

Thinking through Transnational Militarism

The 1000 Ship Navy and Beyond

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Transnational Militarism



Geopolitical Assemblages

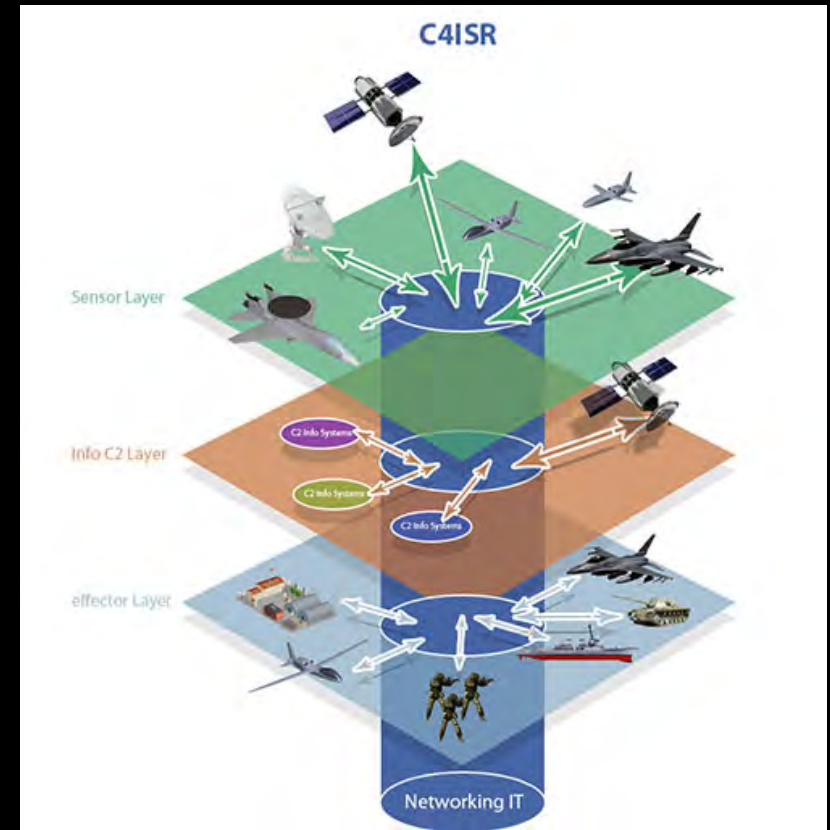
- Assemblage: materialist, flat ontology marked by relations of exteriority (DeLanda 2006)
- ‘The New Statecraft’: Trans-local practices and relations producing the state (Painter 2006; McConnell 2009; Mountz 2010; Jeffrey 2013)
 - Why stop at the state?
- Military coalitions serve as a site where state institutions blur into something ‘bigger’ that acts through, and back on, the state

A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower

- TSN (2005) → GMP (2007) → GNoN (2014)
- “a global maritime partnership that is self-regulating and without treaties” (Mullen)
 - Reflects budget issues (sequestration) and changing nature of maritime threats
 - Focus on humanitarian missions, disaster relief, and constabulary functions
- Built on the back of maritime tradition, materiality of the sea

Maritime Domain Awareness

- AIS (Automatic Identification System) and other unclassified data to be shared
- Turns all participating ships, ports, etc., into sensors in a global network
- Data fusion funnels into ship-level C4ISR; eventually algorithmic responses



Global Network of Navies

- Requires interoperability of all sorts, but especially C4ISR
 - Problems of naval bandwidth
 - Uneven geographies of investment and prioritization
- CENTRIXS-SPOK
 - GNoN will require much greater data architecture

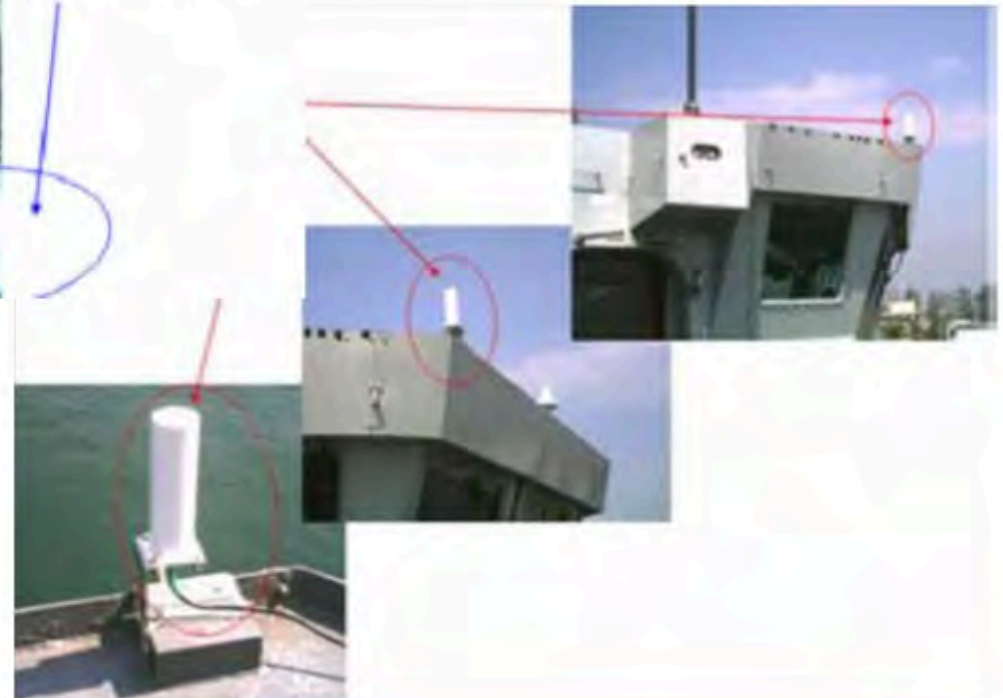
CENTRIXS Portable Operations Kit

Sectera Wireline Type 1 Cryptographic Device
(with connections to PC/Laptop and IRIDIUM)



IRIDIUM Satellite Telephone

External Antenna Connection



Global Network of Navies

- Toward interoperability (Lawrence 2015):
 - Multilateral exercises and combined operations
 - Alternative concepts: doctrinal convergence between US and partners
 - Promote organizational convergence as in *Combined Seapower* (2014)
 - Cooperative acquisition
 - Distribute open core standards and cooperate on technical exploration

Multiple geographies

- Techno-fantasy: state control of maritime space
 - Applies logics of humanitarianism and security to both high seas and littoral areas
 - “Common Operational Picture” of global reach
- Purported altruistic motives but hierarchies emergent from practice
 - Mahanian ‘system defense’, for a start
- GNoN in practice builds on existing regional interoperabilities

Multiple geographies

- Massive recoding and reterritorialization of bodies-technologies assemblages to produce interoperabilities
- Reworking of military apparatuses will shape subjectivities of sailors, officers, policy-makers, states



Work to be done

- Lots!
 - Interviews with policy-makers and naval officers of UK, US, and a range of smaller navies and coast guards
 - Ethnography of multinational joint exercises in order to access both the embodied 'enlisted' experience and also the kinks/failures/unexpected resonances