Emerging US warfighting concept in Western Pacific

Philippe Gros

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Agenda

- The perceived erosion of US superiority
- A range of new concepts, force design and capabilities development initiatives to « regain the advantage »
- The (alleged) emerging warfighting concept
- Some questions and debates
The perceived erosion of US superiority

Bryan Clark, Timothy A. Walton, *Taking Back The Seas : Transforming The U.S. Surface Fleet for Decision-centric Warfare*, CSBA, 2019, p.16

A range of new concepts and force design and capabilities initiatives to “regain the advantage”

- **US Navy-US Marine Corps Team**
  - New concepts
    - Distributed Maritime Operations (DMO)
    - Electromagnetic maneuver warfare (EMW)
    - Littoral Operations in a Contested Environment (LOCE)
    - Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations (EABO)
  - Integrated Naval Force Structure Assessment
  - New Marine Corps *Force Design 2030*
- **US Army Multidomain Operations**
- **US Air Force Multidomain Operations & Operational Agility**
- **Joint All Domain C2 architecture**
- « Regain the advantage » : USINDOPACOM capabilities estimate
(Very oversimplistic sketch of) the alleged emerging warfighting concept

- Penetrating capabilities
- Distributed land and naval maneuver near to the close area
- Fires from EAB
- Distributed maneuver of air and missile power at the other end of the tactical support area
- Exploitation of the depth of the operational support area
- Hypersonic MRBM
Some questions and debates

• Questions
  • Philippines and Japan convergence?
  • Real room of maneuver across the First Chain of Islands?
  • Effects of EABO in large scale confrontation?
  • Air superiority over the area?
  • Mission Command vs. need for coordination?

• Debates
  • Overspecialization of the Marine Corps?
  • Suitability and sustainability of the future Integrated Naval Force Structure?
  • Sustainability of the air force structure?
  • Implementation of true joint all domain operations?

Ronald O’ROURKE, Navy Large Unmanned Surface and Undersea Vehicles: Background and Issues for Congress, Congressional Research Service Report R45757, 18 September 2019, p. 5
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