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MASTERS OF MILITARY STUDIES

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS FOR THE JOINT FORCE, by Major Ryan W. Wilson, 21 pages.

Since the United States gained its independence over 243 years ago, the power and status of the United States expanded to the point where many see the United States as a hegemon. Nonetheless, the United States continues to spread its sphere of influence across the globe and maximizes its ability to remain a superpower through the use of the four instruments of national power: Diplomacy, Information, Military, and Economics (DIME). With this growth as a global power, adversaries continue to threaten the United States and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future; therefore, the United States must continue to adapt as needed to meet and counter any future threats.

In the following readings, the two articles, which differ in topics, represent ideas worth discussing as well as analyzing. As such, it is important to realize the United States still faces many potential threats that have remained constant since the end of World War II, and new concepts to deal with threats will continue to be developed but must be tested adequately to ensure these ideas will meet the requirements of the US military.

This monograph is subcategorized into two different articles discussing a conflict analysis between two superpowers and a potential problem or problems the Joint force may encounter within developing future operating concepts.

- **Back to the Cold War Future:** Takes an analytical look into whether or not the Cold War did end in 1991 or if it is still an ongoing event. This analysis, conducted via an anecdote, utilizes the Back to the Future storyline while analyzing different eras of the conflict itself as well as the current year of 2018.
- **Are Two Concepts Ready for One Fight?:** This article discusses two strategies, Rapid Raptor and Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations, being developed by two different services, the USAF and the Marines. As these strategies develop, potential obstacles could hinder future operations, which drive a few questions that need addressing. Furthermore, understanding these obstacles should help determine whether or not these concepts are ready for employment within the Joint fight.

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## INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, whether in the times of Machiavelli, Clausewitz, Napoleon, or present day, conflicts between nations inevitably occur. As a result, the need for strategy, policy, and ingenuity will always be evolving. If war is an extension of policy, some will argue that war is and will always be constant and present. Since the end of World War II, the United States and Russia, formally known as the Soviet Union, departed ways concerning ideological views. The United States was and is a Capitalist country while Russia became a Socialist country. The tensions between these two countries began to rise and ultimately caused a conflict between these two major powers in the late 1940s, which was known as the Cold War. As the conflict continued for the next four decades, these two countries saw many tense moments, such as the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 and the increase of a nuclear arms race during the 1980s. Like a sine wave, with every down, there were some ups. The 1970s almost saw an end to the conflict with détente, but the best moment came when the conflict was over in 1991, which ended the Soviet Union regime. With the understanding that these two superpowers officially ended the Cold War in 1991, the first article explores the idea that maybe this conflict is still ongoing today and does this through an analytical process via an anecdote to portray the idea for readers to determine themselves if the Cold War ended or not.

Whether it is the Cold War or another conflict, the US military is ready to execute at a moment's notice to provide support to any issue whether as a combative force or as a Train, Advise, Assist (TAA) mission. As such, the services continue to refine current operating procedures as adversaries adapt their tactics, techniques, and procedures. One of the most relevant threats the US military is addressing concerns the Anti-Access, Area Denial (A2AD) threat. As such, the second article provides insight on potential problems, or challenges, that the

United States may encounter as strategists continue developing new and inventive ways to combat potential adversaries in the future, which includes the A2AD threat. As the US military continues to develop these newer concepts, it is important they look at every aspect of the fight, especially within the Joint construct.

## **Back to the Cold War Future**

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it,”<sup>1</sup> wrote philosopher George Santayana. The Cold War lasted for over 40 years. Although it officially ended in 1991, did the United States learn the necessary lessons to prevent another conflict or a better question might be, did this conflict really ever end? Some believe the conflict between the Great Powers of the United States and Russia is alive and well today. If the technology and capability existed in which US scientists developed a one-of-a-kind flux capacitor for a DeLorean DMC-12, someone might be able to travel both in the past and future to see what lessons the United States and its leaders learned concerning the Cold War. With that in mind, let us imagine for the next few moments the United States has this capability and a brave young Marty McFly volunteers to travel back in time to see if the United States is repeating the same tactics it once did many years ago. Marty, living within the Cold War era of 1985, believes the Cold War will continue for the next 30 years, but he will investigate to see if his belief holds true.

