

# THE IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER

# Spotlight

Vol 2 • 7

Amplify | Illuminate | Address

August 2024

## The IWC Proudly Assumes Publishing of PRISM: The Journal of Complex Operations

The Department of Defense's Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) is extremely proud to announce the Center has assumed publishing duties and responsibilities of PRISM: The Journal of Complex Operations, effective Sept. 3, 2024.

"PRISM is chartered to study, promote, and reinforce emerging thought and best practices as civilian capacity increases in stability, reconstruction, security, counterinsurgency, and irregular warfare operations." (David Gurney, Vol 1.1)

Since July 2011, PRISM has been a premiere journal offering provocative articles relating to national and international security affairs. By reaching out to thought leaders from the national and international security policymaker, practitioner, and academic communities the quarterly publication has established a reputation for offering keen insight into the evolving global threat environment.

"Continuing PRISM's legacy as the premier journal for irregular warfare underscores the IW Center's commitment to fulfilling our congressional mandate to be the central mechanism for IW thought and action, connecting military departments, the interagency, and civil society including academia and industry," said Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Director. "Even more importantly, it will enable PRISM to continue providing critical insights to policymakers and practitioners of strategic competition."



The IWC assumes leadership, management, and publication of PRISM while ensuring its renowned legacy and presence within the IW community. The Center is honored to continue the publication of PRISM and is committed to maintaining the high standards of insight, national as well as international perspectives, and diversity of authors and viewpoints for which PRISM is known.

"We're excited to extend the rich heritage of PRISM into the future and add the publication to our vast offerings of valuable, educational irregular warfare resources," said Lori Leffler, IWC Deputy Director and Chief of Staff. "Our team is eager to begin publishing the first IWC-branded issue with a rollout date scheduled after the new year."

The new PRISM team includes Dr. Kevin D. Stringer, IWC SME, Valens Global contractor, Dr. Sandor Fabian, IWC Deputy Regional Advisor for U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command, Morgan 6 contractor, Dr. Joshua Haste, IWC Deputy Regional Advisor for U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea, Morgan 6 contractor and Micheal Miklaucic, previous PRISM Editor-in-Chief.

"I serve as Associate Editor for PRISM, along with Dr. Stringer and Dr. Fabian," said Haste. "Together, we oversee the journal from managing submissions and the peer review process to managing subscriptions and promoting the journal. PRISM is already the premier scholarly journal of irregular warfare, diplomacy, and grand strategy, and we hope that it will quickly become a pillar of the IWC's contributions to the IW community."

"As an Associate Editor with my colleagues Dr. Haste and Dr. Fabian, I work with them to ensure that we maintain PRISM's prominent position as the peer-reviewed journal for irregular warfare, hybrid threats, and complex operations," said Dr. Stringer. "My vision is that we receive cutting edge articles that provoke creative thinking by both scholars and practitioners on these challenging and often vexing topics."

To date, PRISM has published more than 40 issues, 400 articles, 40 interviews and 80 book reviews in a 13-year span.

Prominent authors and contributors from past editions include Gen. Mark Milley (Ret), Vol 10.3; Interviews with Kaja Kallas, PM of Estonia



published online in May 2024 and Kevin Rudd, former PM of Australia in March 2022; Graham Allison (Harvard historian) in Vol 10.1; Thomas Pickering-Vol 9.2; and interviews with numerous European ministers of defense.

For authors interested in publishing within PRISM, the Center encourages submissions of original manuscripts that are informative, insightful, and provocative while addressing the full range of factors contributing to global security and insecurity. Manuscripts should be sent to [PRISM@irregularwarfarecenter.org](mailto:PRISM@irregularwarfarecenter.org) with a subject line of "Manuscript."

For those interested in subscribing to PRISM, please you can do so [here](#).

PRISM V. 10.N.4 is currently on the Center's website at <https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/PRISM/prism-current/>. The quarterly cycle will resume December 2024 with PRISM V. 11.N.1. and will be available digitally for all future editions at <https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/prism/>.

Haste added, "PRISM's print and digital issues are read by policy makers and practitioners at the highest levels. I'm excited to ensure PRISM continues to inform leaders across the national security community!"

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,

As the summer comes to an end, we're excited for all the Fall season has in store for the Center and its team, including our 2 year anniversary. In the meantime, I'm humbled to share some of the extraordinary work we've been doing across globe with our allies and partners in many different facets or irregular warfare.

The Center proudly assumed publishing duties and responsibilities of PRISM: The Journal of Complex Operations. We're excited to continue sharing the important work this publication offers to the IW community and add it to our vast library of IW educational offerings.

