



# **GREAT POWER COMPETITION FORUM**

**COMPOUND SECURITY THREATS**

**4-6 NOVEMBER**



**JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIVERSITY  
MACDILL AFB, TAMPA, FL**



# **GREAT POWER COMPETITION FORUM**

**COMPOUND SECURITY THREATS**



**VIRTUAL FORUM**

**JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIVERSITY  
MACDILL AFB, TAMPA, FL**

## **The JSOU Great Power Competition Quarterly Forum: Understanding SOF's Role against the Compound Security Threat**

Based on the 2018 National Defense Strategy, Great Power Competition (GPC) is the emerging focus for the US Defense Department (DoD) and American strategic engagement. The challenge of GPC, in providing a renewed focus on long-term competition with other global powers, while also sustaining the appropriate American interests in the Middle East, challenges many aspects of the current DoD defense posture, and the strategic requirements for sustaining American global primacy for the foreseeable future. As the DoD explores the nature of GPC, the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) must likewise explore similar roles for how Special Operations across the joint environment will support the GPC strategy and mitigate many of the challenges of the emerging compound security dilemma. Hence, the penultimate question –*what is (will need to be) SOF's utility in a 'return' to GPC?* – a foundation of this Forum, and those to follow; and the ultimate question being nothing less than, *and how and why, for the Nation, both in terms of our country's 'national' interests as well as the United States' global roles as a leading great power?*

To expand the advantage of the Joint Special Operations Force's (JSOF) role in GPC, the Joint Special Operations University (JSOU), as a centerpiece for advancing SOF knowledge and expanding SOF critical thinking, has engaged senior-leaders, stakeholders, and enablers across the JSOF environment for active participation in an upcoming GPC forum. This forum provides a necessary forum to explore concepts related to the JSOF role in GPC and to challenge the current assumptions of the GPC environment to explore emerging opportunities for maximizing JSOF's role as a critical part of the DoD's broad strategic intent. The GPC forum is intended to be a recurring quarterly venue for optimizing the integration of key JSOF leaders, enablers, and scholars to review GPC strategic options and emerging concepts and share information across JSOF formations. The quarterly GPC forum outputs will provide the immediate and necessary feedback for understanding the JSOF involvement in GPC as part of an emerging compound security dilemma as a “running net estimate” of JSOF strategic roles and capabilities.

The quarterly GPC Forums will combine the strategic insight and experience of senior-leaders from our strategic, operational, and tactical JSOF formations with the theoretical, analytic, and emerging research perspectives of top scholars from across the DoD. Key topics for the upcoming November 2020 GPC forum include discussion panels exploring the geostrategic nature of the GPC environment as being distinct from, as well as possibly similar with, many assumptions from the Cold War. Furthermore, the upcoming GPC forum will explore the role that Westphalian state actors and non-state and sub-state actors play as both adversaries and partners in the compound security environment. The forthcoming forum will explore the emerging challenges to the current global order to better understand the myriad strategic intents of partner forces and adversaries as part of a broad network of international actors. The forum will also analyze varying approaches for gaining “intellectual overmatch” in GPC and understanding how emerging complexity and subsequent paradigm shifts will challenge the global strategic future. Lastly, the upcoming GPC forum will allow senior leaders, scholars, and stakeholders to *apply* the newly uncovered knowledge about the GPC environment into the integrated campaign of practice and drive options for future strategic designs, from a combination of thinking-to-know and thinking-to-do innovative design and applied research techniques.

JSOU looks forward to continuing the “Campaign of Learning” for the JSOF formations across all echelons of the SOF enterprise. The upcoming and future GPC Forums and their running forums will provide a great online opportunity to explore new ways to move SOF into the future. JSOU looks forward to your forthcoming and continued participation!



# AGENDA

## Wednesday, Nov. 4

*Forum Host: BG (RET) Russ Howard*  
*Cross Functional Team (CFT) Lead: Dr. Chris Marsh*  
*Forum Manager: MAJ Jacklyn Mott*

TIME	EVENT
0800 - 0805	Welcome/Opening Remarks: <i>BG (Ret) Russ Howard (JSOU)</i>
0805-0825	Great Power Competition Scene Setter: <i>Dr. Nadia Schadlow</i>
0825-0845	Theory of Next and Compound Security: <i>Dr. Isaiah “Ike” Wilson III, JSOU President</i>
0845-0855	Forum Overview: <i>Dr. Chris Marsh (JSOU)</i>

