

# 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 Highligts

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 selective event brought together junior and senior tractor). Attendees engaged in a feedback-orischolars, as well as practitioners, to discuss



iium participants conducted workshops to further discuss and provide feedback to stude

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



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

shaping not only their research but also their future contributions.'

At the colloquium, a diverse group of academic profession-

als presented their work. Speakers included Luke opportunities; Mannion from Liberty University, who discussed to be here is 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 irregularwarfarecenter/?viewAsMember=true 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 September 24-25, 2025, in Crystal City, VA. The Hastey (contractor), and Dr. Sandor Fabian (conented 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 im-

pact we can make in this field," said Lorentzen.



shakes hands with Dr. Dennis Walters, Director,

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.

Garcia also appreciated the input provided by the



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

and industry leaders, "The feedback we receive from scholars within the irregular warfare community is invaluable. All of us are at various stages

senior scholars

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 and industry don't really get to have those truly a wonderful opportunity."

about the IWC



and Ms. Mary Burke and Mr. Emm Ogundele, Seton Hall University, answer and information

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Dr. Dennis Walters, Director. Irregular Warfare Center prior to

## **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, Col., 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 sutainment inside the homeland during the Annual TSUSG Conference in Den-ver, Col., Sept. 9-11.

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

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## IWC Launches Its First Course on Irregular Warfare Approaches for the Homeland

ARLINGTON, VA — The Department of War Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) announced the launch of its newest online course, Irregular Warfare (IW) 110: IW Approaches for Homeland Security and Defense, avail able now to homeland defense and homeland security professionals as of September 22, 2025.

According to national security experts, the U.S. homeland is under persistent unconventional attack in the 'gray zone' short of war from both threat nations like China as well as non-state actors such as transnational criminal organizations (TCO) and foreign terrorist organizations (FTO).

IW110 is a four-hour long self-paced virtual course about how the homeland can be better secured and how to defend the U.S. homeland using approaches such as countering threat networks, counter threat finance, and military counterterrorism techniques. Additionally, IW-110 explains how IW concepts like total comprehensive defense, and countering hybrid threats can offer effective practices to establish a whole-of-society defense posture to increase resiliency against U.S. adversary activities in this gray zone.

The course is built with interactive courseware that integrates text, graphics, video and other media to enhance learning and encourage participants engagement. The course focuses on three objectives including describe the current homeland security and homeland defense environment, identify irregular threats to the U.S. homeland from state and non-state actors, and examine the application of IW approaches/activities domestically to counter diverse threats to the homeland. The course includes five core sections and concludes with a final exam that must be passed to receive a completion certificate.

IW110 capitalizes on the IWC educational successes with the introductory IW101 course and advanced IW201 course, which have gained over 2,600 enrollments. This latest IWC course is specifically designed for Homeland Defense and Homeland Security professionals in the Department of War and interagency partners at the Federal, State and local levels. However, as an unclassified resource, it is also open to anyone interested in understanding how irregular warfare approaches can be employed to better protect our citizens and critical infrastructure.

This course helps realize the intent of the 2020 National Defense Strategy IW Annex to institutionalize and operationalize IW as a core competency for the U.S. military, as well as fulfill the Irregular Warfare Center's (IWC) Congressionally mandated mission in Title 10 \$345 "to serve 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" and "coordinating and aligning Department education curricula, standards, and objectives related to irregular warfare."

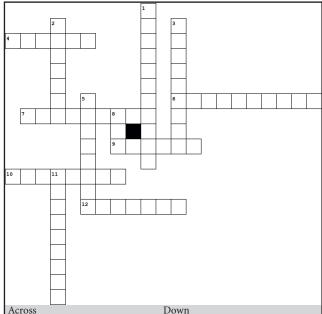
Irregular Warfare 110 is hosted in two virtual offerings including the Center for Homeland Defense and Security self-study courses website. Registration and access information are available on our website https://irregularwarfarecenter. org/education/irregular-warfare-110/

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/IrregularWarC-

### **Irregular Warfare Crossword**



4. The effort to win the loyalty and 1. A term for blending into the support of a local population. 6. Another term for a resistance or rebel movement.

7. The use of terror and violence against civilians to achieve political aims.

9. The strategy of denying an enemy access to key resources or territory

10. Training and equipping a foreign military force to fight its own battles. 12. The political and societal

support that allows an insurgency

local population for protection or surveillance.

2. A long, low-intensity conflict often considered a classic example of irregular warfare.

3. A small, autonomous force operating in a disputed or enemy-held area.

5. The political dimension of warfare and conflict.

or guerrilla fighter.

8. A common method of attack using improvised explosive devices. (Abbr.) 11. A non-uniformed combatant

#### Don't forget to check out The Department of War's Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) PRISM: The Journal of Complex Opera-

tions follow the link for the latest issue!



IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER



**Current Initiatives, Upcoming Events & IW Educational Offerings** 

### Spotlight Team

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### **Contributors**

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#### This Month in the History of Irregular Warfare

-1961: The 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), a key component of the U.S. Army's Special Forces, was activated at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to organize and train guerrilla bands.

-2001: The September 11 terrorist attacks significantly increased the focus on irregular warfare within the U.S. military, leading to increased attention and formal definitions of the term, notes ARSOF History.

-2002: Following the September 11 attacks, initial U.S. cooperation with Iran against common extremist enemies like the Taliban ended when President George W. Bush labeled Iran part of the "axis of evil". This shift marked a transition towards Iran becoming a major supporter of Shia militias fighting U.S. forces in Iraq, according to Irregular Warfare Initiative.

-2010: The U.S. Army charged five soldiers of the "Kill Team" with murdering three Afghan civilians earlier that year, an event that is a part of the complex history of irregular warfare in Afghanistan.

rossword Answers: 1.Concealment, 2. Cold War, 3. Guerrilla . Psyops, 5. Politics, 6. Insurgency, 7. Terrorism, 8. IED, 9. Denial, 10. Advising, 11. Insurgent, 12. Support

# Connect With Us

# IWC Contact Info





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