

The Role of Joint Air Power - JAPCC Conference 2007

PANEL 1

"The Comprehensive Approach"

(summarized statements)

Many actors in Afghan, over 2600 organizations, will take a comprehensive approach of everyone working together towards a common outcome. In NATO HQ, apprehensive to discuss, who has the lead to develop the comprehensive approach? NATO is responsible for security and stability operations. Other activities are responsibilities of other organizations. What is the air power's role? Who tasks, lays out objectives, etc.? The key for the conference is to determine the joint role of air power, to suggest arrangements and procedures for joint tasking, and TTPs that need to change for more effectiveness.

DIME model separates "information" as a separate strand, but it really is about winning the will of the people and is an information campaign. In military, we have to consider the impact of our activities to the cognitive domain. The things we don't do have cognitive effects. From **Air Cdre Porter's** briefing we learnt about the key elements to come to perception. We have to recognize a lot of bad press reports on collateral damage. In Kabul, locals were worried about intrusive house searches by land forces. What is proper perception? There is a need to adapt the way we do Battle Damage Assessment. Doing BDA on cognitive effects can take a long time. How do you measure it? CAOC needs to alter techniques to measure effects.

We fight jointly. An asymmetric enemy can never match our technology. They grab us by the belt buckle and pull us in. No more technology. No more air power. It's down to rifles and bayonets and street smarts. In Vietnam, we wanted to maintain a non-communist government and we failed. We have lots of lessons learned. When we use our technology to find and detonate IEDs, we are one step away from failure. If we give the enemy a 100 percent chance to score a soccer goal, he will score some. Why are we letting him take those shots? What is our theatre campaign plan? What's our strategy in Afghan? I couldn't find one while I was there. How can air power work with ground forces to accomplish counter-drug mission? Meanwhile airmen are doing convoy duties. If we can connect the right people to make sure that airmen understand the expected effect, before dropping the bomb, would be helpful.

To sum up the missions we have to accomplish, we should help Afghanistan to take care of its own internal security threats. Regarding this as a vital central element, how can we build a host nation air force? What kind of infrastructure do they need? Is there a doctrine available appropriate for a third world air force? What equipment requirements are necessary for a third world air force? How do we get them to the point, where they can plan, fly and lead an air operation? The Afghan people must become more aware of the need to build a host nation air force and the need for the military to translate it into action.

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Q&A

Q

Why don't we use UN for the comprehensive approach? Do they need to be better enabled? Why don't we have a campaign plan for Afghan? There is one that was agreed to in London last year. Are we not supporting it? Will strategy work in Afghan where we don't have the same interests and culture? It works in Europe, but maybe not there.

A

Yes, we can deal with different cultures. The military advisors in Laos did a great job building the Laos Air Force. They were very successful in South Vietnam as well. There is not a cultural barrier to building an air force. The common problem is technology. You can train pilots and ground personnel, but training the leadership is hard. Running a C2 system is a problem.

A

The UN has not yet demonstrated the political will or capability to accomplish the mission. Who would coordinate a campaign approach? If the UN should coordinate it, who shall have the lead? It may default to the military, because they have the structure.

A

On a national level, we aren't doing a comprehensive approach, so how can we do it at an international level?

A

I disagree with these strategy comments. The strategy is not clear. What is the end state? The political side will change the end state. Where is the campaign plan? They could not find a campaign plan when I was in Afghan.

Q

I agree with air traffic management issues, but I would not want to be flying with Afghan second generation aircraft and to get into an air/land operation in Afghanistan. Concerning IED challenges, we have to look at the safe havens and how can air power help?

Comment

Someone spent the last 15 years dismantling the Iraqi Air Force. Now, with international perspective, we have to decide how to rebuild the Iraqi Air Force.

A

Iraq has short term needs. Helicopters and strike capability. They should be able to get an agreement on what they need and what equipment to buy. Afghanistan will take years before they could possibly fly with NATO. We should have a phased plan to where they could plan and carry out missions with NATO. We need to build a comprehensive plan to build an Iraqi Air Force.