### Considering the Geo-Strategic Context

0855-0900	Introduction of Session and Panelists: <i>BG (Ret) Russ Howard</i>
0900-1000	<p>SESSION 1</p> <p><b>Panel Topic: How is the current geostrategic environment similar to and different from the containment era of the Cold War?</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: BG (Ret) Russ Howard</i> <i>Panelists: Dr. Robert Davis (SAMS), Dr. Nikolas Gvosdev (USNWC), Dr. Shale Horowitz (UWM), Mr. Kelly Hicks (JSOU), Mr. Hal Brands (JHU)</i></p> <p><b>Q1:</b> Why could the Soviet Union be contained?</p> <p><b>Q2:</b> In what ways has China become a center of gravity in the global economy?</p> <p><b>Q3:</b> How does Russia leverage energy dependency as a strategic capability?</p>

1000-1010	Break
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1010-1110	<p>SESSION 2</p> <p><b>Panel Topic: What does a multipolar system mean for international politics?</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: BG (Ret) Russ Howard</i> <i>Panelists: Dr. Marsh (JSOU), Dr. Dawn Murphy (AWC), Dr. Dave Ellis (JSOU)</i></p>
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- Q1:** How might the shifts in relative power be changing the system?
- Q2:** How are global south powers potentially shifting strategic relationships?
- Q3:** How might state regime-types and authoritarian vs. democratic norms be contributing to the new system?

1110-1200

### SESSION 3

#### **Panel Topic: How have global finance and communications qualitatively changed since the Cold War?**

*Moderator: BG (Ret) Russ Howard*

*Panelists: Dr. Karla Mastracchio (JSOU), Mr. Dave Katz (USSOCOM), Mr. Wilson VornDick (JTF-HOA)*

- Q1:** What are the differences in communications capabilities in the 1980s vs. today?
- Q2:** What are China's strengths and vulnerabilities in international finance?
- Q3:** How is the CCP propagating its ICT infrastructure, internet, and telecommunications?

1200-1300

Lunch

#### **SOF GPC through the Operator Lens**

*CMSgt Greg Smith (USSOCOM CSEL), J3I SGMs*

1300-1305

Remarks, Introduction of Session and Panelists:  
*BG (Ret) Russ Howard*

1305-1400

### SESSION 4

#### **Panel Topic: How does a diffusion of power away from the Westphalian system impact GPC?**

*Moderator: BG (Ret) Russ Howard*

*Panelists: Dr. Andrea Jackson (JSOU), Ms. Elsa Kania (CNAS) Dr. Mary Habeck (JHU)*

- Q1:** How did the creation of new states during the Cold War contribute to failed states today?
- Q2:** What is the difference between multinational corporations in the Cold War and global corporations today?
- Q3:** Why do sub-state actors have viability in the current system?

1400-1405

Remarks, Introduction of Session and Presenter:  
*BG (Ret) Russ Howard*

1405-1500

SESSION 5

**Sources of “Great Power” Conduct Analyses (Expert Perspectives)**

**Topic 5a: Strategic Intent of Adversaries: CCP = Cultural Hegemony**

How did the U.S. achieve cultural hegemony?

How is China trying to shift cultural hegemony in its favor?

*Mr. Daniel Wagner*

1500-1515

Break

1515-1520

Remarks, Introduction of Session and Presenter:

*BG (Ret) Russ Howard*

1520-1615

**Topic 5b: Strategic Intent of Adversaries: Kremlin = Homeland Security**

Why does the Kremlin utilize hybrid warfare as a strategic instrument?

How does empowering other disaffected governments assist the Kremlin's strategy?

*Dr. Chris Marsh (JSOU)*

1615-1700

Daily Wrap-up and Introduction of Rapporteurs:

*BG (Ret) Russ Howard*

Rapporteur Storyboard: *TBD (JSOU), Mr. John Duvall (JSOU), Dr. Joe Shiver (JSOU)*

**Thursday, Nov. 5**

TIME	EVENT
0800-0830	Opening Remarks, Recap and Introduction of Morning Events and Options: <i>BG (Ret) Russ Howard</i>
	<b>Achieving “Intellectual Overmatch” – Reconsidering Our Ways of Doing Business</b>
0830-0945	<b>Session 6a: Applied Research Inquiries (ARI) “Look” Diplomatic, Information, Military and Economic (DIME) – Purpose and Critique</b> <b>Q1:</b> Why was DIME created? What is the purpose of DIME as an analytical tool? <b>Q2:</b> Under what circumstances does DIME work well as a theory of action? <b>Q3:</b> Under what circumstances does DIME fail as a theory of action? <i>Facilitator: ARI Team</i> <i>Selected Small group (10 max) in Virtual Breakout rooms</i>

### **Session 6b: Panel Topic [Optional] – diMe or DIeE**

**Q1:** Why was DIME created? What is the purpose of DIME as an analytical tool?

**Q2:** Under what circumstances does DIME work well as a theory of action?

**Q3:** Under what circumstances does DIME fail as a theory of action?

*Moderator: BG (Ret) Russ Howard*

*Panelists: Mr. Peter Belk (USSOCOM), Dr. Tom Searle (USSOCOM), CMSgt Greg Smith (USSOCOM CSEL)*

