

# Unrestricted Warfare Symposia: A Successful Collaboration Between APL and the JHU School of Advanced International Studies

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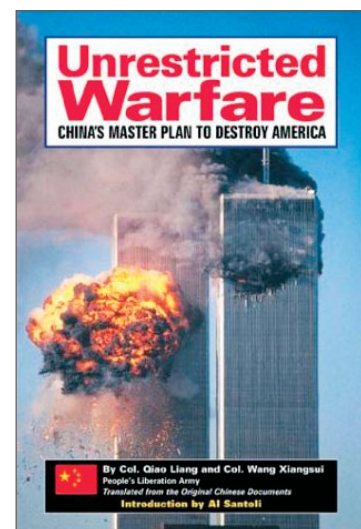
The recent series of *Unrestricted Warfare Symposia*, held annually at APL since 2006, represent an extremely successful collaboration between APL and the JHU School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Intentionally structured to integrate the

strategy, analysis, and technology communities, the symposia have provided a unique forum for examining the impacts of the wide panoply of unrestricted warfare (URW) threats, including terrorism, cyber attacks, economic and financial attacks, and resource attacks (see Fig. 1).

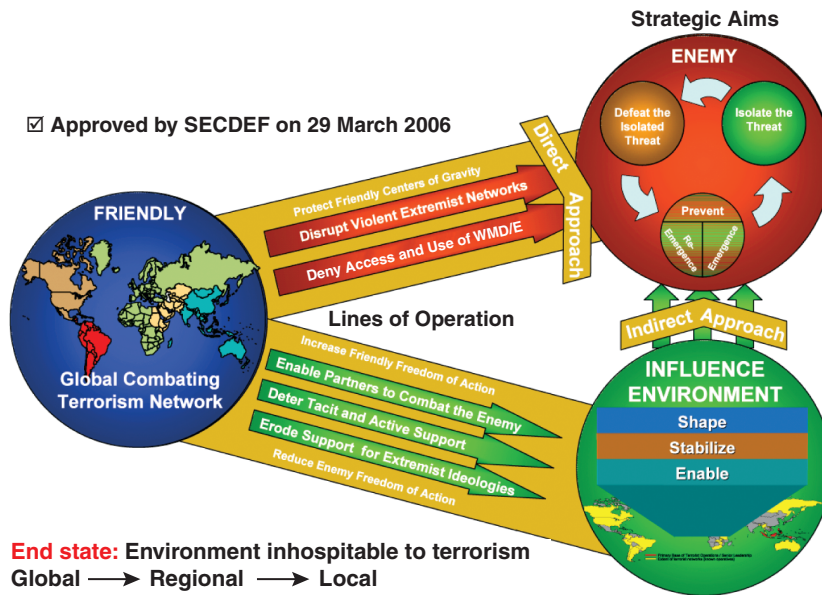
The theme and program for each event were developed collaboratively by staff within APL's National Security Analysis Department and faculty at SAIS. The 2006 Symposium examined the nature of the URW threat—those adversaries who seek to expand the battlefield beyond the conventional, physical domain to break their opponent's will using cultural, economic, environmental, or financial activities; the media; information networks; natural resources; the drug trade; smuggling; or terrorism. The 2007 Symposium identified potential counters to such threats, focusing on appropriate counteractions in both the physical and information domains as well as on deterrence. The 2008 Symposium examined how the U.S. government's campaign concept plan (CONPLAN) for the Global War on Terror was being used to counter URW threats (see Fig. 2). In 2009, we looked at four specific URW threats—nuclear terrorism, cyber attacks, resource attacks, and economic attacks—and the imperatives that such unrestricted attacks impose for interagency action. During each event, APL staff and SAIS faculty served as moderators for panels of recognized experts who offered their individual perspectives on the key thematic components and then responded to questions from the audience.

