

# THE IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER

# Spotlight

Vol 2 • 6

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June 2024

## IWC Co-Hosts FBI National Academy Association's Annual Asia-Pacific Symposium in Vietnam



Varsha Koduvayur (IWC Senior Analyst, Contractor, Valens Global) gave a presentation on Gray Zone activities focusing on countering hybrid threats during the IWC's co-hosted FBI National Academy Association's annual Asia-Pacific symposium.



Dr. Jeff Gardner, IWC's Chief of Curriculum, provided opening remarks and welcomed more than 190 attendees during the IWC's co-hosted FBI National Academy Association's annual Asia-Pacific symposium.

The Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) co-hosted the FBI National Academy Association's annual Asia-Pacific symposium in Danang, Vietnam, June 24-25, 2024. Dr. Jeff Gardner, IWC's Chief of Curriculum, provided opening remarks and welcomed more than 190 attendees to the annual event.

"The IWC is honored to assist in sponsoring this 24th Asia Pacific Conference to allow continued professional collaboration in dealing with common threats, like cybercrime and illicit use of digital assets," said Gardner. "We'd like to thank our Vietnamese hosts, the FBI, the FBI National Academy Association, SOCPAC, the national delegations as well as sponsors for this tremendous opportunity."

Dr. Gardner and Varsha Koduvayur (IWC Contractor, Valens

Global) gave a presentation on Gray Zone activities focusing on countering hybrid threats to the nearly 200 participants, including U.S. and international law enforcement personnel who are all graduates of the FBI National Academy.

The IWC team covered strategic frameworks for hybrid threats, and utilized threat finance as a case study to show how law enforcement is already working to counter hybrid threats. This significant multi-national cooperation with law enforcement agencies on countering hybrid threats is paramount to integrated deterrence, building resiliency and countering global irregular activities in collaboration with U.S. allies and partners.



## IWC's IW101 Course Available via DSCU

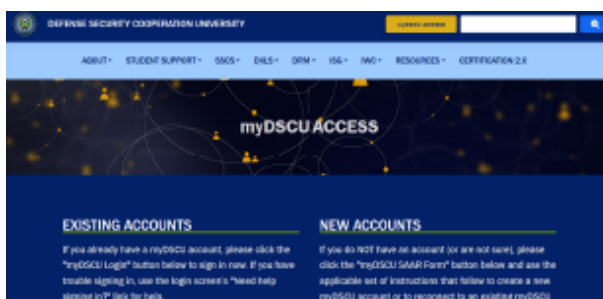
IW101 offers an introduction to the fundamental aspects of Irregular Warfare, consolidating key concepts from U.S. policy, doctrine, and academia in about 90 minutes. This course has three sections which includes:

- 1) strategic competition, forms of warfare and definition and nature of IW, 2) describing IW operations and activities, and 3) discussing the global practitioners of IW and trends.



IW 101 is available on the Defense Security Cooperation University virtual classroom, MyDSCU. An account is required and registration can be completed at this link: <https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/education/iw101/>

From the myDCSU homepage (once logged in,) click on "DSCU ILTs & VILTs" and search for 'Irregular Warfare 101 Course' in the Learning Search bar. For detailed instructions on accessing the course, you can download the IW 101 Quick Reference Sheet: <https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/Accessing-IW-101.pdf>



## Director's Corner



Dr. Dennis Walters  
IWC Director



Greeting from the IWC,

Summer is officially upon us, and it's my pleasure to share the latest happening with you from around the Irregular Warfare Center. June has been a fruitful month for the IWC, with engagements throughout the globe supporting irregular warfare and spreading the mission of the Center.

Our June engagements included the participation in the Naval War College's Center on Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups 2023 Maritime Symposium. The symposium, co-sponsored by the Naval War College Foundation, brings together industry and department of defense experts to discuss this year's theme "Exploring our Maritime Strategies II: Red Sea and Persian Gulf" during the two-day event. CIWAG is dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of the challenges presented by irregular warfare (IW) and non-state actors, also known as armed groups, in the 21st Century.

The Center had the pleasure to team up with our partners at the FBI to co-host the FBI National Academy Association's annual Asia-Pacific symposium in Danang, Vietnam. The IWC team covered strategic frameworks for hybrid threats, and utilized threat finance as a case study to show how law enforcement is already working to counter hybrid threats. Additional June activities included Silent Quest in Tampa as well as Seminar on Irregular Warfare & Hybrid Threats in Germany.

We've also been busy planning several future events to help showcase the Center's mission and capabilities while supporting our allies and partners in all things irregular warfare. If you haven't had the chance yet, please check out our upcoming events including our partnership with the Foreign Policy Research Institute's (FPRI) Center for the Study of Intelligence and Nontraditional Warfare for the upcoming IW GWOT Lessons Learned since 9/11 event as well as our second colloquium in September.

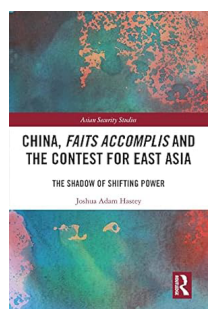
Thanks to the incredible team at the IWC for your continuous hard work and dedication to our important mission!

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

## IWC Book Review

Recently, the Naval War College Review published a review of IWC Chair of Research (contractor, Morgan 6), Dr. Joshua Hasteley's book entitled, "China, Faits Accomplis and the Contest for East Asia: The Shadow of Shifting Power."



