



Decentralized Control Considered

PHILOSOPHICAL DISSERTATIONS

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This study concludes that the Air Force should reconsider its adherence to the centralized control portion of its master tenet, centralized control/decentralized execution at the theater level. This limits engagement of the enemy to fleeting occasions. First, many of the initial motivations for why Airman instituted centralized control are no longer valid. In the past, mass was attained through numbers of airplanes, it can now achieved through amounts of accuracy munitions.

Technology supplies the ability to subscribe to network centric warfare where before, hierarchical chains of command were required. During the past numerous aircraft were required to destroy a target, right now one aircraft can perform that same level of destruction. Second, the enemy is adaptive. Third, I present six research demonstrating centralized control has never taken place at the theater level. There are four reasons for this. Control of airpower below theater level best adapts to this new time constraint. The enemy will continue to disperse, mass quickly, attack, and rapidly disperse again. The animosity and confusion occurring between services whilst getting centralized control described has created unnecessary pressure amongst sister services. Nevertheless, it does imply another method of airpower employment may be feasible. Exacerbating the centralized control of airpower debate is the Air Force's own confusion on this issue. The Air Force fully defined centralized control only recently. Never having attained centralized control at theater level will not immediately mean the Air Power should give up that goal.



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