NATO and Multi-Domain Operations: Between Deterrence and Conflict

Friday 30 June 2023 17:55 (20 minutes)

Authors:

Andrea Gilli, Mauro Gilli, Nina Silove

In recent years, the United States and its Allies have adopted the concept of Multi-Domain Operations to handle the return of Great Powers'rivalry, the diffusion of anti-access/area-denial capabilities, as well as the opportunities and vulnerabilities generated by emerging technologies –including cyberattacks and manipulation of the information space. MDOs represent an attempt to achieve military superiority in a more complex and contested world against near-peer competitors, neutralizing coercion, managing escalation as well as penetrating segregated environments by seamlessly exploiting capabilities belonging to different domains. The planning and conduct of MDOs requires, however, an extensive transformation: existing force structures will have to be re-calibrated for maneuvering across strategic distances; current formations will have to develop the capacity, capability and endurance to operate across multiple contested domains against capable adversaries; armed forces will have to achieve cross-domain synergies to launch multiple forms of attack through the rapid, continuous, coordinated and disciplined integration of capabilities from all domains. Such transformations entails severe challenges, primarily in terms of command and control, capabilities development and strategic planning, as well as digitalization, standardization and human capital. At the NATO level, such challenges are further exacerbated due to traditional dilemmas of coalition warfare and alliance management, including intelligence and capability sharing, harmonization and doctrinal alignment. The article looks at these challenges, highlighting the obstacles NATO Allies need to overcome for deterrence as well as winning future conflicts.

Are you a PhD student or early-career researcher?

No

What discipline or branch of humanities or social sciences do you identify yourself with?

International Security

If you are submitting an Open Panel proposal, have you included all four abstracts in attachment?

No, I am submitting a Closed Panel abstract

Authors: GILLI, Andrea (NATO Defense College); GILI, Mauro (ETH Zurich); Dr SILOVE, Nina (ETH-Zurich)

Presenter: GILLI, Andrea (NATO Defense College)

Session Classification: Open Panels

Track Classification: Open Panels: Alliance Management