Dear Friends of the Krulak Center,

It's good to be back at MCU! I returned from my deployment with CJTF-HOA a few weeks ago and am happy to report that the Joint Force and Interagency continue to do extraordinary work in a critically important area of the globe. Meanwhile, back here at the Krulak Center, the work never slowed. As you'll see in the following pages, the team has been busy both in and out of MCU, supporting our organic Schools and Programs, the Joint Force, and our ever-important allies and partners. I'm particularly proud of the work supporting the FMF by our Wargaming Directorate and the CRSS, demonstrating that MCU is more than just PME.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the graduates of our AY 23 Krulak and Reynolds Scholars and Ellis Fellowship programs. All should be very proud for their effort and contributions!

Please take the time to read the section about our BruteCasts. If you don’t follow our channels, you're missing out! Our special “Down the Rabbit Hole” editions on the Russia-Ukraine War have been particularly enlightening (and entertaining) and we were recently privileged to host our CMC to hear his perspectives on his time as our Commandant. Don't miss this very special way to connect with us!

I’m pleased to announce that our staff has some new faces. Mr. Herrick Ross (USMC, ret) joins us as the University’s DEI SME, and Maj Nate “Kiwi” Jaenichen as our new Operations officer. Welcome to you both!

I’m displeased to announce that we are losing some very special team members. Capt Ben Herbold will be leaving us for company command in 2d MarDiv. He has served both us in the KC and the University as the former CG’s aide with his utmost professionalism, creative intellect, and generous spirt. We’ll miss you Ben, and wish you the best of luck!

We’ll also be sending our Operations Officer, Maj Ian Brown, off to join the ranks of retired Marines. He’s been with us for four years, through thick, thin, and COVID. He’s both the “face” and the “voice” of the KC, and his fingerprints are literally on all of our programming. Ian, we'll miss you, your impact, and your unceasing creative drive that made us who we are today. I'm glad you're staying on as a Distinguished Fellow!

Thanks for reading and for your on-going support –

Semper Fi,
Val
#TeamKrulak took outreach to a new level - and in some cases, directly to some very new places - this past year. Whether supporting local educational entities and tenant commands, providing resources to the Fleet Marine Force, or leading parts of the Operating Forces overseas, #TeamKrulak continued to share the good work going on at Marine Corps University with global partners, and bring educational resources from around the world to the students and faculty here at Quantico.

Director of Middle East Studies Dr. Amin Tarzi delivers a lecture to visiting students from the Swedish Defence University in Stockholm.

As deputy commanding general of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, #TeamKrulak director BGen Valerie Jackson poses for a photo with female officers and staff non-commissioned officers of the Zambian Armed Forces.

(Below) Deputy director LtCol Manuel Zepeda welcomes visitors from the Colombian War College.

(Left) Marines of the 10th Marine Regiment review one of Dr. Yuval Weber’s "Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War" podcasts as a PME event.
Marine-option midshipmen from the NROTC program at George Washington University get exposure to educational wargaming with a scenario for the "Littoral Commander" wargame.

Middle East Studies Research Assistant Professor Dr. Christopher Anzalone provides a virtual lecture on the Al-Shabaab militant group to members of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

Operations officer Maj Ian Brown participated in a unique miniatures wargame focused on the Chosin Reservoir campaign. Run by the "Little Wars TV" club, this game was designed to commemorate both the Korean War and Memorial Day, and executed in the atrium of the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Wargaming director Tim Barrick provides an overview of educational wargame programs at Marine Corps University to members of Japan’s Ministry of Defence.
Facilitation of the AY23 Krulak Scholars Program.

Dr. Amin Tarzi

PME
(1) CSC Elective Course: “The State of Israel in Context” (January).
(2) EWS class, “Iranian Maritime Strategies” (January).
(3) Lecture on Iran for Swedish Defence University visit event, Krulak Center (February).
(4) WRNMMC, POMI class, Middle East brief (March).
(5) “Combat College” brief on Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, & Qatar in the Horn of Africa for CJTF-HOA (April).
(6) MCWAR class, “Israel & Middle East Security” (April).
(7) VMR brief on Qatar at Joint Base Andrews (April).

External Talks
(1) Invited participant, Israel Studies Institute teaching workshop in Dallas, TX (January).
(2) Negev Forum Meeting at NDU (June).

Publications
(3) "Controlling the Narrative of the Protest Movement in Iran," The Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University (2 Feb 2023).

