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The Power of Information Age Concepts and Technologies

Decision Dominance
Through Information Superiority

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Abstract: Decision Dominance through Information Superiority

This paper introduces a new operational concept—Decision Dominance—to help guide the strategic employment of U.S. forces in wartime. This concept is not a replacement for existing paradigms. If added to the current list, however, it may better illuminate how American forces can operate effectively in ways to achieve desired political-military goals more decisively in future wars.

Decision dominance builds upon current operational concepts, particularly effects-based operations and rapid decisive operations. However, it goes further by giving warfighting options to shape the operational and strategic decisions of an adversary. Decision dominance is an attempt to exploit emerging transformational U.S. military capabilities to create a transformational strategy and Joint Capstone Concept. It reflects a strategy for the use of military force in concert with other instruments of power and emphasizes the critical role of technology and proactive command and control to retain the initiative. This strategy involves evaluating an adversary’s options and eliminating those deemed undesirable, effectively funneling the decision-making process of the enemy leadership to achieve a desired outcome.

This paper first discusses the nature of conflict in the modern strategic environment and some popular contemporary military concepts of operations. Next, decision-making theory and the impact of technology and command and control follow. Finally, the study examines the operational relevance of decision dominance and its application in conflict. Decision dominance argues that a strategy exploiting the realms of space, time, and knowledge may be invaluable by allowing decision-makers to achieve political ends, using military means, to coerce methodically and effectively, with minimal cost and risk to both sides.