

THE IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER

Spotlight

Vol 2 • 8

Amplify | Illuminate | Address

September 2024

The IWC & FPRI Host Irregular Warfare Lessons Learned Since 9/11 Conference

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 hosted a two-day IW Global War on Terrorism lessons learned since 9/11 conference, Sept. 17-18, 2024, at the U.S. Naval Institute's Jack C. Taylor Conference Center in Annapolis, Md.

This event brought together a community of experts, military professionals, scholars, and policymakers to explore key insights and lessons learned from irregular warfare operations conducted by the U.S., allied nations, and non-state actors in the past two decades.

"The Irregular Warfare Lessons Learned Since 9/11 Conference underscores the importance of continuous learning and reflection in irregular warfare," said Lori Leffler, IWC Deputy Director and Chief of Staff. "Our goal is to use these insights to prepare the next generation of irregular warfare leaders, ensuring that past experiences guide U.S. future strategies and solutions."

The conference opened with remarks from Dr. Dennis Walters, Director of the Irregular Warfare Center and Philip Wasielewski, Director of the Center for the Study of Intelligence and Nontraditional Warfare at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

Ms. Maren Brooks, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Irregular Warfare and Countering Terrorism, provided the keynote address which emphasized advancing irregular warfare as the DoD's contribution to strategic competition. Following her keynote address, Ms. Brooks and Dr. Walters engaged with the audience, answering questions on policy lessons learned and defining strategic success.



Many prominent voices were present for the event including USMC Gen. (Ret) John Allen, former Commander, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) – Afghanistan; MG (Ret) Edward Reeder Jr., former Commander, U.S. Army Special Warfare Center; Dr. John Nagl, U.S. Army War College; Michael Vickers, former Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence and General (Ret) Haibatullah Alizai, Commander, General Staff Afghan National Army.

The conference featured expert panel discussions and paper presentations covering various aspects of irregular warfare, including information operations, intelligence activities, police and militia forces in counterinsurgency, human terrain operations, as well as medical and logistics operations.

The Engaging with Partner Forces panel featured Alizai, where he shared his insights as a former Commander of the Afghan National Army. He accentuated the critical role of partners and allies as "key ingredients of success" in irregular warfare operations. "The right partners and allies help you understand the culture and the complexity of the situation and will help you resolve it at a low cost and in less time," Alizai explained.

James Meil, who was selected to present his paper on U.S. military sealift capabilities, was enthusiastic about uncovering lessons learned from the Global



Ms. Maren Brooks, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Irregular Warfare and Countering Terrorism and Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Director, provided opening remarks at the IWC's and FPRI's Center for the Study of Intelligence and Nontraditional Warfare two-day IW Global War on Terrorism Lessons Learned Since 9/11 Conference, Sept. 17-18, 2024, at the U.S. Naval Institute's Jack C. Taylor Conference Center in Annapolis, Md.

War on Terror. "I was honored to have the opportunity to discuss my research here among irregular warfare experts. I've always had an interest in irregular and unconventional warfare, so engaging with the other presenters and participants has been fulfilling." Meil explained. "The variety of content was great," he continued, "I learned about some new concepts like human terrain and heard different perspectives related to my field of logistics."

Human Terrain Panelist, Del Sanders (Senior SOF and IW Analyst), echoed the enthusiasm for being selected to share his practitioner's perspective. "It was inspiring to be around so many people with a passion to learn from our past and continue to propagate the importance of understanding irregular warfare," Sanders explained. "Human terrain needs to be integrated into the beginning of planning and operational development instead of after an operation has started. We need more people who have a hybrid background of academic expertise and SOF experience to bridge the gap between decision-makers, operators, and academics."

The participants of the conference underscored the importance of dialogues relating to U.S. security policy challenges and opportunities. J.R. Seeger, former CIA Senior Case Officer, presented a paper on intelligence operations in Afghanistan. As a scholar and practitioner, Seeger explained that "There is value in bringing experts from different backgrounds to speak on the same subject. It enables the IWC to inform the DoD on a variety of IW-related topics." He continued by sharing that "Enough time and distance has passed between our decisions in 2001-2003 to today. We have the opportunity to look back with clarity."

