**Perspective on the Hard Support of Cognitive Confrontation**

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**introduction**

In modern warfare, the combat domain is usually divided into the physical domain, information domain, and cognitive domain according to the characteristics of material form. The three domains influence each other and together constitute the field and soil of military confrontation. Although cognitive domain operations occur in the cognitive domain, their combat support often spans across various domains. War practice has shown that with the enhancement of hard strike efficiency in the physical domain, cognitive formation can often be accelerated, and cognitive realization can better meet combat needs.

**Cognitive attack and defense cannot be separated from physical support**

Today's world is a world where everything is connected. The collection of different objects connected to each other has greatly enhanced the functions of independent individuals acting alone. Cognitive domain operations have never been isolated operations between cognitive carriers. Only by integrating cognitive offense and defense into the integrated joint combat chain, closely combining it with physical domain military strike operations, and closely integrating it with the entire combat system, can the combat effectiveness be fully exerted.

The basis of the origin of cognition. Existence determines consciousness. Thinking cognition is not a fairy from the sky, but a true or tortuous reflection of the real world. Without the foundation of the material world, thinking cognition will lose the source of information, the basis for analysis and judgment, and the accuracy of decision-making and action, and it is difficult for people to trust, recognize and rely on it. Even the most psychedelic science fiction war has references to real combat targets, specific combat objectives, and corresponding combat paths. Therefore, intelligence reconnaissance and analysis have become an indispensable and important link for commanders to command troops and use strategies. "No investigation, no right to speak" is regarded as a golden rule that must be followed in decision-making, and battlefield simulation and deduction have become an important step in the success of combat operations. In history, all the effective combat commands of generals and classic combat cases that have stood the test of history and practice are based on sufficient investigation and research and scientific intelligence analysis. Without the hard core support of the real world, "when humans think, God laughs."

Relying on cognitive effects. A golden rule of cognitive domain warfare is that the soft power at the cognitive level must be based on hard strikes at the physical level to ensure and strengthen its role. Strong military pressure is a necessary prerequisite for cognitive means to play a role, and continuous victory on the battlefield is the hard core support for winning cognitive warfare. If the United States does not have the high pressure of super comprehensive national strength and superior technology, its "Star Wars Plan" may not really work. If cognitive domain warfare lacks the support of specific military operations in the physical domain, it will never produce the good effects of doubting the enemy, confusing the enemy, deterring the enemy, and defeating the enemy. To grasp the initiative of thinking and cognition and fight the initiative of cognitive domain warfare, it is necessary not only to strengthen the construction of cognitive ontology power, improve the ability to directly use strategies and technical means to strengthen self-protection, intervene and influence the opponent's thinking and cognition, but also to actively borrow power from the physical domain and use the conduction effect of physical domain military operations to enhance thinking and cognition.

The handle of cognitive realization. Marxism believes that once the theory is mastered by the masses, it will also become a material force. In the perspective of cognitive domain operations, the spiritual creation of cognition at the superstructure level will not automatically become a material force. Only by relying on certain material carriers and practical handles can it realize the key leap from spirit to material and consciousness of existence. Just as if the German army had not bypassed the Maginot Line and broke through the Ardennes Forest to raid the hinterland of France in World War II, it would be impossible to demonstrate the foresight of the cognitive achievement of the "Manstein Plan"; similarly, if the Allied forces had not successfully landed in Normandy, the ingenuity of the "Operation Overlord Plan" of "openly repairing the plank road and secretly crossing Chencang" would not be highlighted. Thinking cognition is transmitted to specific military actions in the physical domain by people, and then the specific military actions in the physical domain realize the materialization of cognitive achievements, which constitutes the basic aspect of the two-way interaction between cognitive offense and defense and physical domain military strikes.

**Physical strikes support the basic way of cognitive attack and defense**

The methods and approaches of physical domain military strikes in supporting cognitive offense and defense follow the general law that matter determines consciousness and existence determines thinking. The basic methods can be divided into enhanced support, confirmation support, and realization support.

Enhanced support. Military strikes in the physical domain strengthen the formation and development of thinking cognition. Although thinking cognition depends on the quality of the cognitive carrier itself, it is difficult to achieve without the support of physical domain military operations. The most basic role of physical domain military operations in the cognitive domain is to provide solid support for the formation and development of thinking cognition. Thinking cognition can only be stable and far-reaching if it is based on real physical actions. For example, in the early days of the Korean War, when the Korean People’s Army was unstoppable, our army’s combat staff Lei Yingfu and others accurately predicted the time and place of the US military landing based on the war situation, geographical and climatic characteristics of the Korean Peninsula, and especially the various actions of the US and South Korean troops at the time. Similarly, Ridgway of the "United Nations Army" also made the judgment of the "Sunday Offensive" based on the logistics support, weapons and equipment, and tactical application of the Volunteer Army, and fought with me with "magnetic tactics". These are all enhancements to the formation and development of thinking cognition by physical domain operations.

