

Mission-based Architecture for Swarm Composability (MASC)

By
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www.sercuarc.org

- Background
- Research Focus
- MASC Architecture
- MASC Methodology
- Conclusions and Future Work

“Swarm robotics is the study of how large numbers of relatively simply physically embodied agents can be designed such that a desired collective behavior emerges from the local interaction among agents and between agents and the environment.”¹

- General attributes:
 - Decentralized control
 - Agent autonomy
 - Large numbers of agents following simple rules
- Relation to systems engineering:
 - Swarm systems are complex adaptive systems
 - Exhibit collective emergent behavior
 - INCOSE complex systems guiding principles²:
 - Identify patterns
 - “Influence & intervene” rather than control
 - “Zoom in and zoom out,” multiple views
 - Cognitively challenging to operate multiple vehicles^{3,4,5}
 - Air traffic controller research



www.wired.com



www.wikipedia.org

Current

Future



Field

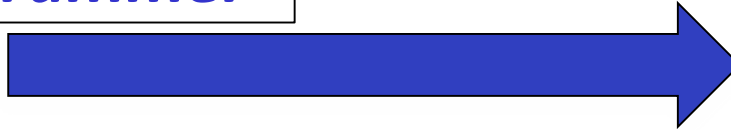


Fleet

www.af.mil



Programmer

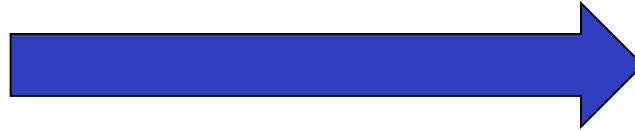


Operator

www.popsci.com



Single Vehicle Pilot

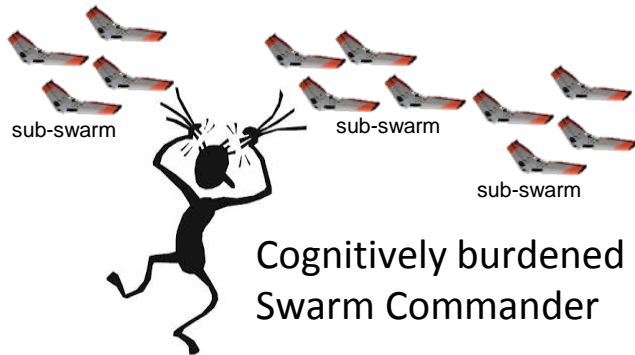


Swarm Commander

www.modelairplanenews.com

Problem

- Informal relationship between swarm mission engineering and swarm systems engineering impedes **architecture reusability**
- Swarm system architecture is dominated by bottom-up, behavior-based design



- Informal
- Operated at single behavior level
- Different action plans for each mission
- Low flexibility
- Micro-management approach

Proposed Solution

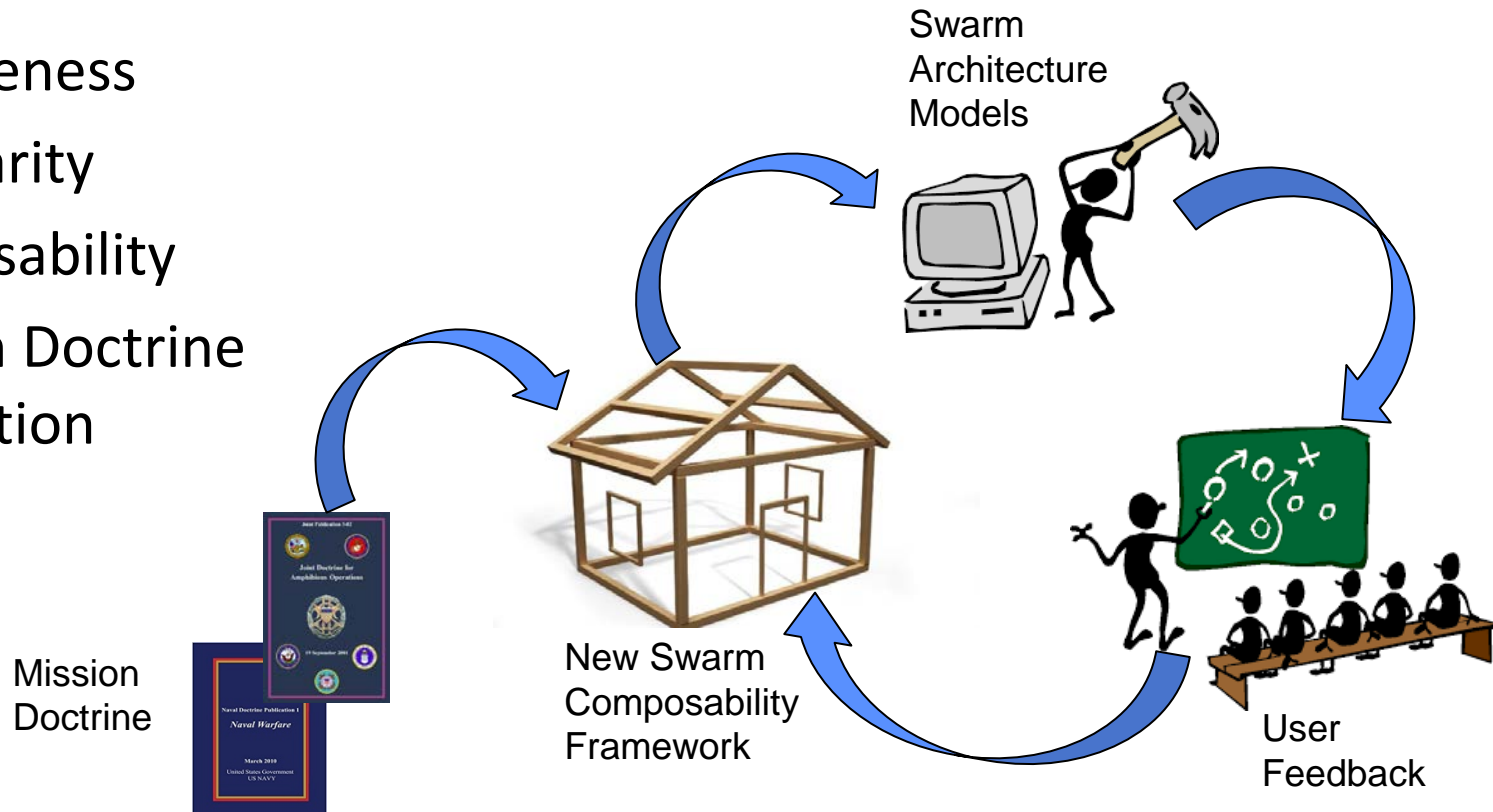
Transfer typical rule-based decisions from the Swarm Commander to the swarm, freeing the human to make **rules of engagement** related decisions



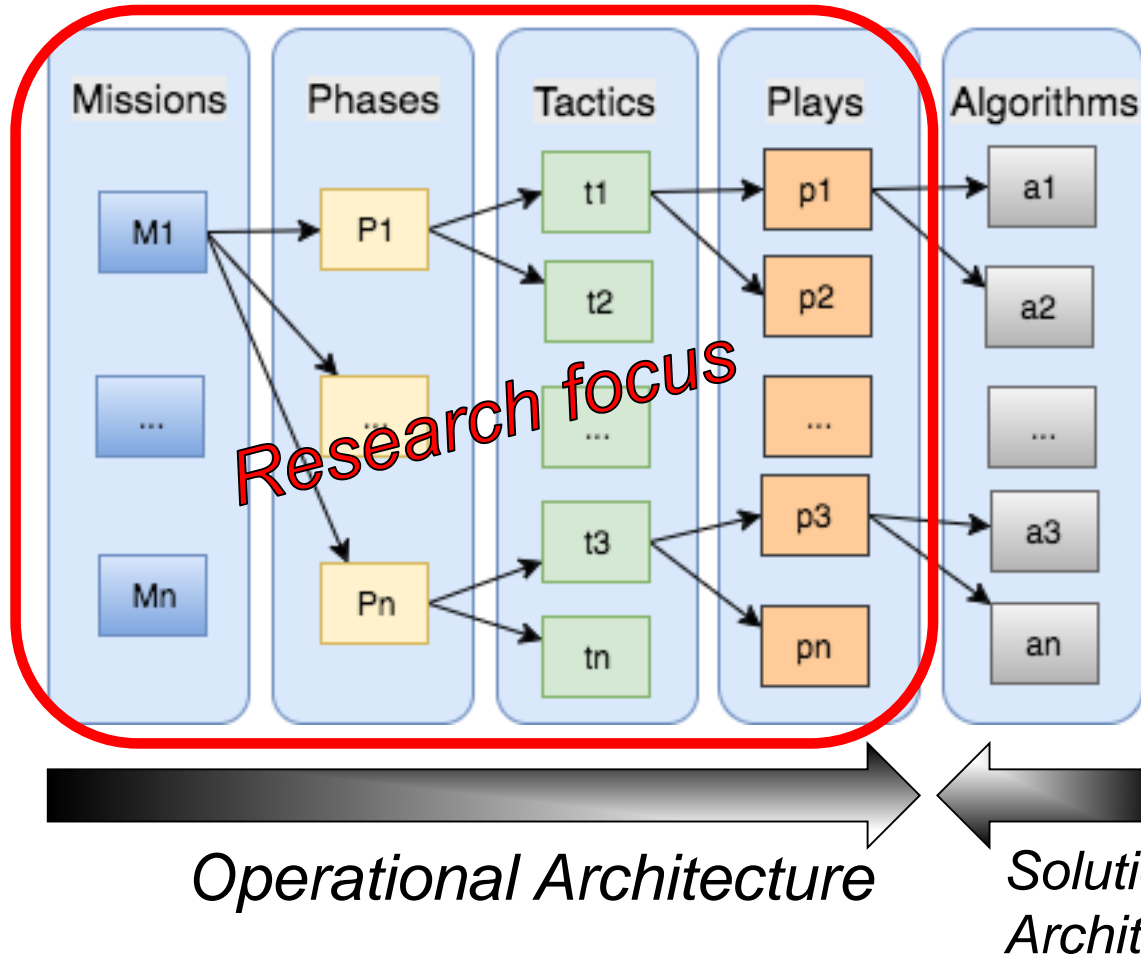
- Formal
- Reusable common patterns
- Modular
- Intuitive
- Platform agnostic
- Experiential heuristics-based

Formalize relationship between swarm mission engineering and swarm systems engineering to promote architecture reusability

- Intuitiveness
- Modularity
- Composability
- Mission Doctrine Integration



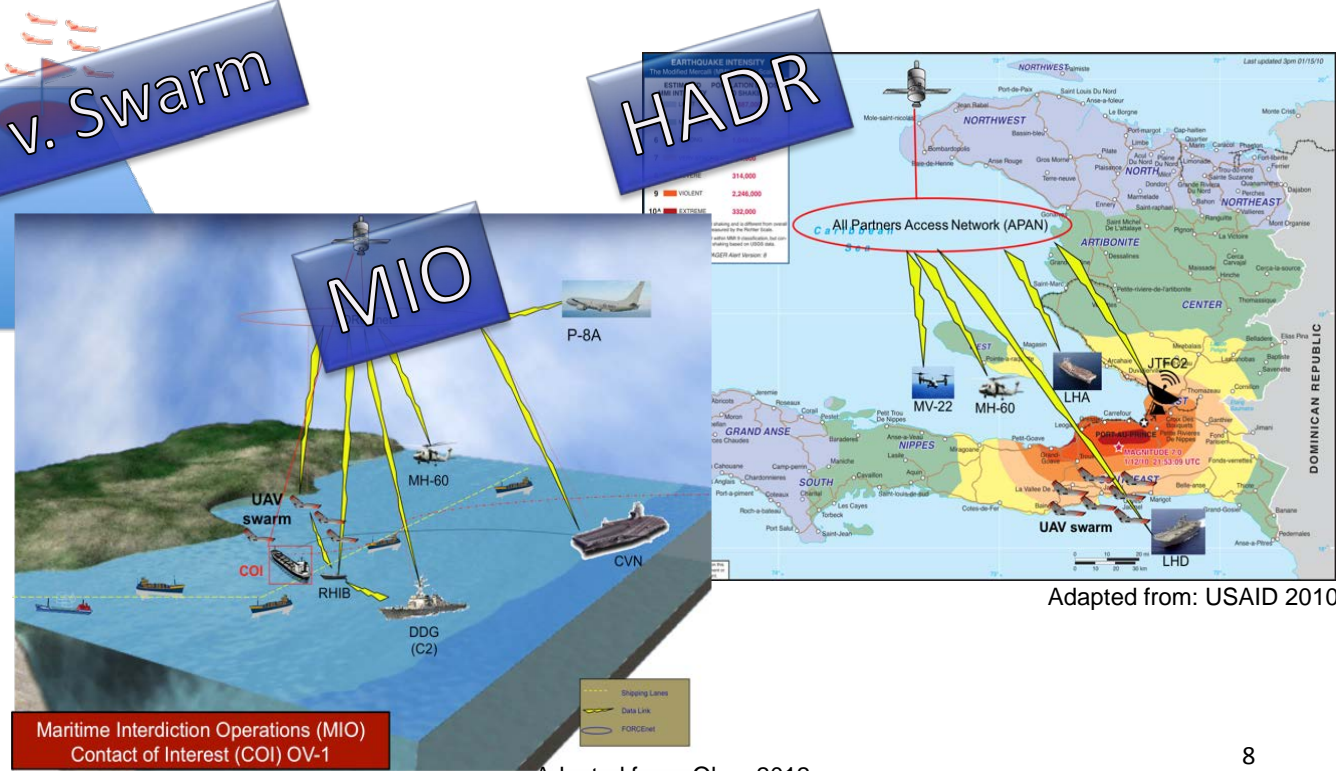
Mission-based Architecture for Swarm Composability



