

Future of War Part I: Raiders at the Edge of Tomorrow

Description

Episode 135 of the *Irregular Warfare Podcast* kicks off a four-part series on the future of war, pairing renowned author and futurist [August Cole](#) with senior special operations leaders to explore how tomorrow's conflicts may unfold.

Our conversation centers on Cole's short story [Safe Harbor II](#), which envisions Marine Raiders operating in a near-future environment saturated with proxy terrorism, relentless information warfare, and AI-enabled surveillance. The story highlights how SOF teams will grapple with great-power adversaries who weaponize terrorist groups to justify intervention, forcing small units to fight not only for tactical advantage but also to control the strategic narrative.

Joining us for this episode is [Major General Peter Huntley](#), Commander of Marine Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC). Together with August Cole, MajGen Huntley discusses how MARSOC is adapting to new technologies, why trust with partners remains a timeless necessity, and what qualities will continue to define Raiders in the decades ahead. The discussion underscores that while future operators will be hyper-enabled with drones, sensors, and advanced AI, the human dimension of warfare—trust, adaptability, and leadership—remains constant.

At the conclusion of the episode, listeners will hear a narrated excerpt from *Safe Harbor II*, immersing them in the dilemmas Marine Raiders may face in the conflicts of 2040.

[Ben Jebb](#) and [Don Edwards](#) are the hosts for this episode. Please reach out to Ben and Don with any questions about this episode or the *Irregular Warfare Podcast*.

The *Irregular Warfare Podcast* is a production of the [Irregular Warfare Initiative](#) (IWI). We are a team of volunteers dedicated to bridging the gap between scholars and practitioners in the field of irregular warfare. IWI generates written and audio content, coordinates events for the IW community, and hosts critical thinkers in the field of irregular warfare as IWI fellows. You can follow and engage with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

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