

**National Defense University | College of International Security Affairs**

1-3 May 2023 | Fort Bragg, North Carolina

# Irregular Warfare Forum

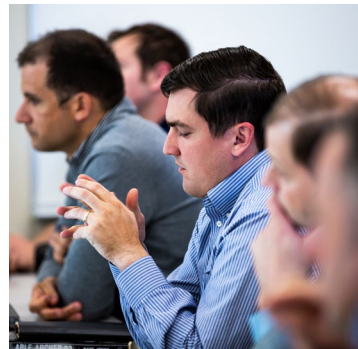
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**Getting to How:  
Organizing and Educating  
for Irregular Warfare**

Hosted by National Defense University's  
College of International Security Affairs  
in conjunction with the  
U.S. Army John F. Kennedy  
Special Warfare Center and School



**U.S. ARMY JOHN F. KENNEDY SPECIAL WARFARE CENTER AND SCHOOL**  
*U.S. Army Special Operations Center of Excellence*



# Irregular Warfare Forum

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PEOPLE | EXCELLENCE | INNOVATION | TEAMWORK





# Irregular Warfare Forum

Monday | 1 May 2023 | Iron Mike Conference Center | Fort Bragg, North Carolina

**0800-0830**

## Arrival and Registration

**Main Lobby**

**0835-0850**

## Academic Welcome and Introduction

**Meeting Room 1**

Ambassador (Ret.) Greta Holtz, Chancellor, College of International Security Affairs (CISA),  
National Defense University (NDU), Fort McNair  
Dr. Peter Eltsov, Chair, CISA, NDU, Fort Bragg

**0850-1020**

## CISA Student Thesis Panels

**Note:** Thesis panels will run concurrently.

### Fresh Perspectives on Perennial Security Challenges

**Meeting Room 1**

Chair: Dr. David Hadley, CISA

Discussant: CW3 Matt Tyra, 3rd SFG

MAJ Miranda Justice, *Achieving Empowerment: Women's Participation During Conflict and Conflict Resolution*

SFC Sungjun Lee, *Examining the Threat of Over-the-Counter Derivatives to National Security: The Systemic Risk Illustrated Through the AMC Case Study*

SFC Jason Noakes, *Strategic Competition in the Era of Globalization: Straitjacket for the State?*

SSG Felix Rivera-Franco, *Follow the Money: Effectively Countering Transnational Criminal Organizations in SOUTHCOM*

### Getting to How: Themes in Innovation

**Meeting Room 2**

Chair: Dr. R.E. Burnett, CISA

Discussant: BG (Ret.) Chris Burns,  
Irregular Warfare Center

MAJ Marcus Bridges, *Balancing Innovation and Responsibility: Exploring the Ethical and Strategic Implications of Artificial Intelligence Solutions for National Defense*

CPT Scott Hancock, *Fourth Industrial Revolution Innovations and Applications within the Military Logistics Enterprise*

SFC Trevor Widmer, *Adapting Military Innovation Theory for Special Operations Forces Formations*

MSG Jason Hall, *The Key FOB of Security*

### Getting to How: Organizing for Competition - Mission Command, Decision-Making, and Strategy

**Meeting Room 3 (Hodge Room)**

Chair: Dr. Craig Deare, CISA

Discussant: Mr. Curt Boyd, Director, DOTD-P  
USAJFKSWCS

MAJ Christopher Buck, *From Sand to Stone: Army Special Operations Forces Planning in the Era of Competition*

MAJ Austin Rees, *Adapting Mission Command for the Future of Warfare*

LTC (Ret.) Timothy Moore, *American Grand Strategy: Functional Concept or Academic Catchphrase?*



# Irregular Warfare Forum

Monday | 1 May 2023 | Iron Mike Conference Center | Fort Bragg, North Carolina

**1030-1200**

## Irregular Warfare Forum Breakout Sessions

These concurrent breakout sessions are designed to encourage discussion, generate information on rapidly-evolving areas of irregular warfare, and identify research priorities. Thank you to the breakout leads for framing the discussion and sharing their research. Written briefbacks will be generated from these discussions.