Interviews
(1) Interview on Israel with Overt Defense (March)
(2) Interview on the Afghan Taliban's attempt to revive Afghan air fore with RFE/RL (June)
(3) Interview on Iran-Afghanistan water disputes with VOA Pashto (June)
Dr. Christopher Anzalone

PME

(1) 6 pre-deployment briefs on the Horn of Africa's history, security, & political issues for VMGR-252 with CRSS (December).

(2) CSC Elective Course: “The ‘Axis of Resistance’: Understanding Iran’s Allies and Proxies on Their Own Terms” (January).

(3) “Combat College” brief on Somalia, Al-Shabaab, Islamic State, & other violent extremist organizations in the Horn of Africa and southeastern and central Africa (May).

External Talks & Events

(1) International Studies Association Convention 2023 paper presentation in Montreal, Canada (March)

(2) Panel presentation, VOX-Pol, Swansea University workshop, "Evolving Contours of Extremism and P/CVE in Sub-Saharan Africa" (May)

(3) JSOU Working Group on West Africa & the Sahel, "West African Stability: Intellectual Exchange" workshop in Tampa, FL (May)

Publications


(2) “Somalia’s State of Flux: Opportunities and Challenges in the War against Al-Shabaab,” The Caravan (Hoover Institution, Stanford University)


AY23 has been action-packed for #wargaming at MCU. Here's a few highlights!

The Wargaming Directorate has been moving at full-speed to continue to achieve the tasks set forth in the Commandant's Planning Guidance, Training and Education 2030, and more! Since the wargaming cloud came online last fall, MCU has hosted 5 separate wargame tournaments using this technology. The most recent of which, a gauntlet of scenarios from the Napoleonic Era, saw over a dozen teams competing from all around the globe to determine the champion! MCU continues to explore and develop this technology and identify ways to better incorporate wargaming into our resident and non-resident OPME and EPME programs!

As the schools executed their programs, the Wargaming Directorate supported them in multiple exercises throughout the fall and winter, but nothing compared to the excitement that came in April and May! At the end of each AY, our OPME programs execute their final planning exercises, or CAPSTONE events. The Wargaming Directorate had the opportunity to provide significant amounts of direct support to the execution of Angkor Cross for EWS, Pacific Challenge-X for CSC, as well as novel wargaming events for the School of Advanced Warfighting and the Marine Corps War College. These events allowed the entirety of MCU’s resident OPME population to engage in competitive decision-making against their peers while tying together everything they have learned over the last year.
Lastly, we will end this year hosting a convention, **OBJECTIVE 1 @ Modern Day Marine**. From the 27th to the 29th of June, the team will be at the Modern Day Marine Convention facilitating wargames and engaging with individuals to showcase the true value of educational wargaming. If you were there, we hope that you stopped by to say hello and pictures will be forthcoming!

In addition to supporting the programs at MCU directly, our Wargaming Director, Mr. Tim Barrick, continued to spread the good news of wargaming here as he attended countless events and hosted multiple wargames for external audiences. Of note, he ran two separate wargames for the Joint Staff, presented at both **Connections** and **PrezCon**, and partnered with the Warfighting Lab to look at some novel problems and provide recommendations and solutions from the student body at MCU.
CRSS Conducts LREC Outreach to the Fleet - and Beyond  
CRSS has remained gainfully employed over the last several months in executing its mission of providing Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC) programming to the Marine Corps Total Force. In addition to supporting a litany of pre-deployment training support requirements across the Marine Corps, CRSS briefed the Marine Corps Security Cooperation Operational Advisory Group (OAG) in February 2023 and provided iterative culture general awareness training for students at The Basic School (TBS) and the Marine Embassy Security Guard (MSG) School. Additionally, in April 2023, CRSS Director Major John Behrmann served as a guest lecturer for the George Washington University undergraduate course "Leading Change." During a two-hour period, Major Behrmann delivered remarks addressing how the Marine Corps prepares its leaders for the challenges of working in the rapidly changing, intercultural environment of the twenty-first century.

