



# Irregular Warfare Center

# Spotlight

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## DoW Irregular Warfare Center Launches Advanced Online Course

by: IWC Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Department of War Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) announced the launch of its new online course, Irregular Warfare (IW) 201, available now to the broader irregular warfare community. The five-hour, self-paced course builds on the success of the introductory IW101 course, which has seen over 2,000 enrollments since its debut in February 2024.

The IW201 course provides an in-depth look at IW concepts and applications, fulfilling the IWC’s core mission as mandated by Congress to advance understanding of IW within the Department of War (DoW). This mission includes developing curricula and providing training for U.S. and international military and civilian personnel.

The new course explores various definitions and conceptualizations of IW from seven different U.S. government and international perspectives. It also broadens the knowledge base on the 12 recognized DoW irregular warfare missions, operations, and activities.

IW201 includes modern examples of how foreign nation-state adversaries have employed irregular warfare approaches globally. These vignettes feature:

- China’s IW strategy in the South China Sea.
- Russia’s successful IW campaign to seize Crimea in 2014.
- Iran’s use of proxies as an asymmetric strategy in the Middle East.

The course is designed for a target audience that includes mid-to-senior noncommissioned officers, officers, and civilians within the DoW, as well as U.S. inter-agency partners and foreign allies. As an unclassified resource, it is also open to anyone interested in irregular warfare beyond the foundational knowledge covered in IW101.



The IWC is excited to announce its newest course IW210, available now on the IWC website. Scan the QR code to register.

Both the IW101 and IW201 courses support the 2020 National Defense Strategy’s goal to institutionalize and operationalize irregular warfare as a core competency for the U.S. military.

Irregular Warfare 201 is hosted on the Defense Security Cooperation University’s virtual classroom, MyDSCU. Registration and access information are available on our website <https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/education/irregular-warfare-201/>

The Irregular Warfare Center is a Department of War organization that serves as a central mechanism for developing the irregular warfare knowledge of the Department of War and advancing the understanding of irregular warfare concepts and doctrine.

For more news and information about the IWC follow us on social media and subscribe to our DVIDS feed at:

LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/irregularwarfarecenter/?viewAsMember=true>

X (former Twitter) <https://x.com/IrregularWarCtr>

### Director’s Corner



Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Director



#### Director’s Corner: Coalitions of Resilience

Last month, I wrote about building societal resilience as a foundation for deterring China’s hybrid warfare approach. This month, I want to expand on that theme: resilience is not just a national imperative—it’s a collective one that requires coalitions of like-minded states working together to close the maneuver space available to hostile adversaries.

The People’s Republic of China’s strategy depends on isolating individual nations and exploiting seams between partners. When resilient societies link together in common cause, they fundamentally alter the strategic calculus. What appears as vulnerability in isolation becomes strength through connection.

#### Building Networks of Mutual Support

Our resistance planning workshop exemplified this coalition approach. We brought together partners from various nations and Allied Special Operations Command to help a specific European country develop its first National Resistance Concept. This represents exactly the kind of proactive resilience-building that changes adversary calculations. When potential aggressors see not an isolated target but a nation backed by committed partners, the risk-reward equation shifts dramatically.

The same principle applied at the Global SOF Foundation’s Irregular Warfare in the Indo-Pacific Symposium in Bangkok. With over 400 attendees from 33 nations, this gathering exemplified how coalitions share knowledge and build relationships across the special operations community. The Global SOF Foundation deserves particular recognition for fostering these vital connections across the free world, creating the human networks that underpin effective coalition responses.

#### Technology in Service of Human Connection

As we build these coalitions, we must thoughtfully harness technology without losing sight of the fundamentally human nature of irregular warfare. Our new IW-110 online course, focused on IW in the defense of the homeland, demonstrates how technology can amplify human expertise across vast distances, creating shared understanding among professionals who share common challenges. Similarly, our intelligence integration efforts show how technology helps us see patterns, but the insights that matter most still come from human judgment and the tacit knowledge that emerges from deep relationships between partners.

#### Closing Adversary Maneuver Space and The Path Forward

Effective coalitions don’t just defend—they systematically close maneuver space available to hostile actors. Our research into PRC encouragement of drug trafficking illustrates this principle. By exposing these activities through coalition intelligence sharing, we make it harder for Beijing to operate in shadows while building shared awareness that enables effective responses.

Deterring PRC aggression requires building resilient societies, and resilient societies are strongest when they stand together. The coalitions we build today will determine whether free societies can maintain their sovereignty and values in the face of authoritarian pressure. That makes this work not just strategically important, but morally imperative.

### PRISM: Call For Manuscripts

The IWC is seeking Manuscripts for an upcoming special edition of PRISM!

Submit today!



