

# THE IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER

# Spotlight

Vol 2 • 5

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May 2024

## What do you do with an idea? SWCS, CISA and IWC co-host Irregular Warfare Forum

The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (SWCS) in collaboration with National Defense University's College of International Security Affairs (CISA), and the Irregular Warfare Center hosted the Spring Symposium Irregular Warfare (IW) Forum on the SWCS campus at Fort Liberty, North Carolina, May 15-17.



Dr. Jeff Gardener, IWC Senior Associate Faculty and Chief of Curriculum, conducted a workshop to validate the IWC's newly proposed curriculum map for the online 101-401 series. With a positive reception among the workshop's attendees, the curriculum map sets the framework that was started in IW 101 and will continue in 201-401's development.

"The Irregular Warfare Forum at Fort Liberty was a fantastic venue for us to be able to discuss current and future IWC curricula plans, and get valuable feedback from the irregular warfare community of interest," said Gardner.

The theme for this symposium was "What do you do with an idea?"

Brig. Gen. Guillaume "Will" Beurpere, SWCS commanding general, introduced the topic to the symposium and posed his thoughts to the crowd, "What do you do with an idea? You think about it, you debate it, and you write about it so others may learn."

The Spring Symposium IW Forum focuses on developments in education, research, and practice relevant to irregular warfare. The symposium featured CISA student research presentations, connecting current research with the community of interest and practitioners.

Forty-six CISA students representing the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. State Department, and foreign partner students from Egypt, Germany, Iraq, the Netherlands, Romania, and Thailand presented their thesis to research panels.

Irregular warfare is not unique to special operations or the U.S. military. It is a combined effort focused on partnerships, including the Department of Defense, interagency services, and our global allies and partners.



Brigadier General Guillaume "Will" Beurpere, commander, U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, speaks during the Spring Symposium Irregular Warfare Forum.

"The Spring Symposium IW Forum served as a critically important venue to improve our joint force and whole-of-government understanding in how the U.S., along with our allies and partners, can work together for mutual advantage in strategic competition," said Lt. Col. Tim Murphy, Director, U.S. Army Irregular Warfare Proponent at SWCS.

"As SWCS continues to develop the IW Academy at our Fort Liberty Campus, collaboration with IW professionals across the Services, Interagency, industry, and our foreign partners will be paramount to developing IW Doctrine, Training, Leader Development, and Education to ensure the joint force is equally capable of executing both irregular and conventional warfare," Murphy added.

Beurpere's opening remarks set the expectations for the research presented and for the debates within the research panels.

"Your research matters," he said. "Take what you've learned back to your units in the operational force. Be open, flexible, and curious."

The first day, research panels discussed diverse academic aspects of Resilience - Resistance - Disruption, Utilizing and Adapting SOF for Strategic Competition, Africa and Strategic Competition, Developments in Irregular Warfare and the Gray Zone, Networks-Influence-Identity, Regional Dynamics in the Middle East and Asia, and Chinese Influence in the Western Hemisphere.

The second day, research panels Societal Dynamics and the Security Environment, Influence, Competing Across Dimensions, and Challenges in the Indo-Pacific.

The third day's discussion panel included the way ahead strategy for IW and standing up the IW Academy as part of the SWCS campus.

"As the institution for the special operations center of excellence, we advance the understanding by establishing the Irregular Warfare Academy as an education component to the Special Warfare Center and School as part of the SWCS 2030 strategy," said Beurpere in his closing remarks.



A student from the National Defense University, who is in the College of International Security Affairs Masters Program, delivers a speech during the Spring Symposium Irregular Warfare Forum.

### Director's Corner



Dr. Dennis Walters  
IWC Director



Greeting from the IWC,

Another month is in the books for the Center and as always I'm excited to share highlights about all of the latest IWC happenings.

Our May engagements included the Partnership for Peace Consortium's inaugural Irregular Warfare & Hybrid Threats Working Group, where attendees had the opportunity to collaborate with allies and partners to better understand strategic competition, emerging technologies, and threats in IW and how the IWC can assist with education and training opportunities.

The IWC also participated in the International Special Operations Forces (SOF) Week, engaged with the Army Futures Command on IW and new technologies, as well as the SOMA Conference, where we had the opportunity to provide critical information related to our medical functional area network.

Once again we had the opportunity to work with our allies and partners at the National Defense University, the College of International Security Affairs and the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Command and School during the IW Spring Symposium IW Forum at Fort Liberty. IWC representatives presented information about the Center's new virtual IW101 course and future education initiatives the IWC is working on. A special thank you to everyone who played a role in planning and executing such an important event filled with a plethora of collaboration, knowledge and discussion!

