

THE IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER

Spotlight

Vol 2 • 6

Amplify | Illuminate | Address

July 2024

The Center Publishes First Organizational Book: “The Future Faces of Irregular Warfare: Great Power Competition in the 21st Century”

The Department of Defense’s Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) is extremely proud to announce the publication of its first book, *The Future Faces of Irregular Warfare: Great Power Competition in the 21st Century*, published by the Irregular Warfare Center Press, now available on the IWC’s website as an E-book.

The book is an edited volume of essays from leading scholars and practitioners across the national security spectrum. With a foreword penned by LTC(R) Michael Nagata, the book assesses the evolution of trends in irregular warfare and strategic competition, with vignettes on lawfare, economic warfare, maritime gray zone activities, climate change, and more.



“This book encompasses the hard work, expertise, passion for irregular warfare and endless hours of dedication from the authors, editors, and supporting staff contributed to achieving this tremendous milestone for the Center and its partners and allies,” said Lori Leffler, IWC Deputy Director and Chief of Staff. “We aim to use

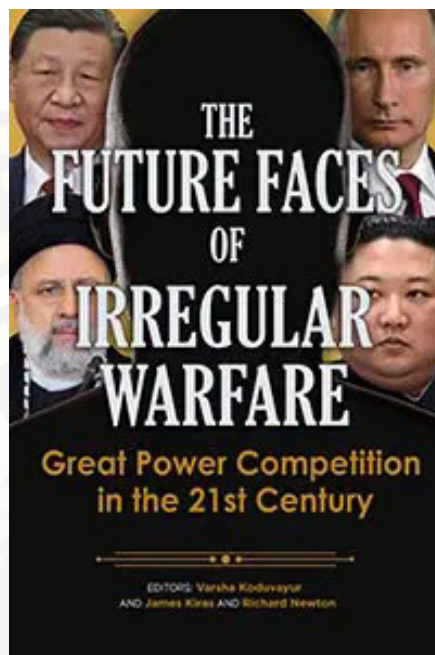
this valuable resource as a way to bolster awareness and knowledge on many different facets of IW while helping to broaden our organizational outreach and inspire future IW scholars and practitioners.”

The book fills an important gap in existing literature on irregular warfare (IW). Much has been written about the current state of play in strategic competition and IW, but there remains a dearth of academic literature on how current IW trends can evolve, and how future IW trends could emerge. The IWC set out to fill that gap, assembling a diverse set of authors and topics.

The IWC is particularly grateful for the practitioners and scholars that contributed such rich and thought-provoking chapters for our inaugural book. Participating authors came from the private sector; DoD Regional Centers, including the Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies and the George C. Marshall Center; the RAND Corporation; professional military education (PME) institutions in the U.S., including the National Defense University and the Joint Special Operations University, as well foreign PME institutions such as the Baltic Defense College and the Swedish Defense University.

In addition to LTC (R) Nagata, authors include:

- Dr. David Ucko
- Dr. Thomas Marks
- USN CDR Jonathan Odom, J.D., LL.M
- Dr. Jeremiah Lumpy Lumbaca
- Dr. Christopher Paul
- Mike Schwillie
- Christian Ramthun
- Maurice DuClos
- LTC (R) DeVan Shannon
- Tuan Pham



- Dr. Christopher Marsh
- Dr. Ulrica Petterson
- LTC (R) Hans Ilis-Alm
- Dr. Sean McFate
- Dr. Sam Mullins
- James Sullivan
- Dr. Thomas Searle
- Dr. Jennifer Walters
- LTC Karl Salum

“I am thrilled to be part of such a seminal work on irregular warfare,” said Varsha Koduvayur, IWC Senior Analyst (contractor, Valens Global). “It has been a deep honor to work with such an esteemed list of contributing authors and co-editors to produce the IWC’s first-ever book.”

The entire E-book is now available [here](#).

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.

Director’s Corner



Dr. Dennis Walters
IWC Director



Greeting from the IWC,

The summer months have been busy at the IWC as we continue to synchronize efforts across the U.S. government and abroad with our partners and allies. I’ve tried to capture some of the more notable accomplishments from the past month from both our Center as well as other organizations in the IW family.

First, we finally published our first organizational book, “The Future Face of Irregular Warfare: Great Power Confrontation in the 21st Century.” We learned a great deal about the publishing process within the U.S. government to say the least. This book is an edited volume of essays on the future evolutions and trends of irregular warfare and competition. Written by leading scholars and practitioners of irregular warfare and national security, the book presents a forward-leaning analysis of how IW between the U.S. and its competitors is likely to play out in several key theaters, such as the Indo-Pacific and the Baltics, and in particular issue sets, such as climate change, misinformation and disinformation, economic coercion, and counterterrorism. For more information, check out our news feature highlighting all of the details of the book launch and how to access.

