEs) and influence campaigns is radically different than Western views on and definitions of the topic. As stated in the definition provided by Bartosh, "Information warfare is a set of methods to influence all segments of an enemy's population and government in order to distort their worldview, to weaken and destroy the foundations of their national identity and way of life, with the goal of disrupting their ability to resist aggression."

Given this, resiliency-building efforts that hope to counter Russian malign information and influence campaigns should come from an understanding of the strategic intent behind the Kremlin's actions. Primary source documents, such as the translated article, can give invaluable insight into the frameworks with which Russian practitioners approach the subject.

The translation will also be accompanied by an analytical Insights article written by J.D. Maddox, IWC OIE subject matter expert, and Andrew Liflyandchick, IWC analyst., both contractors supporting the Center's mission. The Insights article further explores some of the key concepts raised in the translation and applies them to ongoing Russian information and influence efforts throughout the Russo-Ukraine War. The Insights article also discusses potential vulnerabilities in Russia's information warfare approach and provides some suggestions for building resiliency against Russian OIEs.

The IWC provides translations of original Russian language primary source material on irregular warfare-related topics to facilitate fair use of the provided publication by researchers, practitioners, and partners upon request.

For more information on IWC translations, please visit:  
<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/translations/>

## Additional IWC Translations

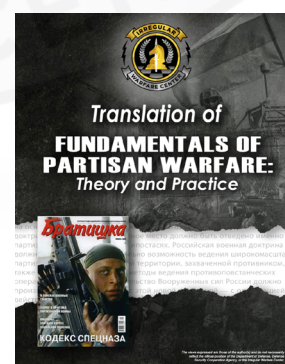
**Coming Soon**

**THE TRIDENT**

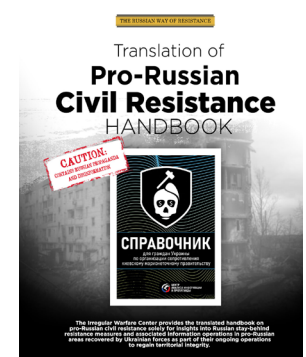
*a new monthly podcast series from the  
Center on Irregular Warfare & Armed Groups*

CIWAG was established in 2008 with the goal to promote and support research and pursue the study of contemporary irregular warfare and non-state actors. COL Dave Brown (Retired) speaks with a variety of professionals, academics, and other experts in the field of Irregular Warfare on this informative program. Our conversations will explore the threats and challenges that continue to dominate the news in our world today. Join us.

The Center is excited to announce Varsha Koduvayur, IWC Senior Analyst, & Valens Global contractor, is scheduled to appear on the Naval War College CIWAG's new monthly podcast, The Trident, in February!



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.



The unattributed translated handbook provides insights into potential pro-Russian stay-behind civil resistance measures in areas recovered by Ukrainian forces as part of their ongoing operations to regain territorial integrity. All hyperlinks have been disabled.

## Connect With Us On Our Social Media & Website

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