



Integrated-Strike Battalions in China's Vision of Future Warfare

OE Watch Commentary: The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has been undergoing major reorganization since 2015. As part of that effort, Chinese forces have been striving to increase joint capability with the ultimate goal of building a fully integrated "intelligentized" force. Another important goal is to achieve more rapid-decision making capability by delegating responsibility down to the lower levels. China's vision of future warfare also includes integrated strike battalions which, according to the accompanying excerpt from the official newspaper of the PLA, "emphasize precision operations, intelligent collaboration, strategic decision-making, campaign level command, and highly integrated tactical actions and prominently featured small-scale precision operations."

The article offers some noteworthy points on these so-called new type precision fighting units, which the author refers to as battalion-level units of high-tech services and arms. According to the article, "integrated-strike battalions" are fully self-contained with their own distinct features, which include the following:

1. They are modular units organized into the system of joint operations forces, which allow for rapid re-grouping capability.
2. They can be used autonomously by putting together the basic elements of task planning, integrated command and control, battlefield protection and operational support, which creates a precision strike chain.
3. They can be used at any time because of their comprehensive integration of precision strike weapons, combined elements of operation, and optimization and restructuring of forces, which allows for quicker reaction time.
4. Through the network information system and information fusion support they can achieve "optimized grouping, intelligent collaboration, and distributed operations," between the fighting unit and between the services' combat force.

Currently, the authors' vision is only in the conceptual phase. However, what is described fits well into China's overall vision of achieving superiority and victory in a battle." **End OE Watch Commentary (Hurst)**

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Source: Zhao Zhonggi and Nan Dangshe, "Create New Type of Precision Fighting Units," *Jiefangjun Bao*, 12 May 2020. http://www.81.cn/jfjbmap/content/2020-05/12/content_261231.htm

Create New Type of Precision Fighting Units

Intelligentized warfare emphasizes precision operations, intelligent collaboration, strategic decision-making, campaign-level command, and highly integrated tactical actions and prominently featured small-scale precision operations.

Currently, foreign armed forces are pushing for the combat concepts of joint all-domain operations, joint all-domain control, and multi-domain operations being into the operational doctrines. The basis of application is a new type of tradition transcending fighting units as well.

... By letting small units get involved in major collaborative efforts, small forces accomplish major tasks, and small actions achieve major goals, and diversified military operations of varying scales are carried out flexibly.

The so-called integrated-strike battalions are, precisely, tactical units [fendui] that can relatively perform precision operations tasks independently, with the backing of the joint operations system...

As the new type of precision fighting units, integrated battalions have their distinct features:

1. *Plug-and-play: as the basic tactical modules for precision strikes in joint operations, they are organized into the system of joint operations forces in a modular form to bring about rapid regrouping and need-based organization of combat forces, so as to flexibly perform the task of precision strike operations.*
2. *They can be used autonomously. The basic elements of task planning, integrated command and control, battlefield protection, and operational support are put together to create a precision strike chain that is effectively geared toward intense attack and defense confrontations and that enables autonomous completion of precision firepower strikes.*
3. *They can be used at any time. Comprehensive integration of new model precision strike weapons, combination of operations elements, and optimization and restructuring of forces are achieved so reaction time is quicker, and battle disposition is more flexible.*
4. *Distribution for joint use: by way of the network information system and information fusion support, optimized grouping, intelligent collaboration, and distributed operations are achieved between fighting units and between the combat forces of the services, to bring the maximum combat effectiveness into play.*