Marty, who is part of a military family closely linked to the realities of the Cold War, provides the impetus for why he is so intrigued to know more about this long conflict. Furthermore, it makes him aspire to be part of this lineage of military pilots within his family, which began with his grandfather. George McFly, Marty’s dad, is a Colonel in the Air Force and B-1B Lancer pilot. He had direct ties to the development of this strategic platform from its inception, and as such, it earned him a seat in the planning division of the Pentagon. Johnny McFly, Marty’s grandfather, became a B-47 Stratojet pilot after World War II. Johnny set himself apart during World War II: he flew the P-51 Mustang, he became an ace, and he promoted quickly to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Senior leaders in the Air Force, which included General Curtis Lemay, recognized all these accolades and helped promote his career

within the Air Force. Dr. (Doc) Emmett Brown is a close friend of the McFly family, but more so with Marty, and is a scientist assigned to the Department of Defense, specifically within an applied physics laboratory department. assigned to the office of advanced research and development of nuclear capabilities. Living in the Cold War, makes Marty seek for more understanding as to why this conflict is still going on and is curious to know if the end is near.

The year is 1985, President Reagan is in office, and the nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union are at an all-time high. Doc Brown, with the full arsenal of tools at his disposal, has been working on a new secret project that he alone knows about but decides to inform Marty. As such, Doc introduces Marty to his latest creation, a time machine. Enamored with this machine and its possibilities, Marty asks if he can travel back in time to learn first hand what events occurred in the early years of the Cold War. Doc encourages him to travel back to when he invented time travel, November 1955. Marty agrees this would be an ideal time, especially since the Cold War was in its early years and would be a great starting point for discovering what happened to get the United States into such a crisis. Now with his mission determined, Marty gets into the DeLorean and speeds down an empty parking lot. Once the DeLorean reaches that magic speed of 88 miles per hour, the machine vanishes in front of Doc's eyes, giving way to Marty's adventure and hopes in finding answers.

Marty and the DeLorean arrive safely in 1955 on the outskirts of Washington D.C. Marty decides he alone cannot get the answers he needs and understands he requires help. He thinks there is only one option, and that is to seek out his grandfather. Marty ventures to his grandfather's house, and while crossing a busy street, a car hits Marty. When Marty comes to, he realizes it was his father who hit him. Eagerly wanting to make sure Marty is okay, George is insistent that he comes to his house to make amends and to ensure he is not hurt. During this

short encounter, Marty befriends George and his new friend invites him to dinner. At dinner, Marty meets Johnny, and even though Marty knows a lot about him already, he inquires about his job. In 1955, Johnny is at the rank of Colonel and works at a satellite office within the Pentagon, but reports directly to the Strategic Air Command Commander, General Curtis Lemay. Intrigued by this information, Marty began to inquire about the type of work he was dealing with and if it was anyway related to Cold War. Johnny, wishing he could divulge more information, simply said it was related, but it was classified information. Frustrated with hearing this answer, Marty quickly asked if it was possible to get a tour of the Pentagon at a minimum. Johnny happily said yes and arranged for Marty to gain access the following day.

