



Reply to  
Attention of

**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL  
MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA 93943**

14 DECEMBER 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR NPS Wargaming Applications

SUBJECT: ISIL Foreign Fighter Wargame

1. Purpose. Identify the optimal SOCOM courses of action to disrupt the factors that enable the recruitment, radicalization, and mobilization of foreign fighters in support of ISIL.
2. Background. Currently, ISIL is attempting to maintain and grow their organizational structure. However, ISIL has limited capabilities to develop fighters internally and must recruit support from external locations. To recruit these fighters, ISIL must identify potential candidates, coordinate transportation and funding to move the candidates, conduct training, and employ the recruits as fighters. Once the fighters have gained experience in the conflict zone, the recruits can return to their country of origin to support further recruiting or to conduct acts of terrorism. A number of organizations are seeking options to counter the sustainment and growth of ISIL. These mechanisms range from educating the youth of their respective areas to attacking ISIL using every element of national power.
3. Analysis Purpose. The wargame design explores a number of options to counter the ISIL foreign fighter flow. The wargame identifies options that exist both within and outside of current authorities. Ultimately, the wargame is seeking to answer what the best utilization of capabilities is, and what points of cooperation may better facilitate this utilization.
4. Analysis Methods. A seminar wargame allows for a structured discussion between experts in several fields to elicit opinions and judgments to explore alternative courses of action within a given scenario.
5. Analysis Findings. From a whole of government approach, there is no consistent guidance or function concerning actions against foreign fighters. ISIL continues to study and monitor US and our partner's actions and reactions as much as we study ISIL. Based off a single iteration the following recommendations are drawn: increase unity of command and effort at the international, national, and local level; increase emphasis on SOCOM's LNO structure; development of a competitive narrative over a counter narrative, mirror ISIL's structure, flexibility, and responsiveness; further exploration into Article 1, section 8, Letters of Marque and Reprisal, in order to increase options and remain competitive; and reexamine the process of reintegration.