- *Swarm mission* describes the overall task and purpose delineating actions assigned to the UAV swarm
 - Examples: intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR), humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HADR), search and rescue (SAR), and counter drug operations
- Research focuses on three basic missions:



Source: ARSENL 2015



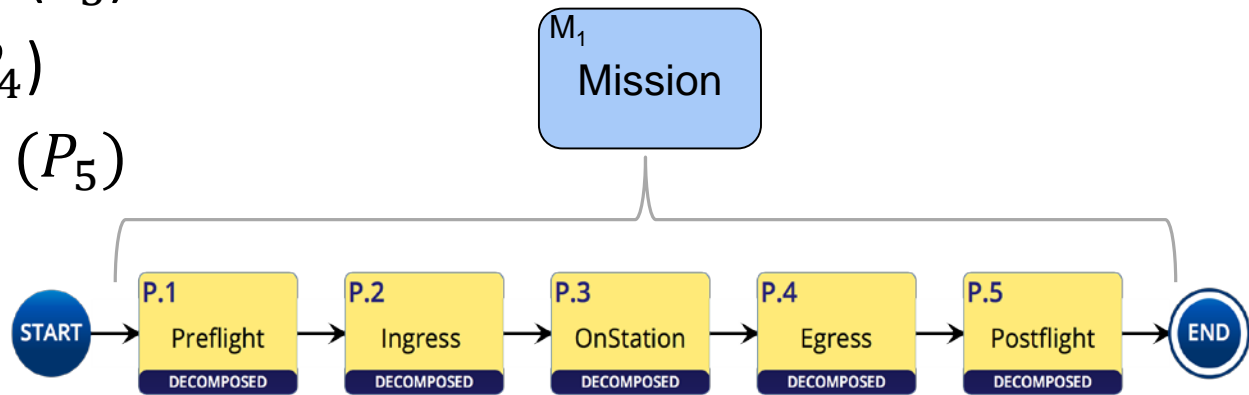
MIO
 Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO)
 Contact of Interest (COI) OV-1

HADR

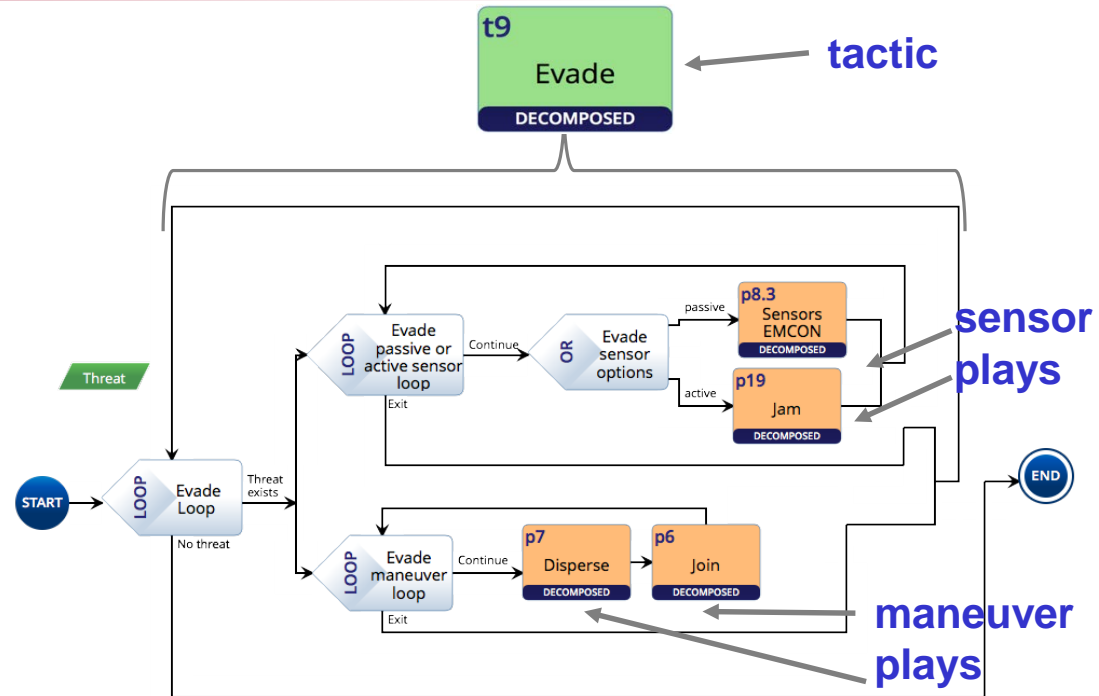
APAN
 All Partners Access Network

Shipping Lanes
 Data Link
 FORCENet

- *Swarm phase* describes a distinct time period within the mission
- There are five operational phases in a swarm mission (M):
 - Preflight (P_1)
 - Ingress (P_2)
 - OnStation (P_3)
 - Egress (P_4)
 - Postflight (P_5)

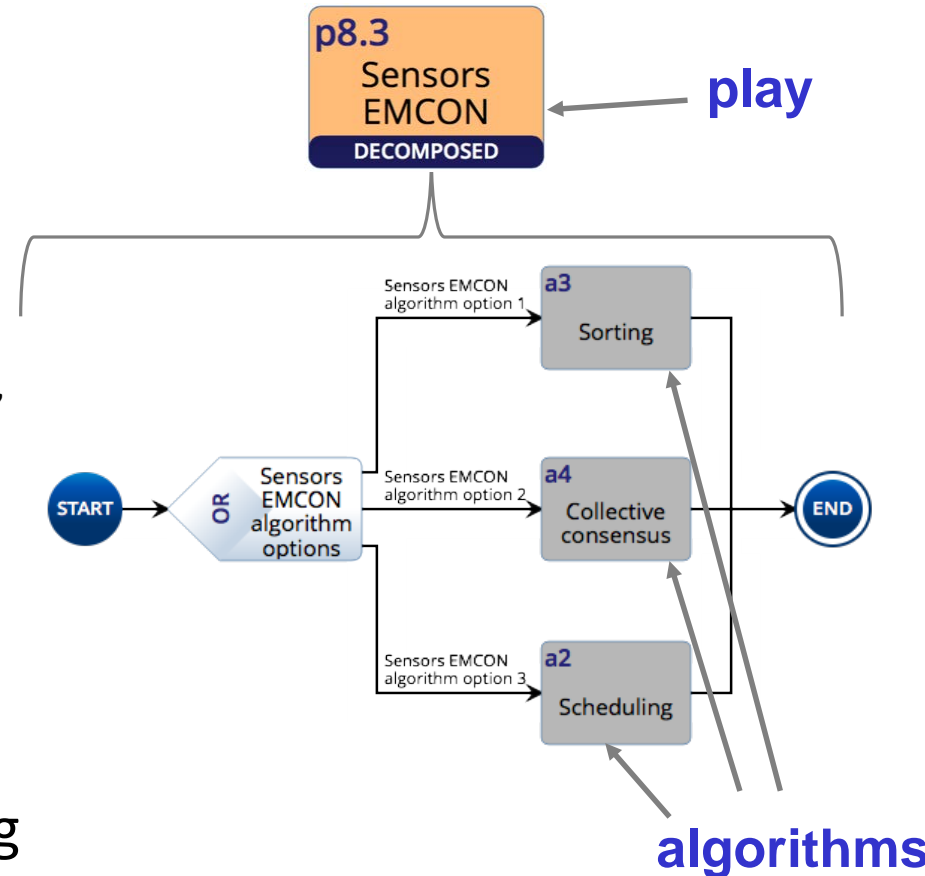


- *Swarm tactic*: employment and ordered arrangement of agents in relation to one another for the purpose of performing a specific task
 - Each tactic composed of one or more swarm sensor and maneuver plays
 - Designed to be used in multiple missions
 - Examples: search, divide, evade, and attack

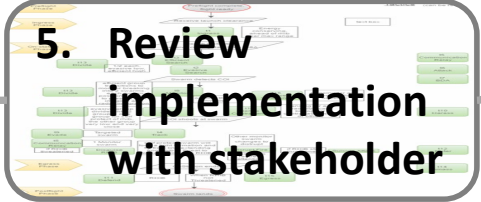
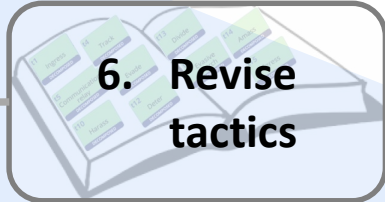
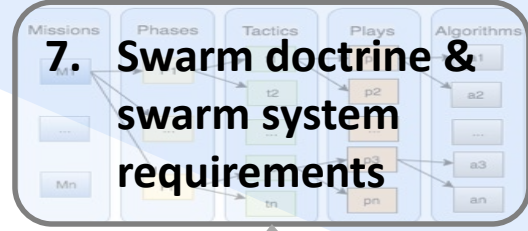
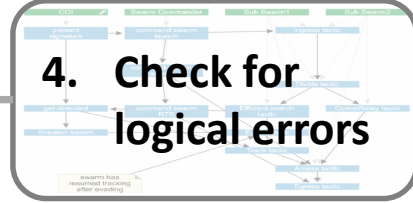
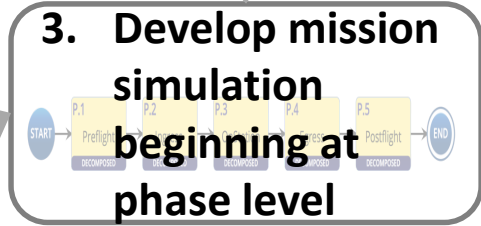
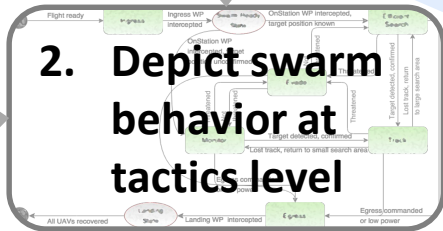


- *Swarm play*: maneuvers and behaviors of swarm as a collective of agents with specific triggers and temporal constraints
 - Each play composed of one or more swarm algorithms
 - Designed to be used in multiple missions
 - Examples: launch, transit, split, join, or bit, and sensors EMCON

- Three general categories¹:
 - Reactive: sense and act, pheromone-based, and other biologically inspired algorithms
 - Reynold's "Boids" flocking, bee colony, ant colony
 - Deliberative: require information trading and solution deliberations
 - Sorting, consensus, greedy selection, physicomimetic
 - Evolutionary: genetic algorithms and other fitness-based optimization functions
- *Swarm algorithms*: step-by-step procedures used by the controlling software to solve a recurrent task



