During the 1990s, air operations in Southwest Asia and the Balkans against mobile air defenses, tactical ballistic missiles and their launch means, and fielded forces operating in small units and intermingled with civilian populations served to highlight shortfalls in U.S. dynamic command and control and battle management (DC2BM). The objective of this study is to help the Air Force improve DC2BM of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets and weapon systems in air operations against adversaries that are increasingly employing asymmetrical strategies and denial and deception techniques and leveraging advances in technologies to reduce exposure of many of their critical military systems to U.S. air assets.

The focus of this study is on the ability of the Air Force to effectively attack time critical targets (TCTs) and the extent to which its successes and failures in this area can be attributed to dynamic command and control and battle management capabilities (or their lack). Specifically, the study identifies key DC2BM functions and capabilities necessary to conduct operations against TCTs; surveys new DC2BM programs and initiatives to determine whether they provide the desired capabilities; and develops suggested actions to address identified shortfalls.

This report is an abridged version of a longer, limited-distribution report (Hura, McLeod, et al., 2002) that documents the analysis in much greater detail. The present report focuses on the DC2BM shortfalls identified in the detailed analysis and presents suggested areas for improving DC2BM.
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The research should be of interest to Air Force and Department of Defense personnel involved in developing and fielding enhanced command and control and battle management (C2BM) systems, and to operators developing improved tactics, techniques, and procedures for force-level and unit-level air operations.

Project AIR FORCE

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