We recently participated in the National Resistance Application Course at Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright, Surrey, United Kingdom, from Aug. 26-30, 2024, in furtherance of developing the British Army Special Operations Brigade Irregular Warfare capabilities and preparing to deliver future similar instruction.

At Ft. Liberty, we had the chance to partake in SILENT QUEST 24, which explored ARSOF institutional and operational requirements against key threats challenging the U.S. and its interests. The event focused on the convergence of TRIAD (Space, Cyber, and SOF) capabilities in support of an Irregular Warfare (IW) campaign.

The Center's team has been working persistently 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 GWOT 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](mailto:fan@irregularwarfarecenter.org). The problems we are working to solve will make the world a safer place.

Our IW Student Working Group (SWG) has recently completed its first essay contest, and we're excited to announce the launch of the first edition of the SWG FAN Newsletter. The IW Bulletin is a monthly, independently produced publication crafted by dedicated IW SWG members.

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 Key Engagements

- Recently, the Center conducted a three-day Counter Hybrid Threats (CHT) workshop in Moldova, which included 50+ participants with 20+ ministries and organizations represented. The goal of the event was to assist a nation in Countering Hybrid Threats (CHT) planning efforts and gather cross-sector experts from all the key stakeholder ministries and agencies from the nation for a collaborative and facilitated CHT planning event. The end result provided participant-developed framework for follow on national level CHT implementation planning across key ministries and sectors.
- The IWC participated in the DoD sponsored FEDSUPERNOVA new tech conference in Austin, TX, from Aug. 21-22; collaborating on the development of future partnerships with Army Futures Command, Army Applications Lab, and other key stakeholders to identify promising new technology relevant to the IW environment with a long-term goal of providing a dynamic IW testing and evaluation platform through our partnership with the Ridge Runner training exercises.

## Photo Of The Month



From Aug. 26-30, the IWC delivered a high-impact course to a large multinational group of predominately SOF forces from partner nations across Europe. The course was very well-received, with a purpose-built curriculum consisting of Comprehensive Defense (CompDEF), Counter Hybrid Threats (CHT), and a focus on Resistance Planning. The 113 students came from priority partner nations including: Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, UK, and the US with the event hosted by the UK's Army Special Operations Brigade (ASOB) 3 Ranger Battalion.

## Media Highlights

"The Future Face of Irregular Warfare: Great Power Confrontation in the 21st Century," edited by Varsha Koduvayur, IWC Senior Analyst and Valens Global contractor, James Kiras, PhD, and Richard Newton, PhD.  
<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/news/the-center-publishes-first-organizational-book-the-future-faces-of-irregular-warfare-great-power-competition-in-the-21st-century/>

Perspectives: Neither Narrow nor Nice: Economic Warfare, Disinformation, and Civil Society  
By James Sullivan

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/perspectives/neither-narrow-nor-nice-economic-warfare-disinformation-and-civil-society/>

Andor: An Irregular Warfare Story by Dr. Lumpy Lumbaca

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

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## SWG FAN 1st Essay Contest Winner

After a rigorous selection process, the IWC is thrilled to announce the winner of our IW Student Working Group essay contest, Sam Paulson! Sam has over 15 years of expertise in cybersecurity, collaborating with stakeholders from both government agencies and private sector organizations.

He is currently pursuing an executive education master's program at Johns Hopkins SAIS, focusing on emerging national security issues. His academic involvement includes leadership roles in SAIS's Technology and Defense-related student organizations.

We congratulate Sam for his outstanding essay titled "Technical Means, Strategic Ends: Cyber Deterrence in the Context of Information Warfare Doctrines." Sam's work delved into the complex interplay between cyber operations and broader information warfare strategies, focusing on the doctrines employed by Russia and China.

We're thrilled to have Sam involved in our IW Student Working Group and are eager to see what other insights he brings.

Check out Sam's entire essay below:

<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/news/iw-student-working-group-essay-winner/>

We enjoyed reading each and every essay submission and want to thank all of the participants for their hard work and contributions. The IW Student Working Group is filled with exceptional individuals at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. The IWC looks forward to engaging more with all the Student Working Group members. Stay tuned for more exciting developments from this network!

If you're interested in being a part of our SWG FAN or other FANs, please reach out via email at [fan@irregularwarfarecenter.org](mailto:fan@irregularwarfarecenter.org).

## Upcoming IW Lessons Learned since 9/11 Event

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 are proud to announce several prominent attendees for our upcoming Irregular Warfare: Lessons Learned since 9/11 conference, including special guest keynote speaker, Ms. Maren Brooks, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Irregular Warfare and Counterterrorism.



