Application of ISR Capabilities to Tighten the Kill Chain: USAF Perspective

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ISR Effects

COLLECT

ANALYZE

DISSEMINATE

APPLY

NETCENTRIC OPS
Changing Focus

- ISR has always been about the kill chain
  - Artillery spotting
  - Roots of airpower

- 20th century – Hitting Targets
  - Anywhere, anytime

- 21st century – Determine and Assess Effects
  - Kinetic or non-kinetic

Fly – Fight – Win
The Prominence of ISR Operations

- Not just the enemy or type of war
  - Non-state actors, Irregular warfare
- Expectations
- Desert Storm: 99% of sorties had assigned targets
- OIF: 99% of sorties take off w/unknown target
- Requires flexibility
  - Extremely netted operations
  - Global effects
  - Minimal footprint, risk
  - Projects power, not vulnerability

Fly – Fight – Win
“Interoperability is all about what capabilities I have that can make your operations better. Interdependence is all about what you need done that you can’t live without, (and) my capability is the only capability you have.”

General Ronald E. Keys
Fly – Fight – Win
The Wave of the Present
How Do We Improve Today?

- UAS role surpassing expectations
  - Capability, versatility
  - Value for cost
  - Reliability, maintainability
  - Significantly reduce risk
- Deputy SecDef Memo 13 Sep 07
F2T2EA…and E Again
ISR Inventory Evolving

- Paradigm shift in terms of iron
- Legacy ISR Aircraft: LD/HD won’t be fixed through procurement
- Mission Migration From Manned To Unmanned
  - Deliver wide range of kinetic and non-kinetic effects
  - Increased ranges, loiter times, payloads with decreased risk and footprint
- Sensor-Shooter line blurring
  - UAS adding attack capability
  - Next gen aircraft incorporate ISR capability

Fly – Fight – Win
Predator: 600+ hours looking for and tracking al-Zarqawi

2 F-16Cs: 10 minutes of force application

= Fly – Fight – Win
Self-Imposed Hurdles
Overcoming Semantics

- **Strategic – Operational – Tactical**
  - Effects not platforms

- **Sensor – Shooter**
  - Nomenclature constricts potential
  - Misperceptions
    - F/A and *non-traditional ISR*
    - RQ can’t shoot

- **ISR: Support or Operations?**
  - ISR *is* Ops…the *Hunter* in Hunter-Killer

*Fly – Fight – Win*
ISR Capabilities

- Result in a value-added effect
- Intelligence cycle as a lens
  - Traditional view
  - Transformational view
- Assessment

Cross-domain integrated ISR optimizes effects chain

Fly – Fight – Win