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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

Symposium Overview

Symposium Hosts :

David Brown, COL USA (Ret) - Director of CIWAG
CAPT George E. Lang Jr., USN (Ret) - Pres/CEO NWCF
Geoffrey Till, Ph.D., Naval / Maritime Historian
Jon R. Huggins, Associate Professor, U.S. NWC

+401-856-5495
CIWAG@usnwc.edu
[Center on Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups](#)

2024





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Dear Symposium Participants and Guests,

On behalf of the Naval War College Foundation (NWCFF) Board of Trustees and staff, I am pleased to welcome you to "Exploring Our Maritime Strategies—II." This is the second year the Foundation has partnered with the Center on Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups (CIWAG) to provide this critical content.

As a retired Navy Captain and the father of a sailor aboard the USS CARNEY (DDG 64), I am acutely aware of the challenges we face in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf. Over these two days, you will have the opportunity to hear from scholars, military leaders, and other experts who will shed light on the current state of our complex global environment, making this symposium a crucial platform for understanding and addressing these challenges. While certainly concerning, I am confident that the future leaders studying at the U.S. Naval War College (USNWC) are up to the challenge. Students at the USNWC have access to the most current research and thought leaders from across the fleet and leave the campus with the ability to negotiate for peace, navigate conflict, and prevail when challenged.

The NWCFF is proud to support the USNWC as the center of excellence in joint professional military education through several initiatives. Among these are the establishment of endowed chairs, including the T.C. Sass Chair in Maritime Irregular Warfare and Maritime Special Operations. The T.C. Sass Chair was established to inform and shape national strategies, operational recommendations and policies, and to promote and support research and teaching of irregular warfare and armed groups at the USNWC. This conference is the physical embodiment of that mission. If this is your introduction to the NWCFF, I invite you to learn more at nwcffoundation.org.

I look forward to joining you in the enlightening discussions over these two days. Thank you for your keen interest in understanding the threats our nation faces.

Thank you for joining us and enjoy the symposium.

Sincerely and very respectfully,

CAPT George E. Lang, Jr., USN (Ret.)
President & Chief Executive Officer
Naval War College Foundation



PRESIDENT

Peter A. Garvin
Rear Adm., U.S. Navy





About Us

The Center on Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups (CIWAG) is dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of the challenges presented by irregular warfare (IW) and non-state actors, also known as armed groups, in the 21st Century. Additionally, CIWAG facilitates interaction and collaboration between professional military educational institutions, civilian academics and battlefield practitioners.



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EXPLORING OUR MARITIME STRATEGIES-II

RED SEA | PERSIAN GULF



David Brown, COL USA (Ret)
Director of CIWAG



Regions

This year's symposium considers the two great maritime straits in the Middle East. The Bab el-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea and the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf are both under threat and have tremendous implications related not only to global shipping, but by extension, the entire global economy.



Setting the Stage

"Even before the Houthis began attacking ships on the 19th of November 2023, maritime incidents from the last few years would have afforded any terrorist group an abundance of inspiration. The Beirut blast on 4 August 2020 was the result of a single vessel's abandoned cargo being left for too long. The EVER GIVEN getting stuck in the Suez Canal in March 2023 cost the shipping industry \$416 million per hour. More recently, the allision between the DALI and the Key Bridge in Baltimore created more infrastructural challenges for the U.S. than many 'successful' terrorist attacks have in the past. While maritime matters may be out of sight and out of mind, disruptions to maritime commerce are felt." - Dr. Ian Ralby

("Maritime terrorism is on the rise whether we notice it or not", Diplomatic Courier, 23 May 2024)



Geoffrey Till is Emeritus Professor of Maritime Studies at King's College London. Once Dean of Academic Studies at the UK Joint Services Command and Staff College, he is author of nearly 300 books, chapters, and articles. Since 2009 he has been a Visiting Professor, Senior Research Fellow, and Advisor at the Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore. He now holds the Dudley W. Knox Chair for Naval History and Strategy at the US Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island.