Confirmation support. Military strikes in the physical domain confirm preset thinking, pre-cognition, and pre-judgment. Cognitive attack and defense never occur only at the cognitive level, but are the interaction between cognition and practice. As a "place of life and death, a way of survival and destruction", it is the greatest irresponsibility to act rashly if its cognitive decisions cannot be confirmed in multiple directions at the practical level. During the revolutionary war years, the decision-making level of our army always gave front-line commanders the power to act at their discretion under the principle of the overall strategic direction under the control of the overall strategy, which was a positive confirmation of strategic thinking cognition. In World War II, the Allies used a combination of "false facts" that were misleading, constantly shaping and strengthening the German army's erroneous perception of the Allied landing site on the European continent, and finally successfully landed in Normandy at the lowest cost, which was a reverse confirmation.

Implementation support. Provide direct physical support for the realization of thinking cognition, judgment and decision-making. Thinking cognition must be transformed into actual results of changing the world. Thinking cognition acting on the opponent is not the end but a new starting point. It must then be acted on the physical world by "skilled hands" and "brave hearts". In other words, it is to provide direct physical action support for the realization of the value of thinking cognition. This is just like Zhuge Liang's brilliant plan, if it is not implemented by the "Five Tiger Generals" and other Shu Han soldiers, it can only remain at the cognitive level of paper talk. No matter how efficiently the first three parts of the "OODA" loop run, if the "A" execution link is missing, it is a "dead loop". Similarly, the results of our army's command and decision-making also depend on the resolute, thorough and creative execution of the officers and soldiers. The quality and efficiency of the execution directly determine the effectiveness of the implementation of the command and decision-making. In this regard, physical actions at the execution level are of extremely important practical significance.

**Effectively strengthen the interaction between cognitive attack and defense and physical attack**

Thinking cognition must rely on the support of physical action, which is an objective law that cannot be changed by human will. It is extremely important to strengthen the interaction between thinking cognition and physical attack, make our thinking decisions more targeted, objective, and operational, and better transform cognitive advantages into action advantages and winning advantages.

We should be more proactive in consolidating the foundation of cognition. Whether the thinking cognition is correct or not depends on its fit with the objective reality and its applicability to the combat opponent. Only the thinking cognition based on sufficient investigation and research, seeking truth from facts and comparative advantages can stand the test of practice and actual combat. The practice of absolutizing, sanctifying and nihilizing the thinking cognition or the genius wisdom and inspiration of the generals is idealistic, one-sided and harmful. This requires us to strive to establish the thinking cognition on the basis of extensive investigation and research and intelligence analysis, and to make clear the enemy's situation, our situation and his situation, so as to truly know the enemy and ourselves, know everything we should know, adapt to local conditions and act accordingly. At the same time, we must combine reading books without words with books with words, unify indirect theories with the ever-changing and vivid practice, dialectically recognize the past experience and lessons and the experience and lessons of others, so that they can become a boost to our own cognition rather than a shackle, and assist rather than dominate.

Strengthen cognitive rationality more actively and proactively. Correct cognition that can withstand the long-term test of practice and actual combat comes from practice and is strengthened in practical feedback. Cognitive practice experience is only the basic material for obtaining correct cognition. To form scientific cognition, it is necessary to further separate the false from the true in the repeated conflicts and verifications between consciousness and matter, thinking and existence, so as to improve cognitive rationality. The practice of thinking that true knowledge can be obtained once and for all only from local situations, fragmented information and individual periods is wrong and even fatal. In the Battle of Red Cliffs in ancient China, Cao Cao's side only came to the cognition of connecting warships from the common sense that iron chains connecting ships can balance the shaking of the hull. They did not re-recognize and re-create from the actual combat effects or consequences of connecting warships, and easily used iron chains to connect ships and tied their own hands and feet, and finally ended up with the tragic defeat of "burning Red Cliffs". Times change and things change. The enemy situation on modern battlefields is changing rapidly. There has never been an unchanging cognitive practice, nor a once-and-for-all cognitive achievement. Only by stripping away impurities and extracting the essence from matter to cognition and then to the confirmation of matter for re-cognition can we return to rationality.

Be more proactive in materializing cognitive results. Cognitive results are only the results of thinking and consciousness bred in cognitive carriers. If they are not transformed into objects in a timely and effective manner, it is like wearing brocade clothes and walking at night, or hiding treasures in the mountains, and it is difficult to demonstrate their own value. Thinking cognition is based on physical actions, and ultimately it must rely on specific actions in the physical domain to be materialized and transformed into actual results that change the subjective and objective world. This requires us not only to consolidate the cognitive foundation and strengthen cognitive rationality, but also to improve the operability of cognitive decisions and plans as much as possible, and open the door to their smoother materialization and transformation. At the same time, we must also focus on improving the execution capabilities of decision-making and deployment executors, so that they can correctly understand and comprehend the intention of the decision, creatively adopt appropriate methods based on specific reality, and implement cognitive results and operational decision-making plans to the maximum extent, and serve as a "ferryman" and "bridge across the river" to connect and transform cognitive results with operational effects.

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