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MARSOC SOF-MAGTF Capabilities Integrations Analysis and Operational Modeling

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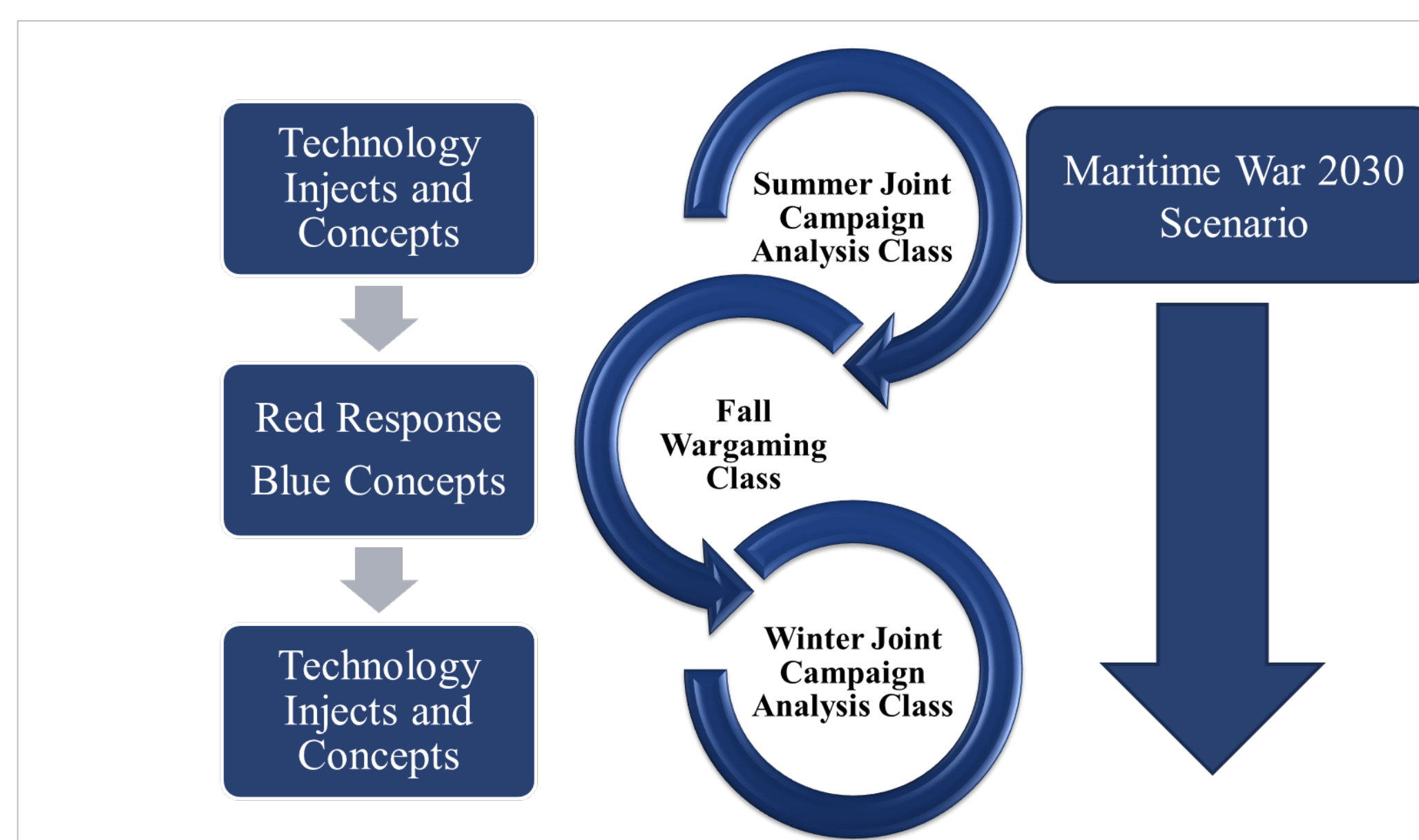
SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES - MARINE AIR-GROUND TASK FORCE (SOF-MAGTF) CAPABILITIES INTEGRATIONS ANALYSIS AND OPERATIONAL MODELING



