



Military Requirements for C4ISTAR II

Perspectives on Future Combat & Enduring Lessons from Afghanistan

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Enduring Lessons for Future Conflict

The only certainty in future conflict...

'No war is ever like the war that went before'

I B Davidson 2002

'The military mind always imagines that the next war will be on the same lines as the last. That has never been the case and never will be.'

Ferdinand Foch, Precepts 1919



Enduring characteristics of the Afghanistan conflict - Geo-political aspects

- Neither wholly a War of Choice nor a War of National Survival
- Irregular enemy ignoring the Rules of War.
- Requiring global reach
- Location not of our choosing
- Ad-hoc coalition of the willing



Enduring characteristics of the Afghanistan conflict - Political constraints

- Own casualty intolerant
- Collateral damage/non-combatant casualty averse
- Long duration intolerant
- Close political control
- Media pressure for swift and decisive action



Enduring characteristics of the Afghanistan conflict - Operational constraints

- Asymmetric
- Short notice
- Limited opportunity for Intelligence preparation of the battlespace
- C2 structures varied
- Non-linear battlespace
- Tight RoE
- Targets fleeting
- Limited Host Nation Support



Revisit our Intelligence CONOPS

ANTICIPATE



PREPARE



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Ensure clear demarcation and
no duplication of
responsibilities/assets here



Revisit our Intelligence CONOPS

Peacetime activity to
decide and satisfy
baseline awareness
information
requirements to an
operational level

ANTICIPATE



PREPARE



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How to achieve the requirement

- Decide which game we can afford to play:
 - Stand-alone broad National capability
 - Focussed specialist coalition contribution
- Increased intelligence preparation pre-operation
- Maximise value of purchased capability - NEC
 - Identification of the requirement - based on effects
 - Procure accordingly
 - Integration of current assets
 - Incremental acquisition of new equipments to maintain their relevance and capability
 - A more flexible equipment programme to respond to evolving threats
 - Rapid pull through and demonstration of relevant technology



Enduring Lessons for Future Conflict

The only certainty in future conflict...

'No war is ever like the war that went before'

Hence:

**We cannot abandon the ability to fight
the symmetrical, linear, high intensity
war**