

THE COMMAND AND STAFF SCHOOL
DEFENCE & STRATEGIC STUDIES MODULE
SRD 05 – THE DEFENCE FORCES AS A JOINT, AGILE MULTI-DOMAIN FORCE

1. **Subject:** SRD The DF as a Joint, Agile Multi-Domain Force?

2. **Programmed for:** SRD 1400hrs Monday 20 Oct in the C&S School.

3. **Aim:** To give course members an opportunity to discuss Ireland's approach to addressing contemporary security and defence challenges.

4. **Study assignment:** All course members will read the following paper (link):

- General Mark A. Milley, '[Strategic Inflection Point. The Most Historically Significant and Fundamental Change in the Character of War is Happening Now – Whilst the Future is Clouded in Mist and Uncertainty](#)', in Joint Force Quarterly, 3rd Quarter 2023. pp.
- IRLJP-01 – [Military Doctrine for the Irish Defence Forces](#). Read Chs 3-5.

5. **Further reading/watching** – for reference and follow up for essays if desired:

- Ian Speller, 'Joint Warfare', pre-publication draft from Jordan et al, [Understanding Modern Warfare](#) 3rd ed (Cambridge: CUP, 2025)
- Milan Vego, '[Major Joint/Combined Operations](#)', Joint Forces Quarterly 1st quarter 2008,
- Stuart Griffin, [Joint Operations. A Short History](#), (London: 2005).
- Williamson Murray, '[The evolution of joint war fighting](#)' in Joint Force Quarterly, Summer 2002
- James Black, Alice Lynch, Kristian Gustafson, David Blagdon, Pauline Paille and Fiona Quimbre, [Multi-Domain Integration in Defence. Conceptual Approaches and Lessons from Russia, China, Iran and North Korea](#), (Santa Monica, Ca: RAND Corporation, 2022)
- CSIS, '[DoD's Joint Warfighting Concept with Vice Chair of Joint Chiefs of Staff](#)' (May 2024) online discussion
- [UK Integrated Operating Concept](#), 2021. (Since withdrawn but useful concepts contained therein).

6. **Questions:** for the Syndicate leader to consider, to help guide the discussion:

- Why are joint practices and institutions considered to be so important and what barriers exist to the achievement of effective 'jointery'?
- Discuss the US military's emphasis on joint/multi-domain operations. To what extent do these ideas apply to smaller armed forces?
- Are our doctrinal tenets a fair reflection of our intent and ability to become a fit-for-purpose multi-domain force?
- Consider the concept of integrated action and its applicability in an Irish context.

7. **Syndicate Leaders**

Syndicate 1: Comdt Hickey

Syndicate 2: Comdt McDonnell

8. **Point of Contact:** Comdt Simon Keenan