

THE PATROL



Center on Irregular Warfare & Armed Groups

Example of CIWAG Newsletter - The Patrol

Welcome to *The Patrol*, the weekly e-newsletter from the Center on Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups. If you would like to become one of our subscribers, please [click here to apply](#).

Visuals of the Week:

[Before and after ISIS: Welcome to 'Free' Raqqa](#): During its four years of occupation by the Islamic State, the city of Raqqa was destroyed. Now that the city is liberated from the jihadist fighters that once held it, the process of renovating the city's ruined buildings and clearing the unexploded ordinance remain as a grim reminder of its recent history. *Washington Post*, September 5.

Maritime:

[U.S. Navy Must Be Able to Compete in 'Gray Zone' Conflict, Says Top Service Officer](#): CNO Adm. John Richardson spoke about the need to address adversarial threats in the area short of war known as the "gray zone." Great power competition is manifesting itself more frequently within the spectrum of the gray zone and the Navy needs to embrace emerging warfighting capabilities across multiple domains to combat near-peer threats in this space. *Defense News*, September 6.

[Gibraltar Ship Stripped of Flag Amid Dispute Over Migrants Stranded at Sea](#): A Gibraltar flagged ship was stripped of its registration after conducting unauthorized search and rescue operations of 140 stranded migrants in the Mediterranean. The ship was then refused access to ports in Gibraltar, Italy, and Malta. Since January 2017 over 60,000 migrants have entered Europe by sea and over 2,400 have died attempting to make the trip. See Also: [SOS Mediterranee and MSF Call on European Governments to Assign Place of Safety After Rescues](#); and [Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 60,309 in 2018; Deaths Reach 1,524](#); *CNN*, August 14; *SOS Mediterranee*, August 12; *International Organization for Migration*, August 10.

Middle East/North Africa:

[Retrospect and Prospect: On Endless War](#): Naval War College Professors David Brown, Timothy Hoyt, and Craig Whiteside examine in retrospect the counterterrorism methods employed in the global war on terrorism. From this analysis, they present three key factors that aid in predicting the future trajectory of the international counterterrorism effort. *Texas National Security Review*, September 11.

[Seventeen Years after Sept. 11, Al Qaeda May Be Stronger than Ever](#): As international attention was focused on defeating the Islamic State's caliphate, al-Qaeda quietly embedded itself in Muslim communities and continued to rebuild. Al-Qaeda now operates in nearly all of the Middle East's war-torn countries, fielding over 20,000 fighters in Syria and Yemen alone. *Los Angeles Times*, September 10.

[The Turkistan Islamic Party in Double-Exile: Geographic and Organizational Divisions in Uighur Jihadism](#): The Turkistan Islamic Party, a Uighur Islamist group, has expanded from a small operation in Central Asia to a major role in the war in Syria. Although the group appears to be growing rapidly, its branches in Afghanistan and Syria are breaking away, and the looming defeat of its Syrian fighters may scatter its operatives into Turkey instead of back to Afghanistan. *Jamestown Foundation*, September 10.

Americas:

[Texas Terror Case Gives Rare Glimpse Inside Encrypted Jihadist Social Media](#): Court records of tried American jihadists provide a window into the motivations, methodologies, and ideologies that have radicalized American citizens into becoming members of extremist groups. Social media transcripts have been vital in revealing how groups like ISIS target and influence people into becoming Jihadists. *PJ Media*, September 7.

[5 Ways the MS13 Launders Money](#): MS13's increasing involvement in international drug trafficking and its rapid expansion has created a need to protect its finances by legitimizing its money in the legal market. The organization has begun expanding their financial modus operandi away from extortion and are now using new methodologies to launder their dirty money. *InSight Crime*, September 7.

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