



# Irregular Warfare Center

# Spotlight

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Vol. 4 Ed. 9 | September

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## Irregular Warfare Center Publishes Inaugural Edition of PRISM Journal

ARLINGTON, VA. — The Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) announced the publication of the first edition of its flagship journal, PRISM: The Journal of Complex Operations, Sept. 15, 2025. The journal, Vol. 11, No. 1, 2025, marks the inaugural issue under the sole ownership of the IWC after its acquisition from the National Defense University.

Dedicated to advancing the theory and practice of irregular warfare (IW), hybrid threats, and complex statecraft, this peer-reviewed journal aims to provide a conduit between the IW community and a broader public audience. The acquisition fits the Center’s Congressional mandate to coordinate IW activities across the government and with allies.

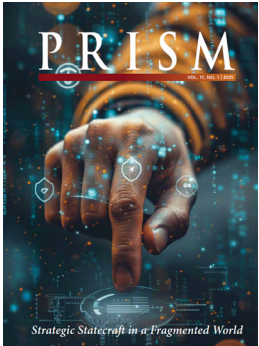
In an interview, IWC Director Dr. Dennis Walters praised the Center’s relationship with the National Defense University. He highlighted that the university had to divest on it for their own reasons; leadership saw it as an opportunity for the IWC.

“Folks in the Center were very adamant that we should move to take over the journal,” said Walters. “I did talk to the leadership team to make an informed decision to take that [PRISM] over. I knew immediately I wanted to do it, but we needed to really consider the opportunity costs for the organization.”

The journal’s mission is “to provide unique insight for current and future national security leaders on emerging security challenges beyond the strictly military domain”.

“What I want to accomplish is really to provide a venue for other scholars and experts to expose their opinions,” said Walters. “Because, as you know, I’ve been doing this for a long time, and there are so many intelligent views on this problem around the world. That’s really what I want to accomplish with this, to continue with the same level of writing and research that our audience has had over the years but really give an opportunity to the global community to offer perspectives.”

The new issue, titled “Strategic Statecraft in a Fragmented World,” features a collection of six articles and three book reviews. The articles focus on assessing resistance within China, decentralized democratic state-building with evidence from the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and strategizing lawfare as a key irregular war modality. They also include an analysis of Slovenian independence and its resistance operating concept and the effects of information operations and how they can undermine strategic objectives.



The editors and IWC contractors, Dr. Kevin D. Stringer, Dr. Joshua Hastey, and Dr. Sandor Fabian worked diligently to assemble the issue in the spirit of the journal’s “illustrious past”. A letter from the editors states they remain “steadfast in our

commitment to publishing rigorous, innovative scholarship” and invite contributions from military professionals, scholars, and experts to submit their research for future issues.

“It is a great honor and privilege to contribute to the publication of PRISM because it has been an impactful voice for both scholars and policy makers and has produced many important articles across many years of its existence,” said Dr. Sandor Fabian, Deputy Regional Advisor for Europe and Africa, Associate Editor PRISM, IWC Contractor. “To be able to publish our first

issue under IWC has been a result of real teamwork. IWC leadership provided clear expectations and guidance related to the rigor and quality they wanted this journal to represent.”

According to Fabian, the three associate editors created an efficient process and worked diligently to create a product that can not only represent the IWC brand but can become a must-read for all who are interested in this very specific topic within security studies and national defense. PRISM is the official U.S. Department of War (DOW) edition of the journal, though the opinions expressed within are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the DOW or any other U.S. federal agency.

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

For more information about the IWC and PRISM: The Journal of Complex Operations, click on the link provided. <https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/prism/>

### Director’s Corner

Dr. Dennis Walters, IWC Director



#### Director’s Corner: Knowledge as the Foundation of Irregular Warfare Excellence

Whether at home or abroad, irregular challenges demand not just operational capability, but deep intellectual engagement across the defense enterprise. This month, the IW Center advanced both education and scholarship in ways that directly support deterring China and defending the homeland.

#### Expanding Homeland Defense Education

The Department’s focus on homeland defense requires practitioners who understand how irregular warfare applies to domestic security. This month, we launched IW-110: IW Approaches for Homeland Security and Defense, now available through the Center for Homeland Defense and Security’s self-study platform.

