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John Arquilla, Professor and Director, Biography

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Biography

John Arquilla earned his degrees in international relations from Rosary College (BA 1975) and Stanford University (MA 1989, PhD 1991). He is professor of defense analysis at the Naval Postgraduate School, where he has taught in the special operations curriculum since 1993. He also serves as director of the Information Operations Center. His teaching interests revolve around the history of irregular warfare, terrorism, and the implications of the information age for society and security.


Dr. Arquilla is also the author of more than one hundred articles on a wide range of topics in military and security affairs, with his work appearing in both the leading academic journals and in more general publications like *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Wired* and *The New Republic*. He is best known for his concept of “netwar” (i.e., the distinct manner in which those organized into networks fight), a notion developed with his colleague David Ronfeldt, and which former defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld used on several occasions to describe the nature of the conflict in Iraq. In another area of their joint work, the Arquilla/Ronfeldt vision of “swarm tactics” was selected by *The New York Times* as one of the “big ideas” of 2001.

In terms of policy experience, Dr. Arquilla worked as a consultant to General Norman Schwarzkopf during Operation Desert Storm, as part of a small team of RAND analysts. During the Kosovo War, he assisted deputy secretary of defense John Hamre on a range of issues in international information strategy. Since the onset of the war on terror, Dr. Arquilla’s policy contributions have included a brief period of service on the Information Operations Task Force, followed by more extended involvements with special operations forces and other units, on practical, information-related “field problems.”

Awards

- Schieffelin Award, 2002
- Hamming Award, 2001

Publications

- *Networks and Netwars: The Future of Terror, Crime, and Militancy* (NDRI, 2001)
- *In Athena's Camp: Preparing for Conflict in the Information Age* (RAND, 1997)
- *Dubious Battles: Aggression, Defeat, and the International System* (Crane Russak, 1992)