

Secret Wars: Covert Action and Irregular Warfare

Description

In Episode 100 of the Irregular Warfare Podcast, we delve into the world of covert operations.

Our guests begin by defining covert and clandestine operations, shedding light on their intricacies and historical significance. They then discuss the complexities of clandestine activities, and address the difficulties associated with translating irregular warfare and covert operations into tangible policies.

During his distinguished 38-year career on Active Duty, [Lieutenant General \(Ret.\) Michael K. Nagata](#) spent 34 years in Army Special Forces. His tenure culminated in serving as the Director of Strategic Operational Planning for the National Counterterrorism Center from 2016 to 2019. Throughout his career, LTG Nagata held various command and staff positions, including a significant role in a Special Mission Unit from 1990 to 2000, and he commanded the Army's Special Forces Qualification Course. He has also led multiple Joint Special Operations Forces (SOF) task forces and contributed to the Intelligence Community in Washington, D.C., serving as a Military Deputy for Counterterrorism.

Currently, Lieutenant General Nagata leverages his extensive expertise as a Strategic Advisor & Senior Vice President for CACI International Inc. He also owns and operates Hanada Bridge, LLC, further contributing to his legacy of service and leadership

[Austin Carson](#) is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago. His research addresses the role of secrecy and intelligence in International Relations theory, international conflict, and global governance. He has published articles in International Organization, American Journal of Political Science, Security Studies, and other venues. His books and articles have won numerous awards including the Lepgold Prize for Book of the Year, the Robert O. Keohane Award, ISA's Best Security Article Award, and the Best Book Award from APSA's International Collaboration section. He is the author of two books: [*Secrets in Global Governance: Disclosure Dilemmas and the Challenge of International Cooperation*](#) and [*Secret Wars: Covert Conflict in International Politics*](#) which serves as the basis of our discussion today.

[Matthew Moellering](#) and [Frank Struzinski](#) are the hosts for this episode. Please reach out to Matt and Frank 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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