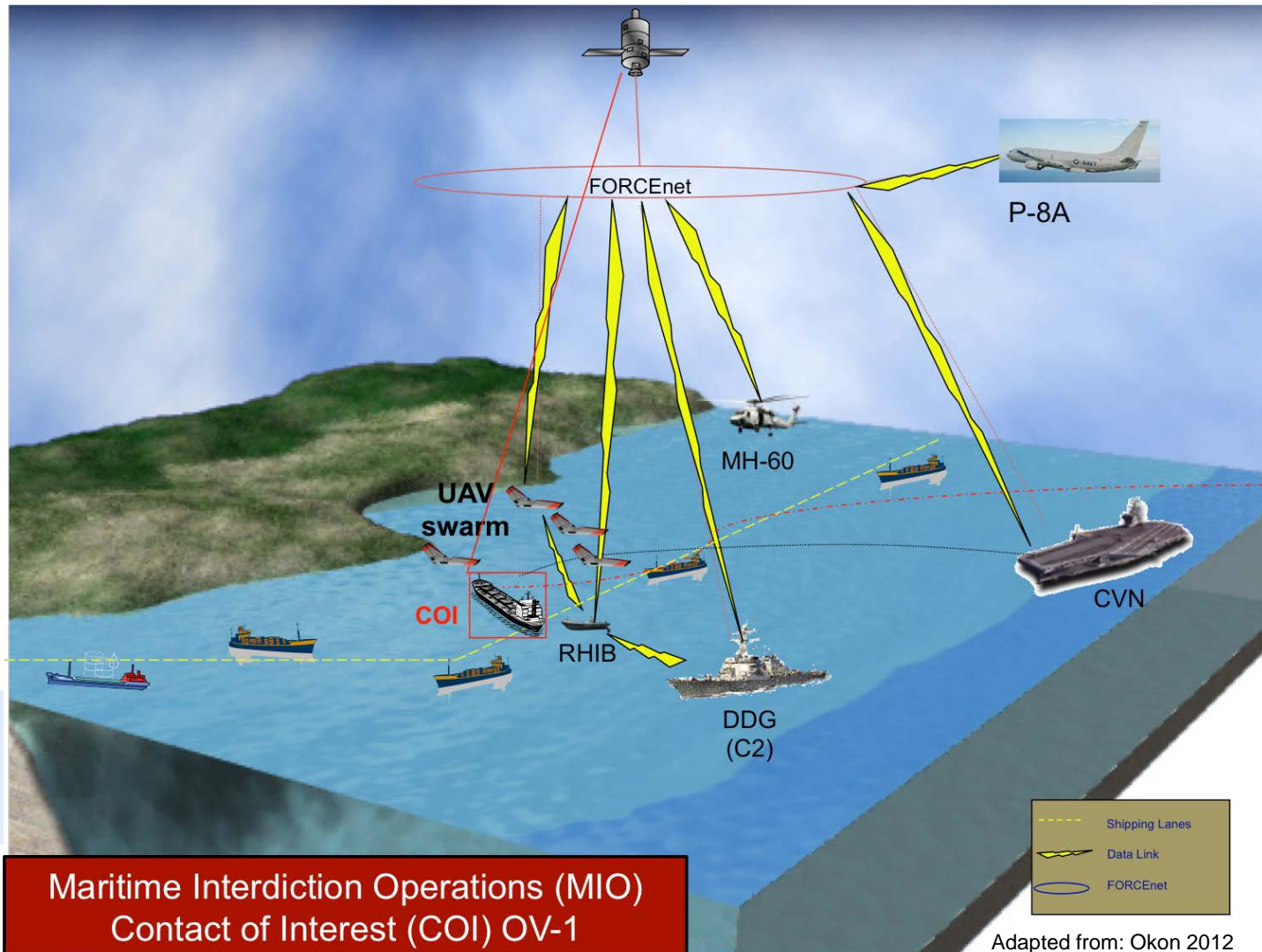
mission doctrine



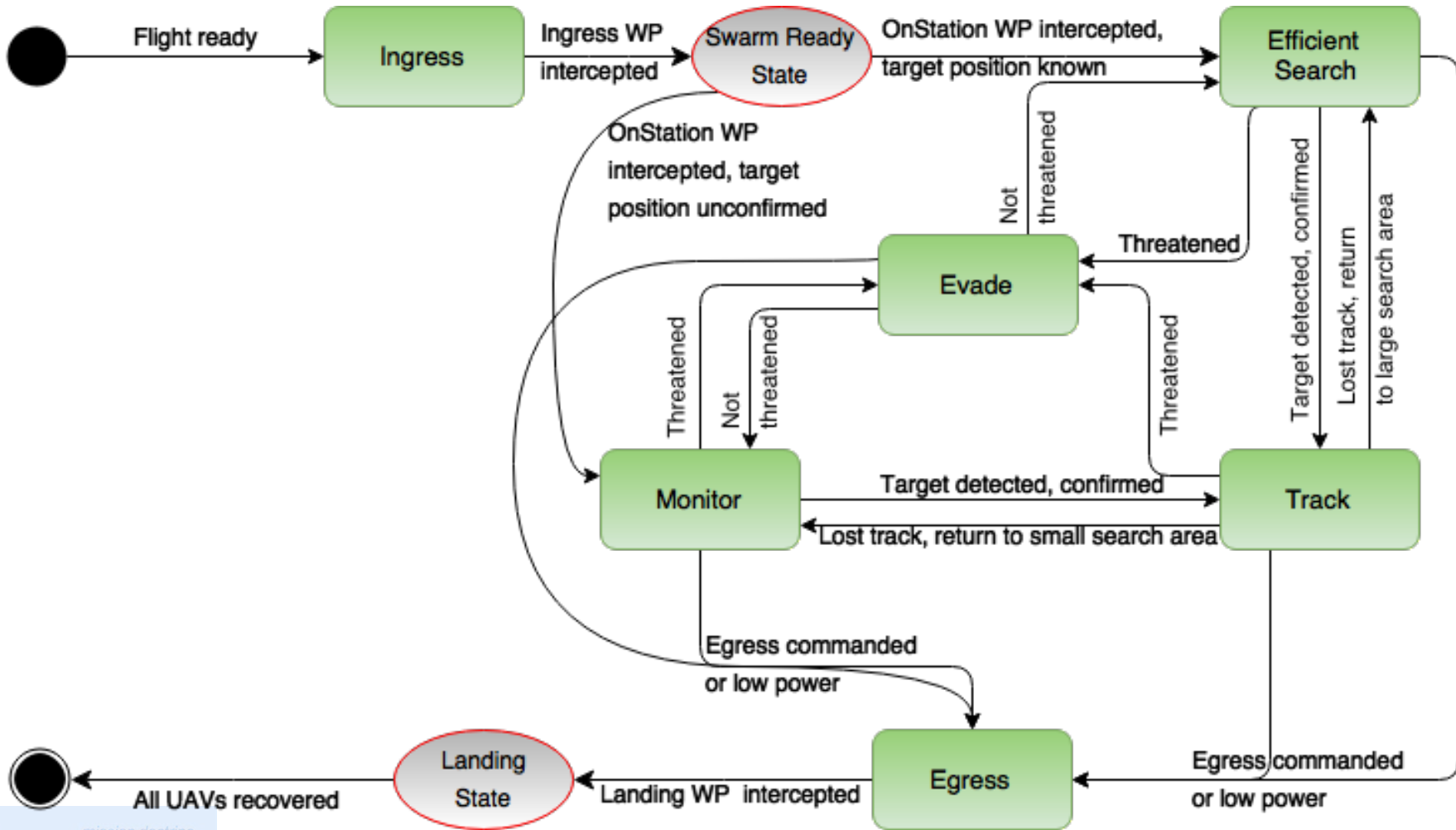
system architecture

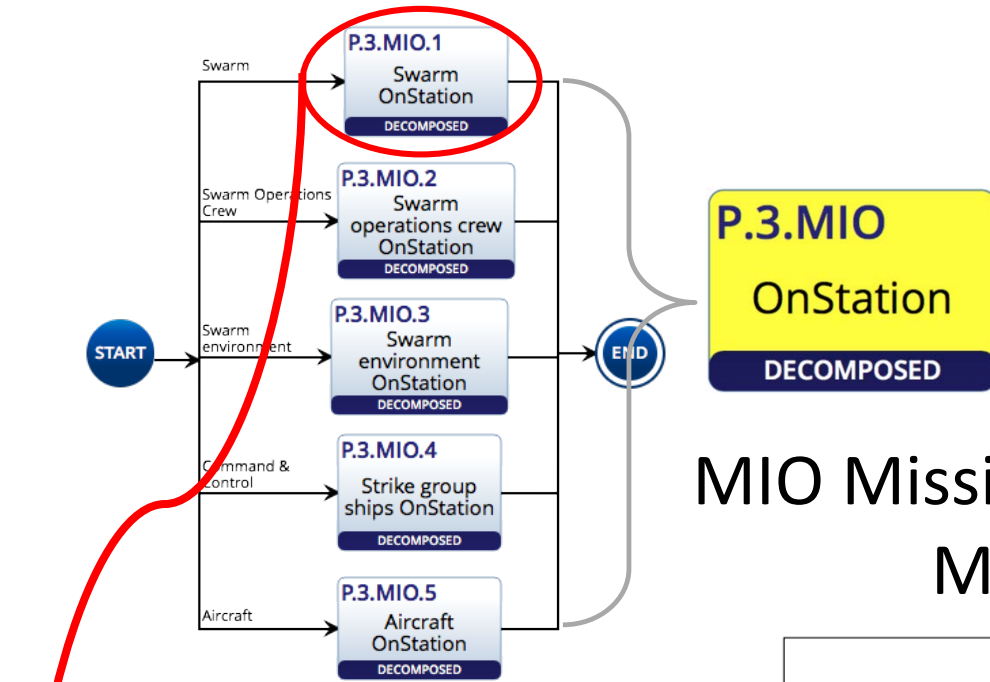
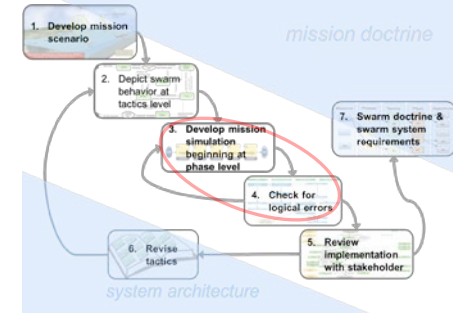
- Multi-national maritime interdiction operation
- UAV swarm supports boarding team with surveillance, communication relay
- Swarm provides real-time, close range sensor collection

Consider this scenario....

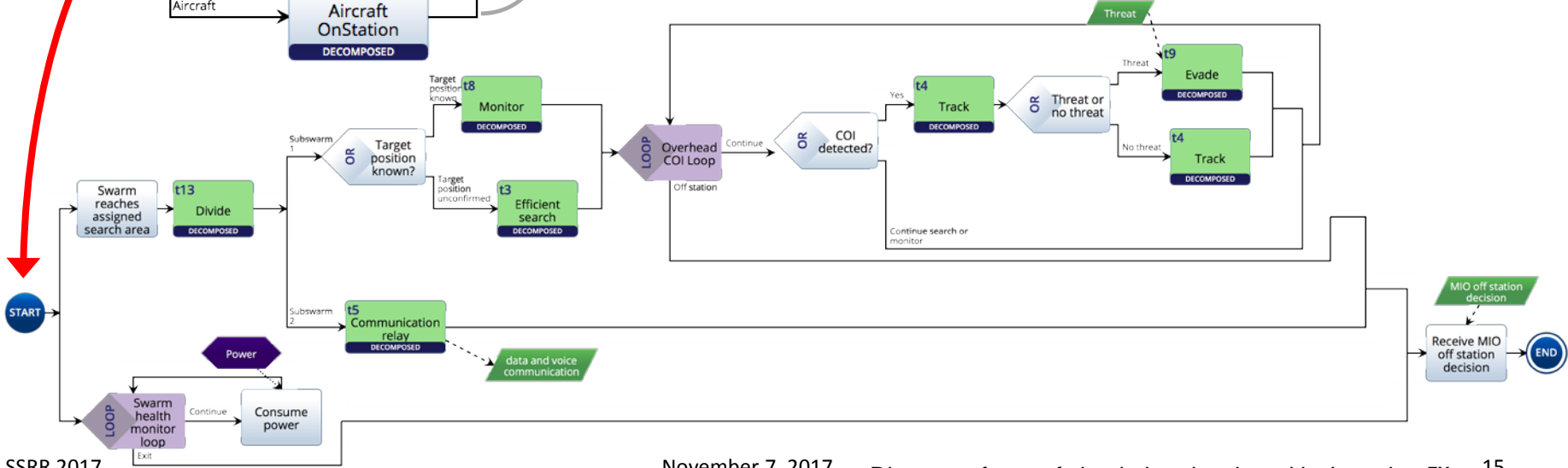


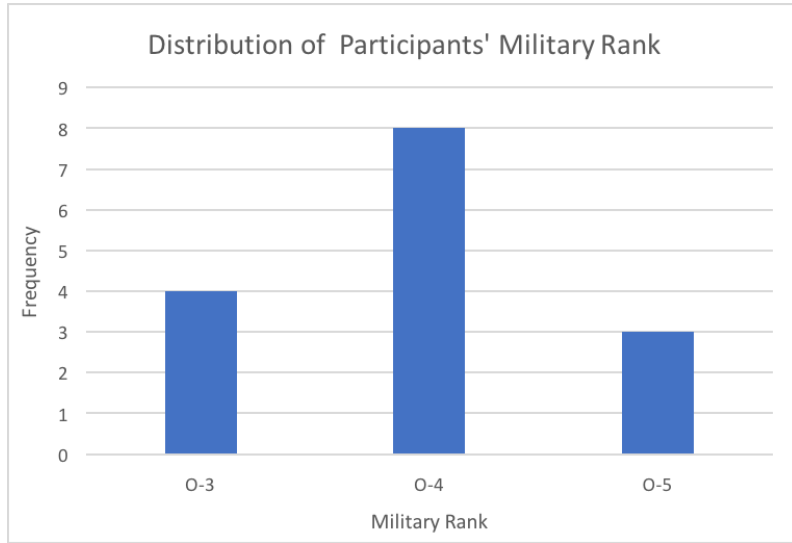
**Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO)
Contact of Interest (COI) OV-1**