0945-1000

Break

1005-1200

### **Session 7a: Applied Research Inquiries (ARI) "Look" Infinity Game vs. Joint Planning - Purpose and Critique**

**Q1:** What is the difference between an end-state and a desired future?

**Q2:** Does Clausewitz discuss infinity games?

**Q3:** What are wicked problems when discussing infinity games?

**Q4:** Under what conditions can you plan for wicked problems?

*Facilitator: ARI Team*

*Small group (10 max) in Virtual Breakout Rooms*

### **Session 7b: Panel Topic [Optional] – Infinity Game vs. Joint Planning**

*Sinek Video*

**Q1:** What is the difference between an end-state and a desired future?

**Q2:** Does Clausewitz discuss infinity games?

**Q3:** What are wicked problems when discussing infinity games?

**Q4:** Under what conditions can you plan for wicked problems?

*Moderator: BG (Ret) Russ Howard*

*Panelists: Col Jeremiah Monk (CRIT), Dr. Tom Searle (USSOCOM), Mr. Jim Mis (SOCSOUTH)*

1100-1200

### **Session 8: Panel Topic – Integrated Campaigning**

**Q1:** How is integrated campaigning different from campaign planning?

**Q2:** How can you conduct integrated campaigning in the absence of command and control authority?

**Q3:** How does a multipolar world create opportunities for integrated campaigning?

*Moderator: BG (Ret) RussHoward*

*Panelists: Col Jeremiah Monk (CRIT), Mr. Mark Bynum (DAG), Mr. Peter Belk (USSOCOM)*

1200-1300	<p>Lunch</p> <p><b>SOF-in-GPC USAFRICOM: Background and Regional Update</b></p> <p>What are China's and Russia's respective interest in Africa? What are the "Compound Security Threats" associated with GPC? What are their main activities respectively in Africa? How are the various African countries reacting/ responding? How is the U.S. reacting/responding? How should the U.S. react?</p> <p><i>BG (Ret) Russ Howard</i>  <i>Ms. Margaret Nencheck (SOCAFRICA CAG)</i></p>
1300-1400	<p><b>Session 9: Panel Topic – Statecraft as a Paradigm Shift</b></p> <p><b>Q1:</b> Why was DIME created? What is the purpose of DIME as an analytical tool?</p> <p><b>Q2:</b> Under what circumstances does DIME work well as a theory of action?</p> <p><b>Q3:</b> Under what circumstances does DIME fail as a theory of action?</p> <p><i>Moderator: BG (Ret) Russ Howard</i>  <i>Panelists: Mr. Jim Mis (SOC SOUTH), Dr. Dave Ellis (JSOU), Mr. Charlie Black (JSOU)</i></p>
1400-1500	<p><b>Session 10: Panel Topic – Complexity and Compound Security</b></p> <p><b>Q1:</b> How does modern technology amplify complexity dynamics underlying compound security trends?</p> <p><b>Q2:</b> What is the difference in how authoritarian and democratic governments weather complexity?</p> <p><b>Q3:</b> How can Special Operations take advantage of compound security challenges?</p> <p><i>Moderator: BG (Ret) Russ Howard</i>  <i>Panelists: Dr. Isaiah "Ike" Wilson III (JSOU), Dr. Joseph Long (JSOU), Dr. Andrea Jackson (JSOU)</i></p>
1500 -1515	<p>Break</p>
1515-1520	<p>Remarks and Introduction of Topics and Presenters:  <i>BG (Ret) Russ Howard</i></p> <p>SESSION 11</p> <p><b>Expert Perspectives – The Cooperation-Competition-Conflict (C-C-C) Continuum and SOF's Future Utility</b></p>
1520-1545	<p><b>Topic 11a: SOF's Role in GPC: Compete Now</b>  <i>Dr. Joseph Long (JSOU)</i>  <i>Mr. Charlie Black (JSOU)</i></p>

1545-1615	<b>Topic 11b: SOF's Role in GPC: Prepare to Transition to Conflict</b> <i>MCPO Brad Rhinelanders (JSOU)</i>
1615-1700	Daily Wrap-up: <i>BG (Ret) Russ Howard</i> Rapporteur Storyboard: <i>TBD (JSOU), Mr. John Duvall (JSOU), Dr. Joe Shiver (JSOU)</i>

## Friday, Nov. 6

TIME	EVENT
0800-0810	Recap and Senator Introduction: <i>BG (Ret) Russ Howard</i>
0810-0910	KeynoteAddress: <i>Senator Jack Reed</i>
0910 -0925	Break