Geoffrey Till, PhD
Naval / Maritime Historian

Jon Huggins is an Associate Professor for International Programs at the U.S. Naval War College. As the founding Director of the Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) program during the height of the Somali piracy crisis, his organization's research was featured by the BBC, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Al Jazeera. OBP was also a key contributor to the release of 44 piracy hostages held in Somalia for up to four years. He later worked across four continents as a maritime security consultant for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Maritime Organization, the G7++ Presidency and the commercial shipping industry.



Jon R. Huggins
Associate Professor
International Programs, USNWC

"Despite 90% of world trade and 99% of internet communication relying on the sea, maritime issues remain largely invisible to many. This hidden realm has become a haven for terrorists, who exploit it for financing and logistics — highlighting the need to bolster maritime security, writes Dr. Ian Ralby."

("Maritime terrorism is on the rise whether we notice it or not", Diplomatic Courier, 23 May 2024)

Keynote Speaker



Collin Green, VADM USN (Ret)
Former Deputy Commander USSOCOM
and former Commander NSW



Vice Admiral Collin Green culminated his military career in 2024, serving as the Deputy Commander of the 70,000 person US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM).

Over his 38-year career as a Navy SEAL, Collin has developed and led high performing organizations from a Special Operations Task Force in Iraq, Commander of all Special Operations in Central and South America to Commander of the 10,000-strong Naval Special Warfare Command. He is a recognized leader in special operations, strategic planning, and leadership. He has experience in developing organizational culture; leading through crises; and driving transformation through innovation and resourcing. He is an inspiring and proven communicator whose authentic and straightforward delivery resonates regardless of the forum.

Green's additional assignments included serving as naval special warfare officer, Navy Operations and Plans Branch in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations; naval special warfare officer, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet; U.S. Central Command branch chief, directorate for U.S. Special Operations, Joint Staff; director of operations, NATO Special Operations Component Command/Special Operations Joint Task Force-Afghanistan; executive officer, Supreme Allied Commander Europe/Commander, U.S. European Command, and as chief of staff, U.S. Special Operations Command. Vice Admiral Green's operational assignments also include the first Gulf War, and multiple leadership roles in the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and the Pacific. He holds a MA in National Security and Strategic Studies with Distinction from the U.S. Naval War College.

See Vice Admiral Green's testimonial here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVKD-YPJU-A&list=PLam-yp5uUR1Z5c2D_fVRbJv7eFtzeaX5R&index=7

VIPs

Mick Crnkovich is the Director for Irregular Warfare. Mick joined Policy in 2019 after 11 years at USAID. Prior to USAID, Mick supported Special Operations Command Europe efforts as part of the Trans Sahara Counter Terrorism Partnership. Previously, he served as a U.S. Army officer for over 10 years with service in Afghanistan, Germany, and South Korea. He was a Term Member with the Council on Foreign Relations and a Fellow with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Seminar XXI Program, and completed the National Security Executive Leadership Seminar (NSELS). He is a graduate of George Washington University's National Security Studies Program and has a BS in Sociology/Criminology from Ohio University, an MA in Business and Organizational Security Management from Webster University, and an MS in National Security and Resource Strategy from the Eisenhower School at NDU.

See Mr. Crnkovich's symposium testimonial here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYqEuJfC6g&list=PLam-yp5uUR1Z5c2D_fVRbJv7eFtzeaX5R&index=5

Brig. Gen. Chris Burns, commissioned in 1987 as distinguished graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Connecticut. Upon graduation, he transferred to the Rhode Island Army National Guard and began training to become a United States Army Special Forces Officer. He has successfully served in numerous assignments within special operations throughout his 30-year career to include working at operational detachment, company, battalion, and brigade level, as well as numerous theater special operations commands, Joint Special Operations Task Force, U.S. Special Operations Command, and the Joint Staff. Brig. Gen. Burns has previously deployed in staff and command positions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Brig. Gen. Burns most recently served as the Assistant Commanding General, U.S. Special Operations Command Central, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida from August 2014 to July 2016. He previously served as the Assistant to Vice Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command from January 2014 to August 2014. Brig. Gen. Burns completed 36 years of services culminating as the Commander, Special Operations Command North, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.



Mirko Crnkovich

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Special Operations and
Low-Intensity Conflict



Chris Burns, Brig. Gen. USA (Ret)

Senior Advisor
Irregular Warfare Center, Wash D.C.