### Media Highlights

#### “Unleashing Drone Dominance: Rethinking Department of Defense Weapons Reviews”

by Michael W. Meier, Lieber Institute, West Point

#### “Kinocide as a Strategy of Terrorism: Legal Frameworks and Case Law Analysis”

by Cochav Elkayam-Levy, Irwin Cotler, Stewart Wiseman, Lieber Institute, West Point





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## New IW 110 Course Available: IW Approaches for Homeland Security and Defense



ARLINGTON, VA. - The Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) is proud to announce the launch of its newest virtual course, “IW-110: IW Approaches for Homeland Security and Defense.” Developed in collaboration with our dedicated team, this course is now available on the MyD-SCU virtual classroom.

This course is designed to provide critical insights into how information warfare methodologies can be applied to protect the homeland. The IWC staff thanks everyone who contributed with the content.

The course can be accessed immediately on the MyDSCU platform. It will soon be available on the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Postgraduate School self-study courses page, which is a premier destination for homeland defense and security education. This website is expected to become the primary access point for many of our students.

Once the course is launched on both platforms, the IWC will issue a wider announcement to the IW education community and the Homeland Functional Area Network through various communication channels. Scan the QR code to access the MyDSCU Virtual Classroom.

## IWC Director Engages with Military and Industry Leaders at Indo-Pacific Irregular Warfare Symposium



*IWC Director Dr. Dennis Walters during the Global SOF Foundation's Indo-Pacific Irregular Warfare Symposium held in Bangkok, Thailand from Aug. 19-21, 2025.*

BANGKOK, THAILAND – The Irregular Warfare Center’s director, Dr. Dennis Walters, represented the center at the Global SOF Foundation’s Indo-Pacific Irregular Warfare Symposium in Bangkok from Aug. 19-21, 2025. The event brought together 400 attendees from 33 nations to discuss critical challenges in the irregular warfare domain.

Dr. Walters delivered a keynote address outlining the IWC’s vision for how the Department of War and other interagency communities can address irregular warfare. His remarks highlighted the center’s unique role in bringing together diverse stakeholders to better understand emerging threats and opportunities. He also emphasized how strategic partnerships enable more effective burden-sharing among allies, which strengthens regional deterrence.

The following day, Walters moderated a senior leader panel titled “The Evolution of SOF in the Indo-Pacific.” The panel featured several distinguished international partner commanders from all over the region. The discussion focused on how special operations forces are adapting to meet evolving security challenges.

The IWC delegation was able to engage with representatives from 14 countries. These engagements created several promising leads for future collaboration, including potential mobile training requests from several partner organizations. The center also had productive discussions with representatives from the various Nations.

The trip underscored the IWC’s commitment to fostering international partnerships and advancing irregular warfare capabilities through collaborative engagement with allies across the Indo-Pacific theater.

## Current Initiatives, Upcoming Events & IW Educational Offerings

### IWC to Host Irregular Warfare Colloquium

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) is set to host the Information Warfare (IW) Colloquium on September 24 and 25 in Arlington, Va. This selective event is designed to foster a new generation of expertise in a critical field.

The colloquium aims to bring together a strong cohort of junior scholars working on IW-related projects, providing them with a unique opportunity to connect and collaborate with senior scholars and seasoned practitioners.

The IWC operates with a mission to transform the global, strategic mindset. By integrating conventional combat power with robust IW methodologies, the Center provides essential options to support the nation’s warfighters, protect the homeland, and deter rising threats, particularly from China.

This inaugural colloquium is a key part of the Center’s commitment to developing intellectual capital and building a community of experts dedicated to advancing the field of information warfare.

For interested Senior Scholars, click to sign up on the provided link: <https://cvent.me/lylQBv>

Don’t forget to check out The Department of War’s Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) [\*PRISM: The Journal of Complex Operations\*](#) follow the link for the latest issue!



### Spotlight Team

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### This Month in the History of Irregular Warfare

-August 1, 1944: Warsaw Uprising: During World War II, the Polish Home Army, numbering around 40,000 Polish patriots, launched a rebellion against German occupation in Warsaw. They had hoped for assistance from the Allies, but it did not come. The uprising, a classic example of insurgency against an occupying force, was eventually suppressed by the Germans after two months of brutal fighting.

-August-October 1993: Operation Gothic Serpent, this U.S. military operation in Mogadishu, Somalia, was a counterinsurgency mission aimed at capturing Mohamed Farrah Aidid, a powerful warlord. The operation, which began with the deployment of Task Force Ranger in August, led to the “Black Hawk Down” incident in early October. The events of this operation, and the U.S. withdrawal that followed, highlighted the complexities and dangers of irregular warfare in a modern urban environment.

-Francis Marion’s Guerrilla Warfare: Known as the “Swamp Fox” during the American Revolutionary War, Francis Marion was a master of irregular warfare. In August 1780, he was ordered to destroy all boats and crafts in the countryside to prevent British troops from escaping Camden. This mission, which kept him away from the catastrophic American defeat at the Battle of Camden, showcases his use of guerrilla tactics to disrupt British logistics and communication. He also participated in a final battle, the Avenue of the Cedars, in August 1782.

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