Operations in the Information Environment in Support of Homeland Defense Call for Papers

The **Irregular Warfare Center (IWC)** invites unclassified paper submissions on the topic of Operations in the Information Environment (OIE) in Support of Homeland Defense.

This call is issued in conjunction with a 5 November IWC OIE FAN podcast episode examining the same subject. We seek rigorous, thoughtful contributions from military professionals, interagency partners, academics, legal scholars, and other subject-matter experts.

Submissions should engage the unique challenges of conducting and supporting operations in the information environment when the defended territory is the U.S. homeland. Authors are expected to address - explicitly and with precision - the historical, legal, and policy complexities surrounding U.S. Government messaging directed at U.S. audiences. These include, but are not limited to, the original Smith-Mundt Act framework and its 2012 modernization, Executive Order 12333 protections for U.S. persons, Posse Comitatus considerations, First Amendment principles, and the enduring distinctions between public affairs, public diplomacy, and military information support operations.

Papers that treat these constraints as fundamental design parameters, rather than secondary compliance issues, will be of particular interest.

Key facts:

- **Eligibility**: Any scholar or practitioner
- **Submissions guidelines**:
  - **Include**
    - **Article** of 2,500-6,000 words (approximately 8-20 pages double-spaced), exclusive of footnotes/endnotes and bibliography. Shorter or longer form pieces will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
    - **Author bio** of 100 words maximum and contact information on a separate cover page
    - **Abstract** of 150-250 words.
  - **Format:**
    - Follow Chicago Manual of Style, 17th edition.
    - Microsoft Word (.docx) preferred; PDF acceptable.
  - **Deadline:** January 4th, 2027
- **Submissions:** Email submissions to dsca.iwc-fan@mail.mil.
  - The subject line must include “OIE Submission: LAST NAME”

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Submissions will be evaluated with the following criteria on a rolling basis:

1. Originality
    a. All submissions must be unclassified and suitable for public release.
    b. Papers must be original work not previously published in substantially the same form.
    c. Simultaneous submissions are permitted provided the author notifies the IWC immediately upon acceptance elsewhere.

2. Academic rigor and policy relevance
    a. Criteria include intellectual rigor, clarity of argument, operational or policy relevance, and careful treatment of legal/policy constraints.
    b. Selected papers may be published on the IWC website, featured in IWC products or journals, used to inform curriculum development (including modules such as IW-110), or invited for presentation at future IWC events or workshops.
    c. Authors of selected papers will be notified and may be asked to make minor revisions.

Questions? Contact: dsca.iwc-fan@mail.mil