

NDIA-SO/LIC 21 Jan 2016



# IW and ISIS: Why Aren't We Winning?

### Dr Sebastian Gorka

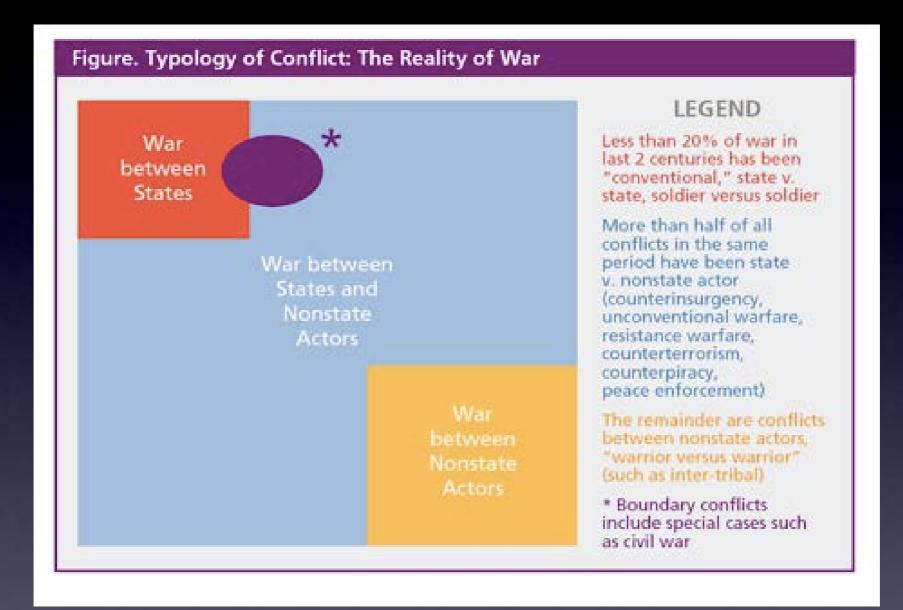
Major General Horner Distinguished Chair of Military Theory MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY

Chairman TUDEAT KNOWI EDCE CDOUD

# Future War?



# Irregular War is War



Gorka and Kilcullen: "An Actor-Centric Theory of War," Joint Forces Quarterly, No. 60, 2011





### The Islamic State and Information Warfare:

Defeating ISIS and the Broader Global Jihadist Movement

ThreatKnowledgeGroup Special Report



### Why ISIS is much worse than Al Qaeda ever was

- It is a fully-fledged TRANSCONTINENTAL insurgency not just a terrorist group like AQ
- It is the richest non-state threat group in modern history
- It has recruited 25,000+ foreign fighters in just months
- It has declared Caliphate after 90 years absence



# Al Shaam: The Power of a Name



### IW the Right Way: Al Qaeda versus the Islamic State



### **Focoist Insurgency**

(Che Guevara, Top-down)



versus



### **Maoist Insurgency**

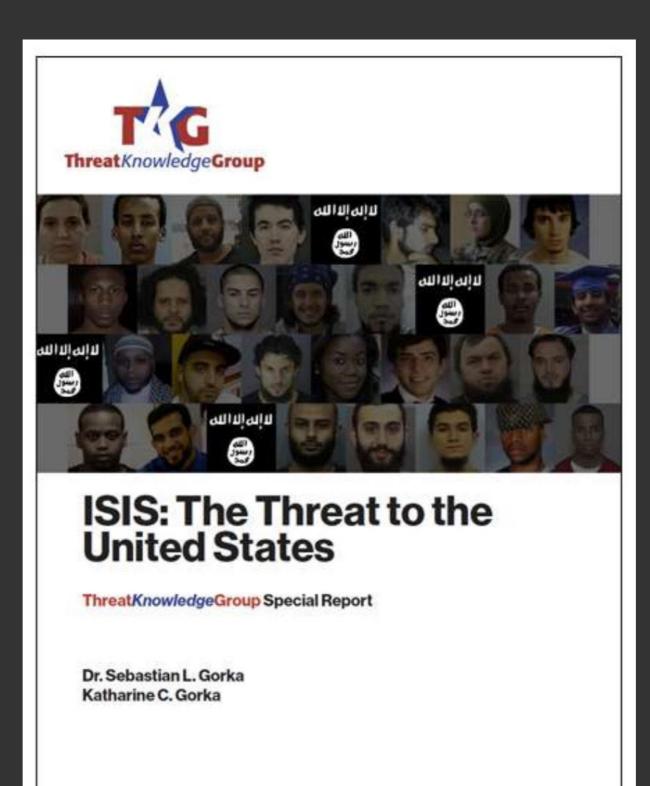
(Ground up, "People's War"



