

Dr. Michael Knights

Dr Michael Knights is the Lafer Fellow at The Washington Institute. Dr. Knights earned his doctorate at the Department of War Studies, King's College London, with a dissertation on U.S. military operations in Iraq between 1992 and 2002. From 2006-2012 Knights headed the intelligence and key leader engagement functions at Olive Group, a private security company supporting reconstruction and stabilization in Iraq. He has worked closely with Iraqi federal government and Kurdistan Regional Government leaders, security forces and local governments. Dr Knights also worked in Yemen on capacity-building projects with the counter-terrorism forces. His work focuses on defeating the dual threats posed by Salafi jihadists and Iranian proxies.

Dr Knight's past Iraq publications on the challenges of containing and rolling back Iranian influence include *Troubled Waters: Future U.S. Security Assistance in the Persian Gulf* (The Washington Institute, 2006); *Iran's Influence in Iraq: Countering Tehran's Whole of Government Approach* (The Washington Institute, 2011); *The Iraqi Security Forces: Local Context and U.S. Assistance* (Washington Institute, 2011); *Rising to Iran's Challenge: GCC Military Capability and U.S. Security Cooperation* (The Washington Institute, 2013); *The Long Haul: Rebooting U.S. Security Cooperation in Iraq* (Washington Institute, 2015); *The Future of Iraq's Armed Forces* (Bayan Center, Baghdad, 2016); *Responding to Iran's Arms Smuggling in Yemen* (Washington Institute, 2016); *Iranian EFPs in the Gulf: An Emerging Strategic Risk* (Washington Institute, 2016); *Mini-Hizballahs, Revolutionary Guard Knock-Offs, and the Future of Iran's Militant Proxies in Iraq* (with Mike Eisenstadt, *War on the Rocks*, 2017); *Iranian-Backed Terrorism in Bahrain: Finding a Sustainable Solution* (with Matt Levitt, Washington Institute, 2017); *The al-Abbas Combat Division Model: Reducing Iranian Influence in Iraq's Security Forces* (Washington Institute, 2017);