As a culminating event, each symposium featured a Senior Panel, composed of currently serving senior-level government and military leaders, who provided their perspectives on the topics being investigated and offered suggestions for applying strategy, analysis, and technology to counter unrestricted threats.

During the planning for each event, National Security Analysis Department staff worked with their SAIS counterparts to identify appropriate keynote speakers and panel-



**Figure 1.** This Chinese military manual, written 3 years before the bombing of the World Trade Center, outlines URW strategies.



**Figure 2.** The 2008 Unrestricted Warfare Symposium focused on the U.S. government's CONPLAN 7500 for the Global War on Terror.

ists to address topics consistent with the symposium's overall theme. The alacrity with which our invitations were accepted attests to the national security community's high regard for the symposia. Keynoters and principal speakers at the events have included Marine Corps GEN James Cartwright, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Navy ADM Eric Olson, Commander, Special Operations Command (SOCOM); Dr. Tony Tether, former Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency; the Honorable James Locher, former Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict); and well-known authors Mr. Stephen Flynn and Prof. Bruce Hoffman. Those contributing as panelists include a veritable "who's who" from the national security community: Jared Cohen, Paul Davis, Peter Feaver, Fawaz Gerges, Brian Jenkins, David Kilcullen, Michael Klare, T.X. Hammes, Michael O'Hanlon, Paul Pillar, Brad Roberts, Marc Sageman, and Jeffrey White, among others.

Another important feature of the symposia has been the preparation and publication of formal proceedings to document the results and make them available to the

analysis, and technology in countering such threats. The symposia also enhanced and leveraged APL's connection with SAIS and other analysis and research organizations; demonstrated APL's interest and expertise to potential sponsors; and provided a means to educate APL staff on the nature and importance of URW. Succinctly stated, the symposia enhanced our ability to provide critical contributions to critical URW challenges.



**Figure 3.** The symposium proceedings are a valuable resource for the national security community.

For further information on the work reported here, see the references below or contact [ronald.luman@jhuapl.edu](mailto:ronald.luman@jhuapl.edu).

<sup>1</sup>Luman, R. R. (ed.), 2009 *Unrestricted Warfare Symposium: Proceedings on Interagency Action for Attacks Involving: Terrorism, Resources, Economics, Cyberspace*, JHU/APL, Laurel, MD, [http://www.jhuapl.edu/urw\\_symposium/Proceedings/2009/Book/2009URWBook.pdf](http://www.jhuapl.edu/urw_symposium/Proceedings/2009/Book/2009URWBook.pdf) (2009).

<sup>2</sup>Luman, R. R. (ed.), 2008 *Unrestricted Warfare Symposium: Proceedings on Integrating Strategy, Analysis, and Technology in Support of the U.S. War on Terrorism Campaign*, JHU/APL, Laurel, MD, [http://www.jhuapl.edu/urw\\_symposium/Proceedings/2008/chapters/URW2008Book.pdf](http://www.jhuapl.edu/urw_symposium/Proceedings/2008/chapters/URW2008Book.pdf) (2008).

<sup>3</sup>Luman, R. R. (ed.), 2007 *Unrestricted Warfare Symposium: Proceedings on Strategy, Analysis, and Technology*, JHU/APL, Laurel, MD, [http://www.jhuapl.edu/urw\\_symposium/Proceedings/2007/chapters/URW2007Book.pdf](http://www.jhuapl.edu/urw_symposium/Proceedings/2007/chapters/URW2007Book.pdf) (2007).

<sup>4</sup>Luman, R. R. (ed.), 2006 *Unrestricted Warfare Symposium: Proceedings on Strategy, Analysis, and Technology*, JHU/APL, Laurel, MD, [http://www.jhuapl.edu/urw\\_symposium/previous/2006/pages/Proceedings/2006\\_URW\\_Book\\_Full.pdf](http://www.jhuapl.edu/urw_symposium/previous/2006/pages/Proceedings/2006_URW_Book_Full.pdf) (2006).