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SOF-MAGTF Capabilities Integrations Analysis and Operational Modeling (Continuation)

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Monterey, California: Naval Postgraduate School

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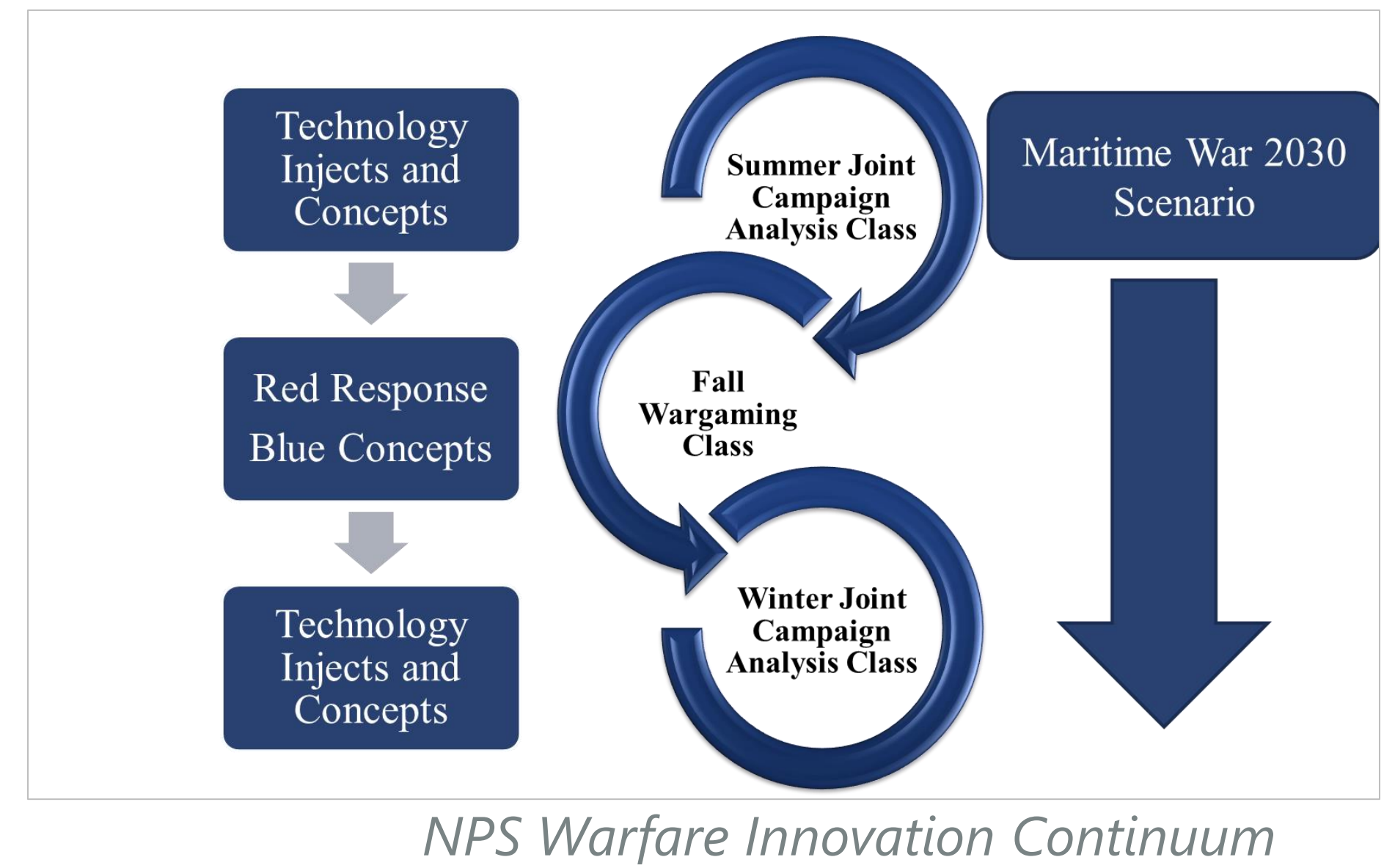
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Objective

The objective of this effort was to explore how can MARSOC operationalize SSR to achieve effects across the continuum of cooperation, competition, and conflict in a littoral environment. Utilizing the NPS Warfare Innovation Continuum examine the operational utility of SSR to attain and maintain a position of advantage in the grey zone while maintain a position of advantage for a transition to conflict.