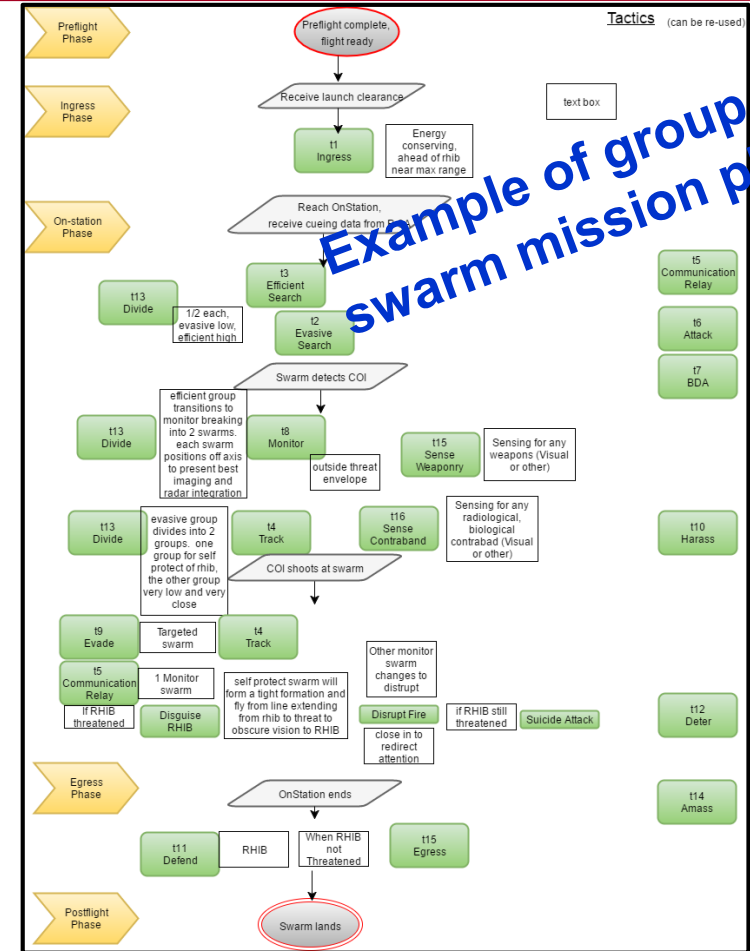


MIO Mission at tactics level using MASC framework





Data were collected from 15 subject matter expert naval aviators and naval flight officers



Participants read the fictional MIO scenario, constructed a **UAV swarm mission plan**, and answered a survey

- Group 1 used tactics
- Group 2 used only plays, no knowledge of tactics

Tactic	SvS	MIO	MIO HSR	HADR
Ingress	B	B	7	B
Evasive search	B		4	
Efficient search		B	5	B
Track	B	B	7	B
Communication relay		B	7	B
Attack	B			
BDA	B		3	
Monitor		B		
Evade				
Harass				
Defend				
Deter			2	
Divide		B	7	B
Amass		B	6	B
Egress	B	B	6	B
ACM				
Option			1	

Modular

Play	SvS	MIO	MIO HSR	HADR
Launch	B	B	8	B
Transit to WP	B	B	8	B
Orbit		B	7	B
Racetrack		B	4	B
Split (logic based)		B	7	
Join	B	B		
Disperse	B			
Sensors ON				
Sensors OFF				
Restricting square pattern	B	B	7	B
Grid pattern		B	2	B
Random pattern	B		3	
Weapon armed	B			
Weapon fire	B		1	
Follow target		B	5	B
Forward communication		B	4	B
Jam			1	
Smart greedy shooter	B		1	
Patrol box shooter	B			
Wingman shooter	B			
Tail following	B			
Option			5	

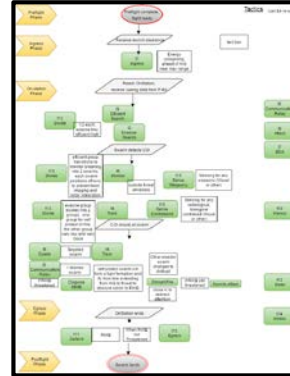
3 mission areas, one playbook

"Seemed to work well and I was able to perform the task in a timely manner."



Intuitive

"Playbook provided all the necessary support for this mission type"

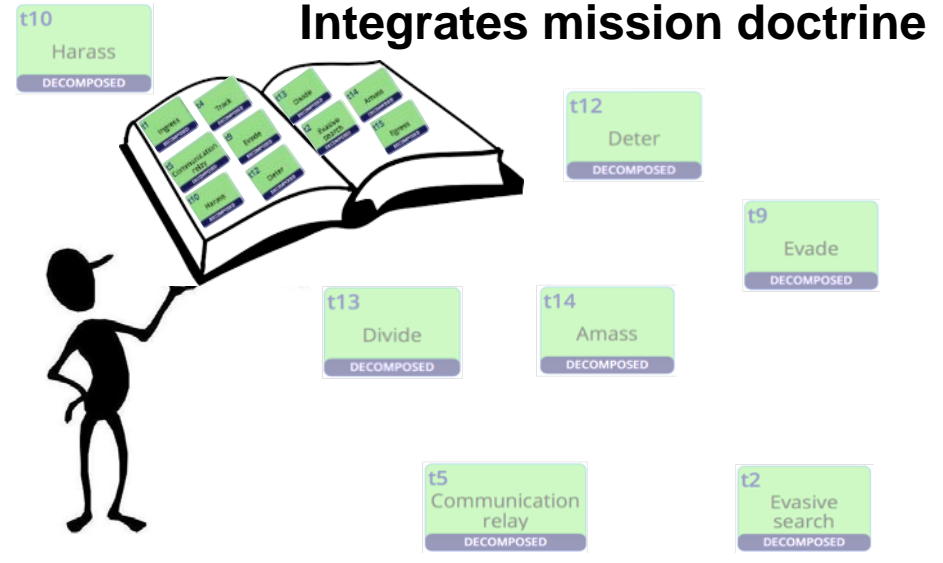
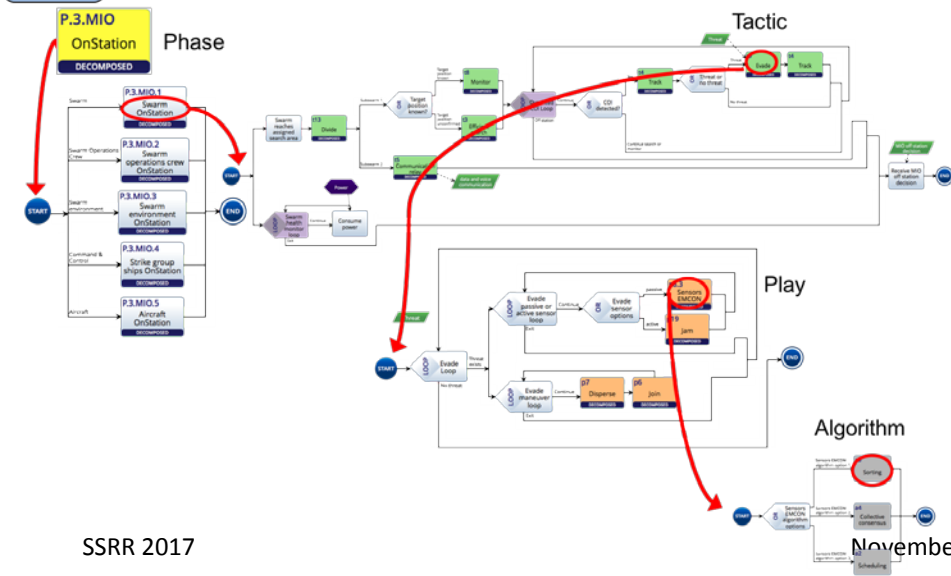


"The structure of mission phases supports the mission execution"

M₁ MIO Mission

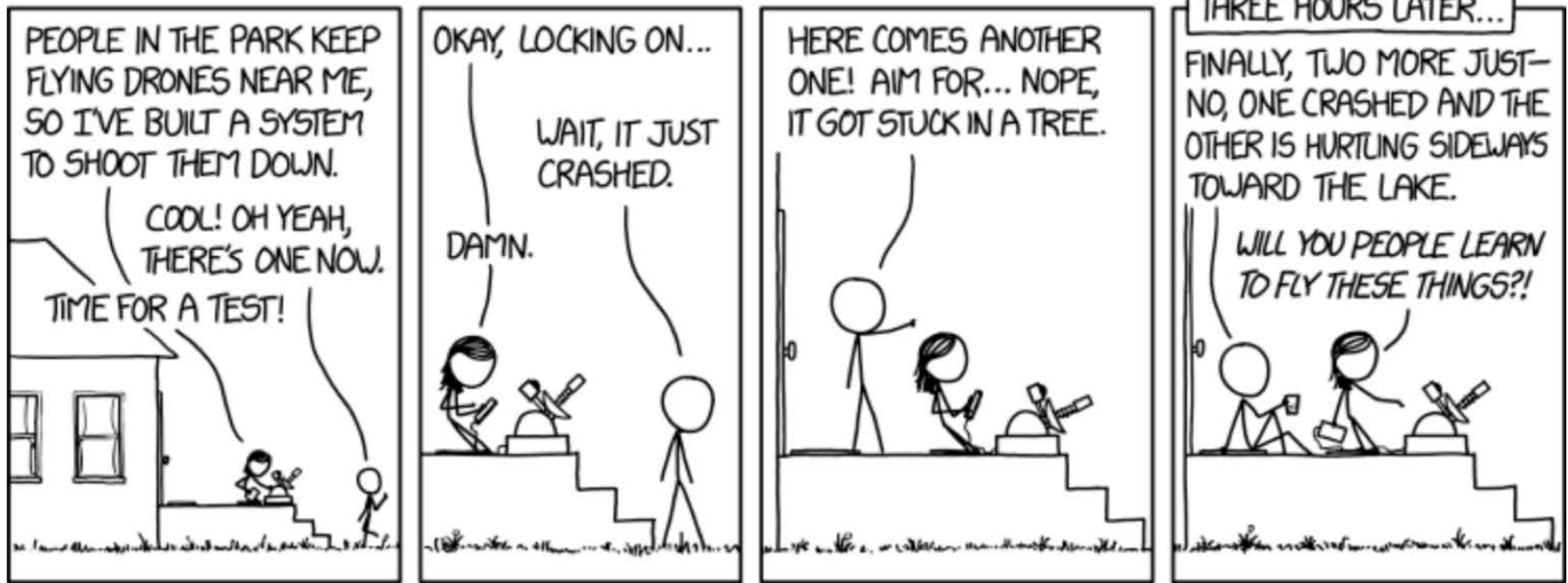
Composable

Integrates mission doctrine



- Support improved graphical user interface for UAV swarm operations
- Incorporate system and operational failure modes into simulation
- Develop swarm system evaluation measures of performance

Drone problems....



