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Ideas in Arms: The Relationship of Kinetic and Ideological Means in Americas Global War on Terror: Drew Paper No. 2

By Lieutenant Colonel, USAF, Thomas D. Torkelson

Createspace. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 148 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.3in. Lt Col Thomas D. Torkelson claims that the inability of the United States to achieve its stated political objectives in its global war on terror (GWOT) reflects its flawed kinetic-centric military strategy. This study erects a framework of effectiveness utilizing Clausewitzian principles to judge military strategy. By considering the expressed political objectives of the GWOT, the centers of gravity (COG) that military strategy should target within this struggle, and the GWOTs placement along a Clausewitzian continuum of violence, this publication evaluates US military efforts in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) through the perspective of two opposing models. First, the publication presents a kinetic model founded in Americas historical implementation of its military arm that emphasizes physical effects. Second, it constructs a nonkinetic model comprised of the primarily psychological components of the nations informational capabilities. Examining actions in OEF through these two lenses reveals the institutional tension the US military experienced as it sought to leverage the relevant COG. Stemming from the preeminence of ideology among the COGs of GWOT, the publication finds that the US military and civilian leadership came to recognize...


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