Panel One

Situation Update: Houthi - Red Sea / Iran - Persian Gulf



Adrian Fryer,
Cdre, Royal Navy (Ret)
Former Deputy (CMF) NAVCENT



CAPT Joseph Baggett, USN
SWSC Commanding Officer
Former MOC-D C5F



Panel I focused on military perspectives of naval operations over the past year in the Red Sea, briefed by senior professionals who had direct responsibilities for operational activities for both U.S. and international allied naval assets.



Moderator
David Brown
Director of CIWAG



Panel Two

Researchers & Scholars



Nadwa Al-Dawsari
Non-Resident, MEI



Katie Zimmerman
Specialist, IWI

Panel II was informed by regional experts who provided analysis on the Houthis' political aspirations and further examined aspects of the civil war in Yemen, as well as the underpinning provided by Iranian logistical support.

See Ms. Zimmerman's symposium testimonial here:
<https://youtu.be/pICeL65G0G8?si=ySSKvUdTAA6z6Jak>

See Dr. Lane's symposium testimonial here:
<https://youtu.be/ZKNsRMf0j6U?si=tXi0x7E0iJMam-PS>



Michael Knights, PhD
Washington Institute



Farzin Nadimi, PhD
Washington Institute



Moderator
Heidi E. Lane, PhD
Professor, USNWC



CIWAG'S MARITIME SYMPOSIUM - JUNE 2024

Panel Three

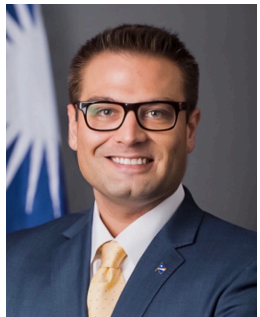
Economic / Maritime Industry



Jakob P. Larsen
Cmdr, Royal Danish Navy (Ret)
Maritime Safety & Security,
Baltic & Int'l Maritime Council



Cameron Naron,
CAPT USCG (Ret)
Director, Office of Maritime
Security, Maritime
Administration, U.S. DOT



Evan Curt
Deputy Commissioner of
Maritime Affairs, Republic
of the Marshall Islands



Daniel A. Tadros
COO, American Steamship
Owners Mutual Protection
Indemnity Association, Inc.



Panel III provided further analysis from the larger maritime industry, informed by experts discussing risk assessment and the overall impacts to the industry, as well as global maritime trade.

See Mr. Naron's symposium testimonial here:

<https://youtu.be/FAldSUxLDv4?si=L3rG8-XcAWzZa91Y>

See Mr. Tadros's symposium testimonial here:

https://youtu.be/_9_TTzxi730?si=SoYXXChUcHUgor04



Moderator
Jon R. Huggins
Assoc. Prof., USNWC



Workshop

Workshop I:

Situation Update (Houthi - Red Sea)

Moderator / Military / Researcher / Industry



WORKSHOP I: The Red Sea

▪ What is at Stake?

- Freedom of seas in Red Sea / global maritime trade
- Rise of a non-state actor violent extremism
- Encouragement of other similar groups
- Loss of credibility deterrent capacity of US Naval forces
- Seafarer shortage could create instability in industry
- Loss of Yemen results in permanent threat presence
- International rules-based order & US credibility to sustain it
- Loss of power of the sea, as an underpinning of US grand strategy
- Loss of overall global competitive advantage



Workshop

Workshop II:

Situation Update (Iran – Persian Gulf)