The two-day conference will discuss irregular warfare lessons learned since 9/11 at the U.S. Naval Institute Jack C. Taylor Conference Center in Annapolis, Maryland from Sept. 17-18, 2024.

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.

We're also thrilled to announce a few renowned IW panels including MG (Ret) Ed Dorman moderating the logistics panel, MG (Ret) Reeder participating in the utilization of local militia/police in counterinsurgency and Dr. John Nagel as well as two former Afghan army senior officers, which will afford attendees the opportunity to hear firsthand partner nation perspectives during their time in Afghanistan.

## IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER

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Defense Security Cooperation University

## Intel Support to IW Symposium



**Who:** The Department of Defense's Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security (OUSD/I&S)

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

**When:** 29-31 October 2024

**What:** In partnership with the Irregular Warfare Center, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security is excited to host the inaugural Intelligence Support to Irregular Warfare Symposium. This is the first in a series of Symposiums that will look at our existing capabilities within the Intelligence Community with a focused examination of our adversaries from a global perspective. The goal of this event is to generate a common understanding of intelligence support to irregular warfare and how our adversaries leverage irregular activities across the operating environment. Only through understanding how our adversary operates and what the U.S. Government and its Allies bring to the conversation, can we identify opportunities to act, as well as detect, develop, deter, and disrupt adversarial irregular activities.

Invite Coming Soon

## Upcoming Events & Current Initiatives



### Mission

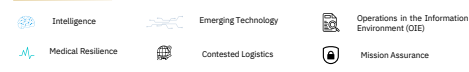
The Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) is a congressionally mandated organization, charged with developing irregular warfare (IW) knowledge for the Department of Defense (DoD) and advancing the understanding of IW concepts.

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.

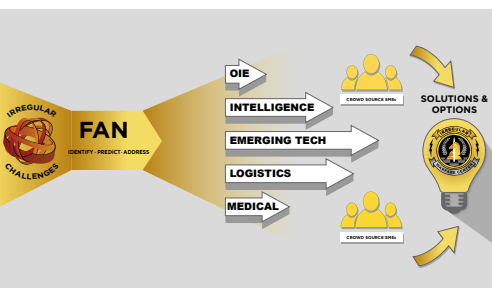
With this approach, multiple stakeholders from different sectors collaborate, share information, and pool resources to address issues that span multiple policy areas and ultimately maximize irregular warfare capabilities.

### Current FANs



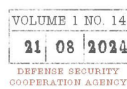
### JOIN OUR NETWORK

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



The Irregular Warfare Initiative proudly announces the SOF in Competition Project. The intent is to coalesce the community of SOF policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to understand the role of SOF in addressing contemporary and future national security challenges. The project explores the intersection among irregular warfare, SOF, and broader national security challenges. With a focus on current events and their underlying historical logics, scholarly theories and evidence-based findings on the role of SOF in national security, and applied doctrinal concepts—we aim to contextualize the role of SOF in the evolving realities of irregular warfare and modern conflict. We invite your participation and engagement as we embark on this project.

<https://irregularwarfare.org/articles/sof-in-competition-special-project-announcement/>



## NARRATIVE VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS

BY J. D. Maddox, V3 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](mailto:fan@irregularwarfarecenter.org).

We are excited to announce the launch of the first edition of the IW Student Working Group (SWG) Newsletter! The IW Bulletin is a monthly, independently produced publication crafted by dedicated IW SWG members. It's your go-to resource for the latest news, insightful readings, upcoming events, and opportunities to get involved within the SWG community.

Don't miss out—if you're interested in joining the IW SWG or want to check out the latest issue, please reach out via email at [fan@irregularwarfarecenter.org](mailto:fan@irregularwarfarecenter.org)

IW STUDENT WORKING GROUP

## THE IW BULLETIN

AUGUST 2024 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 1

The IW Bulletin is an independently produced product created by active members of the IW SWG. This newsletter is intended to be an informative resource for individuals in the IW SWG.

### IWC News & Updates

#### IW SWG Essay Winner

The IWC recently hosted its first essay competition for the IW SWG, which includes outstanding individuals at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. After a rigorous selection process, we are thrilled to announce the winner: **Sam Paulson**. Congratulations to Sam for his exceptional essay, titled "Technical Means, Strategic Ends: Cyber Deterrence in the Context of Information Warfare Doctrines." Check out his full essay [here!](#)

#### IWC 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.

#### IWC 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. This volume of essays from leading scholars and practitioners across the national security spectrum 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.

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