<https://xkcd.com/1846/>

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BACK UP

- Swarm technology – inspired by biology:
 - Swarm systems are robust, flexible, scalable
 - Emergent behavior arises from interactions between agents
- Enabling technologies for UAV swarms:
 - Improved communication networks including meshed ad-hoc networks
 - Cost-effective miniaturized electronics: GPS, video cameras, radio receivers, autopilot processors
 - Automation - must shift from operators to monitors and supervisors



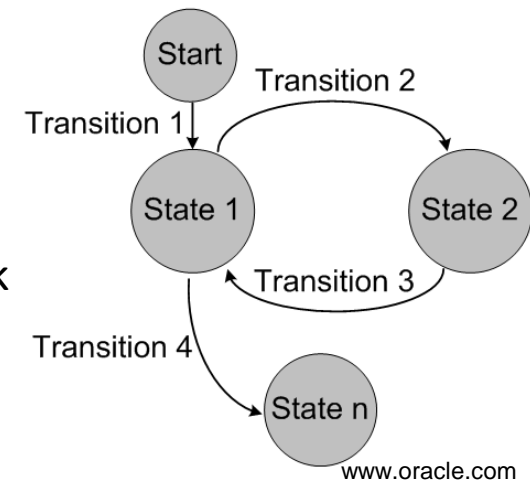
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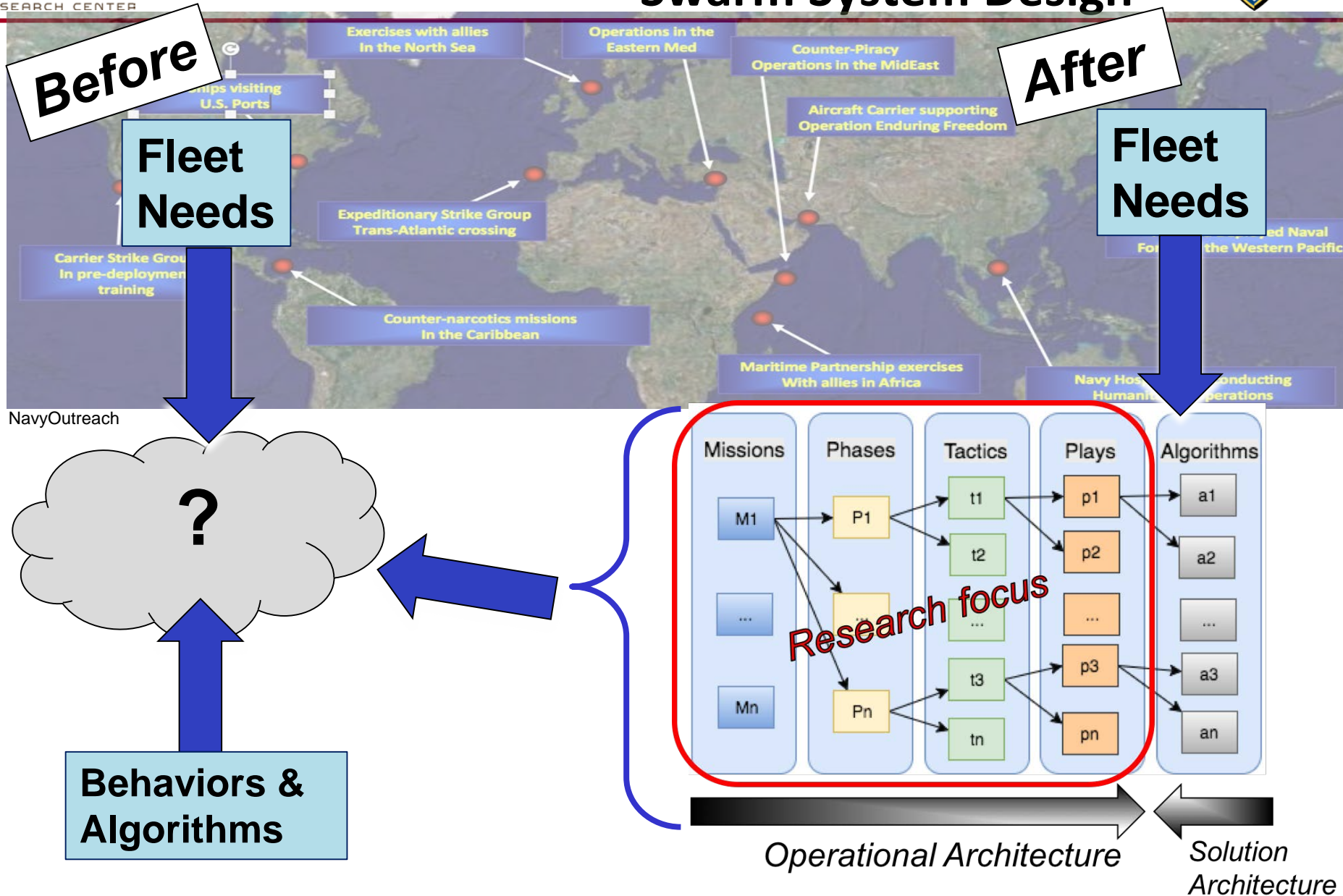
www.wikipedia.org

- *Orchestrated*- one agent selected as temporary leader based on specified factors (e.g., location, state, mission scenario)
 - Architecture is somewhat robust, but not scalable to large or geographically dispersed swarms, and places significant processing burden on one agent
- *Hierarchical*— resembles traditional military command and control (C2)
 - Simplifies data flow, but not robust and inflexible when dealing with dynamic situations that require rapid reactions from agents
- *Distributed* - characterized by absence of leader; swarm decisions made via collective consensus among agents
 - Robust and scalable, but requires communication network that will support potentially increased data traffic, such as wireless, mesh communication networks
- *Emergent swarming*- describes relationships which occur in ant, termite, and bee colonies in which there is no management
 - Agents have no leader, have low situational awareness, and follow simple rules based on local information (i.e. sharing pheremone signals)
 - Have potential to become more relevant as genetic algorithms are further developed

- Hybrid C2 architectures can be used to maximize strengths of each:
 - US Navy's Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) anti-air warfare system utilizes a distributed architecture for situational awareness data and an orchestrated architecture for target selection
- Finite State Machines (FSM):
 - Used in modeling multi-vehicle autonomous, unmanned system architectures
 - Applicable to military swarm systems performing high risk missions
 - Probabilistic FSMs can be used to allow for bounded behavior variability
- Petri Nets:
 - Effective in visualizing and analyzing systems in which there are multiple, independent activities occurring at same time



www.oracle.com



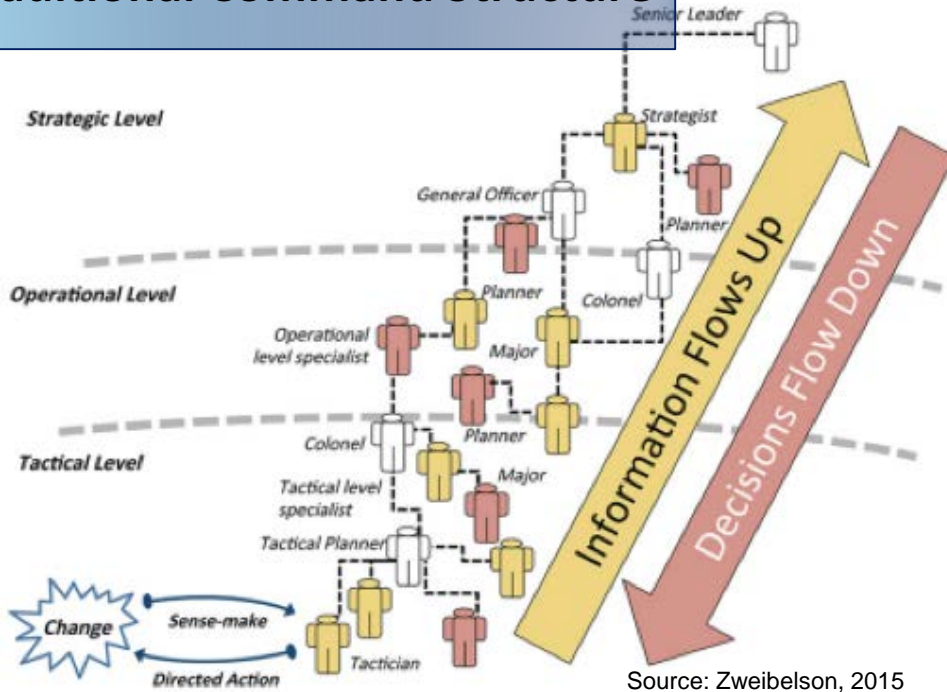
- Military doctrine
 - “Fundamental principles by which the military forces or elements thereof guide their action in support of national objectives” (*JP 1-02*)
 - Influenced by technology, the enemy’s capabilities, organizational structure, and geography
 - Applies at every level of warfare (strategic, operational, tactical)
- Military tactics
 - Handling of forces in battle
 - “The sum of the art and science of the actual application of combat power” (*Arthur Cebrowski, VADM USN, ret*)
 - “...the choice of tactics will also be governed by scouting effectiveness and weapons range” (*Hughes*)
 - Tactical doctrine organizes the playbook

“Fire effectively first!” –Wayne Hughes, CAPT USN (ret)

- Swarming origins:
 - British vs. Spanish Armada in 1588
 - British vs. swarming German U-boat wolf packs in N. Atlantic Japanese kamikaze attacks against US Navy
 - Al Qaeda's strikes on multiple US targets on 11 Sept. 2001
 - Typical NGO operations

- What will modern swarming doctrine look like?
 - Transition from “few and large” forces to “many and small” units
 - Centralized strategy
 - Widely distributed, smaller units executing pulse-like tactics
 - Distributed Lethality?

Traditional Command Structure

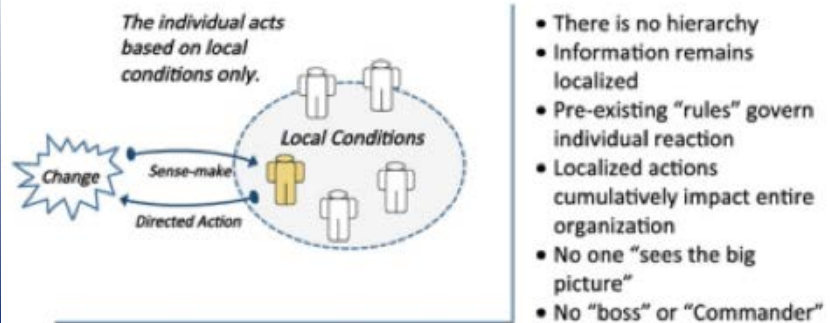


Source: Zweibelson, 2015

- Hierarchical
- Carrier strike group, amphibious strike group

Swarming Command Structure?