During my recent travels, I had the pleasure to co-host the Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare Exercise Distinguished Visitor Days held July 24-25, 2024, at Camp Dawson in Kingwood, West Virginia. This event, which was preceded by an IWC irregular warfare academics program of instruction, provided an opportunity to observe U.S. and international participants of the exercise being held throughout West Virginia and South Carolina July 9 - 27, 2024.

The Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare Exercise is a West Virginia National Guard-led, multinational IW exercise that provides a training platform for A. Co., 2/19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), elements of the 92nd Civil Affairs Battalion, U.S.M.C. forces, and elements of the 130th Airlift Wing and 167th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. The Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare exercise provides a dynamic and realistic platform for allies and partners to conduct irregular warfare training, develop interoperability, and enable training to enhance strategic IW capabilities. Seeing the ‘battle-lab’ proof of concepts happen in real time is truly rewarding.

The Center’s team has been working diligently in planning several future events to help showcase the Center’s mission and capabilities while supporting our allies and partners in all things irregular warfare related. 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 CWOT Lessons Learned since 9/11 event Sept. 17-18 as well as our second annual colloquium in Sept. 26-27 and Intel Conference slated for Oct. 29-31 in Annapolis, Md.

If you haven’t engaged with one of our IWC FANs yet, we encourage you to do so! The IWC FANs were established to address global irregular challenges and act as a low/no-cost 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. FANs aim to make irregular challenges more manageable by identifying, predicting, and addressing these issues.

We continue to identify a number of action items our FANs will be tackling in the coming months and I’m excited for the future of this critical initiative. If you’d like to be a part of this great network, please let us know at fan@irregularwarfarecenter.org. The problems we are working to solve will make the world a safer place.

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

IW SWG Mentorship

The IW Student Working Group FAN comprises a diverse group of talented individuals. Inspired by the members of this group, the IWC meticulously paired participants from the first essay submission contest with SMEs within the Center. Through mentorship, the IWC aims to help students further develop their writing skills, refine their ideas, and connect with senior-level practitioners.

IWC mentors within this initiative provided guidance on various IW-related essay topics to help foster professional growth. A special thank you to Nolan Peterson, IWC SME, Valens Global contractor, Dr. Josh Hastey, IWC Deputy Regional Advisor for U.S. Pacific Command & U.S. Forces Korea, Morgan 6 contractor, Sal Artiaga, IWC SME, Valens Global contractor, Jim Derleth, IWC SME, Valens Global contractor and Dr. Sandor Fabian, IWC Deputy Regional Advisor for U.S. European Command & U.S. Africa Command, Morgan 6 contractor, for all your extraordinary contributions!

We look forward to seeing the positive impact this will have on the students and SMEs in helping to evolve the future generation of irregular warfare.

Photo Of The Month



Shiuo Rybski (center), IWC representative, contractor, Morgan 6 and HCOE Director of Training and Exercise, participated in a hybrid threats briefing with the President of Finland, Alexander Stubb (Rybski’s left), highlighting the significance of the IWC contributions to the HCOE.

Media Highlights

Hybrid Warfare is Less Than Warfare: A Dangerous Illusion
by Prof. Alina Bărgăoanu and Dr. Elena Negrea-Busuioac

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/perspectives/hybrid-warfare-is-less-than-warfare-a-dangerous-illusion/>

SOF Should Not Be Used as Assault Troops: Lessons from the Russo-Ukraine Conflict
by Dr. Jeff Gardner, LTC (Ret.), U.S. Army – IWC Senior Faculty, Richard Davis, CW4, U.S. Army – IWC Ridge Runner Senior Cadre, Andrew Lifyandchick – IWC Russia Analyst (Contractor, Valens Global) & Derek Jones, COL (Ret.), U.S. Army – IWC Subject Matter Expert (Contractor, Valens Global)

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/insights/sof-should-not-be-used-as-assault-troops-lessons-from-the-russo-ukraine-war/>

A Wagner Group Delivery to Hezbollah: Russia and Iran Reaffirm Mutual Objectives via Proxy Groups
Brittany Carroll – IWC Senior Military Analyst (Contractor, Valens Global)

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/insights/a-wagner-group-delivery-to-hezbollah-russia-and-iran-reaffirm-mutual-objectives-via-proxy-groups/>

THE IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER

Spotlight



Vol 2 • 6

Amplify | Illuminate | Address

July 2024

The Center and FPRI to Host Conference Emphasizing IW Lessons Learned Since 9/11

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 will co-host 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.

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, or elsewhere.

"We are excited to partner with FPRI for this critical, informative event to provide an opportunity to discuss some of the IW lessons learned since 9/11 while fostering growth and emphasizing the importance of learning from past experiences to find solutions to future irregular problems," said Lori Lefler, IWC Deputy Director and Chief of Staff. "The tremendous value this event brings through the insights shared by panel members, practitioners, presenters and IW SMEs aims to aid the future of irregular warfare."