Wasielewski stressed the need for engagement, stating that "After two decades of irregular warfare following 9/11 there is a deep reservoir of talent in this country, in various different facets of the field. This conference highlights that talent and brings forth new talent that will carry new generations into the future. There are so many lessons to be learned both positive lessons, mistakes made, and mistakes corrected."

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 U.S., 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.



An audience member provides feedback during the Q&A portion of the panel on "Police & Militia Forces in a Counterinsurgency," during the IWC's and FPRI's Center for the Study of Intelligence and Nontraditional Warfare two-day IW Global War on Terrorism lessons learned since 9/11 conference, Sept. 17-18, 2024, at the U.S. Naval Institute's Jack C. Taylor Conference Center in Annapolis, Md.

Director's Corner



Dr. Dennis Walters
IWC Director



Greeting from the IWC,

It's all officially upon us and I'd like to reflect on all of the recent, outstanding work of the Center while sharing a few of our initiatives and recent happenings throughout the organization. October 2024, marks the official two-year anniversary of the IWC, since standing up officially by the DoD in October 2022.

It's been a busy, action-packed first two years for us and we couldn't be more proud of how much we've grown and utilized our capabilities to support many facets of IW on a global scale. Our expansive reach can be seen directly as we recently surpassed the 15,000 followers plateau on our three social media channels. All of our efforts and growth are a direct reflection of the support from our dedicated audience and their thirst for IW information and knowledge. We greatly appreciate each and every one of our allies and partners and their commitment to excellence!

There was a lot happening around the Center in September and we're excited to share all of the latest from our recent IW Lessons Learned since 9/11 conference and 2nd annual Colloquium events, which allowed the IWC an opportunity to work with many different types of scholars, practitioners and SMEs from all across the world in supporting the critical, evolving mission of IW. Please check out the Center's featured news releases in this edition highlighting both events as well as RSVP info for our upcoming Intel conference late October.

We recently assumed publishing duties and responsibilities of PRISM: The Journal of Complex Operations and eager to read your submissions for our first IWC-branded issue, scheduled for winter 2025. We encourage you to submit your work for review. Please see the submission guidelines in our Spotlight newsletter as well on our website. By adding this publications to our robust library of IW educational offerings, we continue to grow our ability to communicate the essential importance of IW, the IWC, its mission and lines of effort.

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-society 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.

Stay tuned for more great things!

Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Director

IWC Key Engagements

- Dr. Dennis Walters, Lori Leffler, Dr. Sandor Fabian, and Jake Zenn met with the Africa Center for Security Studies Acting Director Dan Hampton and other representatives (Dr. Assis Malaquias, Dr. Carolyn Haggis, Dr. Joseph Siegle, Sean McClure). The goal of the meeting was to discuss areas of potential collaboration between the IWC and the ACSS and to create connections between regional experts in both centers. The successful discussion revolved around priorities in the region including VEOs, countering threat networks, and PVE among others. Multiple areas of potential collaboration emerged, including potential PRISM submissions and sharing the IWC's experience in creating products like Tab D and the IW101 course.

Photo Of The Month



Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Director, provided attendees with an overview of the Center and the important role junior scholars and young practitioners play in the future of IW during the Center's 2nd annual Colloquium at the AMA Conference Center in Arlington, Va., Sept. 26-27, 2024.



Media Highlights

Insights: "21st Century Threats Require 21st Century Deterrence," by Dr. Jim Derleth – IWC Subject Matter Expert (Contractor, Valens Global) and COL Jeff Pickler – Commander, First Infantry Division Artillery Brigade
<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/insights/21st-century-threats-require-21st-century-deterrence/>

Insights: "The Future of Irregular Warfare: The United States is Winning, Now What?," by Thomas R. Searle
<https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/publications/perspectives/the-future-of-irregular-warfare-the-united-states-is-winning-now-what/>

Perspectives "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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September 2024

IWC Hosts 2nd Annual Irregular Warfare Colloquium Featuring 15+ Academic Institutions

The Department of Defense's Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) hosted its second annual Irregular Warfare Colloquium, which took place on Sept. 26-27, 2024, at the AMA Conference Center in Arlington, VA. This pivotal event brought together scholars and subject matter experts from more than 15 universities across the U.S. and internationally to discuss topics related to irregular warfare and research.

