
PREFACE

The military application of emerging technologies for communications and information processing is likely to change the way military force is managed and applied. Oftentimes, a dramatic improvement in technology brings about an equally dramatic change in military doctrine and organization. One possibility is a doctrine based on swarming, whereby military units organized as networks use dispersed yet integrated operations.

Swarming has occurred throughout military history, and the lessons of this past experience may offer insights into a possible future application of swarming. Very little historical research has been conducted on the use of swarming, let alone a comprehensive review of swarming as a major theme within military history. This monograph seeks to address this deficiency by analyzing ten swarming cases. The conclusions of this historical analysis are then applied to a discussion of future swarming. This work should be of interest to U.S. policymakers, commanders, planners, and others who desire an understanding of swarming and its potential for future light operations or as a new way of warfare.

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