Naval Postgraduate School

Objective

Utilizing the NPS Warfare Innovation Continuum examine SOF-MAGTF Capabilities Integrations in a future Distributed Maritime Operations (DMO) and identify mechanisms, in a conventional maritime conflict scenario (South China Sea), that will allow MARSOC to better serve as a bridge for capabilities integration with SOF and deployed MAGTFs to fully maximize the complementary capabilities of each formation.



NPS Warfare Innovation Continuum

PACIFIC DEFENDER:
MARSOC INTEGRATION IN A CONVENTIONAL CONFLICT

WARGAME OBJECTIVE: IDENTIFY MECHANISMS, IN A CONVENTIONAL MARITIME CONFLICT SCENARIO, THAT WILL ALLOW MARSOC TO BETTER SERVE AS A BRIDGE FOR INTEGRATION WITH SOF AND DEPLOYED MAGTFs

GAME CONSTRUCT: BOTH SIDES WILL MIMIC THE ORDERS GENERATION OF MARSOC OPERATIONS IN CLOSED PLANNING SESSIONS THEN WITNESS THE RESULTING EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT WITH THE CHANCE TO COMMIT ADDITIONAL FORCES FOR PRIORITY TARGETS.

SCENARIO: THE GAME SIMULATES THE EARLY STAGES OF A MAJOR CONVENTIONAL CONFLICT THAT HAS EVOLVED INTO THE "BLUNT" PHASE OF COMBAT. IT WILL PIT A MARSOC COMPANY AGAINST A SIMILARLY-EQUIPPED ADVERSARY IN THE PHILIPPINES. BOTH SIDES ARE ATTEMPTING TO EXTEND THEIR LOCAL INFLUENCE AND SET CONDITIONS TO DOMINATE SHOULD THE CONFLICT CONTINUE TO EVOLVE.