In his review, Kevin D. Stringer, Ph.D., IWC Chair of Education (contractor, Valens Global), highlights the book's findings on the conditions under which China is more aggressive or restrained in its use of faits accomplis in the South and East China Seas. The review and book are particularly timely given China's recent surge in gray zone tactics at Second Thomas Shoal.

<https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol77/iss1/16/>

## Photo Of The Month



Varsha Koduvayur IWC Senior Analyst, (Contractor, Valens Global) and Dr. Jeff Gardner, IWC's Chief of Curriculum, gave a presentation on Gray Zone activities focusing on countering hybrid threats during the IWC's co-hosted FBI National Academy Association's annual Asia-Pacific symposium in Vietnam.

## Media

Perspectives Apart: Unveiling the Indo-Pacific Understanding of Irregular Warfare by Sandor Fabian IWC Chair of Engagement (Contractor, Morgan 6) & Gabrielle Kennedy IWC Analyst (Contractor, Valens Global)

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/insights/perspectives-apart-unveiling-the-indo-pacific-understanding-of-irregular-warfare/>

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/>

Sportswashing: The Newest Weapon in Influence Operations in Irregular Warfare  
Mohamad Mirghahari - Subject Matter Expert

Christina Grossen - Project Coordinator, Center for Civil Society and Democracy

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/insights/sportswashing-the-newest-weapon-in-influence-operations-in-irregular-warfare/>



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## IWC & FPRI Partner To Explore IW Lessons Learned Since 9/11; Submission deadline Aug. 1

The United States 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 are seeking papers to be presented at a two-day conference on September 17 and 18, 2024, to discuss irregular warfare lessons learned since 9/11 at the U.S. Naval Institute Jack C. Taylor Conference Center, Annapolis, Maryland.

20 years of GWOT revealed countless insights into the irregular activities conducted by the DoD and allied nations across the globe. From Afghanistan to Iraq to INDOPACOM and all corners of the world, this is a great opportunity to express those experiences and pose lessons learned for strategists and IW stakeholders to consider in future IW planning.

We want to hear your stories, research and experiences from this significant era in military history! Submission deadline now August 1st!!

Please ensure to forward your submissions to [submissions@fpri.org](mailto:submissions@fpri.org) for consideration.

For more details, including submission guidelines and topics of interest, please check out the below link.

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/news/announcement/iwc-call-for-papers-2024/>

### IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER

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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 <https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/news/announcement/iwc-call-for-papers-2024/>

Invite Coming Soon

## The Vital Role of Airlines & Commercial Aviation in Irregular Warfare

By Mohamad Mirghahari - IWC Subject Matter Expert (Contractor, Valens Global)  
Joshua Smith - Seton Hall University National Security Fellowship Graduate Student

Commercial airlines and aviation have emerged as a critical yet often overlooked element in the context of irregular warfare (IW). These assets are not just part of a state's infrastructure, but they also significantly contribute to a state's response capabilities. A prime example of this was seen during the U.S. evacuation from Afghanistan, where commercial aviation extended beyond its traditional role of transportation. It played a crucial role in strategic operations and logistics, demonstrating how governments, like the U.S., are increasingly relying on commercial airlines for matters of national security and political significance. In the face of IW threats, commercial aviation's capabilities encompass the ability to rapidly mobilize resources, ensure the continuity of critical services, and maintain the resilience of societal structures.

The use of commercial aviation in IW opens a new possibility for military strategy, reflecting a paradigm where the lines between civilian and military assets blur, offering unique advantages and posing complex ethical and legal challenges. From rapid troop deployments and evacuations to covert intelligence gathering, the versatility of commercial aviation is indispensable yet fraught with risks that warrant careful consideration.

In preparing for IW threats, commercial aviation emerges as both a potential vulnerability and a strategic asset. The infrastructure, cyber capabilities, and security of commercial airlines are liabilities for states, as they enable attackers to damage civilian infrastructure through methods that are not immediately recognizable as a traditional attack. An attack of this nature will have military, economic, and political ramifications. Fully understanding this threat is essential for preparing for the future of IW.

As such, it is imperative that commercial aviation is given a more integrated role within U.S. national defense. It is a strategic necessity aimed at bolstering national preparedness and responsiveness in the face of IW. It catalyzes innovation in areas pivotal to national security, including logistics, supply chain management, transportation capabilities, and security protocols. Read the entire article below:

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/perspectives/the-vital-role-of-airlines-and-commercial-aviation-in-irregular-warfare/>

## Upcoming Events & Current Initiatives

### Episode 7 Now Available!!



The latest issue of PRISM, "Managing Chaos in a Disordered World," is now available! This second issue cosponsored by National Defense University and the Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) features an insightful article by Dr. Kevin D. Stringer, Ph.D.: "A Gray Zone Option for Integrated Deterrence: Special Operations Forces."

### 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-network/>



### IWC STUDENT WORKING GROUP

#### Mission

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

The **IW Global Network** consists of **Functional Area Networks (FANs)**. These Functional Area 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 SWG is seeking dedicated undergraduate and graduate students from colleges and universities throughout the United States. Students pursuing degrees in all fields are encouraged to apply, including the following:

- Political Science and History
- Foreign Languages and Linguistics
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Business and Finance

#### JOIN OUR NETWORK

[fan@irregularwarfarecenter.org](mailto:fan@irregularwarfarecenter.org)  
<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/initiatives/iw-global-network/>



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[IWC Homepage](https://www.irregularwarfarecenter.org/)

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