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Navy Force Structure Review Strategic Risk Workshop and Technology Review

Kline, Jeff; Stames, Paul; Wirtz, James J.; Russell, James A.; Huntley, Wade Lee.; Otte, Douglas E.; Barreto, Jane F.

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Navy Force Structure Strategic and Technical Risk Assessment



TASKING

In January of 2022 the Navy's lead for the OPNAVwide Navy Force Review Study (NFRS) requested the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) conduct an independent strategic risk assessment and a technical risk assessment of the current programmed Navy force structure and three alternative force designs generated by the OPNAV NFRS team. The objective was to provide additional independent valuations of each fleet alternative to assist in down-selecting to one alternative for further study.



Illustrative Alternative Fleet Design

Which conflicts/missions are most likely?



Using a modified scenario planning process the strategic risk assessment participants generated alternative futures to weigh the value of each fleet alternative in each futures' potential conflicts

Technical Risk Assessment

The technical risk assessment was conducted as a modified Delphi method with NPS engineering and technical faculty recruited to be the technical risk SMEs. Each reviewed the flag-level selected fleet design alternative's technologies and employment concepts individually. A one-day workshop brought them together to exchange observations and information on those technologies. The participants were then asked to provide their technical risk assessments as individuals. Results synthesized and provided to OPNAV team

Participants and Methods

- Over thirty NPS faculty and officer-scholars from a variety of strategic and technical curricula were recruited to participate.
- The Strategic Risk Assessment contained both a futures generation workshop and risk assessment workshop comparing each fleet in eight different futures in the metrics of robustness, resilience, reactivity, and recovery.
- Classified results were provided to OPNAV NFRS team to assist flag level panel to down select to one fleet design alternative

Level	Likelihood	Cost Assessment
5	Not Likely	Unaffordable
4	Low Likelihood	Affordable – significant offset required
3	Likely	Affordable – some offset required
2	Highly Likely	Affordable – minimal offset required
1	Near Certainty	Affordable – no offset required
	5	



Charts like this risk cube were used to facilitate discussion in the risk workshop

The Bottom Line:

Scenario – based methods are useful to provide a qualitative strategic risk assessment of future force designs.



Researchers: CAPT Jeffrey E. Kline, USN (Ret.), Operations Research; Dr. Paul Stames, Center for Executive Education; CAPT Doug Otte, USN (Ret.), Operations Research Department; Ms. Lyla Englehorn, Naval Warfare Studies Institute

Topic Sponsor: CDR Stephen D. Steacy, USN; OPNAV N-81 lead for Navy Force Structure Review

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