- Widely distributed, small units, multi-axis, convergent attacks
- Disperse and amass
- Historical: German U-boats, Japanese kamikaze, Al Qaeda

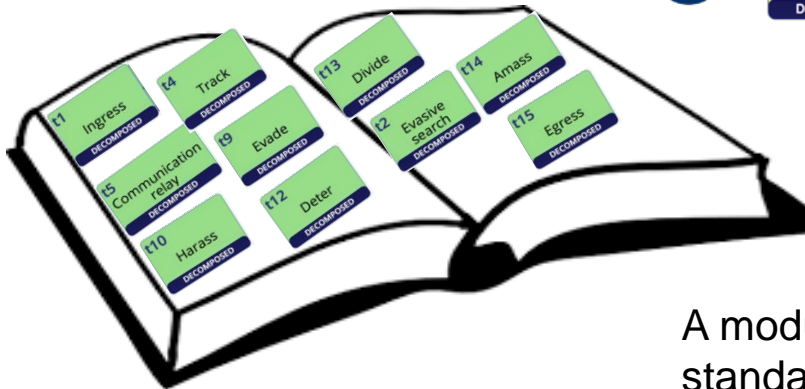


Source: Zweibelson, 2015

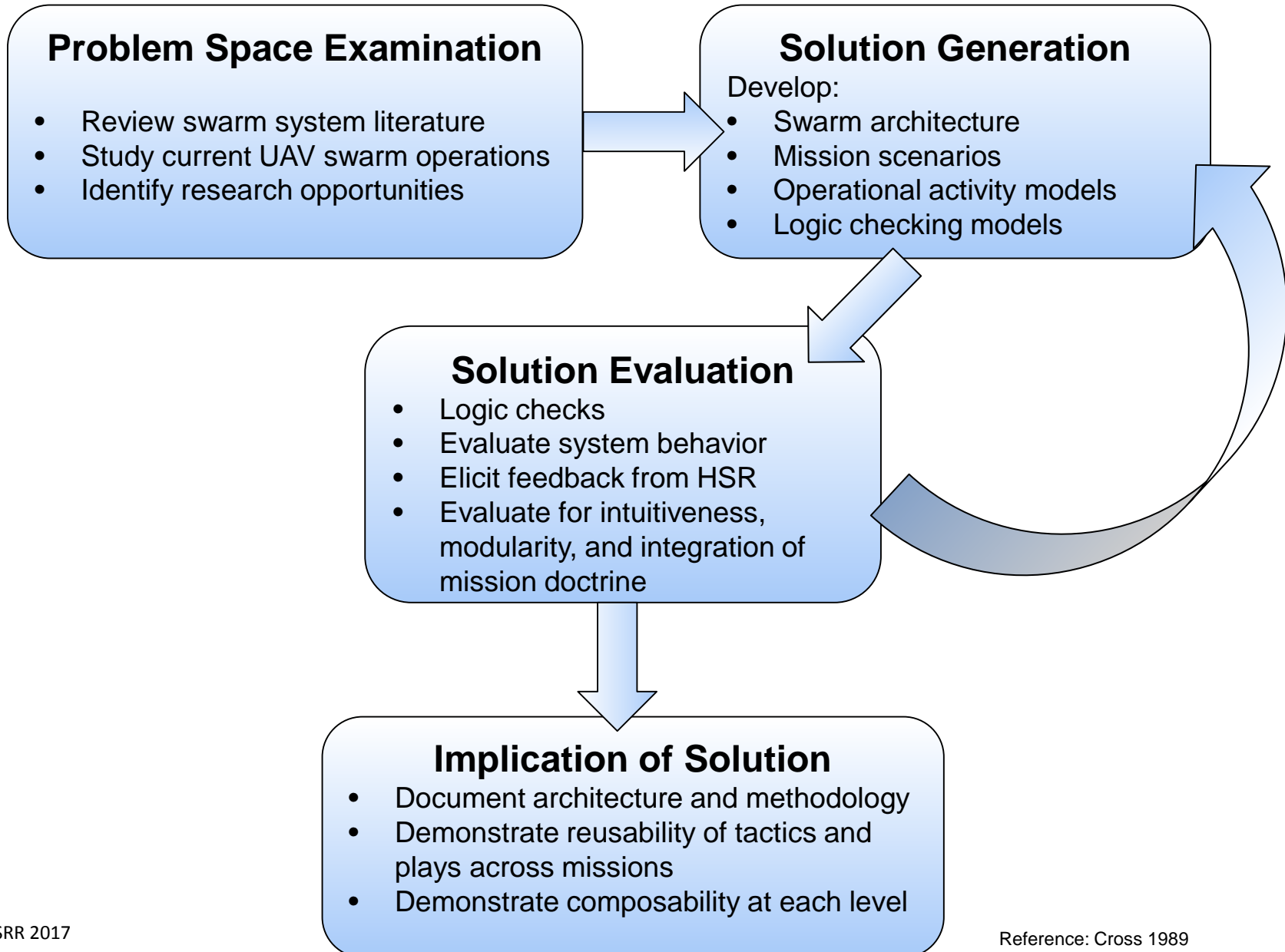
Transition from "few and large" forces to "many and small" -Dr. Arquilla



Common conceptual architecture-level patterns for mission-suitable swarm systems across a range of missions



A modular, mission-oriented playbook from which standard swarm tactics and missions can be formulated



- Dudek's swarm robotics taxonomy (Dudek et al., 1993)
- Bottom-up, behavior-based design
 - Agent-based modeling (Bonabeau 2002, Munoz 2011)
 - Finite state machine (automata) (Weiskopf 2002, Soyal & Sahin 2005)
 - Brooks Subsumption architecture (Brooks 1985)
 - Petri Nets (Levis & Wagenhals 2000, Palamara 2008)
- Top-down design methods
 - DeLoach et al.'s Multi-agent Systems Engineering methodology (DeLoach et al. 2001)
 - Brambilla's property-driven, four phase method (Brambilla et al., 2012)
- Playbooks
 - RoboFlag multi-vehicle simulation environment (Parasuraman 2003, Squire et al. 2004)
 - RoboCup soccer (Browning et al. 2004)
 - McLurkin's library of behaviors for swarm robots (McLurkin 2004)
 - Smart Information Flow Technology (SIFT) Playbook-enhanced Variable Autonomy Control System (PVACS) (Goldman 2005)
 - DARPA OFFSET program - human-swarm teaming and swarm autonomy within an urban gaming environment (DARPA TTO 2017)

- Applied as guidelines to Innoslate models and simulation:
 - Every activity not designated a context activity should have at least one parent

$$(\forall a_1 \in A)[\neg context(a_1) \rightarrow (\exists a_2 \in A) decomposes(a_1, a_2)]$$

- No activity shall have exactly one child

$$(\forall a_1 \in A) (\forall a_2 \in A) [decomposed\ by(a_1, a_2) \rightarrow (\exists a_3 \in A) decomposed\ by(a_1, a_3) \wedge (a_2 \neq a_3)]$$

- No activity shall be decomposed by itself

$$(\forall a \in A)[\neg decomposed\ by(a, a)]$$

- Every activity shall have at least one input or trigger

$$(\forall a \in A) (\exists r \in R) [input(r, a) \vee trigger(r, a)]$$

- No performer shall have more than seven children

$$(\forall p_1 \in P) [(\forall p_2 \in P) |decomposed\ by(p_1, p_2)| \leq 7]$$

- Finite state machines are concise way to depict swarm behavior
 - Specify each tactic as a state
 - Sub-swarms operate in one state at a time
- A finite state machine (or automaton) M , can be defined by a 5-tuple¹:

$$(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{S}, s_0, F, \delta)$$

wherein:

- \mathcal{E} is the set of inputs to M
- \mathcal{S} is the set of states, including tactics, of M
- $s_0 \in \mathcal{S}$ is the initial state of M (preflight completed and flight ready)
- $F \subseteq \mathcal{S}$ is the final state of M (all UAVs recovered)
- $\delta: \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{E} \Rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ is the transition function (mappings of inputs to original states which result in state change)

- FSM has modelling implications in Innoslate and Monterey Phoenix
 - Innoslate FSM do not interface with simulation
 - MP does not permit implicit or explicit recursion in grammar rules²

Solution Evaluation- Modularity of Plays Across Missions

Play	SvS	MIO	MIO HSR	HADR
Launch	B	B	8	B
Transit to WP	B	B	8	B
Orbit		B	7	B
Racetrack		B	4	B
Split (logic based)		B	7	B
Join	B	B	8	B
Disperse	B	B	8	
Sensors ON	B	B	8	B
Sensors OFF	B	B	7	B
Sensors EMCON		B	2	
Transmit video		B	8	B
Terminal approach	B	B	7	B
Landing	B	B	8	B
Ladder pattern		B	2	B
Expanding square pattern	B	B	2	B
Constricting square pattern		B	2	B
Grid pattern		B	2	B
Random pattern	B		3	
Weapon armed	B			
Weapon fire	B		1	
Follow target		B	5	B
Forward communication		B	4	B
Jam			1	
Smart greedy shooter	B		1	
Patrol box shooter	B			
Wingman shooter	B			
Tail following	B			
Option			5	

B = selected for baseline mission case study (Innoslate model)

= number of HSR participants who selected play ⁴¹

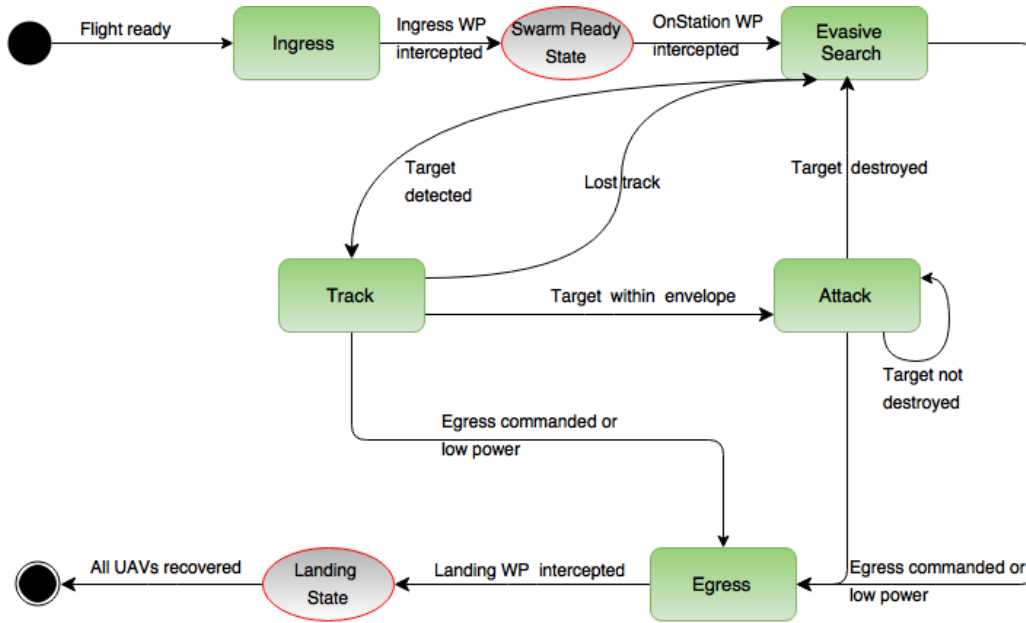
Solution Generation & Evaluation – MIO Mission Composition

Tactic ID	Tactic Name	Play ID	Play Name	Algorithm ID	Algorithm Name
t1	Ingress	p8.2	Sensors OFF	a2	Scheduling
		p1	Launch	a3	Sorting
		p8.1	Sensors ON	a2	Scheduling
				a3	Sorting
				a4	Collective consensus
		p2	Transit to waypoint	a1	Flocking
a1.1	Boid's				
a1.2	Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO)				
t13	Divide	p5	Split (logic-based)	a3	Sorting
		p8.1	Sensors ON	a2	Scheduling
				a3	Sorting
				a4	Collective consensus
p3	Orbit	a1	Flocking		
a1.1	Boid's				
a1.2	PSO				
t3	Efficient search	p8.1	Sensors ON	a2	Scheduling
				a3	Sorting
a4	Collective consensus				
		p10	Ladder pattern	a1	Flocking
				a1.1	Boid's
a1.2	PSO				
t8	Monitor	p8.1	Sensors ON	a2	Scheduling
				a3	Sorting
				a4	Collective consensus
p4	Racetrack	a1	Flocking		
a1.1	Boid's				
a1.2	PSO				
t5	Communication relay	p8.1	Sensors ON	a2	Scheduling
				a3	Sorting
				a4	Collective consensus
		p8.4	Transmit video	a2	Scheduling
		a3	Sorting		
a4	Collective consensus				
		p13	Grid pattern	a1.3	Levy flight
				a3	Sorting
				a4	Collective consensus
				a8.7	Brownian motion
		p18	Forward communication	a2	Scheduling
				a3	Sorting
				a4	Collective consensus
				a4	Collective consensus
t4	Track	p8.1	Sensors ON	a2	Scheduling
				a3	Sorting
a4	Collective consensus				
p17	Follow target	a6	Firefly algorithm		
a8.3	Ant colony optimization				
a5	Artificial potential fields				
t9	Evade	p8.3	EMCON	a2	Scheduling
				a3	Sorting
				a4	Collective consensus
p6	Join	a3	Sorting		
a5	Artificial potential fields				
p7	Disperse	a5	Artificial potential fields		
t14	Amass	p6	Join	a4	Collective consensus
		a5	Artificial potential fields		
		p8.1	Sensors ON	a2	Scheduling
a3	Sorting				
a4	Collective consensus				
		p3	Orbit	a1	Flocking
				a1.1	Boid's
a1.2	PSO				
t15	Egress	p2	Transit to waypoint	a1	Flocking
				a1.1	Boid's
				a1.2	PSO
				p9.1	Terminal approach
p9.2	Landing	a3	Sorting		
p8.2	Sensors OFF	a2	Scheduling		