NPS Wargame: Littoral Mobility

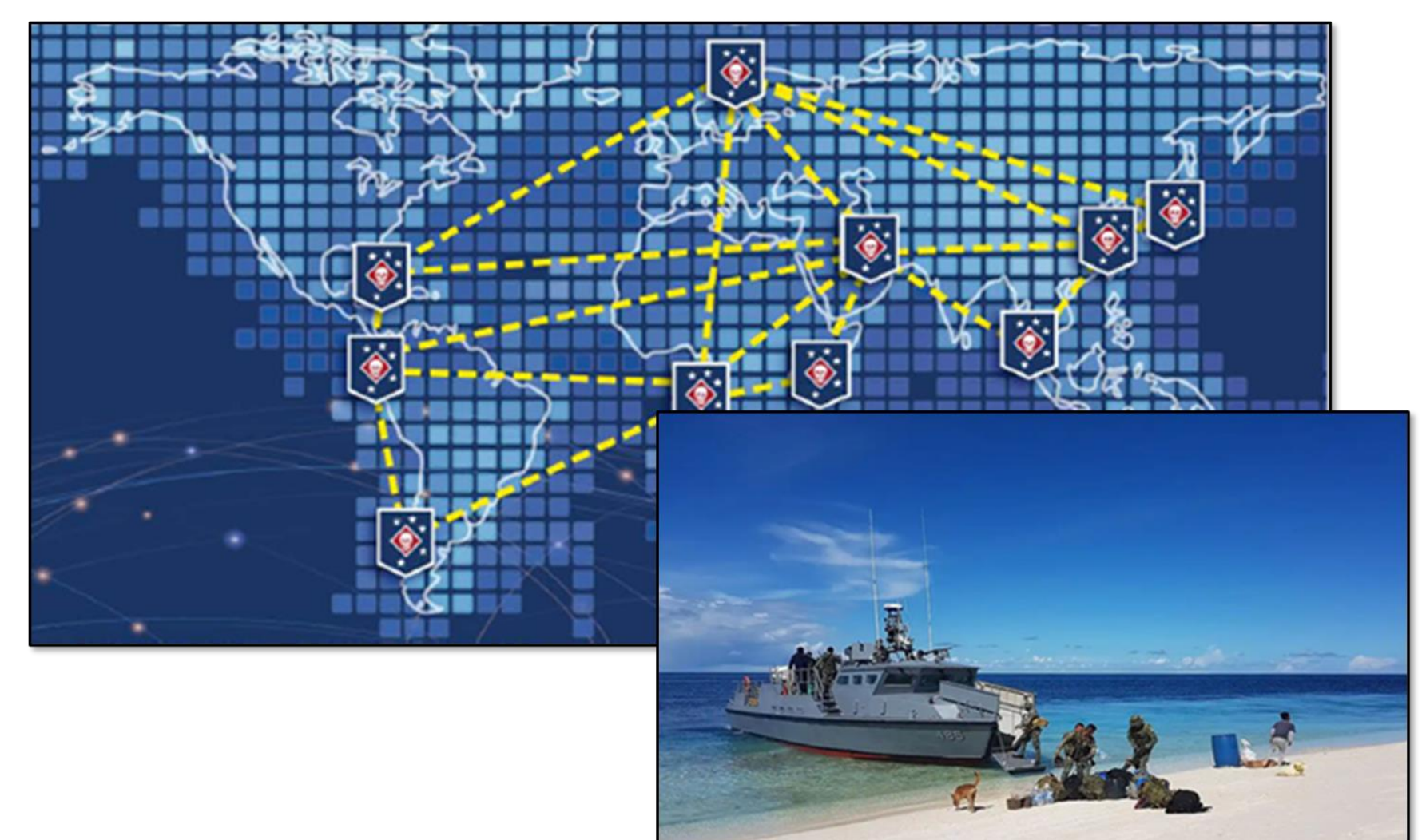
Wargamed Examined Issues:

The overarching objective of this effort was to explore how can MARSOC operationalize SSR to achieve effects across the continuum of cooperation, competition, and conflict in a littoral environment. This effort focused on gaining insights into the following three major issues:

1. What maritime platforms best support an SSR mission in a littoral environment?
2. What tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) should be used for littoral mobility in support of SSR missions?
3. How do external agencies, including the interagency, China, local media, and the special operations task force (SOTF) react to the SSR platforms and TTPs?

Findings and Conclusions

- A medium-size (10-15 personnel), host nation owned patrol boat, or a locally sourced fishing trawler appeared to be the best performing platform for both island-hopping and intra-island hopping. For riverine missions, planning teams focused on either military or civilian-styled zodiac-class boats. Planning teams favored these platforms specifically for their ability to navigate shallow waters under motor power or while rowed.
- The overwhelming majority of teams utilized overt actions to create a clear narrative for their actions. Many teams conducted bilateral, partner force training in conjunction with their mission to support a positive narrative. Additionally, teams often conducted recreational or commercial fishing and diving operations to add additional narrative.
- Building relationships with interagency partners is critical to operations. Overall, interagency organizations were concerned about the potential impact operations involving civilian craft and using “innocent” recreational activities might have on the goodwill narrative of US involvement. This concern highlights the importance of command teams building good rapport with embassy country teams



Strategic Shaping and Reconnaissance