Even though Marty was eager to explore the inner workings of the Pentagon, he needed to find a way to get access to the information he wanted to know and understand. As luck would have it, Marty was able to gain access to the archives section of the Pentagon unwittingly. Since Marty only had limited knowledge of the Cold War, especially the early years of this conflict, he began thumbing through the archives to gain more knowledge of the Cold War from its initial onset. In his research from reading the classified documents, Marty discovered reasons why the United States developed the National Security Council (NSC) 68 policy. During President Truman's term in the late 1940s and early 1950s, the Soviet Union was beginning to spread its influence and ideology to many satellite states. Additionally, the Soviets wanted to demonstrate to the world that they were a Great Power and they believed the United States' influence on the world stage was threatening; consequently, this was one reason why the Soviets supported China in its endeavors in the Asian region.<sup>2</sup> This alliance in the eyes of the Truman administration was a clear sign of the Soviet Union beginning to increase its sphere of influence. Despite the unfortunate breakout of the Korean War, the timing of it helped solidify why NSC 68 was so

important and a justification of the potential spread of socialist ideals. As a result, Marty determined that NSC 68 and its policy of containment was critical as tensions grew between the United States and the Soviet Union. Understanding this relationship and now in the era of the Eisenhower administration, Marty wanted to understand how this team developed its policy towards the Soviet Union.

Marty quickly learned about an exercise conducted in 1953 at the request of President Eisenhower. This event, which lasted approximately six weeks in the summer of 1953, was the first ever of its kind and was called the Solarium Exercise. This exercise comprised of three task forces: A, B, and C. Each team, with influential leaders appointed accordingly and with vital knowledge and understanding of Soviet policy, politics, strategy, etc., were tasked to develop courses of actions with each having their theme for handling the Soviet Union. The team's objectives and findings were as follows:

**Task Force A:** Led by George Kennan, his team focused mainly on the current strategy of containment, mainly through political means. The goal was to determine the best way to prevent the Soviets from expanding further into Europe while simultaneously minimizing the potential risk of general war.

**Task Force B:** This team had a similar objective to Task Force A with the exception that a more hardline approach be considered, specifically to look less for support from allies and more on the potential use of US nuclear weapons. Containment was also a potential option, but with an understanding that if Soviet aggression posed a threat, this might lead to general war.

**Task Force C:** Being that most of this document was not 100% available, it was clear that this team's objective was the "roll-back" option. This task force looked at the feasibility of what was essentially the same work Paul Nitze developed in NSC 68.

**Findings:** After presenting the findings to President Eisenhower and the NSC, it was evident that each task force offered valuable inputs on potential strategies and policies in dealing with the Soviet threat. As such, Eisenhower determined that the teams needed to collaborate further and incorporate a mix of all three, and this mixture would eventually develop into NSC 162.<sup>3</sup>

This exercise was the first ever of its kind and proved valuable in determining and shaping US Foreign policy, specifically concerning the Soviet Union. Marty, now exposed to a valuable piece of history and insight, determined the early stages of the Cold War helped drive decisions future administrations would follow and provided valuable insights for handling foreign policy with the Soviet Union. Armed with this knowledge and currently living in the fourth decade of the war, Marty now wants to see if this conflict will end or will these two great powers continue on this same path for years to come. Thanking Johnny for this once in a lifetime opportunity, Marty finds his way back to the DeLorean.

Now back in the DeLorean, Marty decides to travel into the future. First he thought to go to the month and year of October 2015, which was 30 years ahead of his time; however, he instead traveled to February 1, 2018. Marty and his DeLorean traveled through time and space and landed safely back in Washington D.C. As Marty wonders the streets of D.C., he stumbles across himself or at least a mirror image of himself. His doppelganger, shocked as well, faints. Inspecting his driver's license, Marty finds out it is his future son, Marty Jr. Since Marty looks

just like Marty Jr., he decides to play that part to meet his future self. Marty takes Marty Jr. to where they live and puts him in the bedroom closet just at his older Marty arrives home. Acting as his son, he greets him hello and sees him in a military flight suit. Marty, now excited at the realization that he will someday be a military pilot like his father and grandfather before him, asks how his day was and if anything exciting happened.