Thanks to the incredible team at the IWC for your continuous hard work and dedication to our important mission!

For other IWC related news and event information, please ensure to check out the Center on our social media platforms & website with links provided on page 2.

Stay tuned for more great things!

Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Director

### Call For Action! - IW Articles

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Defense Security Cooperation University

#### Save the Date: Irregular Warfare Lessons Learned Since 9/11



**Who:** The Department of Defense's Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) and the Foreign Policy Research Institute's (FPRI) Center for the Study of Intelligence and Nontraditional Warfare

**Where:** U.S. Naval Institute Jack C. Taylor Conference Center, Annapolis, Maryland

**When:** September 17-18, 2024

**What:** The conference aims to capture lessons learned, including positive and negative examples, in the conduct of irregular warfare operations around the world by U.S., allied and partner nations, and non-state actors after the terrorist attacks of 9/11. While Afghanistan and Iraq were the most prominent of the post-9/11 wars, the conference welcomes papers that draw on lessons learned from irregular warfare operations in the Philippines, Horn of Africa, the Sahel region of Africa, and elsewhere. Submissions should pertain to sub-topics relevant to the seven main areas below:

- Information Operations
- Human Terrain
- Logistics/Supply/Maintenance
- Medical, Dental and Veterinary Operations
- Intelligence and Counterintelligence Activities
- Engaging with Partner Forces
- Utilizing Local Police and Militia Forces in a Counterinsurgency

For more information on event details and paper submissions, please visit <http://irregularwarfarecenter.org/news/announcement/iwc-call-for-papers-2024/>

Invite Coming Soon

### Photo Of The Month



Dr. Dennis Walters, Irregular Warfare Center (IWC), had the opportunity to meet with members of the Mongolian Special Operations Force while recently at Camp Dawson, West Virginia. They discussed opportunities for closer collaboration between the IWC and the Mongolian SOF community.

### Media Highlights

Andor: An Irregular Warfare Story  
by Dr. Lumpy Lumbaca

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/perspectives/andor-an-irregular-warfare-story/>

Religion and Foreign Subversion: The Russian Orthodox Church

by Madison Urban - IWC Analyst (Contractor, Valens Global), Andrew Lifyandchick - IWC Analyst (Contractor, Valens Global) and Gabrielle Kennedy - IWC Analyst (Contractor, Valens Global)

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/insights/religion-and-foreign-subversion-the-russian-orthodox-church/>

Incorporating the Principles of Women, Peace and Security into Irregular Warfare  
by Dr. Robert Redding - IWC Senior Irregular Warfare Advisor (Contractor, Valens Global)

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/insights/incorporating-the-principles-of-women-peace-and-security-into-irregular-warfare/>



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## Unlocking the Potential of the IW Global Network: Building a Resilient Future

Solving wicked problems such as irregular warfare requires an adaptive approach. It demands that we challenge conventional thinking, embrace complexity, and unite diverse perspectives in pursuit of innovative solutions.

It was to this end that the IW Global Network was shaped, but what's the story behind its creation and just how much untapped potential does it harbor?

The IW Global Network was created with a clear purpose to address the increasingly complex and interconnected nature of IW challenges. In today's world, addressing irregular challenges requires a coordinated and agile response from nations, organizations, and individuals alike. The IW Global Network is meant to serve as a catalyst for cooperation, knowledge-sharing, and innovation in the realm of irregular warfare, bringing together stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to collectively tackle common threats and seize opportunities.

At its most basic, human networks embody interconnectedness among individuals, communities, and organizations, forming a foundation of resilience and solidarity. They thrive in everyday interactions, from neighbors lending a hand to colleagues sharing expertise, empowering individuals in ways unattainable alone. Networks provide the ability to leverage collective knowledge, resources, and creativity to address irregular challenges and seize opportunities. Their diverse and decentralized nature allows for innovative solutions and real-time adaptation to emerging challenges. This collective of intelligence and agility enables human networks to effectively address unforeseen problems, drawing upon the strengths of their members.

"In the realm of irregular warfare, where adversaries operate in the shadows and traditional boundaries dissolve, networks act as indispensable architects of resilience and agility," said Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Director (Acting).

Expanding on this foundational understanding, historical instances demonstrate how networks acted as amplifying elements. During World War II, the French Resistance showcased the emergence of a decentralized network in France, dedicated to undermining German occupation. Similarly, the Yugoslav Partisans established a resistance network against German and Italian forces, uniting fighters across Yugoslavia from diverse ethnic backgrounds and political ideologies.

