



Annual Report

June 2017



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Director's Comments



CIWAG's 9th year has some exciting transitions and new projects. First, after eight successful and extremely busy years, our founding co-director, Professor Marc Genest stepped down and Professor Dave Brown was appointed as the new co-director. Marc's outstanding efforts to help create the center and grow its mission and staff have established CIWAG as leading authority on irregular warfare at the strategic level. More-over, as the Forrest Sherman Professor of Public Diplomacy at the Naval War College, Dr. Genest will continue his scholarship on strategic communications and irregular warfare. We deeply appreciate everything you have done to create and sustain the center; over these past eight years. Thank you, Marc!

Professor Dave Brown, joins Dr. Andrea Dew as the new co-director of CIWAG. Dave is a retired U.S. Army Colonel, who served thirty years in combat arms units, on various staff levels, and inside several war zones. Both his practical experience in COIN and irregular environments, and his teaching experience in strategic studies, irregular warfare, and counter-terrorism will hold the center in very good stead over the next phase of CIWAG's existence.

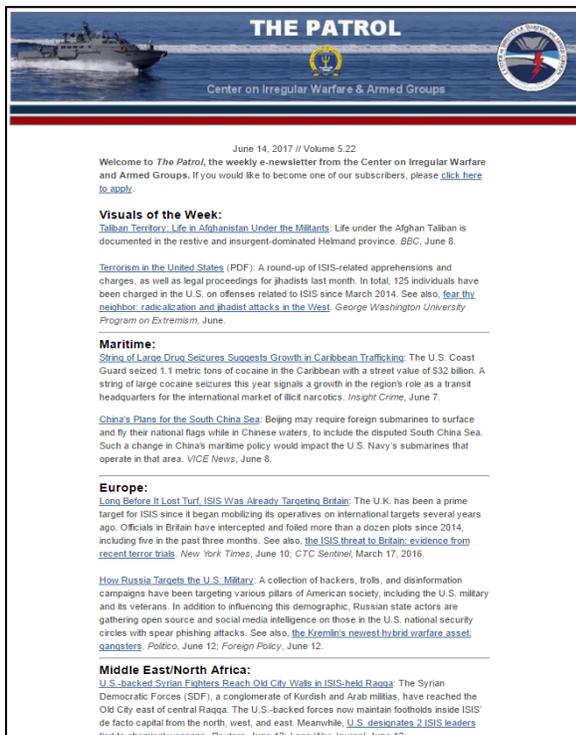
The center has spent a number of months up-dating and professionalizing everything from our newsletters, topical reading lists, website, and re-envisioning our professional case studies to an updated look and format. We hope these changes are well received as the important work of the center continues into the remainder of this year.

CIWAG outreach, SOF workshops, and Education to the Fleet

Naval Special Warfare; US Marine Forces Special Operations Command; Special Forces, Unconventional Warfare Course; Asymmetric Operations War Group; Rhode Island National Guard; and , Massachusetts Air National Guard, USS Carl Vinson



CIWAG re-launches new newsletter: The Patrol



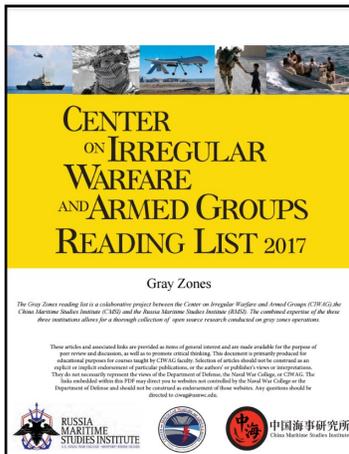
After six successful years and hundreds of irregular warfare stories, our “In Case You Missed it” e-newsletter was overhauled this year. With new graphics and a streamlined new layout, “The Patrol” debuted in spring 2017 and continues to keep operators, practitioners, and academics informed about the latest developments and trends in irregular warfare.

The newsletter has come a long way since its original concept; ten must read stories to keep Naval War College students updated on irregular warfare topics before class discussions each week. We are approaching our 100th edition, we have 900+ subscribers across the irregular warfare communities, and add 5 new people per week to the conversation. The newsletter is all open source, is published every Wednesday morning in time for lunch discussions, and is part of our commitment to use technology to promote peer review and discussion, as well as to promote critical thinking.

CIWAG Reading Lists: What should I read about....?

As part of our support to the operating forces and support to academics who research irregular warfare topics, CIWAG creates new and updates existing annotated reading lists on specific armed groups, irregular warfare topics.

The reading list (“Quick Reads” and “Deep Dives”) project was created as a response to operators and academics looking for irregular warfare specific resources that are timely and relevant to the ever evolving irregular warfare challenges. Designed to support operators deploying forward and academics teaching in a professional military education classroom, the comprehensive lists include multi-media resources and span a variety of open source outlets including think tanks, national and international news sources, government documents, academic papers and articles, and peer reviewed journals.



Updated 2017

Grey Zones	Syria
Hezbollah & Hamas	Indonesia & the Philippines
Boko Haram	Kurdish Sovereignty
Al Qaeda	Cyber Challenges
Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham	
Al Shaabab	
Armed Groups in South Sudan	
Security Challenges in the Trans Sahel	

CIWAG Case Studies: Supporting Professional Military Education in the Classroom

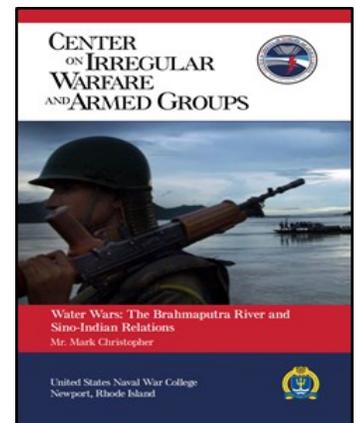
Since 2013, CIWAG has sponsored subject matter experts to write two case studies per year for our curriculum. The cases reach 500+ students during their first academic year at the NWC, as well as students at other professional military education institutions. Case studies allow practitioners and students to draw broad tactical, operational, and strategic lessons about the nature of irregular warfare and armed groups on land and at sea.

Latest Case Study:

- ◆ Nigerian Chameleon: The Many Faces of Boko Haram by Jacob Zenn at African and Eurasian Affairs, the Jamestown Foundation

Forthcoming Case Studies:

- ◆ The internal propaganda strategy of the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham: Paper Trail by Charlie Winter at the International Centre for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence (ICSR)
- ◆ Defeating ISIS and Al-Qaeda on the Ideological Battlefield by Dr. Michael W.S. Ryan (Middle East Institute, Jamestown Foundation)



Center on Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups



Center on Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups

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The Center on Irregular Warfare & Armed Groups (CIWAG) at the U.S. Naval War College was created in 2008 using grants from private philanthropic foundations to ensure that education and research on irregular warfare and armed groups remains timely and easily accessible to military officers and their Interagency counterparts who devise strategies for dealing with armed groups around the world.

“Bringing Operators and Academics Together”