RCSP Block 1A and 1B Refresh Commences  
The last nine months has proven to be a gainful period for the long-term refresh of the MarineNet based Regional and Culture Studies Program (RCSP). Refresh work commenced in October 2022 to expand the existing curriculum into a shared Navy-Marine Corps enterprise accessible to all Marines and Sailors on both the MarineNet and the Navy eLearning portal. Updates to the first two RCSP blocks (1A and 1B) are rapidly nearing completion and are projected to be available on MarineNet by late Fall 2023. Additionally, funding for Fiscal Year 2024 updates to the third RCP block (2A) has already been secured via collaboration between the Navy and Marine Corps Senior Language Authorities (SLAs).
In my first ten months at the Krulak Center as the Women, Peace and Security Subject Matter Expert, I have been engaged in many varied and interesting activities as I work with the Marine Corps to fully implement the Department of Defense's objectives surrounding the WPS Act of 2017. One of the primary foci of my work is to write curriculum to introduce the Marine Corps to the tenets of WPS and help them to consider how to fully integrate the DoD's WPS Lines of Efforts. During this time, I have designed curriculum for two MarineNet courses, one for officers and one for senior executives. I also created WPS Roadshows to better facilitate WPS knowledge throughout the Marine Corps. Further afield, in April, I attended the U.S. Naval War College's annual WPS conference, which enabled me to network with other practitioners and academics working to bolster efforts in the WPS sphere. Returning to MCU, I helped support and advise student Gender Advisors during the Pacific Challenge exercise, which was held in May of this year.

Looking ahead to the summer months, I will be part of an MCU delegation traveling to Vicenza, Italy in June to attend the NATO: Human Security conference. In that same month, I will be working with Herrick Ross, DE&I Expert, to bring greater awareness to WPS and DE&I at the Modern Marine Expo. Through the summer, I will also be joining members of the Rand team to observe and make recommendations about individual and collective training at MCRD San Diego and Parris Island.

Mr. Herrick Ross has joined the team as the Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DE&I) SME - see his full bio below! The DE&I SME will prepare and deliver instruction to all levels of Professional Military (PME) across the training and education continuum at all MCU campuses. This includes offering an elective for the Command and Staff College resident program attendees and the College of Distance Education and Training (CDET) electives program. The DE&I SME will work closely with the MCU Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA), school directors, and academic deans, to integrate the study of multi-cultural history into the resident and distance PME curricula, in keeping with current DoD and CJCS requirements. The DE&I SME will consult with the History Division, and with MCU staff to ensure curricula are consistent with Marine Corps policy and procedures.
Scholars Programs

We had another great academic year for our three scholars programs! Our sincere thanks to all the students, instructors, and mentors who made these programs the rigorous and enjoyable extracurricular courses that they were. See below for the names of the Academic Year 2023-2024 cohorts:

Krulak Scholars

The AY23 Krulak Scholars Program, again facilitated by Middle East Studies (MES), focused this year on "The World Energy Paradigm After Ukraine: Global Perspectives on Strategic Competition," which examined energy and food security and supply chain challenges globally in the aftermath of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Participants came from across MCU’s schools including MCWAR, CSC, EWS, and CDET across service branches as well as an IMS student from Brazil. AY23 also marked the inclusion of our first enlisted service member as a scholar! Its graduates were:

- Maj Corydon Cusack, USMC
- MAJ Brian Johnson, USA
- CDR Adelton Ferreira Dias, Brazilian Navy
- Maj Andrew Coons, USMC
- LtCol Leonardo Andrew Tongko, USAF
- MAJ Richard Garcia, USA
- CPT Jacob Fangmann, USA
- Maj Azriel Peskowitz, USMCR
- GySgt Jeremy Kofsky, USMC
- Capt Lonnie Carraway, USMC
- Capt James Cimino, USMC
- CWO2 Joseph Moreira, USMC
- Capt Candance Valentine, USMC
- CPT Jacqueline Page, USA

The AY24 Krulak Scholars Program, which will also be facilitated by MES, will focus on the theme, "Africa in a Multipolar World: Survey of Regional and International Security Issues and Challenges." The application process will open this summer so keep an eye out for when it opens!

Ellis Fellowship

The Lieutenant Colonel Earl Hancock "Pete" Ellis Fellowship for Military Transformation included 15 resident and non-resident MCU students from Command and Staff College and Expeditionary Warfare School. Given the wide geographic distribution of students, the fellows met virtually on a monthly basis to discuss major drivers of military organizational change while considering ongoing developments with Force Design 2030. Through a series of guest lecturers and moderated online discussion, the fellows explored two general ideas: 1) asymmetric advantage in warfare and 2) the characteristics that enabled smaller armies to defeat larger ones.