Al-Qaeda leveraged a global network of operatives, sympathizers, and affiliates. Through decentralized cells operating in multiple countries, they coordinated terrorist activities, disseminated propaganda, and recruited new members, posing a significant challenge to counterterrorism efforts worldwide. The Underground Railroad stands as another testament to the potency of human networks, operating as a decentralized network across multiple states and regions, aiding those seeking freedom. These examples serve as illustrations to demonstrate the potential achievements that can be realized through effective network utilization. One thing is certain, IW requires collaboration, and the broader your network, the more effective your efforts will be.

The IW Global Network falls in line with one of the IWC's primary endeavors of fostering a global, collaborative, IW community. To further enhance collaboration, the IW Global Network is broken down into smaller Functional Area Networks (FANs), with each FAN assigned a specific IW area. New FANs continuously arise as the community identifies needs, and the IWC expands its efforts to encompass additional areas of focus. This adaptive approach ensures that the FANs remain responsive to evolving irregular challenges. FANs aim to foster a cohesive effort across the Department of Defense (DoD), Interagency (IA), private sector, and global partners. This collective approach aims to maximize IW capabilities and ensure a comprehensive whole-of-government response to irregular challenges. The IWC's role is to act as a conductor, orchestrating these intricate connections that span the globe. The Center's role goes beyond just managing networks; it's about empowering collaboration, fostering resilience, and navigating the complexities of the irregular challenges the world is facing.

## Four Years of Growth and Impact: The Irregular Warfare Initiative


May 21, 2024, marks four years since the launch of the Irregular Warfare Podcast. What started as a small project by three military graduate students has grown into the Irregular Warfare Initiative, an influential platform for scholars and practitioners to share ideas on topics ranging from information warfare and counterterrorism to security assistance and cyber operations. While conventional and nuclear threats from China and Russia dominate attention, the initiative highlights the continued relevance of irregular warfare globally. Our team's history remains largely unknown despite its success in bringing together scholars and practitioners. This article tells the story of the Irregular Warfare Initiative and its impact.



Check out the entire IWI 4th Birthday article below:

<https://irregularwarfare.org/articles/four-years-of-growth-and-impact-the-irregular-warfare-initiative/>

## Upcoming Events & Current Initiatives



### IWC GLOBAL NETWORK

**Mission**

The Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) is a congressionally mandated organization, charged with developing irregular warfare (IW) knowledge for the Department of Defense (DoD) and advancing the understanding of IW concepts.

The IW Global Network employs a strategic approach to addressing global irregular challenges through the establishment of Functional Area Networks (FANs). These networks are centered around areas of concern identified in collaboration with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict, and key global partners.

The IW FANs act as a force multiplier by creating a comprehensive whole of government approach. These networks foster cooperation across various sectors including the DoD, interagency, private sector, and global partners.

With this approach, multiple stakeholders from different sectors collaborate, share information, and pool resources to address issues that span multiple policy areas and ultimately maximizes irregular warfare capabilities.


**Current FANs**

- Intelligence
- Emerging Technology
- Operations in the Information Environment (OIE)
- Medical Resilience
- Contested Logistics
- Mission Assurance

JOIN OUR NETWORK

[fan@irregularwarfarecenter.org](mailto:fan@irregularwarfarecenter.org)

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/initiatives/iw-global->






**REGISTER TODAY**

Scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/CIWAG2024](http://bit.ly/CIWAG2024)



### THE TRIDENT

Episode 5 Now Available!!



### CALL FOR PAPERS:

## Second Annual Irregular Warfare Colloquium

Pursuant to its mandate to facilitate research on irregular warfare and strategic competition, and engage with U.S. and international universities, the Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) is pleased to invite proposals for the second annual Irregular Warfare Colloquium, to be held in the Washington, DC, area on September 26-27, 2024.

The IWC serves as the central mechanism for developing the Department of Defense's (DOD) irregular warfare (IW) knowledge and advancing the department's understanding of IW concepts and doctrine in collaboration with key allies and partners. To that end, we have developed this selective colloquium aimed at building a strong cohort of 12-14 junior scholars working on IW-related projects and connecting them with senior scholars and practitioners in the field.

Presenters selected for participation in the colloquium will be placed in small groups with presenters from other academic institutions who share similar research interests and complementary capabilities. Attendees will be expected to give a brief presentation of their research—whether completed or in-progress—to serve as the basis for peer discussions and planning for further research.

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IWC Contact Info



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For general inquiries, please contact us at [info@irregularwarfarecenter.org](mailto:info@irregularwarfarecenter.org)  
For media-related inquiries, please contact us at [media@irregularwarfarecenter.org](mailto:media@irregularwarfarecenter.org)

IWC Spotlight Newsletter Editor-In-Chief  
David Wycaver  
IWC Public Affairs &  
Strategic Communications Manager  
(Morgan 6 contractor)