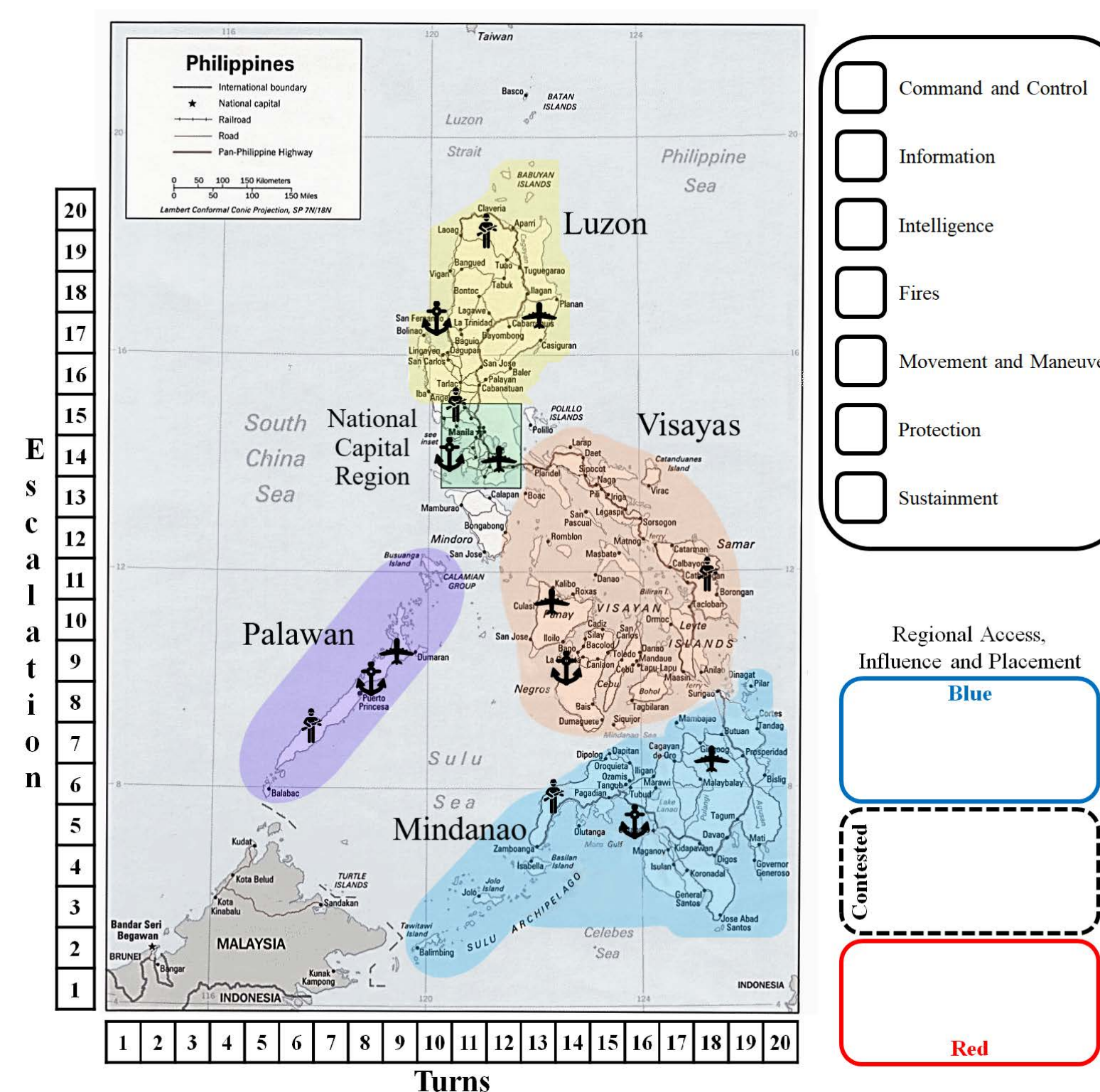
NPS Wargame Pacific Defender

Wargamed Examined Issues:

- What indirect opportunities exist to better succeed in the Contact Layer?
- What actions can and should MARSOC take to capitalize on identified opportunities?
- What actions can and should MAGTF take to capitalize on identified opportunities?
- What indirect approaches in the Contact Layer could provide opportunities and advantages in the Blunt Layer and deter major conventional war?
- What AFP partners are most effective and efficient for mission accomplishment?
- What is the Contact Layer's risk assessment of indirect approaches/actions by MARSOC?

Findings and Recommendations

- MSOCs should become well-versed in Theater Special Operation Command strategic and operational plans, and Department of State (DOS) Integrated Country Strategy for the Philippines, and EDCA, during the inter-deployment training cycle (IDTC).
- Increased collaboration and future preemptive planning with the PATT, 31st MEU SOFLE (Special Operations Forces Liaison Element), and SEVENTHFLT staff during the IDTC will better align OAAs, concept of operations, and theater-security cooperation events for execution on deployment by the rotational MSOC.
- There is a need for increased command, control, communication, and intelligence with MARSOC during IDTCs and on deployments.
- MARSOC is too focused on counter terrorist (CT) efforts, and the 31st MEU is too focused on contingencies and the Blunt Layer, and increased non-CT OAAs are necessary to adequately counter-revisionist states. Therefore, improving dialogue between, SEVENTHFLT, 31st MEU, and SOCPAC will increase 31st MEU's contribution of capability and capacity in support of SOCPAC OAAs and the DOS integrated country strategy for the Philippines.
- Leverage MARSOC as a synchronizer, increased MAGTF capability and capacity will improve price and availability and influence to Conventional AFP Joint Task Force Commanders and sub-component commanders.
- Location and timing of joint combined exercises should vary, as the advantages of conducting multiple combined joint exercises each fiscal year outweigh the counterintelligence and Operational Security threats.



NPS Wargame – Philippines Scenario



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