This year’s program leadership included the Director, LtCol Adam Yang, PhD from the Plans, Policies & Operations directorate of HQMC and three experienced mentors: Dr. Eric Shibuya, Professor of Strategic Studies from Marine Corps Command and Staff College; Dr. Heather Venable, Professor of Strategy, Air Command and Staff College, Air University; and Colonel Daniel Sukman, US Army, Chief of the Strategy Development Division, Joint Staff J-5.

Guest speakers included: Lieutenant Colonel Hugh “Buck” Gardenier, US Air Force (Air Command and Staff College, Air University); Dr. Benjamin Jensen (School of Advanced Warfare, Marine Corps University); naval historian Trent Hone (author of Learning War and Mastering the Art of Command), and Colonel Mark Cancian (Center for Strategic and International Studies).
The Reynolds Scholars Program aims to advance the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) effort in professional military education. WPS acknowledges that women account for the majority of individuals adversely affected by today’s armed conflicts, and it affirms the critical role women play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and peace-building. The scholars met monthly to participate in discussions with military and academic WPS subject matter experts, to include LtGen (ret) Lori Reynolds herself, to better understand the history of WPS, its current application both in the US and throughout the world, and how WPS could be a stimulus for changing the way we think. In addition to these discussions and the opportunity to present their research presentations to MCU leadership, the scholars also had the opportunity to travel to and participate in the WPS Symposium at the Naval War College.

This year’s graduates from the Reynolds Scholars Program were:
- CDR Annelies Wesstra, Netherlands Navy
- Maj Joshua Williams, USAF
- Maj Jessica Kaster, USMC
- Maj Casey Jenkins, USMC
- Maj Susan Harrington, USAF
- Maj Aaron Sayers, USMC
- Maj Tara Sutcliffe, USMC
- Maj Katherine Hirschler, USAF
- Maj Elizabeth Gallagher, USAF
- Maj Carrie Dumlao, USAF
- Rebecca Brown, Department of State

The graduates from this year’s Ellis Fellowship for Military Transformation were:
- Maj Jarrod Dlugos, USMC
- Maj Stephen Greenberg, USMC
- Maj Jonathan Strawn, USMC
- Maj Michael Bebow, USMC
- Maj Nicholas Verta, USMC
- Capt Ross Ochs, USMC
- Capt Garrett Boyce, USMC
- Maj Jonathan Schillo, USMC
- Capt Walker Mills, USMC
- MAJ Matthew Scott, Australian Army
- Capt Matthew Swan, USMCR

Women, Peace & Security Writing Award Winners Recognized at Annual MCU Award Ceremony
With the generous support of the National Naval Officers Association, the following 3 student papers were recognized at the 5 June MCU Awards Ceremony:

1st Place: “Operational Gender Analysis: Iran” by Maj Melissa Blyleven (CSC)

2nd Place: "Democratic Republic of the Congo, the "Rape Capitol of the World": Implications for U.S. Africa Command’ by  Maj Lauren Serrano (SAW)

3rd Place: "Challenges of the Female Integration in US Combat Forces" by Maj Carrie Dumlao (CSC)
Well, it's finally happened - between the end of season 5 and the run of season 6 of the #BruteCast, and not to mention our special "Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War" series with Dr. Yuval Weber, we've run out of room to list all our episodes here. But that's a good problem to have! In the intervening months, we've surpassed 130K views on our YouTube channel, 91K listens for the podcast edition, and got to celebrate our 100th #BruteCast episode. It's been a darn good run for a project that began as an emergency COVID contingency, and we look forward to Maj Janichaen continuing the #BruteCast legacy as its new host!

So while we can't listen all the episodes we've done since the last newsletter, below are our top 10 YouTube and podcast episodes in that time (depending on your preferred method of consumption):

**Top 10 YouTube Episodes**

1) Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War #35–Bakhmut  
2) Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War #37 – ISIS With Snow, And Intel Discord and Dismay  
3) Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War #38–Dangerous Amateurs and Lebensraum  
4) Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War #27 – What Air Defense Doing?  
5) Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War #33–One Year of War  
6) Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War #28–New Year, Old War  
7) 1stLt Kayla Haas, "Whiteboard Wisdom: Finding the Essence of the Complex"  
8) Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War #30–Dnipro and Looming Offensives  
9) Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War #24–You Do Not Understand Russia With Your Mind  
10) Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War #31– Tanks A Lot