"IWC and FPRI's Center for the Study of Intelligence and Nontraditional Warfare are happy to have the chance to collaborate on this project and to bring together both academic and governmental views and approaches towards studying this important topic," said Phil Wasielewski, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute Director, Center for the Study of Intelligence and Nontraditional Warfare. "The purpose of the conference is not only to collect lessons learned from our post-9/11 irregular wars (Afghanistan, Iraq, Horn of Africa, Sahel, Philippines, etc.) but also to highlight the continuing need to study and examine irregular warfare operations while much of the DoD budget and educational centers have been reoriented to conventional war against "peer competitors."

"We see this conference not as a "one and done" event but as the first step for both of our recently new centers to catalyze interest in studying irregular warfare and avoid the boom-or-bust cycle that has plagued it in DoD and the academic world since WWII," added Wasielewski. "The IWC has plans to collect all papers in their own databases and FPRI plans to publish select papers on its website. Submissions should describe lessons learned from one of seven conference topics: Information Operations; Human Terrain; Logistics, Supply, and Maintenance Operations; Medical, Dental, and Veterinary Operations; Intelligence and Counterintelligence Activities; Engaging with Partner Forces; and Utilizing Local Police and Militia Forces in a Counterinsurgency."

The conference hosts particularly welcome:

- Case studies from specific campaigns (i.e. The Al Anbar Awakening) or programs (i.e. Village Stability Operations/Afghan Local Police) that cover one or more of these topics;
- Lessons learned from lesser-known campaigns in the Philippines, Horn of Africa, Sahel, or elsewhere;
- Papers that provide allied, partner force, and indigenous perspectives of the conference topics.

Authors of papers chosen by IWC and FPRI will be invited to present their papers at the conference either in-person or virtually. Selected papers may also be published by FPRI's Center for the Study of Intelligence and Nontraditional Warfare on their website.

Wasielewski added, "The value this conference will bring is that there will be both a number of papers presented on various aspects of irregular warfare that are sure to be treasure troves of useful lessons learned but also a number of panels with very experienced participants from the various post-9/11 irregular warfare operations around the world. The insights they will share during the conference will be equally valuable and are worth preserving for the next time our national defense establishment is called upon to conduct an irregular warfare campaign."

For more event information, please visit:

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

The Irregular Warfare Center and Hybrid CoE Cooperation: A Vital Partnership for the Future

Shiho Rybski, IWC representative, Morgan 6 contractor & HCOE Director of Training & Exercise

Greg Bendewald, IWC Program Manager and Morgan 6 contractor

The Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) and the European Center of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (HCOE) entered into a unique partnership in FY 24 making both institutions stronger and more globally connected. The HCOE was born out of a desire to strengthen NATO-EU cooperation on hybrid threats with the 2016 Joint NATO/EU declaration committing both institutions to counter hybrid threats in a cooperative manner. In this declaration, NATO and the EU voiced the realization that hybrid threats exploited the divisions between civil and military responses. Success in countering these threats requires combining individual strengths and areas of expertise. Finland answered the call in 2017 by creating the HCOE and, to date, 36 NATO Allies and EU Member States have become members of the Center.

Similarly, the IWC was stood up by Congress in FY 23 to serve as a functional center with a distinct mission, expanding IW knowledge and capabilities globally. Its mandate includes three elements necessary to develop creative solutions to irregular problems: funding, authority, and expertise. These elements provide the framework for the IWC to examine challenges and offer solutions in multiple irregular arenas. Its funding provides a structure to study the current environment and recommend solutions. Its authority allows the Center to convene stakeholders from the U.S. Government, including the Defense Department and interagency, international partners, and academia. Lastly, the IWC's expertise guides stakeholders through investigating, developing, and delivering sustainable processes and programs. Its mission and mandate separate the IWC from the regional centers that operate geographically to support regional combatant commands and partners.

Read the entire article [here](#).

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

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



Episode 9 Now Available!!



NARRATIVE VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS

BY J. D. Maddox, VG Contractor

The Irregular Warfare Center's OIE (Operations in the Information Environment) Functional Area Network (FAN) Tab D bi-weekly newsletter!

This newsletter employs expert analytic research techniques, bolstered by machine learning and original-language, open-source information, to pinpoint vulnerabilities in the current narrative of global competitors, thereby empowering the U.S. with informational advantages. Serving as a potent force multiplier, the OIE FAN facilitates education and problem-solving within the realm of information operations.

For those interested in receiving the IWC's Tab D newsletter, please reach out via email at fan@irregularwarfarecenter.org.

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

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



Connect With Us On Our Social Media & Website

IWC Contact Info



[Irregular Warfare Center \(IWC\)](https://www.linkedin.com/company/irregular-warfare-center/)



[@IrregularWarCtr](https://twitter.com/IrregularWarCtr)



[Irregular Warfare Center - IWC](https://www.facebook.com/IrregularWarfareCenter/)



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

For general inquiries, please contact us at info@irregularwarfarecenter.org
For media-related inquiries, please contact us at media@irregularwarfarecenter.org

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