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# Prospects for Deterrence, Escalation, Coercion and War in the Indo-Pacific

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## Indo-Pacific Regional Trends

- China in the midst of aggressive naval buildup that includes new surface vessels, aircraft carriers, and nuclear-powered submarines.
- Numerous maritime disputes throughout the South China Sea as well as North Asia.
- Regional states modernizing their navies with latest digital capabilities.
- USN continuing FONOPS in region.



*China continues an aggressive expansion of its navy in 2021-22.*



*US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin described initial concept of integrated deterrence during speech at INDOPACOM in the May 2021.*

## US Response

- Emphasis on “integrated deterrence” as highlighted by Sec Def Austin.
- Deterrence linkages across different warfare domains: cyber, space, land, sea, air, information, conventional, nuclear.
- Framework seeks to prevent the outbreak of war by dissuading adversary from launching an attack.

## Deterrence Framework

- Draw upon Cold War era and apply it to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, recognizing key differences between then and “now.”
- Maritime domain is paramount in Indo—Pacific, but also eastern Med and Black Sea, Baltic, North Atlantic back in play.
- Land, sea, air, undersea, information, space – multidomain operations are a reality!
- All of government approach – no more stove piping....



*USN working towards Network centric, multi domain operations at sea*

## The Dynamics of Maritime Deterrence?

- What kind of force structure does the USN need to operationalize “integrated” deterrence framework?
- What kind of conceptual framework can the USN develop to guide its operational concept development to strengthen deterrence?