FIRST LOOK

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 Sarrour, 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

July 10, 2013