

2013

CIWAG - Annual Symposium Report - 2013

The U.S. Naval War College

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Recommended Citation

Naval War College, The U.S., "CIWAG - Annual Symposium Report - 2013" (2013). *CIWAG Symposia*. 5.
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Center on Irregular Warfare & Armed Groups CIWAG

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FIRST LOOK

“These forums are critical to pushing the understanding and importance [of] our future force structure and the ability to apply the force we need. Innovative thinking will be essential, and that’s what these forums do.”
Vice Admiral Robert S. Harward, U.S. CENTCOM

“... as broad a coverage of irregular warfare, as it’s still being defined, as I’ve ever heard.”
Rear Admiral Charles D. Michel, Director, Joint Interagency Task Force South

“An opportunity to get a sense of where things are headed: cutting-edge issues [like] tension of water rights with new strategies, combined with larger issues about Afghanistan and Iran.”
Dr. Andrew Krepinevich, Jr., Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

The Center on Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups presented its fifth annual symposium, **“Irregular Warfare: Afghanistan and Beyond,”** on June 26-27, 2013. More than 60 U.S. and international academics and practitioners attended to discuss the challenges associated with irregular warfare and armed groups.

NWC President Rear Adm. John N. Christenson opened the conference, and Vice Adm. Robert S. Harward, Deputy Commander of U.S. Central Command, gave the keynote address. The symposium focused on the future of irregular warfare and working effectively in fiscally constrained times. Panels included:

- ◇ **SOF Perspectives on Irregular Warfare Case Studies: The Way Forward After Afghanistan** — CAPT Carl Tiska, LTG Charles T. Cleveland, RDML Scott P. Moore
- ◇ **Utility of Sovereign Wealth Funds as a Strategic Instrument of Power** — Dr. Thomas Sass, ADM (r.) Guillermo Barrera, CAPT Robert Gusentine, Mr. Devadas Krishnadas
- ◇ **Water Wars: The Coming Struggle Over Earth’s Precious Resource** — Mr. Arthur Navarro, Mr. Mark Christopher, Mr. George O’Conor, Mr. Peter Dutton
- ◇ **Boston Marathon Bombings: Seams and Gaps in Domestic Response** — Dr. Andrea Dew, Mr. Tom Sarrouf, SA Chris Peet, SD Tom Dentremont

Highlighted Panel: Afghanistan—Lessons Learned & Future Consequences **Dr. Marc Genest, chair; Mr. Rajiv Chandrasekaran, Dr. Thomas Barfield**

The Following Points Emerged:

- Afghanistan has a history of stability after foreign forces leave when: (1) the state receives funding from foreign backers and (2) the state can rebuild its patronage system
- Historically, insurgent leaders cannot reposition themselves as national leaders
- With the selling of some of its mineral rights to China and India, other countries have a stake in a stable Afghanistan as well

Save the Date: 25-26 June 2014

CIWAG’s 6th annual symposium, **“Countering Irregular Threats: Armed Groups’ Exploitation of Maritime, Land, Air, and Cyber Domains,”** at the U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI