

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Ryota Akiba is an independent researcher who studies counterterrorism, special operations, and open source intelligence. He earned his MA degree in Nonproliferation and Terrorism at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in 2016. Akiba served as an intern at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, where he assisted in numerous executive education workshops and courses.

Major Rick Breekveldt currently serves in the Netherlands Special Operations Command. He holds a master's degree in Strategic Studies and is a research fellow at the Netherlands Defence Academy, with a specialization in counterinsurgency. Major Breekveldt has served in various command and staff positions in Army SOF, and Air Assault and Attack Helicopter units, and has deployed to Afghanistan.

Pierre Dehaene is a PhD candidate at King's College London. After university and six years of theological studies, he joined the Belgian military and served in the Special Forces Group for three years. Dehaene then left the military to study intelligence and international security at King's College London. He returned to his unit before embarking on his PhD program, which focuses on the strategic repercussions of resource-poor approaches to war in complex environments.

Lieutenant Commander Flemming Haar joined the Danish Naval Special Forces in 1997, and served in several deployments as both a staff officer and a commanding officer. He was subsequently assigned to the Danish Special Operations Command and is currently earning his Master of Science degree in Defense Analysis from the US Naval Postgraduate School (NPS).

Lieutenant Colonel Arto Hilden joined the Finnish Defence Forces in 1991 and the Finnish Special Operations Forces (FINSOF) in 1997. He has extensive experience in capability building for FINSOF, and was deployed to Afghanistan as a task force commander. LTC Hilden's most recent active position was as SOF liaison officer for the Finnish Army Command's planning and support operations in Iraq.

Dr. Martijn Kitzen is an assistant professor of war studies at the Netherlands Defence Academy. While serving as a military officer, he was involved in pre-deployment training for several nations, was in-theater advisor for the Netherlands' Task Force Uruzgan, and served as academic advisor for the revision of NATO's AJP 3.4.4 (counterinsurgency). A prolific author, Kitzen is currently preparing a new book about the Netherlands' campaign in Afghanistan's Uruzgan province.

Dr. Antti Lahdenranta is an orthopedic and trauma surgeon and a reservist in Finland's SOF Utti Jaeger Regiment. He served as the trauma surgeon on one of the first Finnish Special Operations Surgical Teams during Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq.

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