

Welcome to IRSEM's newsletter !

Foreword by Benoît Rademacher

IRSEM's Deputy Director



As the newly appointed Deputy Director of IRSEM, I am very pleased to introduce this third newsletter, which will give you an overview of our Institute's latest news and activities.

Following the Summer Break, September is usually a time for change, favorable to the emergence and the implementation of new ideas and projects. It is also the time for welcoming new colleagues.

Hence, IRSEM is very proud to welcome five prominent researchers, including two Heads of research departments: Dr Colonel Stéphane Faudais and Dr. Elyamine Settoul as new heads of the "Strategy, Norms and Doctrines" and "Defense and Society" departments, respectively. Dr. Maxim Launay, who specialises in civil-military relations, and Dr Captain Yves Auffret, a cyberspace expert also joined the team and will reinforce our research capabilities on these major topics. Finally, IRSEM is very pleased to welcome Dr Oberregierungsrätin Leonie Belk, a lawyer from the German Ministry of Defence, as part of an exchange program with Germany.

I would like to emphasize here the growing role of IRSEM on the international stage through a strengthening and development of interactions with foreign counterparts - institutes and think tanks, experts and researchers.

Among other noteworthy examples, I am happy to hail the visit of an IRSEM delegation to Washington D.C. as part of the first IRSEM-CISA (*College of International Security Affairs*) Symposium. In the same vein, IRSEM Director, Marjorie Vanbaelinghem, took part in the Security Dialogue between France and Mongolia during a journey in Ulaanbatar organised by the French Ministry of the Armed forces.

International development also takes place in Paris with the visit of outstanding scholars coming from abroad. Visiting fellows play a critical role in fueling and enriching IRSEM's scientific activities by sharing with us their precious knowledge and know-how. As an example, Pr, Wooyeal Paik, from Yonsei University, South Korea, had an in-depth talk at IRSEM in September on the « NATO-AP4-Korea relations in flux ».

I hope that you will enjoy reading this newsletter and continue connecting with us during the whole academic year !

International development



12 September : Visit of representatives from Charles University (Prague) and Paris-Panthéon-Assas

On Sept 12th, 2023, IRSEM welcomed a mixed delegation composed of representatives from Charles University (Prague) and Paris-Panthéon-Assas (PPA) of which IRSEM is a partner institute. Last

summer, PPA joined the Alliance 4EU+ [...]

[Read the full article online](#)

19-21 September: NESSI's annual conference in Germany

NESSI's (*Network of European Strategic Studies Institutions*) annual conference was held in Hamburg. It brings together 16 European strategic research institutes - closely linked or belonging to their countries' defense institutions. Created at the initiative of IRSEM in 2021 in [...]



[Read the full article online](#)

Life at IRSEM : What's new

Col Faudais becomes the new head of the "Strategy, norms and doctrines" department

Stéphane Faudais is a Colonel in the French Army. He also holds a PhD in history. His research focuses on revolutionary battle tactics, 19th-century history, and the French Second Empire. His previous positions include Director of Foresight at the Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan Military Academy; Chair of Tactics and Military History in the French Army; and Director of the History, Geopolitics and Strategy Department at the École de guerre.



Dr Elyamine Settoul was appointed Head of the "Defense and society" department



Dr. Settoul's esteemed career includes experiences at Oxford University, Sciences Po Paris and the European University Institute in Florence. His work is centered on ethnicity, immigration, prejudice, military sociology, and the MENA region.

He has published numerous articles on military sociology and co-edited two books in 2022, including *Radicalization in Theory and Practice: Understanding Religious Violence in Western Europe* (Michigan University Press)

IRSEM welcomes Dr Maxime Launay and Captain Yves Auffret



Maxime Launay is a researcher at IRSEM in the "Defense and Society" team, he holds a PhD in Contemporary History. His research focuses on Civil-Military Relations in France and he is currently working on a new history of military service.

Captain Yves Auffret holds a PhD in Political Science from the Université de Rennes 1. He joined IRSEM as a researcher on issues related to cyberspace. He is also currently the scientific coordinator of the ANR ASTRID CIGAIA project.



