

# Center on Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups



## Annual Report June 2018



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### Director's Comments



CIWAG is celebrating our tenth year of activity here at the U.S. Naval War College. During the past decade, CIWAG has emphasized the continuing importance of the study, research, and awareness of the many facets of irregular warfare and the importance of bringing together stakeholders—academics, practitioners, and operators—to discuss these issues. Without question, the threats from irregular warfare and armed group activity remains a tier one security challenge to national, regional, and international security, and we are deeply committed to a second decade of expanding our research on these issues.

This past year has been a busy one for both outreach and institutional development. On the outreach and research side, we have continued to support dedicated irregular warfare workshops for the U.S. Navy Fleet and Special Operations communities that explore red-team aspects to irregular challenges. These workshops, based on scenarios and research from CIWAG directors and associates, provide the opportunity to understand the strategic and operational challenges posed by armed groups. They are supported by more than 50 dedicated reading lists and original case studies, written by subject matter experts. CIWAG's case studies and reading lists also directly support our teaching faculty at the Naval War College, ensuring linkages across the academic and operational communities. We've connected this to our new NWC website, and re-envisioned our case studies with an updated look and format, which now includes ISBN coding. In addition, our weekly newsletter, *The Patrol*, continues to provide dedicated irregular warfare news and analysis to our 1,000+ subscribers. We hope these changes are well received as the important work of the center continues into the remainder of this year.

Inspired by RADM Harley's direction to "navalize" and "futurize" work conducted at the Naval War College, we've also continued to partner with the Naval Special Warfare community and the Navy staff to work on various projects of interest to the Department in this important operational area of interest. Of particular note is a working group project being conducted this year considering recommendations on Maritime Gray Zones and Irregular Warfare in the South China Sea and beyond. The findings from these maritime projects will be published later this summer and will provide the foundations for a new CIWAG case study series on maritime irregular warfare.

Additionally, we welcome a new deputy director, CAPT Lou McCray, who is also the Special Operations Forces Chair at the NWC. It's been a full and productive year, and we are deeply appreciative of the support of the Naval War College leadership, Naval War College Foundation, Navy Staff, and Naval Special Warfare in all our endeavors.

# Outreach, Workshops, and Education Efforts

CIWAG continues to provide educational support to 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. In addition we launched the first Maritime Gray Zones working group in April. This brought together academics from across the College and experts from other communities to consider what maritime irregular warfare and grey zone challenges the U.S. needs to focus on. CIWAG is hosting an additional workshop following our annual Symposium in June.

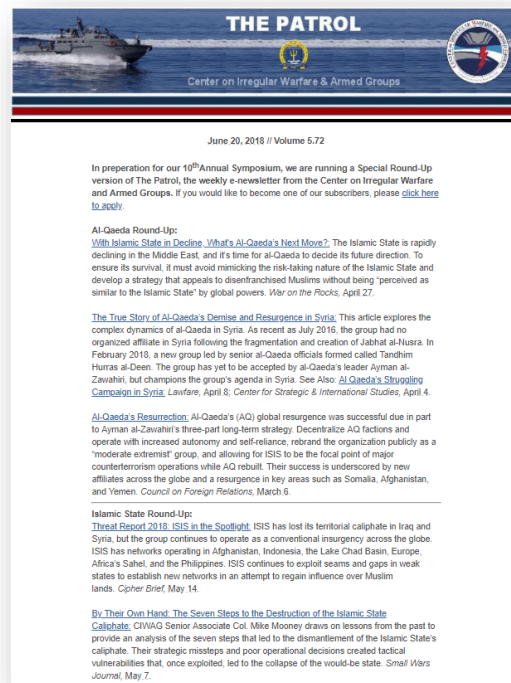


## Newsletter

“The Patrol” debuted in spring 2017 and continues to keep operators, practitioners, and academics informed about the latest developments and trends in irregular warfare.

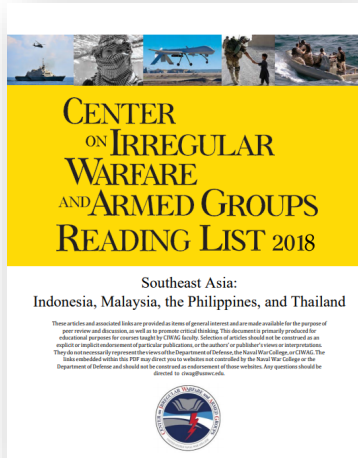
The round-up e-newsletter continues to grow. We currently have 1000+ subscribers across various warfare communities.

The newsletter is all open source, and is published every Wednesday morning. It is part of our commitment to maintain awareness across a wide array of irregular warfare activities.



## Reading Lists

As part of our support to the operating forces and support to academics to support operators and academics teaching in a professional military education classroom, CIWAG continues to publish annotated reading lists on specific armed groups, irregular warfare topics. 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 2018

Gray Zones  
Maritime Gray Zones  
Burundi  
Yemen and HOA  
Southeast Asia  
Al Shaabab  
ISIS/Syrian Civil War  
Cybersecurity

### Forthcoming

*Economic Warfare*  
*Drones & Ethics*  
*Cyber Challenges*  
*Latin America*

## Case Studies

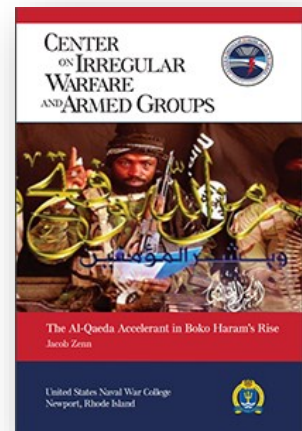
Since 2013, CIWAG has sponsored subject matter experts to write two case studies per year for our curriculum. The cases reach 500+ students during their academic year at the NWC, as well as students at other professional military education institutions.

### Latest Case Studies:

- ◆ *Wildlife Trafficking and Poaching: Contemporary Context and Dynamics for Security Cooperation and Military Assistance* by Chris Jasparro
- ◆ *Defeating ISIS and Al-Qaeda on the Ideological Battlefield: The Case for the Corporation Against Ideological Violence* by Michael W. S. Ryan

### Forthcoming Case Studies:

- ◆ *Neuroscience and Technology as Irregular Weapons in the Twenty-First Century* by James Giordano
- ◆ *The Systematic Food Network Model as an Approach to Food System Reconstruction: A Case Study for the Kansas Agribusiness Development Mission* by Lynndee Kemmet and Eric Peck
- ◆ *Boko Haram's Bargain: The Behind-the-Scenes Battle Over Becoming ISIS* by Jacob Zenn



# 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”