This course helps homeland security professionals, law enforcement partners, and defense practitioners recognize and respond to irregular threats targeting our nation. From countering transnational criminal networks to understanding how adversaries exploit critical infrastructure vulnerabilities, IW-110 provides the conceptual framework and practical tools needed for these complex challenges. By offering this education freely online, we ensure interagency professionals can access essential knowledge when they need it.

#### PRISM: A New Chapter

September marked a milestone as we published the inaugural issue of PRISM: The Journal of Complex Statecraft under IWC’s imprimatur. Previously published by National Defense University, PRISM now serves as our flagship publication, providing rigorous forum for the deep thinking irregular warfare demands.

This reflects our commitment to intellectual leadership in the IW domain. PRISM will continue publishing cutting-edge scholarship while expanding focus to address the full spectrum of irregular challenges facing our nation and partners, bringing together academic rigor and operational relevance.

#### Cultivating the Next Generation

Our third annual University Research Colloquium brought together 11 junior scholars from 10 universities to present research to 40 senior scholars and practitioners, continuing our tradition of building the intellectual community needed to tackle tomorrow’s irregular challenges. The feedback these emerging scholars received ensures their work contributes meaningfully to the Department’s missions—examining resistance movements, analyzing transnational threats, or exploring new deterrence approaches.

#### Building for the Long Term

Education, publication, and mentorship ensure hard-won IW lessons aren’t lost with personnel rotations. By investing in knowledge development, we build the institutional memory and intellectual foundation to manage generational threats and prevail in contested geopolitical environments.

### PRISM: Call For Manuscripts

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

Submit today!

### Media Highlights

U.S. Commander Concerned Over Venezuela’s ‘Exporting of Instability’

by Kathleen T. Rhem, American Forces Press Service

Raider Brigade relinquishes authority to Greywolf Brigade

by Capt. Mathew Olsen, U.S. Army 1st Armored Div.



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### University Colloquium Addresses Evolving Threats in Irregular Warfare

ARLINGTON, VA — The Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) hosted a two-day colloquium on September 24-25, 2025, in Crystal City, VA. The selective event brought together junior and senior scholars, as well as practitioners, to discuss



Colloquium participants conducted workshops to further discuss and provide feedback to students.

a range of topics related to modern irregular warfare. The colloquium's purpose was to continue to build a new cohort of experts

in the field and connect them with established leaders.

The IWC's mission is to transform the global, strategic mindset by coupling conventional combat power with robust IW methodologies to provide options in support of the nation's warfighters, protecting the homeland, and deterring China. The colloquium agenda emphasized this focus by dedicating a full day to presentations on topics such as maritime irregular warfare and defense of the homeland.

"Events such as this are a cornerstone of the IWC's mission, uniquely balancing education with practical operations," said Nathalie Lorentzen, Irregular Warfare Functional Area Network (FAN) Program Manager. "Students departed with valuable insights from practitioners deeply immersed in the IW field, a critical element in shaping not only their research but also their future contributions."



Mr. Luke Mannion, Liberty University delivers his presentation on Intermediate Force Capabilities in IW: Detering Chinese Maritime Aggression Below the Threshold of Armed Conflict.

Speakers included Luke Mannion from Liberty University, who discussed deterring Chinese maritime aggression; Julia Maranhao-Wong from the University of Oxford, presented the topic of information operations in the South China Sea and Ian Murphy from Old Dominion University, who spoke on China's "gray zone strategy."

Additionally, Jocelyn Garcia from Arizona State University presented the topic of "Trust Under Pressure." Industry professionals Dr. Joshua Brown discussed the risk of Chinese-made drones and Adam Reilly presented low-signature logistics. Finally, Joshua Lane from Cranfield University & Defence Academy of the United Kingdom covered counterterrorism medicine and medical support to irregular warfare.