## Integrated Campaigning in Practice: CCP Applied Research Series

0925-0930	Remarks, Introduction of Morning Events and Iteration Options: <i>BG (Ret) Russ Howard</i>
0930-1015	<b>Iteration 1:</b> Reimagining “China” – A System of Systems <i>Mr. David Birdsey (Asst Sec State CSO)</i> <i>Dr. Dave Ellis (JSOU)</i> <i>Mr. Charlie Black (JSOU)</i>  <b>Iteration 1a:</b> Design “Look” – Introduction to Military Design <i>Dr. Ben Zweibelson (JSOU)</i>
1015-1100	<b>Iteration 2:</b> “China” in Africa – Adversary and HAMO <i>Dr. Zach Pieri (USF)</i> <i>Dr. Mojo Lavendar (SOCAFRICA)</i> <i>Dr. Dave Ellis (JSOU)</i> <i>Mr. Charlie Black (JSOU)</i>  <b>Iteration 2a:</b> Design “Look” – Innovation as Strategic Advantage in Great Power Competition <i>Dr. Sean Lux (JSOU)</i>

1100 -1115	Break
1115-1200	<p><b>Iteration 3:</b> COVID and Locusts = U.S. Opportunity:  <i>USDA Rep</i>  <i>Dr. Dave Ellis (JSOU)</i>  <i>Mr. Charlie Black (JSOU)</i></p> <p><b>Iteration 3a:</b> Design “Look” – Developing Today’s Officers for Tomorrow’s Ways of War:  <i>Mr. Nathan Schwagler (JSOU)</i></p>
1200-1300	<p>Lunch</p> <p><b>SOF-in-GPC USSOUTHCOM: Background and Regional Update</b>  What are China’s and Russia’s respective interests in Latin America?  What are the “Compound Security Threats” associated with GPC?  What are their main activities respectively in Latin America? How do their activities square with, or differ with their interests there?  Messaging: True or not? Gains: Long-term? Substantial? Presence: Threatening to local and/or U.S. interests? How are the various Latin American countries reacting/responding? How is the U.S. reacting/responding? How should the U.S. react?  <i>Mr. Kelly Hicks (JSOU)</i>  <i>LTC Scott Smitson (USSOUTHCOM J5)</i></p>
1300 - 1305	<p>Remarks, Introduction of Session and Presenters:  <i>BG (Ret) Russ Howard</i></p>
1305 - 1345	<p>Brainstorming: Opportunities for Achieving Advantage — CCP  <i>Dr. Leo Blanken (NPS)</i></p>
1345 - 1430	<p>Brainstorming: Opportunities for Achieving Advantage — Kremlin:  <i>Dr. Kaley Sepp (NPS)</i></p>
1430 -1445	Break
1445 -1530	<p>Next Forum Ideas: Open Discussion:  <i>BG (Ret) Russ Howard</i>  <i>Dr. Chris Marsh (JSOU)</i></p>
1530 -1600	<p>Closing Remarks:  <i>Dr. Isaiah “Ike” Wilson III, JSOU President</i></p>

## **Great Power Competition (GPC) Forum**

### **Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for the Great Power Competition Forum series:**

- I. Describe/Identify the concepts of Great Power Competition (GPC), changing military policy and strategy, and the changing role of SOF.
- II. Describe the changing character of global geostrategic competition and the implications for identifying multiple adversaries.
- III. Explain the complexities inherent in strategic level changes and the “fog” of competition.
- IV. Explain the impact of national policy and the planning and execution of the broad range of U.S. national powers external to the military.
- V. Diagram the "range of SOF military operations" (ROMO) and the dynamic configurations of SOF mission-sets, incorporating the "continuum of cooperation-competition-conflict" in the JIIM environment.

### **Forum Learning Outcomes (FLOs) for the *Compound Security Threats* Forum:**

Upon completion of *Compound Security Threats* Forum (4-6 Nov), each participant will:

#### **I. Comprehend what Great Power Competition means in the current Geo-Strategic Context**

##### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Describe how the current Geo-Strategic environment is similar to and different from that of the Cold War.
2. Describe what a Multipolar System means for international politics and economics today.
3. Summarize how a Diffusion of Power away from the Westphalian system impacts GPC.
4. Explain alternative theories of the changing character of global geostrategic competition.

#### **II. Comprehend how SOF must reconsider how it operates to achieve “Intellectual Overmatch”**

##### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Describe the efficacy of the DIME model of analysis.
2. Explain the relationship of wicked problems to joint SOF planning at the operational level.
3. Summarize geo-strategic complexity and compound security threats.
4. Describe SOF’s Changing Role in GPC.

#### **III. Discuss an Integrated Campaigning approach to Great Power Competition**

##### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Illustrate China as a “System of Systems”.
2. Describe China’s adversarial role in Africa.
3. Infer opportunities for US interests related to current international disasters.
4. Contrast US opportunities for achieving advantage over the CCP and over the Kremlin.

