

A standard multi-domain structure of a NATO joint forces operation by 2025-2040.

Source: Translation of graphic from *Vozdushno-Kosmicheskiye Sily: Teoriya i Praktika*, <https://vva.mil.ru/upload/site21/Ndz0E2BEpk.pdf>

Rare Glimpse into Russian Armed Forces' View of Multi-Domain Operations

By Chuck Bartles
OE Watch Commentary

The Russian mass media has said relatively little about the United States Army's Multi-Domain Operations (MDO) concept. The accompanying excerpted article from the *Vozdushno-Kosmicheskiye Sily: Teoriya i Praktika*, the military journal of the Russian Aerospace Forces, is an exception. The article, written from the perspective of Russian Aerospace Forces' officers, envisions how an integrated massive air strike (IMAS) could be accomplished within the context of MDO. Interestingly, the authors believe that an IMAS/MDO is replacing the United States' purported "Prompt Global Strike" concept. Of particular interest in the article is how the Russian Armed Forces view the MDO concept and its future capabilities (as seen in the accompanying graphics) and required Russian actions to counter MDO.

“The concept of an [integrated massive air strike] IMAS application as part of a multi-domain operation has replaced the “prompt global strike” concept with the prospect of achieving global supremacy by super-effective non-nuclear weapons capable of inflicting lightning strikes against objectives of the opposing side’s nuclear missile forces.”

Source: V.I. Stuchinskiy and M.V. Korolkov, “Обоснование боевого применения авиации для срыва интегрированного массированного воздушного удара в многосферной операции противника (The Aviation Battle Application Justification to Disrupt an Integrated Massive Air Strike in an Enemy Multi-Domain Operation),” *Vozdushno-Kosmicheskiye Sily: Teoriya i Praktika* (military journal of the Russian Aerospace Forces), December 2020. <https://vva.mil.ru/upload/site21/Ndz0E2BEpk.pdf>

With the development of high-tech weapons, local wars and armed conflicts are currently taking on a more dynamic and effective character. New military technologies make it possible to reduce spatial, time, and information breaks between headquarters and fighting units. Impact on the enemy is planned using new combat operation methods in the following five domains: ground, sea, air, space, and cyberspace.

Operations and combat actions will be executed through the combined efforts of troop formations of all branches and combat arms under a unified command. The United States, by failing to extend the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, has created favorable conditions for developing and deploying this type of offensive weapon in Europe and the Asia-Pacific Region, which poses a direct threat to the military security of the Russian Federation...The search for types and methods of effective combat operations of Russian Armed Forces groups, in both local wars and armed conflicts, is an urgent task. The likely area of focus for accomplishing this task involves developing a new approach to counteracting possible Western aggression through the comprehensive use of forces and assets of all branches in order to execute a wide range of assigned missions.

The North Atlantic Alliance has developed the most prospective type of NATO joint forces application, the “multi-domain operation”. This operation’s planned execution involves a unified reconnaissance-information space and uses the advantages of the mutual use of the capabilities of the various armed forces branches and combat arms. Under the conditions of the new NATO joint forces combat application concept, executing basic air operation missions (during the initial stage of a multi-domain operation) will not involve massive aviation missile strikes as the main method for aviation and cruise missile application during the air offensive operation, with the purpose of said method being the simultaneous fire destruction of the enemy in a wide area. Instead, this will involve an integrated massive air strike (IMAS) which is a coordinated massive attack for purposes of creating conditions, for subsequent decisive actions on the part of NATO joint forces, which will enable them to achieve subsequent operational and strategic objectives. The concept of a IMAS application as part of a multi-domain operation has replaced the “prompt global strike” concept with the prospect of achieving global supremacy by super-effective non-nuclear weapons capable of inflicting lightning strikes against objectives of the opposing side’s nuclear missile forces.