Older Marty responds with a hello, and yes, every day is exciting, especially as you are helping with the discussions of providing key inputs into the new B-21 bomber program. Hearing this news and realizing that older Marty is a Colonel in the Air Force and a B-2B pilot, Marty eagerly and overwhelmingly continues to ask many more questions. Shocked by this reaction, older Marty asks why such an interest in my work? Marty responds that he looks up to him and is proud to have a dad making such a difference within the DoD. Older Marty tells his “son” that they can talk more about it later, maybe after dinner. Marty agrees and, in the meantime, he decides to do research, from the much-improved technology from the 1980s, on his own while waiting for dinner.

Initially shocked by the advancements in technology, Marty quickly leveraged this new capability and reviewed the past 30 plus years he missed. To his surprise, the Cold War was officially over in 1991, which included the fall of the Soviet Union. Despite this news, Marty was skeptical and wanted to determine what other events were still occurring today that were shaping the United States foreign policy. Through his research and analysis, Marty discovered that even though the Soviet Union fell, which gave rise to Russia, they still posed a threat to the United States, as well as other countries like China, North Korea, and Iran. The United States coupled these threats into a 4+1 construct, with the +1 being violent extremist groups. Learning this was the problem the United States needed to tackle, Marty was ready to see how the United

States and the Trump administration developed a strategy to combat the 4+1 threat. The National Security Strategy (NSS) and National Defense Strategy (NDS), in Marty's eyes, required reviewing.

Even though the Cold War was officially over, the NSS highlights some of the same rhetoric that happened in the early years of this conflict. For example, the 2017 NSS states that "Russia aims to weaken U.S. influence in the world and divide us from our allies and partners. Russia views the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and European Union (EU) as threats."<sup>4</sup> Similarly, during Truman's term, the same sentiment was evident, specifically messaged in Kennan's "long telegram" and Winston Churchill's "iron curtain" speech in Missouri. Both these messages portrayed that the Soviet regime needed containment because of a threat of this totalitarian power expanding its influence to satellite states.<sup>5</sup> The NSS continues further by describing future guidance for the United States, DoD, and the military. Some other key highlights within the NSS include: Strengthening ties with allies; modernizing an aging Nuclear Triad; utilizing the full spectrum of Diplomacy, Information, Military, and Economic (DIME); and strengthening the military power to name a few. From the NSS, the NDS was derived and more geared towards the Department of Defense and its strategy.

Like the NSS, the NDS highlights the emerging threats of powerful actors like Russia and China. The NDS states "the central challenge to U.S. prosperity and security is the reemergence of long-term, strategic competition by what the National Security Strategy classifies as revisionist powers. It is increasingly clear that China and Russia want to shape a world consistent with their authoritarian model—gaining veto authority over other nations' economic, diplomatic, and security decisions."<sup>6</sup> From the end of World War II to the current state of affairs, both Russia and China, with now a few more actors (North Korea, Iran, violent extremist groups) added to

the mix, are mimicking the same actions seen during this tumultuous time of the Cold War. To further illustrate this point, the NDS indicates that

Another change to the strategic environment is a resilient, but weakening, post-WWII international order. In the decades after fascism's defeat in World War II, the United States and its allies and partners constructed a free and open international order to better safeguard their liberty and people from aggression and coercion. Although this system has evolved since the end of the Cold War, our network of alliances and partnerships remain the backbone of global security. China and Russia are now undermining the international order from within the system by exploiting its benefits while simultaneously undercutting its principles and "rules of the road."<sup>7</sup>

The remaining portions of the unclassified version of the NDS entail the DoD's objectives in handling the 4+1 threats, followed by the strategic approach to execute those objectives. The strategic manner in which the United States will proceed is by building a more lethal force, strengthening the alliance and attracting new partners, and reforming the department for greater performance and affordability. These two documents provided Marty with great insight on the current state of affairs concerning how the United States is dealing with potential adversaries, like Russia. Now, with dinnertime approaching, Marty checks on Marty Jr. and so not to comprise his cover, Marty further sedates his future son.

