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CIWAG - Annual Symposium Report - 2011

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Recommended Citation

Naval War College, The U.S., "CIWAG - Annual Symposium Report - 2011" (2011). *CIWAG Events*. 3.
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Center on Irregular Warfare & Armed Groups

CIWAG

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FIRST LOOK

“Conventional warfare is rare and relatively short in duration whereas Irregular Warfare occurs every day.”

RDML Sinclair M. Harris
Director, Navy Irregular Warfare Office

From June 21-22, more than 60 academics and practitioners knowledgeable about irregular warfare and armed groups met at the Naval War College, Newport, RI to discuss how to bring cutting edge research and operational lessons into the PME/JPME classrooms. The Symposium focused on cultivating domestic and international perspectives and advancing interdisciplinary research on irregular warfare and armed groups.

Opening remarks were given by the Naval War College President, RADM John Christenson, and included keynote speaker RDML Scott P. Moore, Deputy Director for Special Operations/Counter Terrorism. The symposium, sponsored by the Naval War College's Center on Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups (CIWAG), focused on *five key areas of interest*:

- ⇒ **Use of Irregular Warfare Strategy in the Maritime Domain**
- ⇒ **Irregular Warfare Strategy in Afghanistan and Iraq**
- ⇒ **Strategic Non-violent Movements and Humanitarian Limits on IW**
- ⇒ **Proto-Insurgencies and Intelligence Dominance**
- ⇒ **Projecting the Economic Instrument of National Power**

“Irregular warfare will likely be a constant in a complex security environment that features both high-end and low-end threats.”

Dr. Toshi Yoshihara
Professor, NWC

Highlighted Panel:

China's application of Maoist Strategy: Guerilla Warfare, Swarming, and Sparrow Warfare in the Maritime Environment (Dr. Toshi Yoshihara)

Following Questions Emerged:

- What operational risks do rules of engagement, including the need to limit civilian casualties, pose in irregular warfare?
- Looking forward: Do we have the right balance between counterinsurgency operations and counterterrorism operations?
- What is the future role of special operations forces, general purpose forces, and other agencies in irregular warfare?
- Are the US and its allies adequately prepared in the maritime environment for combinations of small boats, stand-off weapons, and large-scale media attention as a means of coercive diplomacy in irregular warfare?

The 4th annual invitational Symposium on “Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups: Exploiting Seams and Closing Gaps” sponsored by the Center on Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups (CIWAG) will be held at the Naval War College, Newport, RI on 26-27 June 2012.