### • Maritime Security and Irregular Warfare

Mr. Doug Livermore with LTC Paul Bailey, CPT (Ret.) Jeff Johnson, CDR Don Speights  
Mr. Leif Cairns, and MCPO Jonas Marnick

**Meeting Room 1**

### • Irregular Warfare Actors

Dr. Elena Pokalova, CISA, Ft. McNair  
Dr. Erin McFee, London School of Economics and Political Science

**Meeting Room 2**

### • Open-source Intelligence in the Wake of Ukraine

Dr. David Oakley, Joint Special Operations University (JSOU), and Dr. David Hadley, CISA

**Meeting Room 3  
(Hodge Room)**

**1315-1430**

## Irregular Warfare Forum Plenary #1

**Meeting Room 1**

### Irregular Warfare Across Domains and Dimensions: The SOF-Space-Cyber Model and Beyond

PDASD Elizabeth Phu, SO/LIC with COL Donald Brooks, Commander, 1st Space Brigade,  
and COL Josh Kennedy, Deputy Commanding Officer, 1st SFC/TF 40-25  
Moderated by COL Matthew Gebhard, Deputy Commanding Officer, USAJFKSWCS

**1445-1600**

## Irregular Warfare Forum Plenary #2

**Meeting Room 1**

### Balancing Risk in Irregular Warfare: Implications for Special Operations in Strategic Competition (Europe and IndoPacific)

COL Donni Reed, CJSOTF-10, with COL Sean Berg, SOCPAC, and LTC Greg Jones, AUS SOLO  
Moderated by Prof. Carolyn Davidson, CISA

**1600-1645**

### Policy, Practice, and the Irregular Warfare Network: DOD and Irregular Warfare Center Update

**Meeting Room 1**

Dr. Dennis Walters, Director (Acting), Irregular Warfare Center

**1800-2000**

## No Host Social (Fayetteville, N.C.)

**Huske Hardware**

**Note:** All sessions are unclassified. Unless otherwise announced, participants are speaking in a personal capacity.



**0815-0830**

## Opening Comments

**Meeting Room 1**

BG Guillaume "Will" Beaurpere, Commanding General  
U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS)

**0845-1015**

## CISA Student Thesis Panels

**Note:** These panels will run concurrently.

### Below the Threshold: Irregular Instruments and Actors

**Meeting Room 1**

Chair: Prof. Dr. Elena Pokalova, CISA  
Discussant: Dr. Patricia Blocksome, JSOU  
SSA Trey Tucker, *Private Military and Security Company Accountability: The Case for Countering the Wagner Group*  
MAJ Dan Witten, *Chinese Integration of the Instruments of National Power*  
SFC Dmitry Seryodkin, *Non-governmental Organizations, Logistics, and Support to Indigenous Resistance Movements in Conflict*  
MAJ Bruce Hicks, *Below the Threshold*

### Challenges and Opportunities in the Middle East

**Meeting Room 2**

Chair: Dr. Peter Eltsov, CISA  
Discussant: Dr. Fouad Ghorra, 8th POG  
SFC Adam Ingram, *Lebanon's State Within a State: Examining Popular Support for Lebanese Hezbollah*  
Mr. Cory Forer, *U.S. Proxy Warfare in Syria: A Roadmap for Managing the Syrian Democratic Forces*  
LTC Alaa Hussein Abed Alkhafaji, *Effects of the Nagorno-Karabakh on Azerbaijan's Strategy*  
SFC John Chapman, *Israeli-Arab Relations and Iranian Influence*

### Security Assistance, Terrorism, and Crime

**Meeting Room 3 (Hodge Room)**

Chair: Dr. Matt Dearing, CISA  
Discussant: COL Jay Liddick, PKSOI  
MAJ Justin Zwick, *Climate Change: How Terrorist Organizations of West Africa Leverage Unconventional Security Threats*  
MSG Randy Roscoe, *A Failure of Honorable Intentions: The United States Security Assistance in the Horn of Africa*  
CPT Eric Goodrich, *Risks of Patience in Strategic Competition with China in Africa: A Case Study in Nigeria and Mozambique*  
CPT Daylen Morrow, *The Cycle of Violence and the Evolution of Transnational Crime in Mexico*