"Irregular warfare is not going away. It's been with humanity since the beginning of time. And we need a whole-of-society and a whole-of-government approach to tackle this. And this event is a perfect manifestation of those efforts," said Garcia. "

The colloquium also included contributions from IWC leadership, the IWC FAN Team, Dr. Joshua Hastey (contractor), and Dr. Sandor Fabian (contractor). Attendees engaged in a feedback-oriented environment, with presenters participating in in-depth discussions after their 10-minute presentations.

"These events are so important for the IW community because they create a vital space for sharing knowledge and building connections. Seeing professionals collaborate and discuss these critical issues firsthand underscored the impact we can make in this field," said Lorentzen.

In the final day of the colloquium, participants further discussed their topics with Senior Scholars and Government and Industry Representatives as part of working groups sessions to provide feedback on their research and recommendations to further enhance their research.



Ms. Chamila Liyanage, University of London, shakes hands with Dr. Dennis Walters, Director, IWC.

Garcia also appreciated the input provided by the senior scholars and industry leaders, "The feedback we receive from scholars within the irregular warfare community is invaluable. All of us are at various stages



Ms. Julia Maranhao-Wong, University of Oxford, presents her research on A U-Shaped Claim: Information Operations' Impact on Maritime Lawfare in the South China Sea.

of our research, and so to be able to implement the feedback that we're getting, positive critiques and constructive critiques into our research is so valuable. You don't really get to have those opportunities; to be here is truly a wonderful opportunity."

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>



Mr. Benjamin Green, Tufts University and Ms. Mary Burke and Mr. Emmanuel Ogundele, Seton Hall University, answer questions about their respective research.



Colloquium presenters take a moment for a group photo with Dr. Dennis Walters, Director, Irregular Warfare Center prior to presenting their research.

### IWC Senior Advisor Engages at 6th Transportation Security Unified Stakeholders Group (TSUSG) Annual Meeting

DENVER, CO — The Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) participated in the 6th Annual Transportation Security Unified Stakeholders Group (TSUSG) Conference, September 9-11, 2025. The event brought together nearly 100 participants from government, industry, laboratories, and logistics carriers to address the security of high-consequence shipments and mobility resilience.



Maj. Gen. (Ret) Ed Dorman attended the Annual TSUSG Conference in Denver, CO, Sept. 9-11.

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Ed Dorman, IWC senior advisor for global sustainment, contested logistics, and offensive supply chain operations, delivered a featured session on "Hybrid Threats in the Homeland & Implications for Movements." His remarks highlighted how irregular warfare considerations including mobility security, Department of Energy (DOE) and other government agencies coordination, and hybrid threat defense must be integrated into both homeland defense and global sustainment planning.

"I stressed that logistics and sustainment are now a contested battlespace inside the homeland. Adversaries are targeting our mobility networks through cyber intrusions, ransomware, and proxy activities, making transportation security a core element of deterrence," said Dorman. I highlighted the need to educate for uncertainty, harden corridors, improve vetting, and share data across government and industry. Contesting logistics "left of crisis" ensures every shipment signals resilience and credible deterrence."

The TSUSG agenda included keynote addresses, cybersecurity panels, DOE Office of Radiological Security updates, and cross-sector working groups. The conference's unique format, which included purposeful seating, cross-sector table discussions, and structured reflection, enabled the IWC to advance guidance from the Assistant

Secretary of War for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict (ASW SO/LIC).

The IWC successfully aligned with its Campaign Plan by strengthening whole-of-nation partnerships and expanding the Center's Functional Area Networks. It also operationalized its lines of effort by building resilience and resistance in homeland logistics networks, advancing contested logistics as a warfighting challenge, and fostering collaboration across government, industry, and research. Furthermore, the event expanded collaboration by engaging Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) leadership, including Dr. Ken Martin, on future technical cooperation and a potential IWC visit to Oak Ridge.

The IWC's engagement at the TSUSG 2025 helped advance campaign objectives, reinforced ASW SO/LIC guidance to institutionalize irregular warfare, and strengthened the Center's leadership role in contested logistics and homeland defense.



Maj. Gen. (Ret) Ed Dorman spoke about the contested battle space in logistics and sustainment inside the homeland during the Annual TSUSG Conference in Denver, CO, Sept. 9-11.

For more information about the Irregular Warfare Center go to <https://irregularwarfarecenter.org/>

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