tactics →

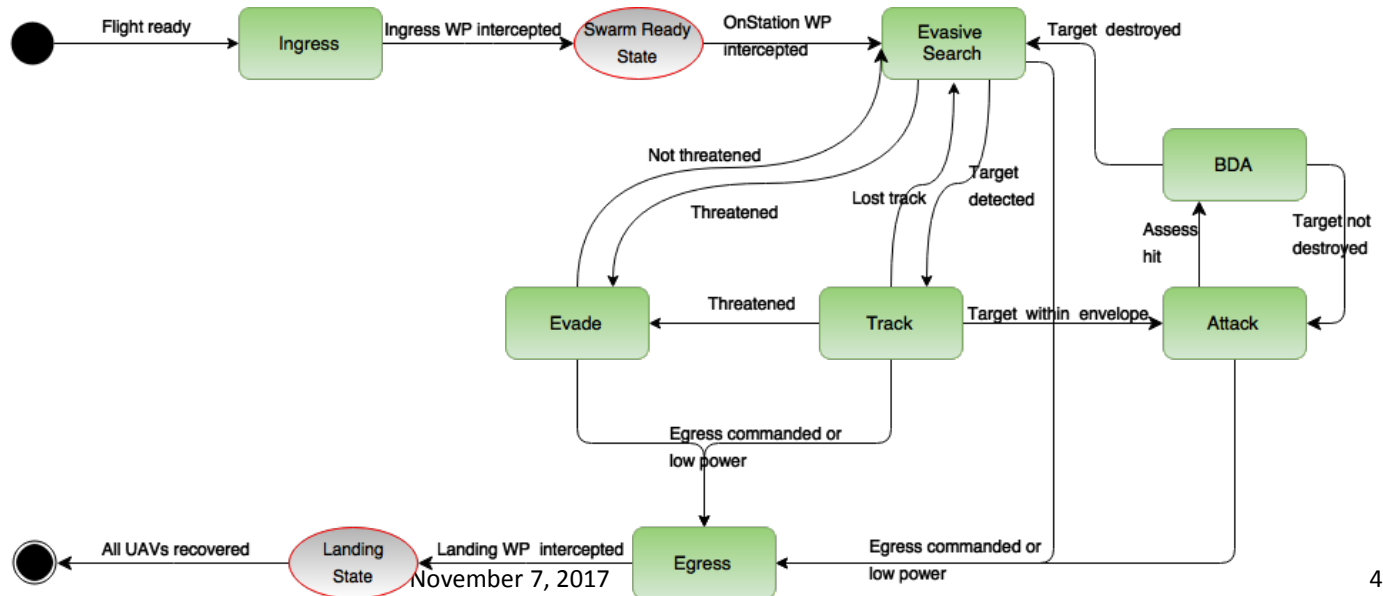
algorithms

plays →



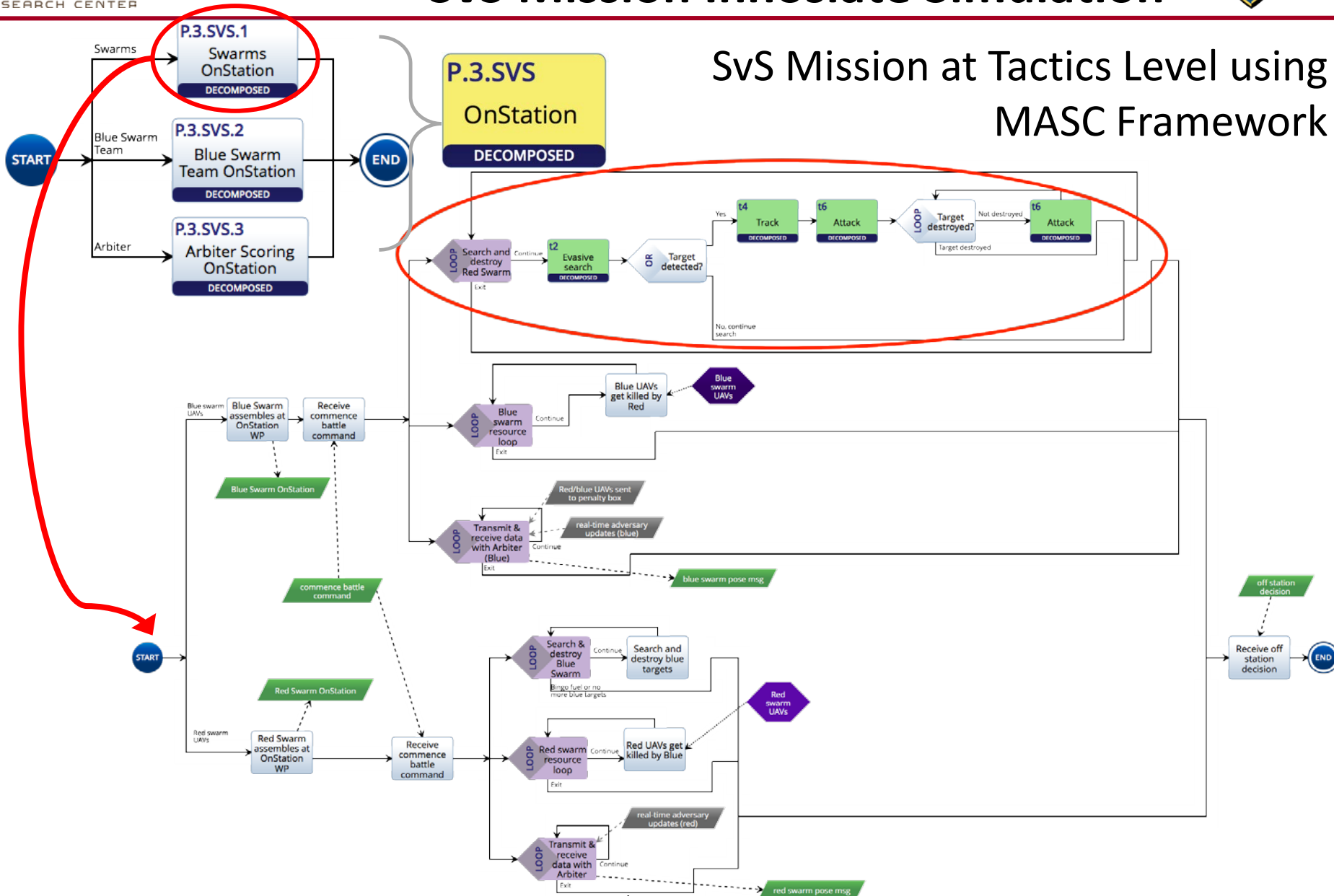
FSM applied to field experimentation scenario

Modified with additional MASC swarm tactics

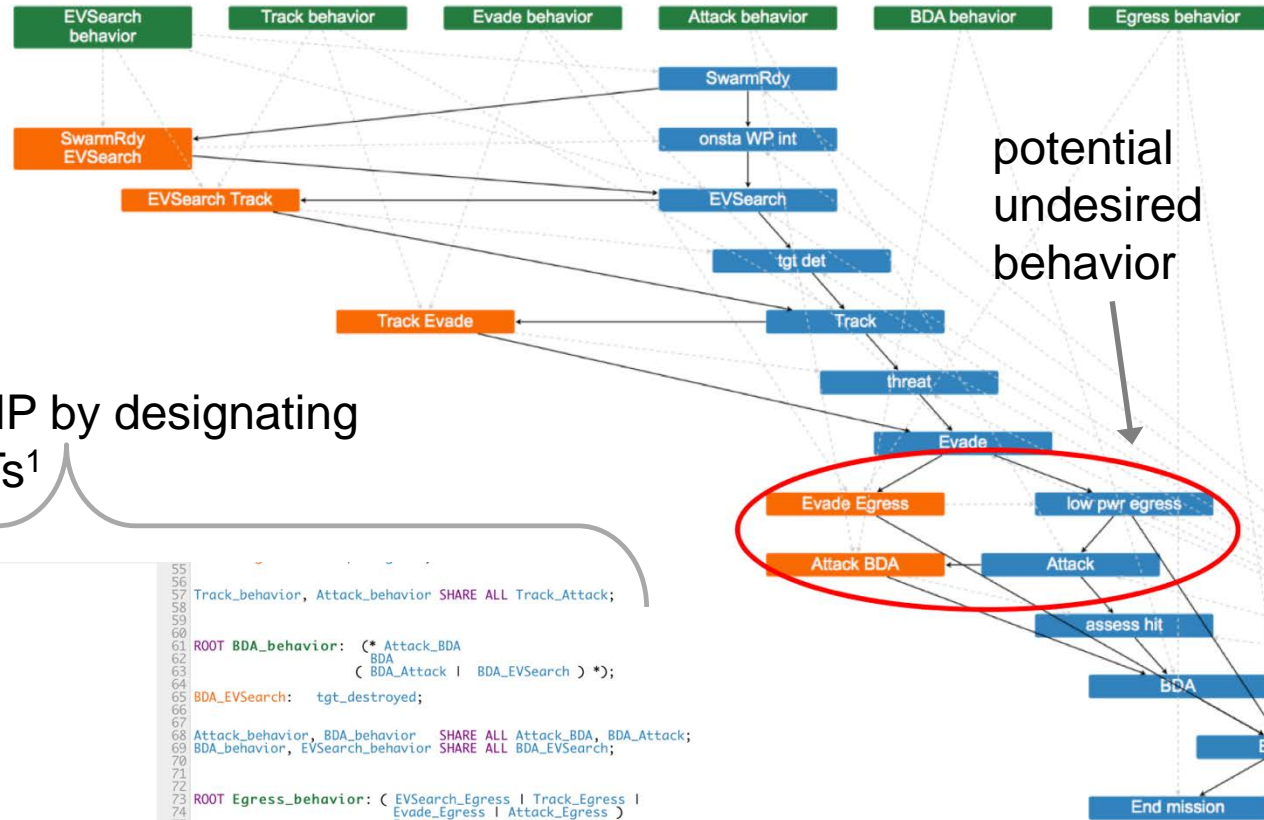


Solution Evaluation – SvS Mission Innoslate Simulation

SvS Mission at Tactics Level using MASC Framework



Solution Evaluation – SvS Mission as FSM in Monterey Phoenix



FSM converted to MP by designating the tactics as ROOTs¹

```

1 /* K. Giles 09AUG2017
2 swarm vs. swarm FSM model to MP conversion with names,
3 simplified to SVS onstation tactics as states only
4 Based on Dr. A's microwave example, dfa_2.
5
6 SCHEMA SVS_FSM
7
8 ROOT EVSearch_behavior:   SwarmRdy
9                           SwarmRdy_EVSearch
10                          (* (
11                             EVSearch_Track |
12                             EVSearch_Evade |
13                             EVSearch_Egress ));
14
15 SwarmRdy_EVSearch:   onsta_WP_int;
16 EVSearch_Track:     tgt_det;
17 EVSearch_Evade:     threat;
18 EVSearch_Egress:    low_pwr_egress;
19
20 ROOT Track_behavior:   EVSearch_Track
21                          Track
22                          (* (
23                             Track_EVSearch |
24                             Track_Evade |
25                             Track_Attack |
26                             Track_Egress ));
27
28 Track_EVSearch:   lost_track;
29 Track_Evade:     threat;
30 Track_Attack:    tgt_in_range;
31 Track_Egress:    low_pwr_egress;
32
33 EVSearch_behavior, Track_behavior SHARE ALL EVSearch_Track, Track_EVSearch;
34
35
36
37 ROOT Evade_behavior: (* ( Track_Evade | EVSearch_Evade )
38                       ( Evade_EVSearch | Evade_Egress ));
39
40 Evade_EVSearch:   no_threat;
41 Evade_Egress:    low_pwr_egress;
42
43 Evade_behavior, Track_behavior SHARE ALL Track_Evade;
44 EVSearch_behavior, Evade_behavior SHARE ALL EVSearch_Evade, Evade_EVSearch;
45
46
47 ROOT Attack_behavior: (*( Track_Attack |
48                           BDA_Attack )
49                          Attack
50                          ( Attack_BDA | Attack_Egress ));
51
52 BDA_Attack:   tgt_not_destroyed;
53 Attack_BDA:  assess_hit;
54 Attack_Egress: low_pwr_egress;