## IS & Religious Genocide



## The Domestic ISIS Threat





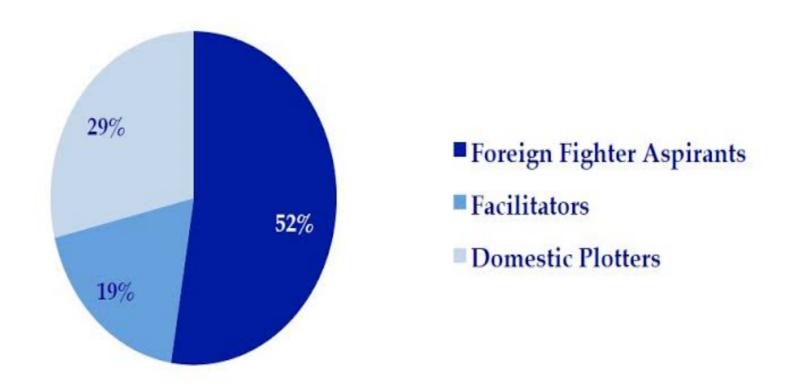
# This isn't just about Far Away AORs

#### U.S. CITIZENS & LEGAL NON-CITIZENS CHARGED WITH CRIMES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISLAMIC STATE IN 2015





# ISIS Arrests in US as of June 2015



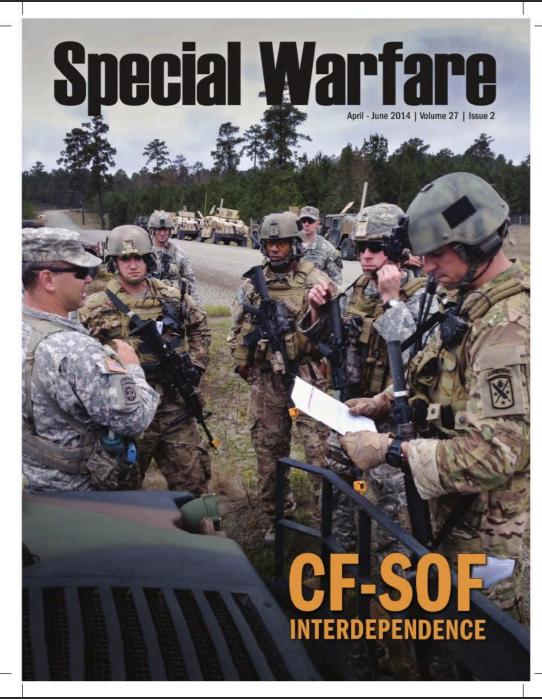
#### FOREIGN FIGHTER ASPIRANTS: EFFORTS TO JOIN ISIS

Credit: The Center of National Security at Fordham Law, "By the Numbers: ISIS Cases in the United States

**30%** of arrests so far have been ISIS supporters who believed they **could best serve the cause by carrying out attacks within the United States** 



## GOING DEEPER



### Fighting the Ideological War

Winning Strategies from Communism to Islamism

#### CONTRIBUTORS

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<u>http://www.scribd.com/doc/226130324/Understanding-</u> <u>the-Enemy-by-Dr-Sebastian-L-Gorka</u>



# So What?



1. ISIS has been far more successful that AQSL for identifiable reasons:

- its correct understanding of Irregular Warfare

- the effective exploitation of its highly resonant ideology (ETD)

2. The Enemy is motivated by a religious narrative

3. Self-Censoring the above truths endangers our warfighters and will prolong the war.

4. Your dilemma: i) SOF is the world's best at DA.
ii) DA will not win this war
iii) Washington <u>DOES NOT</u> understand

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# RELEVANT SITES:

### www.TheGorkaBriefing.com



### www.ThreatKnowledge.org



### www.CouncilOnGlobalSecurity.org