# Irregular Warfare Forum

Tuesday | 2 May 2023 | Iron Mike Conference Center | Fort Bragg, North Carolina

1030-1145

## Irregular Warfare Forum Breakout Sessions

These concurrent breakout sessions are designed to encourage discussion, generate information on rapidly-evolving areas of irregular warfare, and identify research priorities. Thank you to the breakout leads for framing the discussion and sharing their research. Written briefbacks will be generated from these discussions.

- **Interagency Cooperation, Stability Operations, and Security Force Assistance for Irregular Warfare**

COL Jay Liddick, Director, PKSOI with Ambassador (Ret.) Greta Holtz, CISA

- **Information, Influence, Persuasion**

Dr. Russ Burgos, CISA

- **Medical Support in Irregular Warfare**

COL Riesberg, 1SFC Surgeon with Derek Jones, Irregular Warfare Center

**Meeting Room 1**

**Meeting Room 2**

**Meeting Room 3 (Hodge Room)**

1315-1445

## CISA Student Thesis Panels: Regional Irregular Warfare and Competition

### Africa

Chair: Dr. Chris Marsh, CISA

MAJ Anthony Day, *African Dictators and Double Standards: U.S. Relations with African Military Dictatorships in a Renewed Era of Strategic Competition*

MAJ John Dalessandro, *U.S. SOF's Periphery Operations in Africa: Strengthening Deterrence Against Chinese Strategic Ambitions*

MAJ Thaddeus Miller, *Competition on the Periphery: A Case Study of Competitor Policy in Mali*

**Meeting Room 1**

Discussant: MAJ Alex Wilbur

### Western Hemisphere

Chair: Dr. Craig Deare, CISA

Ms. Patricia Beal, *The Evolution of Militia Groups in Brazil: A Critical Analysis of the Rio Case*

MAJ Miguel Arvelo, *Estrategia: The Need for a New Strategy Towards Latin America in the Era of Strategic Competition*

MAJ James McCoy, *Strategic Competition in Latin America: U.S. and Chinese Relationships with Brazil and Colombia*

SSA Chris Mullin, *From Cooperation to Confrontation: The Shifting Dynamics of Salvadoran-U.S. Relations*

MAJ Andrew Haanpaa, *History Repeating: Is Gustavo Petro Colombia's Hugo Chavez?*

**Meeting Room 2**

Discussant: Dr. Ian Edgerly

### Europe

Chair: Prof. Carolyne Davidson, CISA

SFC John Gill, *Populist Nationalism and NATO: Adapting to a New Political Reality*

MAJ Lars Stoelzel, *A Special 'Zeitenwende' Developing Germany's Special Operations Forces*

LTC Priit Pikner, *Breaking the "Russkiy Mir" in the Baltic States*

**Meeting Room 3 (Hodge Room)**

Discussant: LTC Bjorn McAulay



**Please join us for the next Irregular Warfare Forum in December 2023.**

To join the Irregular Warfare Community of Interest distribution list, please email Ms. Lindsey DeCoursey, [lindsey.j.decoursey.civ@ndu.edu](mailto:lindsey.j.decoursey.civ@ndu.edu).

POC for academic engagement: Prof. Carolyne Davidson, [carolyne.davidson@ndu.edu](mailto:carolyne.davidson@ndu.edu) | USAJFKSWCS POC: Mr. Curt Boyd, [curtis.boyd@socom.mil](mailto:curtis.boyd@socom.mil).