As dinner is ending, older Marty takes his "son" into the office to further discuss the questions from earlier. Marty asked his "dad" what he was currently working on within the Pentagon? Older Marty informs him that besides being part of the B-21 program, he is part of a team that is finalizing the dated Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), which was last written in 2010. After reading and learning from the two prior documents, the NSS and NDS, Marty knew the NPR would truly solidify his understanding of the situation, and more importantly, the evolution of the strategy and policy in dealing with two great powers and regional actors posing threats to the United States. Marty asked older Marty if he could share any information concerning the

NPR. Since the NPR is an unclassified document, older Marty agrees to share what he knows concerning the NPR.

The NPR addresses the future of Nuclear arsenal within the United States. The NPR hits home to Marty because to him Nuclear Arms is the focal point the Reagan administration wants to increase. Marty, again through his research, recalled that Reagan's terms in office were an era in which the greatest increase in Nuclear capabilities occurred. These capabilities included the development of the B-2 Spirit bomber, which ironically future Marty flies, and improved nuclear-capable submarines.<sup>8</sup> These advancements gave the United States the advantage of a better and more reliant Nuclear Triad, at least through the turn of the 21st century. However, now in the year of 2018, the United States may be behind the power curve. Nonetheless, the United States still believes nuclear war is not and should not be an option. To stress this point, the NPR quotes a 2016 statement from US Army Chief of Staff, General Mark A. Milley. Gen Milley stated "what we want to do is to deter. Nobody wants to have a war. The only thing more expensive than deterrence is actually fighting a war, and the only thing more expensive than fighting a war is fighting one and losing."<sup>9</sup> Without deep diving into the weeds of the NPR, older Marty stressed some of the main points within the NPR:

- The United States needs to modernize and eventually replace aging portions of the triad.
- The United States needs to create low-yield weapons while still in compliance with all treaties is a must.
- The United States believes it is important to work towards addressing the issues of Russia's non-compliance towards several treaties to include the INF.
- The United States needs to increase the sanctions and prevent North Korea from the continual development of nuclear weapons.
- The United States needs to provide a piece of mind to its allies by assuring them of the US capabilities and willingness to provide security, if needed.

- The DoD needs to increase the budget to maintain parity with its adversaries.
- The United States must continue stressing the importance of proliferation.
- The United States needs to prevent terrorist groups from attaining nuclear weapons.<sup>10</sup>

This list of items presents just a few key points littered throughout the entire NPR. The bottom line of this review is that since each 4+1 threat presents a unique set of challenges with varying degrees of strategy with their own set of tactics, techniques, and procedures concerning nuclear weapons, the United States must be flexible and adaptable in handling each threat in this 4+1 construct. Essentially, within Marty's eyes, the NPR demonstrates and displays an updated version of the increase in nuclear arms with a different flavor than what the Reagan administration presented. After ample review of the three overarching documents, which gave Marty great insight into how the United States perceives threats of today, he decides it is time to return to the year of 1985 and report back his analysis to Doc Brown.

Marty returned to the month and year he left Doc Brown, October of 1985. Doc wanted to know what Marty learned about the Cold War both past and future. Marty stated that by traveling back to when it all started and into the future, he determined that even though the Cold War officially ended in 1991, the conflict seemed alive and well today. He said that the same tactics, discussions, thoughts, feelings, and so forth have not changed. The NSS, NDS, and NPR provided the evidence Doc Brown required as proof of what has not changed; essentially, since the Soviet Union wants to expand its sphere of influence, which includes its progression of nuclear weapons and improving on their capabilities.