Moderator / Military / Researcher / Industry



WORKSHOP II: The Persian Gulf

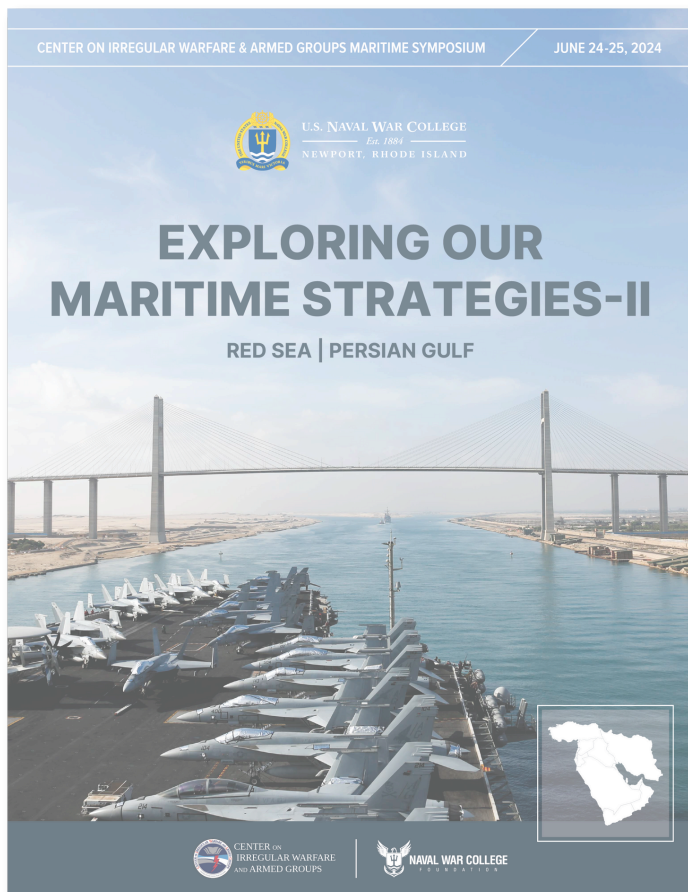
▪ What is at Stake?

- Free flow of commerce
- Energy/oil dependency
- Potential economic pressure
- Military reputation
- Regional partners
- Strategic competitors - perceptions
- Rules Based System/Global Order
- Global allies and partners





Symposium Report





**2024 SYMPOSIUM
REPORT** JUNE 24 – 25




EXPLORING OUR MARITIME STRATEGIES

Red Sea | Persian Gulf

The Naval War College's Center on Irregular Warfare & Armed Groups (CIWAG) co-sponsored a maritime symposium in late June with the Naval War College Foundation. This two-day event focused on global maritime challenges and attendant strategies, specifically in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea, and the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf. Discussions by scholars, practitioners, maritime analysts, and industry executives centered on specific policy recommendations for facing these challenges. Representatives attended from Office of Maritime Security; Maritime Affairs - Republic of Marshall Islands; Irregular Warfare Initiative (IWI); Middle East Institute; the Washington Institute for Near East Policy; Maritime Safety & Security of the Baltic & International Maritime Council; American Steamship Owners Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association; and the Irregular Warfare Center (IWC). In addition to our panelists, current and former senior military officers attended, including former Deputy Commander USSOCOM, former Commander of Combined Maritime Forces - NAVCENT, Commander of U.S. Surface Warfare School, and officers from the Danish Navy, Naval Special Warfare, and the U.S. Coast Guard, along with a guest speaker from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict.

Introduction & Setting the Stage








COL (R) David A. Brown, USA
CIWAG Director, U.S. Naval War College

RADM Peter A. Garvin, USN
58th President of U.S. Naval War College

CAPT George E. Lang Jr., USN (Ret)
President & Chief Executive Officer, NWC Foundation

Geoffrey Till, John B. Hattendorf Center for Maritime Historical Research, U.S. Naval War College

Jon R. Huggins, Associate Professor, International Programs, U.S. Naval War College





Related Podcasts



S1:E7 Dire Straits - Maritime Attacks in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf

In conjunction with

CIWAG's 2024 Maritime Symposium:

Exploring Our Maritime Strategies – II, please listen to the final episode in our 3 part series on the the two great maritime straits in the Middle East.

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea and the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf are both under threat and have tremendous implications related not only to global shipping, but by extension, the entire global economy.



THE TRIDENT

S1:E7 Dire Straits - Maritime Attacks in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf



David A. Brown, COL USA (Retired)
CIWAG Director, and former military strategist with 30-year career in combat units and military operations. Executive Director of the Advanced Strategist Program, U.S. Naval War College.