**Top 10 Podcast Episodes**

1) Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War #24–You Do Not Understand Russia With Your Mind  
2) Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War #32 - The Little Offensive That Couldn't  
3) Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War #40 - Hypersonic Treason & Russians Invade Russia  
4) Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War #37 – ISIS With Snow, And An Intel Tale Full of Discord and Dismay  
5) Matthew Cancian and Dan Rice, “Next War, First Battle: Wargaming Taiwan”  
6) Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War #33 - One Year of War  
7) Matthew Ford and Andrew Hoskins, "Radical War in Ukraine"  
8) Dan Rice, "So - What's China Been Up To?"  
9) Down the Rabbit Hole on the Russia-Ukraine War #30–Dnipro and Looming Offensives  
10) Dr. Yuval Weber and Dan Rice, "A Meeting of 'Dear Friends': Xi's Visit to Moscow"
Congratulations

The Krulak Center would like to extend a special congratulations to those MCU students who received the Krulak Center Award for Innovation for Academic Year 2023. This award is presented to those students who best embody the spirit and creativity of LtGen Victor "Brute" Krulak. These students continually challenged instructors as well as their fellow students with their "outside the box" thinking and consistently presented novel, imaginative, and unique contributions to class discussions, planning exercises, and writing assignments.

EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE SCHOOL
Capt Noah Andersen, USMC

COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE
Major Stephen Greenberg, USMC

SCHOOL OF ADVANCED WARFIGHTING
Major Louis Kalmar, USMC

MARINE CORPS WAR COLLEGE
Colonel Andrew Kellner, USMC
Mr. Herrick Ross joins the Krulak Center as the Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI) Subject Matter Expert (SME). A retired Marine and a graduate of Liberty University with a Masters in Business Administration, Herrick brings with him experiences in changing long-held organizational paradigms within a myriad of companies looking to be more inclusive. His background working for corporate America, shaping the culture and unique needs for inclusion and access of marginalized ethnic, religious and sexual identities, persons with disabilities and those who hold multiple intersecting identities, lends itself well to the work of the Krulak Center re-imagining the future force. The emerging concepts of how societal changes with regards to inclusion can be best adapted for the Marine Corps culture and warfighting success begins with recognition, representation, and education. Herrick weaves together intellectual and emotional research and storytelling to help an increasingly divided world question old assumptions while embracing new ideas and perspectives.

Major Nate "Kiwi" Jaenichen is coming to the Krulak Center from the MAGTF Staff Training Program, where he was the Aviation and Wargaming SME, to take over duties as the Operations Officer from Major Ian Brown. He started his career as a CH-46E pilot stationed in Okinawa with HMM-265 doing multiple 31st MEU deployments and graduated from the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course. He then transitioned to the UH-1Y and served with HMLA-469, HMLA-169 (where he deployed with VMM-161(REIN) on the 15th MEU), and was a part of the reestablishment of HMLA-775. Within the squadron, Maj Jaenichen shared his time between Operations and Maintenance. Prior to MSTP he was a student at the Army's Command and General Staff College. He has a BS in History from the Naval Academy and a MS in Data Analytics from the University of Maryland. He enjoys gaming of all types (especially board games), hockey, Formula 1, recently started woodworking, and is a Docent at the Marine Corps Museum. Maj Jaenichen is married and they have a high school sophomore.
Farewell

It is with a combination of joy and sadness that we bid 'adieu' to the cornerstone of our center, our Operations Officer Major Ian Brown. Without you, there is no way this center would have blossomed into its current state over the past 4 years. Your indefatigable work ethic, tireless imagination, and profound dedication to duty have had no comparison. From the generation of graphic novels to the development of the University’s Wargaming Master Plan; from hosting hundreds of visits to making thousands of posts on social media; from having your book added to the Commandant’s Reading List to interviewing the Commandant himself as your last #BruteCast guest in person - your breadth and depth of work has been unparalleled. As your service concludes and you move on to the next chapter of your life, those of us that are a part of the #TeamKrulak community will forever be grateful for who you are as a man and a Marine. To say that we have had the privilege of standing on the shoulders of giants would be a disservice to describe the immensity of what you have accomplished over the past 4 years. Best of luck to you and your family and fair winds and following seas! Semper Fidelis, Ian.

The Krulak Center would like to wish our outgoing Tech IO Capt Ben Herbold a fond farewell as he heads back to the fleet in Camp Lejeune. During his time here, Capt Herbold also wore the hat as aide-de-camp for the command, as well as Mr. Tim Barrick’s Deputy for Wargaming over the course of the past Academic Year. Thank you for everything you have contributed to the Center and to the command over the past three years and best of luck as you move on to your next assignment. Fair winds and following seas!

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