Visiting fellows



Leonie Belk joins IRSEM as part of an exchange program with the German Ministry of Defence

Oberregierungsrätin Leonie Belk is a lawyer and legal advisor working on sociological, political and legal issues related to anti-democratic tendencies, radicalisation and extremism in the army. She has previously worked as a lawyer at the Bundeswehr and as a legal advisor to company commanders in the 10 Panzerdivision.

Events and publications

Latest publications



Strategic Brief - US Withdrawal and European Strategic Autonomy

by Kyle Haynes, 2p.

With Russia's military being decimated in Ukraine, and East Asia becoming the United States' most important regional commitment, the US is likely to shift significant military resources away from Europe. This will create unprecedented opportunities for European strategic autonomy in [...]

[Read the full strategic brief](#)



Strategic Brief - Another election, another cabinet : Will Kuwait correct its course ?

by Clemens Chay, 2p.

The perennial question about Kuwaiti politics is one of domestic stability. Specifically, resolving the cabinet-parliament deadlock is high on the agenda. The 6 June 2023 legislative elections [...]

[Read the full strategic brief](#)



Research paper - The use of reservists in the ukrainian conflict

by **Lieutenant-Colonel Pierre Lemerrier and Major Louis-Marie Régnier, 20p.**

Military lessons of the war in Ukraine are numerous and of great interest to Western armies. They affect all areas of conflict and are diverse and varied. Against this backdrop, this article looks in particular at the use of reservists by the two belligerents and seeks to [...]

[Read the research paper](#)

Research paper - The agreement to normalize Saudi-Iranian diplomatic relations was signed in Beijing : mixed perspectives



by **Fatiha Dazi-Héni, PhD; Carine Pina, PhD; Wendy Ramadan-Alban, PhD, 21p.**

On March 10, 2023, Saudi Arabia and Iran announced that they had signed an agreement to resume their diplomatic relations. This agreement was concluded under the aegis of China – a resounding event that is bound to trigger a variety of political and economic upheavals in a strategic region that holds 40% of the [...]

[Read the research paper](#)



Research paper - Nato and the war in Ukraine : limited role but reinforced legitimacy ?

by **Dr Amélie Zima, 11p.**

This analysis proposes a new reading of NATO's role, based on what appears to be a paradox: while the Alliance is playing a very limited role in this war, its attractiveness and legitimacy have been greatly enhanced since the outbreak of war in February 2022. [...]

[Read the research paper](#)



Strategic Brief - Strengthening military cooperation between Singapore and China : What is at stake for the city-state ?

by **Dr. Carine Pina, 2 p.**

On March 25, Vladimir Putin stated that Russia intended to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, specifying that a special repository would be completed by July 1. For the time being, the issue of the transfer of nuclear warheads has not [...]

[Read the full strategic brief](#)



Strategic Brief - Russia's nuclear blackmail : mere strategic intimidation?

by **Dr. Céline Marangé, 2 p.**

At the start of the invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the Russian authorities regularly voiced threats of nuclear escalation. These threats had initially subsided, before vehemently resurfacing in June 2023. While they are used as a [...]

[Read the full strategic brief](#)

Events



Replay - 7 September : Conference "NATO-AP4-Korea relations in flux"

IRSEM was delighted to host its first conference of the new academic year on September 7 with Wooyeal Paik's presentation of "NATO-AP4-Korea relations in flux". IRSEM Director, Marjorie Vanbaelinghem, and IFRI researcher Celine Pajon acted as moderator and discussant respectively.

[Watch the replay](#)

Interactions with foreign centers and researchers



19-21 September : IRSEM Director Marjorie Vanbaelinghem's visit to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

From September 18th to 22nd, IRSEM's Director Marjorie Vanbaelinghem went to Mongolia, where she took part in the Security Dialogue between France and Mongolia, organized by the Institute for Strategic Studies (ISS) [...]

[Read the full article](#)



18-22 September : IRSEM - College of International Security Affairs Symposium

As part of the partnership between the two research organizations established in 2022, the first IRSEM-CISA Symposium was held over three days at the National Defense University in Washington. [...]

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