Ian Ralby, Ph.D.
Dr. Ralby is a globally recognized expert in maritime law and security, especially addressing evolving threats, maritime strategy, and the global maritime economy. In addition to being founder and CEO of I.R. Consilium, he is also a Fellow at the Center on Maritime Strategy in partnership with the Navy league and an affiliate of several institutions including the U.S. Naval War College, the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies, and the Institute for Security Governance.

YouTube - Trident





Related Podcasts



S1:E8 The Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Red Sea

In conjunction with

CIWAG's 2024 Maritime Symposium:

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THE TRIDENT

S1:E8 *The Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Red Sea*

 **David A. Brown, COL USA (Retired)**
CIWAG Director, and former military strategist with 30-year career in combat units and military operations. Executive Director of the Advanced Strategist Program, U.S. Naval War College.

 **CAPT Joseph Baggett, USN**
Commanding Officer U.S. Navy's Surface Warfare School, and former Operations officer 5th Fleet / NAVCENT. Also worked on the Joint Staff (J7), and commanded USS Truxtun (DDG), and the USS Monterey (CG).

 **Nadwa Al-Dawsari**
Veteran researcher, conflict analyst, and policy advisor with 20 years of experience in Yemen and the Middle East. Non-Resident Scholar at the Middle East Institute (MEI) and a Fellow at the Center on Armed Groups.

 **Evan Curt**
Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs, Republic of the Marshall Islands. Joined International Registries, Inc.'s Maritime Services Group in 2012 as a Maritime Security & Investigations Coordinator and promoted to VP in 2021.

YouTube - Trident





Related Podcasts



S1:E9 The Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf

In conjunction with **CIWAG's 2024 Maritime Symposium: Exploring Our Maritime Strategies – II**, please listen to the final episode in our 3 part series on the the two great maritime straits in the Middle East.

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea and the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf are both under threat and have tremendous implications related not only to global shipping, but by extension, the entire global economy.




THE TRIDENT

S1:E9 The Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf



David A. Brown, COL USA (Retired)
CIWAG Director, and former military strategist with 30-year career in combat units and military operations. Executive Director of the Advanced Strategist Program, U.S. Naval War College.



Jon Huggins (Co-host)
Associate Professor for International Programs at the U.S. Naval War College. Founding Director of the Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) program during Somali piracy crisis. Naval Flight Officer, and Federal Exec Fellow at the Atlantic Council.



Adrian Fryer, Commodore, Royal Navy (Ret)
31-year career in the Royal Navy, commanding a number of British warships, UK maritime Component for the wider Middle East, and Deputy Commander of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), the world's largest naval operational partnership.



Evan Curt
Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs, Republic of the Marshall Islands. Joined International Registries, Inc.'s Maritime Services Group in 2012 as a Maritime Security & Investigations Coordinator and promoted to VP in 2021.

YouTube - Trident





Acknowledgement

Photo Credits:

COVER - USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) (IKE) is followed by the guided-missile destroyer USS Stethem (DDG 63) and French Navy destroyer FS Languedoc (D 653) as they transit the Strait of Hormuz, Nov. 26, 2023. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kade Bise) 231126-N-EY390-1343

PAGE 1 - U.S. Naval War College's Luce Hall on Coasters Harbor Island in Newport, R.I. (Photo by Chief Petty Officer James Foehl, 6/20/14). 140620-N-PX557-600; (PNWC) June 24, 2024 - CIWAG Maritime Symposium. (U.S. Navy photo by Brett Dodge)

PAGE 2 - The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) transits the Suez Canal. May 9, 2019. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Dan Snow/Released) 190509-N-ME568-1420; Symposium Program developed by J. Gustavson, NWCF.

Page 3 - The sun sets behind the close-in weapon system (CIWS) onboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Mason (DDG 87) as it transits the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, 4/8/24. (Official U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Calvin Kes) 240408-N-GJ011-1710

Page 4 - (top) An MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter attached to the "Swamp Foxes" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 74 prepares to land on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) in the Red Sea, April 3, 2021. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Sawyer Haskins) 210403-N-KT825-1159 (bottom)

Page 7 - (top) An MH-60R Seahawk helicopter lands aboard guided-missile destroyer USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) in the Strait of Hormuz, July 28, 2023. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Jordan Klineizquierdo) 230728-N-AL206-1059 (bottom) June 24, 2024 - CIWAG Maritime Symposium. (U.S. Navy photo by Brett Dodge)