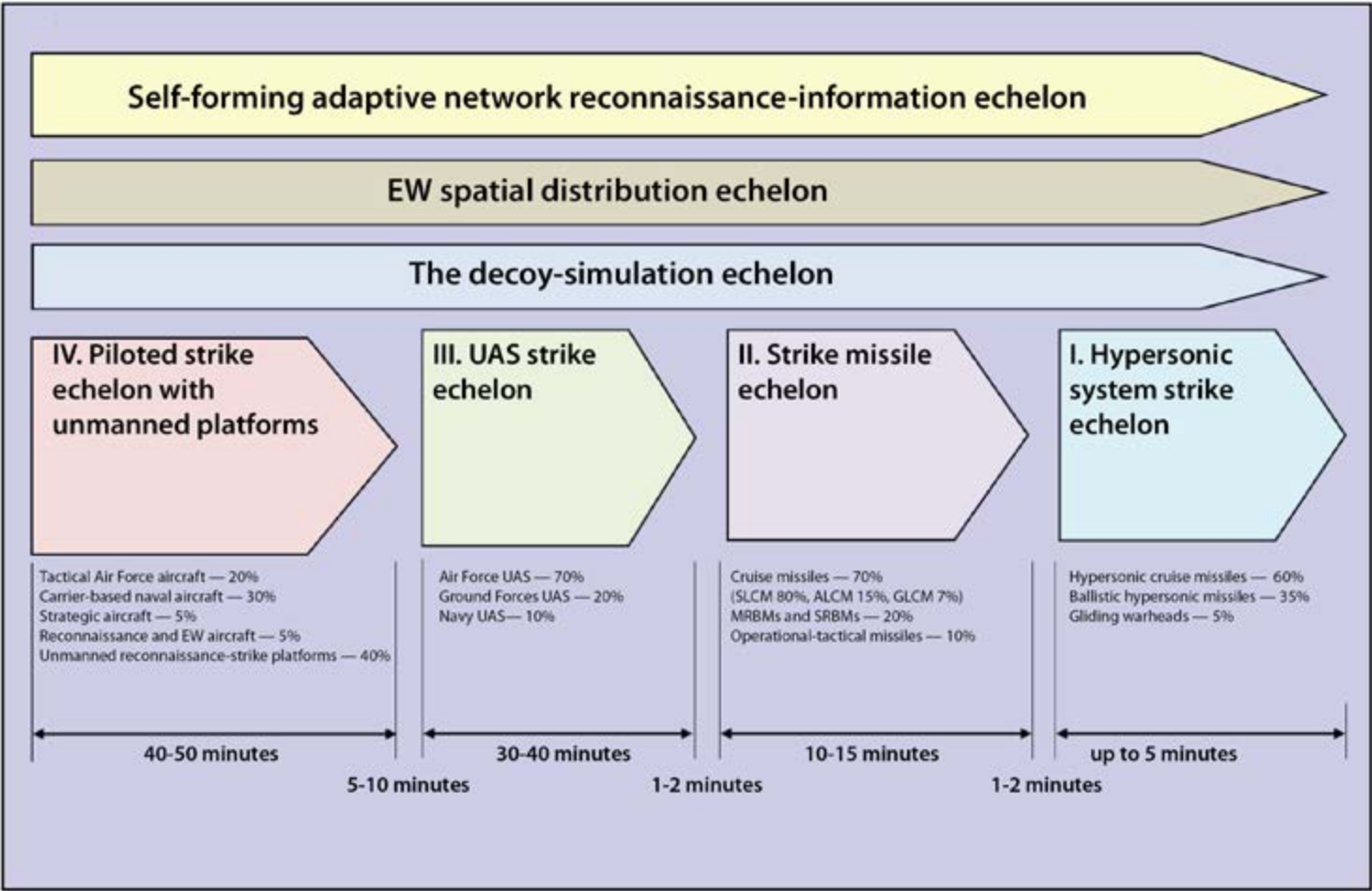
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The brevity of future wars predetermines a compression of the timeframes for executing immediate and conclusive missions in order to achieve the objectives of an enemy multi-domain operation, which, in turn, results in a reduction in the time involved for introducing the enemy’s first combined arms group echelon in the main strike sector in relation to achieving the goals of an integrated mass air strike. An IMAS can be a coordinated massive strike against the opposing side’s most important critical objects, with this being executed in the initial multi-domain operation stage to create the conditions for subsequent decisive actions executed by the NATO joint forces group to execute the final mission...

An analysis of the MDO concept has shown that a multi-domain operation is a complex type of NATO joint forces combat application. Therefore, an effective counteraction to such an operation is the most important operational and strategic mission, which requires mobilizing the efforts of all service branches and combat arms in the theater of operations. Countering an enemy multi-domain operation requires the integration of all involved forces and assets into a unified intelligence-information space and also an increase in the integrated efforts of the forces and assets of the entire grouping of troops...



A possible space-time construction of an integrated massive air strike by NATO joint forces by 2025-2040.

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