The Colloquium unfolded over two days, starting with a welcome address by IWC Director Dr. Dennis Walters. Through his remarks, Dr. Walters underscored the importance of innovation and stated that the upcoming generation is "the last best hope for finding a solution for irregular warfare."

During the opening remarks, Sam Paulson, graduate student, Johns Hopkins University, was recognized by Dr. Walters for placing first in the Center's IW Student Working Group Essay Contest. The Colloquium comprised research presentations from both junior and senior scholars, as well as working groups to provide constructive feedback.

Presenters were paired together based on their respective subject areas and provided an overview of their research. Event emcee Dr. Sandor Fabian, IWC Deputy Regional Advisor for Europe and Africa, Morgan 6 contractor, moderated the presentations and discussions. Following the in-depth presentations, audience members presented questions and presenters received feedback from other participants.

The Center selected these participants based on their quality of work and potential contributions to irregular warfare. Participants engaged in research discussions on the Center's key topics of interest, including cyber operations, information and influence operations, resistance movements, proxy warfare, great power competition below the threshold of war, and women peace and security.

Senior scholars and subject matter experts (SMEs) were engaged with the participants throughout the Colloquium. Two senior scholars exhibited their research; Dr. Maria Papageorgiou (Newcastle University) highlighting Sino-Russian disinformation synergies, while Dr. Peter Campbell (Baylor University) presented on cyber defenses.

Dr. Papageorgiou discovered the Colloquium through the IWC Call for Papers on LinkedIn and was thrilled that her research was accepted. She continued, "I think that it is very important that there is an international output, so I was happy that they invited me to come from the UK." Dr. Fabian gave participants an overview of the name "Irregular Warfare" and how it is conceptualized in the U.S. and abroad.

IWC SME Jake Zenn explained that a "Key benefit is that this event brings together



Derek Ricke, University of Denver, presented his research on "Negative side of the Ethical Decision-Making Frameworks, specifically focusing on how this reinforces the network effects of organizational corruption," during the Center's 2nd annual Colloquium at the AMA Conference Center in Arlington, Va., Sept. 26-27, 2024.

young professionals who are interested in IW and the role it plays in international affairs today." He emphasized this further, "IW is a complex subject that can be difficult to research; the junior scholars valued and benefited from interacting with the SMEs in terms of academic and professional development. The SMEs were engaged with participants and offered guidance on how to contribute to our understanding of IW through academic publications and more."

The Colloquium offers participants opportunities for professional development. Dr. Joshua Haste, IWC Deputy Regional Advisor for U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea, Morgan 6 contractor, noted, "First and foremost, the Colloquium introduces junior scholars into a robust and active community of professionals committed to understanding complex threats and operations." He continued, stating, "For these junior scholars, this Colloquium offers an unparalleled opportunity to contribute to cutting-edge discussions on irregular warfare while receiving direct feedback from both senior scholars and seasoned practitioners. The event fosters a collaborative space where emerging researchers can refine their ideas, expand their networks, and influence the future of IW doctrine and strategy. It's also been a pragmatic career step for some of our alumni."

Asher Peck was a returning Colloquium participant, and selected to present on Chinese malign influence in Paraguay. He reaffirmed Dr. Haste's sentiments on the Colloquium enabling academic growth. Peck said, "This is a must-attend event for any junior scholar interested in IW, as the connections made, and wisdom gained during my time here have enriched my academic and professional life."

Along with the junior and senior scholars' experience, participants who attended to listen to the presentations found benefits. Alessandro Brenici, a student at George Mason University, discovered the IWC through the Center's Perspectives publications. Brenici utilized the Center's research in his thesis on private military security companies and hybrid warfare strategies. "I knew that I wanted to be involved in this organization, so I reached out to become a part of the Student Working Group. The opportunity to attend the Colloquium, especially as an international student, is incredible."