Page 8 - (top) The sun sets behind the close-in weapon system (CIWS) onboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Mason (DDG 87) as it transits the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, 4/8/24. (Official U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Calvin Kes) 240408-N-GJ011-1710. (middle) June 24, 2024 - CIWAG Maritime Symposium. (U.S. Navy photo by Kristopher Burris/Released) (bottom) June 24, 2024 - CIWAG Maritime Symposium. (U.S. Navy photo by Brett Dodge)

Page 9 - (top) End of the Suez channel, Suez city, Egypt - April 28, 2010, vessel displayed is Cornelia Maersk, teu capacity 8 650, built in 2002. (photo by Gaston Batistini) (middle) June 24, 2024 - CIWAG Maritime Symposium. (U.S. Navy photo by Kristopher Burris) (bottom) U.S. and international flags representing countries at U.S. Naval War College on Coasters Harbor Island in Newport, R.I. (Photo by Chief Petty Officer James Foehl, 6/20/14)

Page 10 - June 25, 2024 - CIWAG Maritime Symposium. (U.S. Navy photos by Kristopher Burris and Brett Dodge). (background) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64) transits the Suez Canal, April 6, 2024. (Official U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Keith Nowak) 240406-N-PS818-2071

PAGE 11 - June 25, 2024 - CIWAG Maritime Symposium. (U.S. Navy photos by Kristopher Burris and Brett Dodge). (background) The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower cruises alongside the guided-missile destroyer USS Carney during a refueling at sea. (Courtesy photo, U.S. Navy photo 100330-N-3595W-005)

PAGE 12 - Symposium Program developed by J. Gustavson, NWCF (photo: see Pg 2). Symposium Report cover by A. Norton, NWCF. U.S. Naval War College's (NWC) Luce Hall on Coasters Harbor Island in Newport, R.I. (Photo by Chief Petty Officer James Foehl, 7/13/15) 150713-N-PX557-106

PAGE 13 - An F/A-18E Super Hornet attached to the "Fighting Checkmates" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 211 prepares to launch from the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75). 8/24/22. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jack Hoppe) 220824-N-GP384-1399

Page 14 - The Royal Saudi Naval Force frigate Makkah (814) transits the Bab el-Mandeb Strait with the guided-missile destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81), Nov. 20, 2020. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Louis Thompson Staats IV) 201120-N-PS962-1283

Page 15 - The patrol coastal ship USS Tempest (PC 2) transits the Strait of Hormuz, Dec. 2, 2020. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Indra Beaufort) 201202-N-IE405-2491

Page 16 - June 24-25, 2024 - CIWAG Maritime Symposium. (U.S. Navy photos by Kristopher Burris and Brett Dodge).

Page 17 - U.S. Naval War College's (NWC) Luce Hall on Coasters Harbor Island in Newport, R.I. (Photo by Chief Petty Officer James Foehl, 6/20/14). 140620-N-PX557-551



Overview Prepared By
Abby Fraser

Symposium Team

Jess Bixby / CIWAG / Admin
Michelle Pacheco / ASP / Admin
Abby Fraser / CIWAG / Research
Alyssa Norton / CIWAG/ Tech Writer





"I was amazed by the CIWAG Symposium this year. This was my first year attending and I learned so much. It was great to hear from those that experienced the Houthi problem firsthand and, as someone who has spent their entire career in the Army, I really enjoyed listening to the Navy's perspective on combatting these issues. I will be briefing the J7, Office of Irregular Warfare and Competition team on these capability gaps and possible solutions this week. I want to commend the team on setting this up. It was flawless from the very beginning and it was organized so well. The sequencing of the panels made sense and I enjoyed how the working group will lead to a policy paper in order to recommend strategic outcomes. I look forward to the next one!"

Michael D. Parrish, MAJ, USA
Strategic Planner
Office of Irregular Warfare and Competition
Joint Staff, J-7, Pentagon



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U.S. Naval War College
686 Cushing Road
Newport, RI 02841
Ph: 401-856-5495
Email: CIWAG@usnwc.edu