This anecdotal story provided a means to illustrate and determine if whether or not this great conflict between the United States and Russia ever really ever ended after 1991 with the fall of the Soviet Union. In the late 1940s, the United States entered a time known today as the

Cold War, which ended in 1991 with the signing of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. Now, as the United States and its military spread themselves across multiple campaigns throughout the world, the fear of Nuclear employment looms over the heads of the American public. As such, is the United States on track or in the midst of repeating this continuous conflict for years to come? Maybe it is time to conduct an updated version of the Solarium Exercise? As the United States continues to move forward with the proposed 2017 and 2018 strategies, one would hope these policies can prevent a nuclear war from breaking out or with a best-case scenario, end the conflict between the 4+1 altogether. It would be interesting to see if Marty McFly could travel further into the future, such as 2040. Maybe, this future date would determine if the United States finally learned from history or if the United States continued in repeating the same cycle it is living now, 100 years into the future since the beginning of the Cold War. One thing for sure is evident, only time will tell.

## **Are Two Concepts Ready for One Fight?**

*As a warfighting organization, we must recognize the challenges of the future and develop an operational approach to fight and win. The MOC embraces our naval character, expeditionary mindset, and professional approach to constantly improve and build on our foundations of maneuver warfare and fighting as a combined arms force. The challenges of the future will impact how we organize our Corps and ultimately fight our Nation's battles. The MOC describes the steps we will take to design, develop, and field a future force for the 21st century. The success of this concept depends on our Marines and Sailors. Our people have always been the Marine Corps center of gravity and the key to our success as warfighters. Their ability to think critically, innovate smartly, and adapt to complex environments and adaptive enemies has always been the key factor we rely on to win in any clime and place.<sup>11</sup>*

- Robert B. Neller  
General, United States Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

In light of recent events and the growing tensions growing in the Pacific area of responsibility (AOR), specifically Korea, the United States military believed it required new ways to combat or respond to potential crises. As such, the Air Force developed the Rapid Raptor concept, and the Marines developed the Expeditionary Advanced Basing Operations (EABO) concept. Both of these concepts are emerging ideas that are continually being updated and modified, but is the US military missing the mark? Both concepts, however, are innovative ways for how the military might need to operate in future contested environments that in theory will be successful when employed. The problem with these concepts is that they may only be a unilateral, or service specific, way of meeting specific ends, ways, and means in response to potential conflicts.

To better understand this point, a quick synopsis of each requires discussion. The United States Air Force (USAF), under the leadership of the 3rd Wing, developed the Rapid Raptor concept of operations. This concept, which began in 2013, quickly deploys a small contingent of aircraft, specifically four F-22 Raptors and one C-17 Globemaster, to respond to a crisis within 24 hours. This quick response package, which is scalable, provides the Air Force the flexibility,

timeliness, and stealth to prevent adversaries from both locating and targeting these F-22s, which gives the United States the advantage in an emerging and threatening environment. Additionally, with the smaller contingent of aircraft, this concept gives the Air Force the ability to relocate quickly to other locations, which adds another element of surprise for US enemies. The bottom line is that despite being smaller in scale to most Air Force deployment packages, the Rapid Raptor program provides an increased capability to any threats challenging the United States and its allies.<sup>12</sup>

Fast-forward almost four years to a time when the Air Force is continually exercising this concept within the Pacific AOR; in doing so, the Air Force gained valuable lessons learned, found potential shortfalls, and closed critical gaps from those shortfalls. These exercises were essential to refining the program to ensure maximum use of capabilities and safeguarding success against potential adversaries. Moving from the exercise phase, in 2016 the Rapid Raptor concept went operational with the largest deployment of F-22s to Europe. This new concept did eventually employ to handle a real-world situation. The Air Force deployed 12 Raptors from Tyndall Air Force Base to a staging base in the United Kingdom. From this base, F-22s forward deployed to two different countries throughout Eastern Europe, which included Romania and Lithuania. A year prior, in a different F-22 deployment, the Raptors forward deployed to Estonia and Poland. The F-22s and the Air Force showcased its ability to hop different bases throughout a certain AOR; consequently, these deployments also provided two other outcomes. First, it reassured US allies of its timely response capabilities if the need arose, and second, it provided a show of force to Russia and discouraged any potential movements, a remanent of adventurism during the Cold War era, towards Eastern European countries.<sup>13</sup>