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A

The Afghanistan government must rely on the local population. The population has to be ready to take things into their own hands. They need to stand up against the Taliban. That is the only way we can win, it has a human dimension.

Q

Where does air power fit in the comprehensive approach? We need to start with our own nations at first. We failed in counter-drug in Afghanistan. How would we start to solve this in our own countries? What are the ideas? It's too early to look to UN.

A

The UK tries to do cross department campaign planning. Other departments don't do planning like the MoD does. What is your strategic aim? Military ends up working implied tasks instead of actual tasks.

A

The things are getting better now. US, UK, Canada have recognized the need to integrate various government elements. Capacity - most non-military organisations have only small capabilities to deploy people. In Bosnia, the military was in support of the civilian side. It was a successful nation building and security. You can do it internationally, but you need someone in the country to have the authority. In Iraq and Afghan you don't have it early. Now for sure, they don't have the capability for training a host nation air force.

Q

What is the role of air power in a comprehensive approach? What do we provide and what does host nation provide and when?

A

In Afghanistan they should go to train police forces and build governance on a provincial level. That is more important now, instead of building their air force. They have nothing, no capacity, so we can do less and less.

Q

How do we organize that kind of support they need? What is the priority and focus?

A

They have limited people and resources; we need to select what they can really handle.

Comment

To create a one size force does not fit all. Iraq and Afghanistan have different requirements.

A

They need to develop an air force cadre early, because it takes years to get any results. It takes a longer period to develop an air force than it does to train a soldier. Need to decide early what capacity you want to build up. Lots of resources are necessary to build an air force, but the bigger issue is how long it will take. We have to plan to provide the support for several years.

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Comment

To quote a comment of a journal article concerning a rebuilding of the Iraqi Air Force: They lost all their talents to the four winds that could have been used to rebuild.

Comment

We need to consider cognitive effects.

Q

There is a need to get buy-in on the comprehensive approach. What do the Afghanis want versus what do we want for them? We can't focus on just building an air force for the time being. In Kabul, lots of people are looking to rebuild the airport, but there is no comprehensive approach on why it needs to be rebuilt. JAPCC paper, must consider that comprehensive approach must be adopted by NATO.

Q

Army aviation versus air force, what is the right blend of aircraft required? How many Eurofighter Typhoon do you need versus transport aircraft?

A

You need to determine what kind, type of capability you need. "Right mix, missions, etc."
What are the missions for air power? That is the challenge for the conference.

A

We are a Joint Air Power Centre and not the Joint Joint Power Centre. You can only take the air power doctrine so far.

What and where do we need air power? How do we deal with the problem of rotating commanders?

Comment

The doctrine is missing something. When nations want to join NATO, we are good at fighters, but short on enabler aircrafts.

Why not have them share the roles and fill the gaps? But we say if you join NATO, then you need fighters like "us". NATO has too much of one type and not enough of the enablers.

A

There is a need to get trained on lessons learned and get up to speed. Missions continue, while commanders rotate. Focus area: this is a journey; there is end-state for host nation forces. The where they are going should shape our training. *How do we transfer more responsibility to the host nation?* They have the continuity.

Comment

Continuity, air side is good at maintaining continuity because we use reach back.

Comment

I take that issue with me. The environment is changing. What was good six months ago might be not acceptable today.

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Q

What is the impact on the NCS PE review on comprehensive approach as far as requirements determination? Gen Ramms talked about renewed effort on member nations. How can we confront the issue of national issues as war is long and complex?

A

NATO has made decision that they will keep infrastructure and take reduction in people. There is not a common understanding in NATO as its role and responsibility in the comprehensive approach. Reduction in staffs will probably see a focus on war fighting skills versus non-traditional skills due to staff challenges. Focus on core missions (kinetic vice versa non-kinetic).

Q

Teaching the Iraqi Air Force to fly means to get the Iraqi planes out and about, to show stability and confidence. For Gen Ryan, regarding airmen for convoy to security. Are you referring to manning the guns or the UAVs? How do you feel about using Airmen for guns?

A

It is cooperation and partnership to accomplish the mission.

Comment

Importance of perception and measure effects. More specifications on what we mean in the paper.