IWC Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, Lori Leffler, provided closing remarks, which were preceded by Dr. Haste's encouragement for participants to stay involved. Following the event, Leffler emphasized the need for scholar-practitioner engagement. She noted, "The second annual Colloquium is crucial for our Center. This event is not solely an academic one, but it contributes to advancing the IWC's mission of collaboration to build a networked IW community. The role of scholars, at any level, is imperative to the development of IW understanding and doctrine." A special thank you to all of the second annual IWC Colloquium presenters:

Ivana Stradner, Johns Hopkins SAID; Henry Leverett and Victor Kiss, Vienna School of International Studies; Asher Peck, Regent University; Anna Given, Institute of World Politics; Jaclyn Giunta, Norwich University; Derek Ricke, University of Denver; Genna Moellering, Carnegie Mellon University; Jesse Nuese, New York University; David Kong, RAND Graduate School; Lea Korb, Potsdam University; Dr. Maria Papageorgiou, Newcastle University; Dr. Peter Campbell, Baylor University.



Dr. Joshua Haste, IWC Deputy Regional Advisor for U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea, Morgan 6 contractor, provided attendees with an overview of the event and answered questions during the Center's 2nd annual Colloquium at the AMA Conference Center in Arlington, Va., Sept. 26-27, 2024.

Current Initiatives, Upcoming Events & IW Educational Offerings



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 address 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 will be a force multiplier by creating a comprehensive web of government research, these networks foster cooperation across various sectors including the DoD, intelligence, 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 increase irregular warfare capabilities.

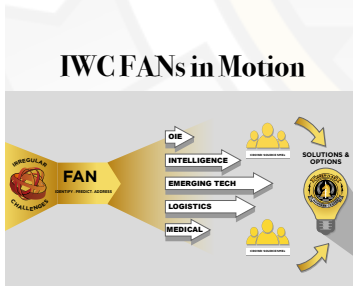
Current FANs
Intelligence, Emerging Technology, Operations in the Information Environment (OIE), Medical Resilience, Content Logistics, Mission Assurance

JOIN OUR NETWORK
Join@irregularwarfarecenter.org
https://www.irregularwarfarecenter.org/irregularwarfarecenter



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.
To help achieve congressional intent, the Director of the IWC created the Student Working Group (SWG), which 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 Student Working Group (SWG) represents the IWC's connection to civilian institutions of higher education, and aims to create a supportive environment for academically talented and motivated young individuals. Within this network, students will actively participate in advanced learning, intellectual exchange, and collaborative projects related to IW. The group provides opportunities for participants to enter into challenging subjects, engage in research activities, and connect with both the retired peers and experienced professionals.
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:
• Public Science and History
• Foreign Languages and Linguistics
• Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Business and Finance

JOIN OUR NETWORK
Contact Name: Student Contact: @IWCStudentWorkingGroup
Faculty Liaison: IWC Global Network Manager: info@irregularwarfarecenter.org
https://www.irregularwarfarecenter.org/irregularwarfarecenter



The Department of Defense's Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) is excited to add PRISM: The Journal of Complex Operations to our robust publication offerings!

IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER



The Department of Defense's Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) is extremely proud to announce the Center will assume publishing duties and responsibilities of PRISM: The Journal of Complex Operations.

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 policy-maker, practitioner, and academic communities the quarterly publication has established a reputation for offering keen insight into the evolving global threat environment.

For authors interested in publishing in 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. Manuscripts should be sent to PRISM@irregularwarfarecenter.org with a subject line of "Manuscript"



IWI 2025 Fellow App

Applications For The 2025 IWI Non-Resident Fellows Are Now Open!

IWI is looking for the next group of scholars and practitioners who are committed to IWI's foundational mission. If you are committed to bridging the gap between irregular warfare scholars and practitioners, we encourage you to apply.
<https://forms.monday.com/forms/ca8169ba2ca2dffc1ef>



Naval War College's Trident Podcast

Episode 11: Viribus Mari Victoria: The U.S. Naval War College - 140 Years of Excellence

<https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/the-trident/11/>

The Department of Defense's Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence & Security OUSD(I&S) invite you to attend the Intelligence Support to Irregular Warfare Symposium.

What: Intelligence Support to Irregular Warfare Symposium
Where: U.S. Naval Institute Jack C. Taylor Conference Center in Annapolis, Maryland - 291 Wood Rd, Naval Academy, MD 21402

When: Oct. 29-31, 2024

RSVP below by Oct. 18

<https://invitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=901952&k=0B6143007E55>

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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.



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NARRATIVE VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS

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.

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