Like Tyndall Air Force Base, the 3rd Wing from Elmendorf Air Force Base deployed the Rapid Raptor package to Yokota Air Base. This deployment was in response to North Korea's fourth test of nuclear weapons. Like in Europe, 12 F-22s were staged out of Yokota and forward deployed to two different airfields, Osan Air Base in South Korea and Kadena Air Force Base on the island of Okinawa. This effort was to demonstrate and make the United States' presence known in that region in hopes to deter North Korea, as well as China, from engaging in actions not warranted in that region.<sup>14</sup> As US competitors, such as China, continue to develop fifth-generation aircraft, which is currently the biggest concern for the Rapid Raptor program, the USAF at least knows they have the means to execute this concept and do it promptly. While the Air Force continues to develop and enhance this concept, the Marines with the help of the Navy developed the EABO concept.

Paralleling the Rapid Raptor concept, EABO, while still early in development, is the way Marines believe they may need to operate, mainly in the Pacific theater. Direct from the *Marine Corps Operating Concept*, EABOs "Marine-Air-Ground Task Forces (MAGTFs) may be task-organized for missions to seize, establish, and operate multiple EABs. We must improve our ability to:

- 1) Employ EABs for offensive actions in support of sea control.
- 2) Reinforce and defend EABs with manned and unmanned long-range strike, anti-ship, anti-air, and C2-extending systems to transform a site into a sea-denial outpost.
- 3) Use EABs as hubs supporting the integrated Naval logistics network, providing temporary forward and intermediate staging areas for MAGTF follow-on echelons and sustainment operations.
- 4) Leverage the NECC, Naval Beach Groups, and Joint capabilities to complement the MAGTF."<sup>15</sup>

Simply put, this concept utilizes several islands or land masses for a small team of Marines to move forward against an adversary and continue inching their way closer via leap frogging, or island hopping. To further describe EABO, an Intermediate Staging Base (ISB), like the staging

base did for the Rapid Raptor program, would house the main effort of troops before forwarding movement. These ISBs will allow Marines the ability to island hop towards an object area without the need of a standard or a full load of normal logistical needs and resources. With the ISB used as a sustainment hub, the forward-deployed Marines would only require minimal gear and requirements, which differs from what Marines were normally required to do during prior deployments. Additionally, this concept gives the maximum flexibility by providing a scalable size of required assets for a specific objective.

As of today, the EABO concept has taken part in Marine exercises like BOLD ALIGATOR, as well as wargaming scenarios. The importance of exercising this concept proved vital during 2015 BOLD ALIGATOR. One of the main issues was overcoming the difficulties or potentially lack thereof concerning interoperability with the US Navy. The most combative issues within the two services dealt with communication breakdown, sharing appropriate and timely common operating picture of the objective, and the limiting and size of a physical planning location. Operationally, this exercise emphasized that there was a shortfall in some pivotal resources in-order-to ensure success, such as mine countermeasures. As EABO continues to develop and evolve to the point where Rapid Raptor is today, much more planning and exercising must be accomplished allowing for mission success in future operations.

Both these concepts, specifically the Rapid Raptor program, both seem to meet or will meet the intent it was designed to do. However, as presented throughout this article, it is evident the focus is service specific, which is not how the United States will fight future conflicts or wars. With this as a reference point, several questions need addressing before determining if these concepts prove to be successful in the future joint fight.

If employed in a joint operation, will these two concepts only add confusion in efforts to obtain whatever objective that operation is requiring?

What will the command structure look like under a joint structure with these two concepts combined? Essentially, what will be the COMREL structure?

Will these concepts be written into potential OPLANs?

These few questions are just a few that need addressing; as such, a potential first step into solving these unanswered questions might require exercising them together in a joint exercise.

