



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

January-February 2017

The Institute for the Study of War (ISW) entered its 10th Anniversary year empowered by its unique role within the U.S. national security community. America confronts a growing and increasingly complex set of threats and challenges abroad while managing a government transition at home. This environment has already generated important opportunities that ISW has seized. ISW remains dedicated to and positioned for advancing an informed understanding of military affairs among decision-makers and the public through reliable research, trusted analysis, and innovative education.

So far in 2017, the ISW team has delivered critical insights, informed the ongoing debate over the direction of U.S. national security policy, enhanced its education of the next generation of security leaders, and harnessed the power of its analytical innovation.



The ISW team briefed a bipartisan group of senators on the **Senate Armed Services Committee** on Syria, Iraq, and broader Middle East policy issues in January. These briefings serve as an important opportunity to bolster the oversight role held by Congress. In addition, ISW has conducted multiple briefings supporting the formulation of policy within the executive branch. As the new administration and congress carry out their respective national security missions, ISW will serve in a critical role leveraging its knowledge and its network to advise senior officials involved in policy development and implementation.

Advising the Nation's Policy Leaders

ISW's analysts have shaped the discourse in the broader policy community with incisive commentary.



Director of Tradecraft and Innovation Jessica L. McFate on anti-ISIS strategy



Lead Intelligence Planner Jennifer Cafarella on fighting al Qaeda

Shaping the Public Debate

ISW's products, including its signature maps, have continued to enrich the media's coverage and public's understanding of key national security issues. Major media outlets continue to build their content from the foundation of ISW's work.

Products in Demand

The Washington Post: 'The war in Afghanistan' map showing Taliban and Islamic State presence.

The Economist: Map of the Middle East showing areas of control in Syria and Iraq.

The Financial Times: Animation showing ISIS losing territory in Syria and Iraq.

The Guardian: Map of Syria showing population swaps and ISIS control.

ISW has earned **nearly 60 media mentions** thus far in 2017 and published multiple opinion editorials.

REPORT
To Crush ISIS, Will Trump Send U.S. Troops Into Syria?
Trump has made some overblown promises. "Quickly" wiping out the Islamic State might be the biggest.
BY DAN DE LUCE, PAUL MCLEARY | JANUARY 8, 2017

THREATS
Five lessons for Commander in Chief Donald Trump from the Iraq 'Surge'
By Jack Keane, Maseh Zarif · Published January 19, 2017 · FoxNews.com

America must act in Syria even after Aleppo
By Jennifer Cafarella · Published December 19, 2016 · FoxNews.com

Media Coverage & External Publications

The Washington Post

By **David Ignatius** Opinion writer February 9

"During the presidential campaign, Trump urged an alliance with Russia against the Islamic State in Syria, and some officials have talked of driving a wedge between Moscow and Tehran. But analysts from the Institute for the Study of War caution that such a Russia-Iran split is probably wishful thinking."


ISW's insights have resonated among leading opinion makers at a time when the contours of U.S. policy are being drawn. In February, ISW analysts briefed senior members of The Washington Post's editorial board along with several journalists writing on national security.

National security developments continue to validate ISW's prescience and innovative forecasting capabilities.

<p>January 2016 <i>ISW assessed that "Russia intervened in Syria...not to defeat ISIS, but rather to curb U.S. influence in the Middle East and to project Russian military power into the region to a historically unprecedented degree."</i></p>	<h1>Accurate Forecasting</h1>	<p>January 2017 <i>Then U.S. Defense Secretary Carter asserted that Russia has done nothing to help defeat ISIS and was instead "explicitly thwarting the U.S." (The Wall Street Journal, January 6)</i></p>
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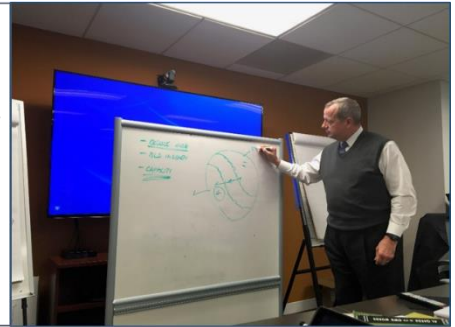
**Milestone:
 50,000+ Twitter Followers**

	<p>UK Against Daesh mentioned you.</p> <p>Reply</p> <p>UK Against Daesh @UKAgainstDaesh Follow the progress of #MosulOps with @TheStudyofWar's map: bit.ly/2hRaZsp #DefeatingDaesh #SIS #SIL</p>	<p>The Global Coalition @coalition Following</p> <p>'The battle for #Mosul - in maps'. Great tracking of #Iraq-i progress via @guardian and @TheStudyofWar</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 10px;"> Social Media Impact </p>
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ISW Hertog War Studies Program

ISW convened the Hertog War Studies Winter Advanced Program, an intensive five-day course on the ideology of ISIS and al Qaeda. The program focused on the study of the sources for these groups' behavior as a requirement for thinking about how to combat them. ISW President Dr. Kimberly Kagan, AEI Critical Threats Project Director Frederick Kagan, and General John Allen (U.S.M.C., ret.) led the course for 27 students who previously attended the Summer Hertog War Studies Program.

The Hertog War Studies Programs are central to ISW's mission to prepare the next generation of national security leaders for defending and advancing America's interests.



General John Allen (U.S.M.C., ret.) teaching Hertog Program students

ISW's former team lead for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Jeffrey Dressler, is the new national security advisor to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan.

Alumni Spotlight

PRESS RELEASE

Speaker Ryan Announces Additional Staff Changes

February 7, 2017 | Speaker Ryan's Press Office

“Jeff Dressler joins the speaker's office as National Security Advisor. . .Dressler joins the speaker's staff from the office of Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy. In this role, he will advise the speaker on the full range of foreign and security policy issues facing the country and will serve as the speaker's designee to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.”

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