Multi-Domain Operations (MDO)
What's New, What's Not?

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MDO circa 1800 - Clausewitz

- War is a mere continuation of policy but other means
- War does not replace diplomatic, economic and other means, but adds instruments of violence to the means employed
- Thus, military operations have always been a part of a large effort being pursued in multiple domains (MDO)

While military operations may have always been a part of a MDO,
that does not mean that there are no significant differences.

We would be well served if we identified and understood
differences between and among MDO
and their implications for C2

What is Common to all MDO

- While MDO vary in the entities involved, size, complexity, duration, and the nature of the domains in which operations take place, all MDO, to be successful, require that operations need to be synchronized in time, space, and effects within and across domains

- Achieving the necessary degree of synchronization falls to Multi-Domain C2

Understanding MDO

- Identify the set of entities involved

  - Civilian Government, Military, International, Private, and Volunteer

- Identify the domains in which they operate

  - Physical (land, maritime, air, space)

  - Virtual (cyberspace, information)

  - Social (political, geo-political, economic)

- Identify within-domain operational and effect dependencies

- Identify cross-domain operational and effect dependencies

20th v. 21st Century MDO

- 20th Century (circa 1970)
  - extended (in depth), non-linear, maneuver battle
  - front and rear areas blurred
  - largely focused on two physical domains
  - doctrinal C2 Approach was "Auftragstattik" or mission orders
  - single chain of command

- 21st Century - Current National Defense Strategy speaks of the "changing character of war"
  - expanded competitive space including 'short of war'
  - blurring lines between civilian and military goals
  - use of cyberspace and information operations
  - autonomous systems

Summary and Conclusion

- Success in today's MDO require a heterogeneous enterprise capable of simultaneous inter-dependent operations in multiple domains

- Multi-Domain C2 will require entities to adapt their 'preferred' domain C2 Approaches and to work with currently unfamiliar partners in new ways.