As the concepts continue evolving, such as the Rapid Raptor concept already moving towards an updated concept call “Rapid Next,” it is important to determine the shortfalls now as a joint fight before the United States continues down a path not intended or ready to execute. It is clear that these concepts are capable means of accomplishing its intending purpose. However, it is important to keep in mind that if future exercises involve all services for a joint fight, then each service will require buy-in not just at the strategic level (where it might only be now), but also at the operational and tactical level as well. On a final note, Marines are great at what they do and rely heavily on the Navy, but it might be the time that the Navy rely and trust in the Marines to ensure EABO is as successful as potentially it is envisioned to be.

## CONCLUSION

These articles present two different subjects while highlighting potential issues the United States as a whole of government will continue to deal with for years to come. Through analyzing past events such as the Cold War and providing evidence that parallels the same rhetoric in 2018, one could argue that the Cold War is a reality that Americans live with today and potentially for the foreseeable future. Additionally, since Russia is considered an adversary, or threat, along with China, North Korea, Iran, and violent extremist groups, the United States must and is developing innovative ways to employ the military. However, two services, in particular, are developing and exercising these new concepts within their respective services only. This process is normal, but the next step should address the ability to combine these two concepts into one fight, the Joint fight. US history demonstrates the effectiveness the joint fight capabilities provide versus a single service minded fight. Therefore, the US military must consider and develop ways to incorporate these new concepts into one and begin exercising, or playing, like the US military will fight the battles of tomorrow.

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**Notes:**

- <sup>1</sup> George Santayana. *Reason in Common Sense: Volume One of "The Life of Reason."* (Dover Publications, Inc., NY, 1980), 284.
- <sup>2</sup> Vladimir O. Pechatnov. "The Soviet Union and the World, 1944-1953" in *The Cambridge History of the Cold War, Volume I: Origins*, ed. Melvyn P. Leffler and Odd Arne Westad. (Cambridge University Press, 2012), 101-109.
- <sup>3</sup> Robert R. Bowie and Richard H. Immerman. *Waging Peace: How Eisenhower Shaped an Enduring Cold War Strategy* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998), 123-146.
- <sup>4</sup> Office of the President of the United States. *National Security Strategy*. (Washington, DC: White House, December 2017), 25.
- <sup>5</sup> Melvyn P. Leffler. "The Emergence of an American Grand Strategy, 1945-1952" in *The Cambridge History of the Cold War, Volume I: Origins*, ed. Melvyn P. Leffler and Odd Arne Westad. (Cambridge University Press, 2012), 72.
- <sup>6</sup> Headquarters Department of Defense. *National Defense Strategy*. (Washington, DC: Headquarters Department of Defense, January 2018), 2.
- <sup>7</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>8</sup> William M. Knoblauch. *Nuclear Freeze in a Cold War*. (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2017), 5.
- <sup>9</sup> Headquarters Department of Defense. *Nuclear Posture Review*. (Washington, DC: Headquarters Department of Defense, February 2018), 51.
- <sup>10</sup> Ibid, 1-75.
- <sup>11</sup> Headquarters US Marine Corps. *The Marine Corps Operating Concept: How an Expeditionary Force Operates in the 21st Century*. (Washington, DC: Headquarters US Marine Corps, September 2016), i.
- <sup>12</sup> David Cenciotti, "Rapid Raptor Package: US Air Force's New Concept For Deploying Four F-22 Stealth Fighters In 24 Hours," *Business Insider*, accessed on October 22, 2017, <http://www.businessinsider.com/rapid-raptor-air-force-stealth-fighter-2013-9>.
- <sup>13</sup> Kyle Mizokami, "The Air Force Is Sending Mini-Fleets of F-22s To Warn Russia, North Korea, and China," *Popular Mechanics*, accessed on October 22, 2017, <http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/weapons/a20831/rapid-raptor-f-22/>.
- <sup>14</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>15</sup> Headquarters US Marine Corps. *The Marine Corps Operating Concept: How an Expeditionary Force Operates in the 21st Century*. (Washington, DC: Headquarters US Marine Corps, September 2016), 13.