```

```

55
56
57 Track_behavior, Attack_behavior SHARE ALL Track_Attack;
58
59
60
61 ROOT BDA_behavior: (* Attack_BDA
62                     BDA
63                     ( BDA_Attack | BDA_EVSearch ));
64
65 BDA_EVSearch:   tgt_destroyed;
66
67
68 Attack_behavior, BDA_behavior SHARE ALL Attack_BDA, BDA_Attack;
69 BDA_behavior, EVSearch_behavior SHARE ALL BDA_EVSearch;
70
71
72
73 ROOT Egress_behavior: ( EVSearch_Egress | Track_Egress |
74                       Evade_Egress | Attack_Egress )
75                       Egress;
76
77
78 EVSearch_behavior, Egress_behavior SHARE ALL EVSearch_Egress;
79 Track_behavior, Egress_behavior SHARE ALL Track_Egress;
80 Evade_behavior, Egress_behavior SHARE ALL Evade_Egress;
81 Attack_behavior, Egress_behavior SHARE ALL Attack_Egress;
82
83
84
85 ROOT Path: ; /* Path is container for path sequence*/
86
87 COORDINATE $a: ( SwarmRdy | EVSearch | Track | Evade |
88                 Attack | BDA | Egress |
89                 onsta_WP_int | tgt_det | lost_track |
90                 low_pwr_egress | threat | no_threat |
91                 assess_hit | tgt_destroyed |
92                 tgt_not_destroyed | tgt_in_range )
93
94 DO ADD $a IN Path;
95 OD;
96
97 COORDINATE <SORT CUT-END> $a: $SEVENT SUCH THAT $a IN Path,
98 <SORT CUT-FRONT> $b: $SEVENT SUCH THAT $a IN Path
99
100 DO ADD $a PRECEDES $b;
101 OD;
102
103 /*-----
104 ASSERTION CHECKING
105 -----*/
106 ENSURE FOREACH $x: low_pwr_egress
107 #Track AFTER $x ==0;
108

```

Tactic	SvS	MIO	MIO HSR	HADR
Ingress	B	B	7	B
Evasive search	B		4	
Efficient search		B	5	B
Track	B	B	7	B
Communication relay		B	7	B
Attack	B			
BDA	B		3	
Monitor		B	7	B
Evade	B	B	7	
Harass			3	
Defend			1	
Deter			2	
Divide		B	7	B
Amass		B	6	B
Egress	B	B	6	B
ACM				
Option			1	

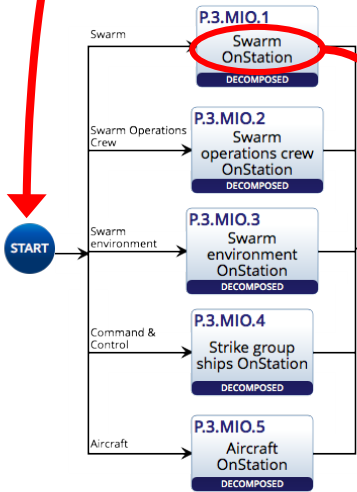
B = selected for baseline mission case study (Innoslate model)

= number of HSR participants who selected tactic

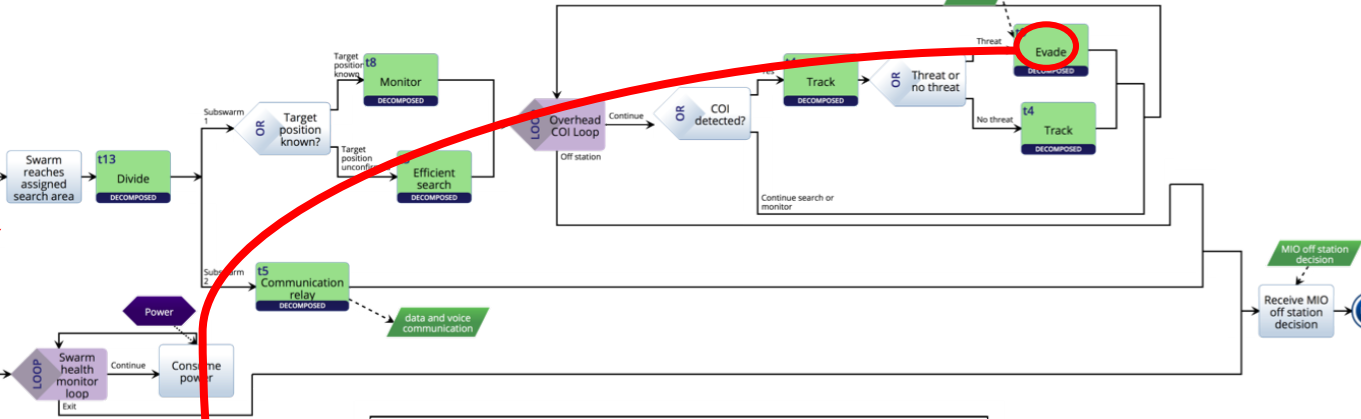
M₁ MIO Mission

Mission

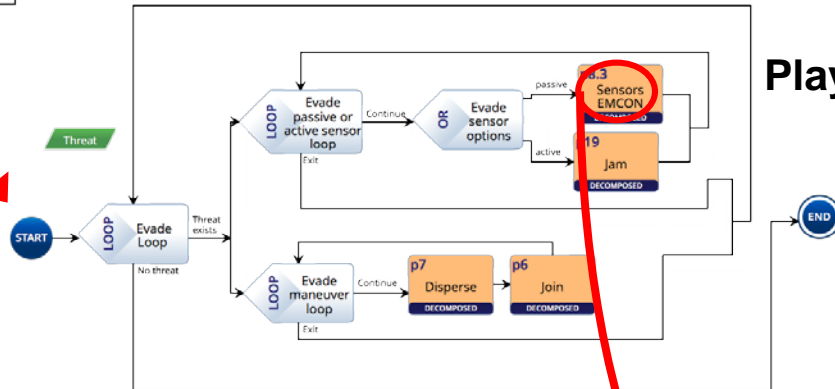
P.3.MIO OnStation Phase DECOMPOSED



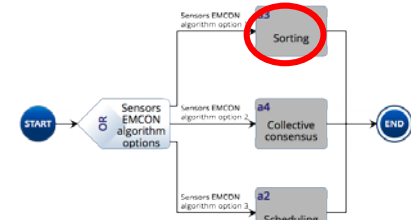
Tactic

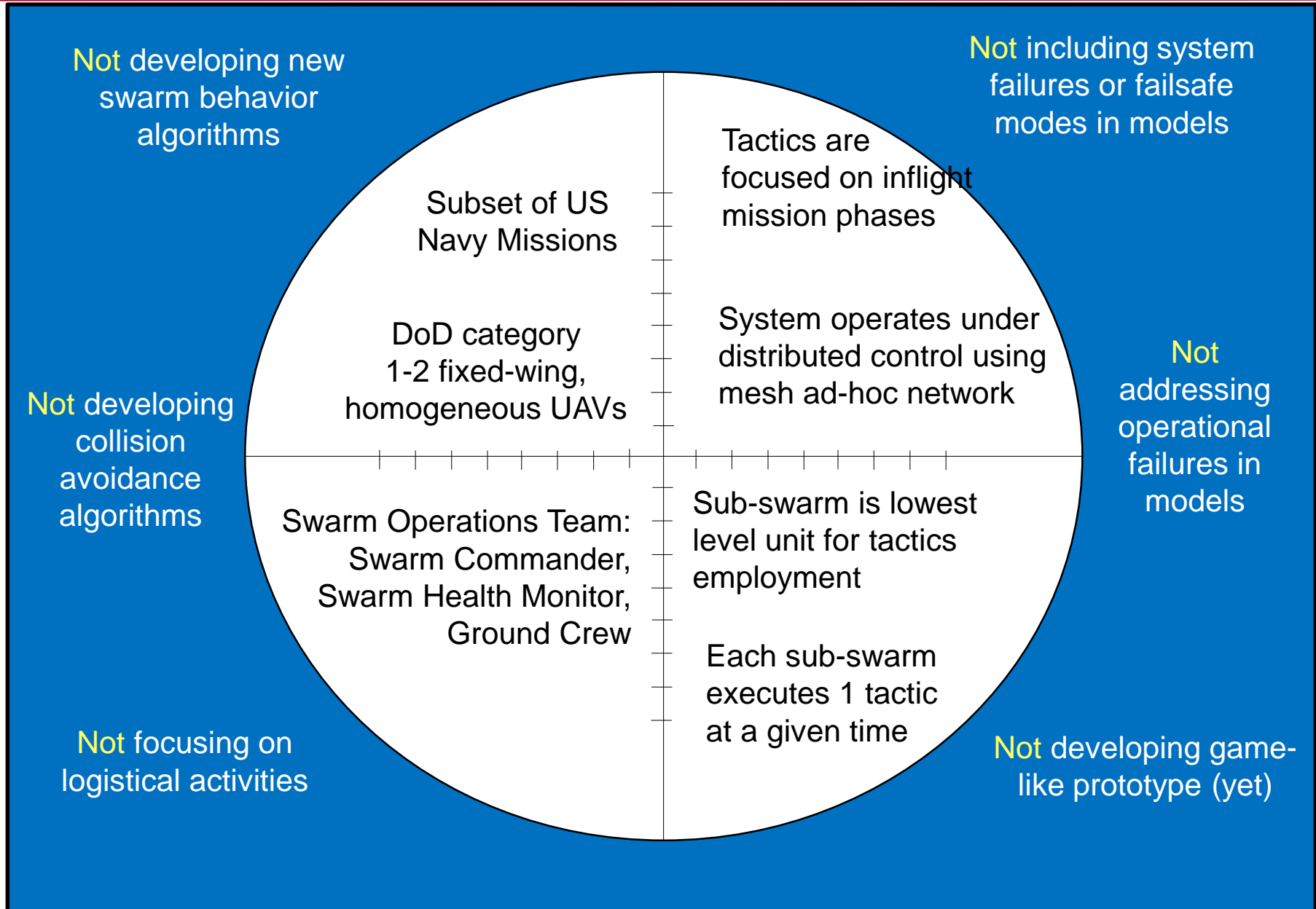


Play



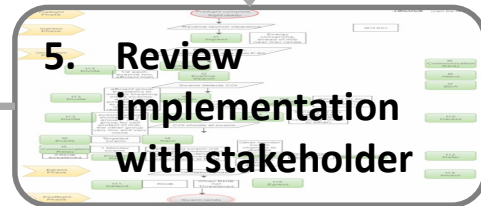
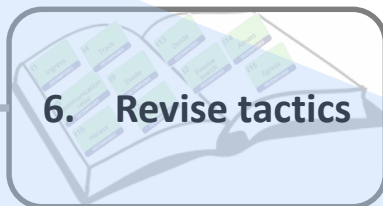
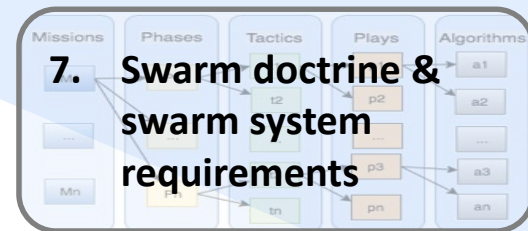
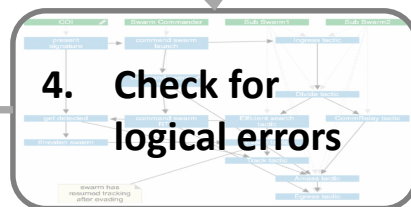
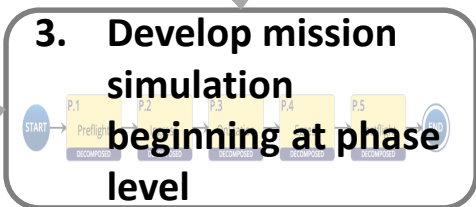
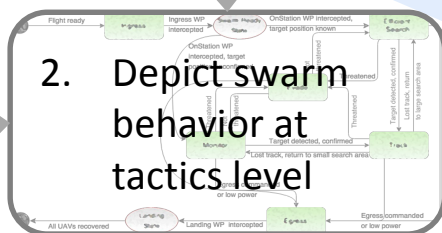
Algorithm







mission doctrine



system architecture