**1500-1620**

## CISA Thesis Panels: Evolution or Revolution?

### The Impact of Changing Technology

Chair: Dr. R.E. Burnett, CISA

MAJ Derek Grafton, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons: A Balance Between Ethics and Competition*

MAJ Eric Brown, *Do Commercial Drones Represent an Evolution or Revolution in Hybrid Warfare?*

MAJ Grant Meumann, *The Future of Assessing and Defeating the Adversary: A2/AD*

### Meeting Room 1

Discussant: Mr. Robert Toguchi

### Information and Competition

Chair: Dr. David Hadley, CISA

TSGT Jessica Jones, *Disinformation and Democracy: Old Threat, New Problems*

MSG Yu Chang, *Gray Zone Influence: Campaigning in Denied Areas Through Cyberspace*

MAJ Joshua Dixon, *Assessing the Role of Information Advantage in Modern Warfare: A Multi-Dimensional Approach to the Information Advantage*

SFC Jay Ehlers, *Democracy and Disinformation: What Should be Done?*

### Meeting Room 2

Discussant: MAJ Phillip Moll

### Emerging and Evolving Special Operations Forces Concepts

Chair: Dr. Spencer Meredith, CISA

MAJ Chris Moffett, *Get Comfortable with Risk: Is Risk-aversion Holding the U.S. Military Back in Strategic Competition?*

MSG Tyler Powell, *Evolving Influence: An Analysis of Challenges and Opportunities for U.S. SOF in the Fight for Influence*

SFC Crawford Trask, *The Human Domain in Irregular Warfare—A Look at Jim Gant, Valery Gerasimov, and the Role of Relevant Populations*

### Meeting Room 3 (Hodge Room)

Discussant: COL Charles Burnett,  
USAJFKSWCS

**1630-1635**

## Instructions for Wednesday Workshops (3 May 2023)

Prof. Davidson, CISA

LTC Knox, Director, Irregular Warfare Proponent

### Meeting Room 1

**1635-1700**

## Closing Remarks | End of Symposium

Ambassador (Ret.) Greta Holtz, Chancellor, CISA, NDU, Fort McNair

COL Matthew Gebhard, Deputy Commanding Officer, USAJFKSWCS

### Meeting Room 1



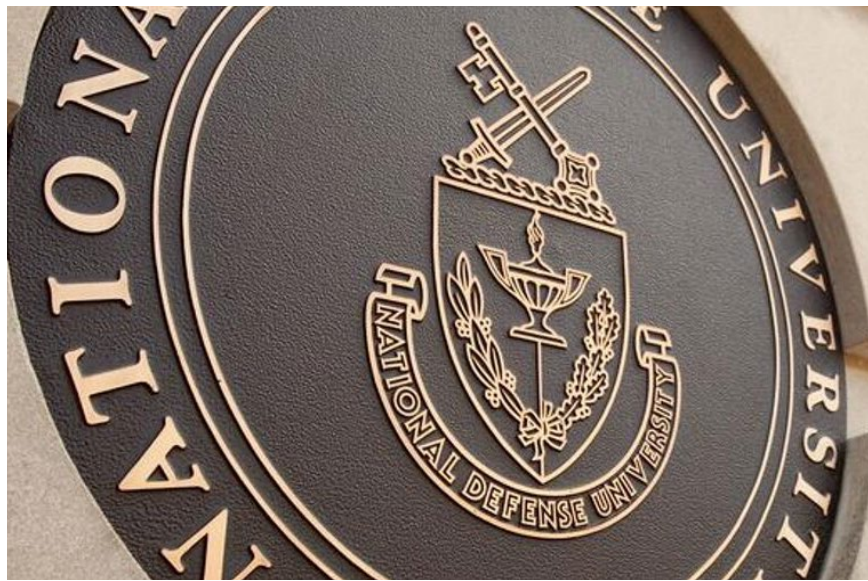


**Offense,  
defense,  
and stability**  
are inherent elements  
of conventional  
and unconventional  
warfare.





# JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS MASTER OF ARTS



The College of International Security Affairs at Fort Bragg provides select special operators and special operations enablers from across the joint force, along with interagency and international partners, a comprehensive grounding in strategic security studies paired with in-depth course offerings on issues of contemporary operational and strategic relevance.

To learn more about the graduate degree program, visit [scoe.libguides.com/edu/NDU](https://scoe.libguides.com/edu/NDU).



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cornerstone  
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teaching approach**  
is constant adaptation  
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