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# The Australian Defence Force's Evolving Approach to Information Operations: The View from 2020

Presentation to EW Asia 2020 Conference

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# Caveat

- This presentation reflects my personal views and should not be construed as reflecting the official position of the Australian Government
- This presentation is UNCLASSIFIED in entirety

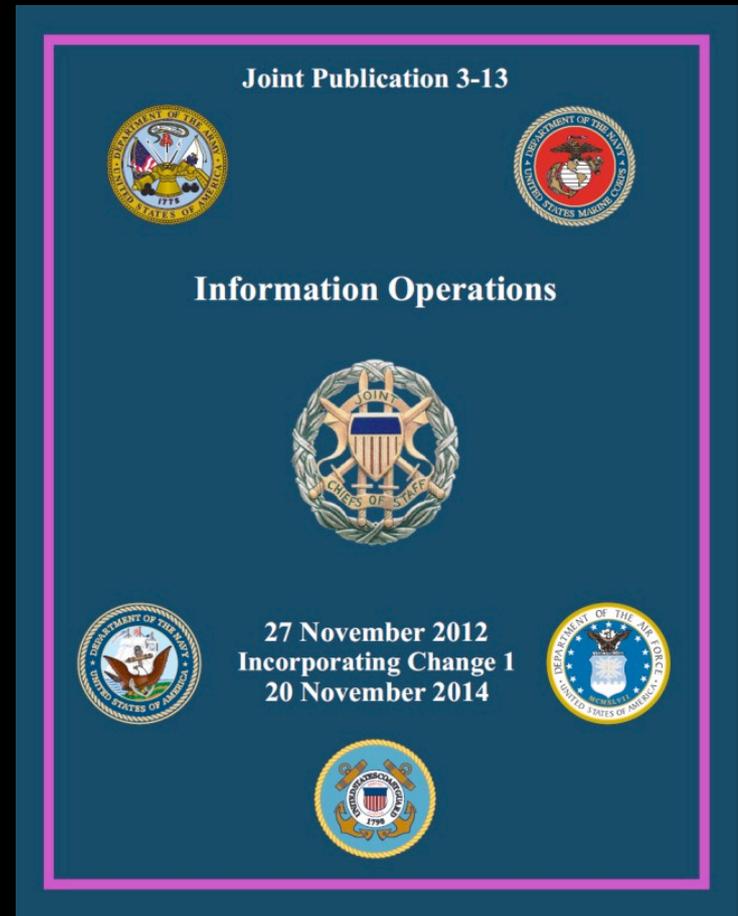
# Agenda

- Fundamental Terminology and Concepts
- The Evolving Strategic Environment
- Australia's Current Approach to Information Operations
- Current and Emerging Challenges

# Fundamental Terminology and Concepts

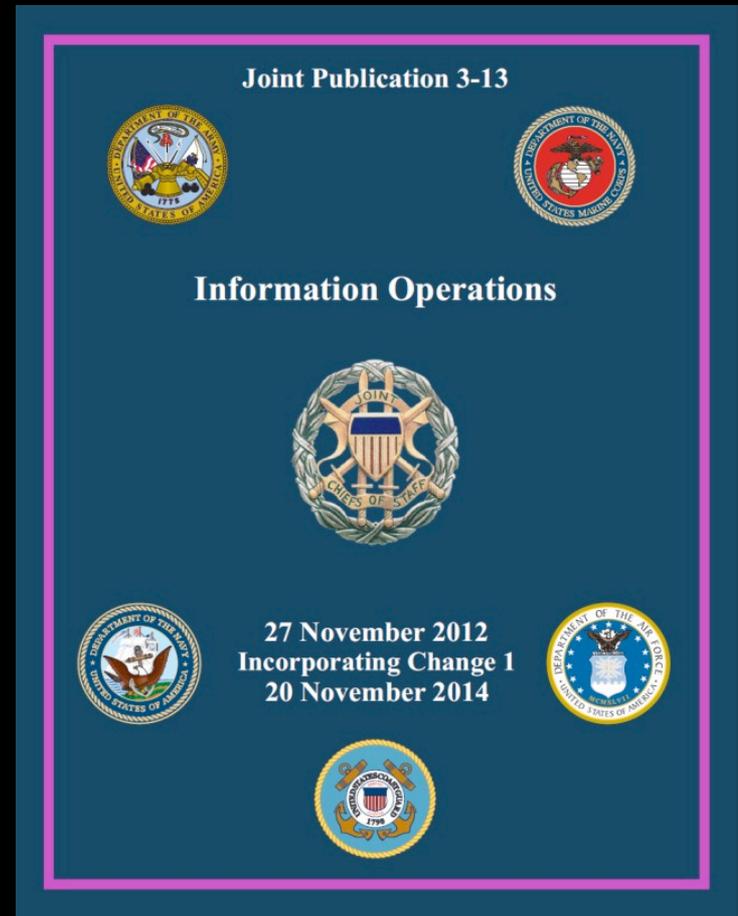
# IO: US Joint Doctrinal Definition

- “The integrated employment, during military operations, of information-related capabilities in concert with other lines of operation to influence, disrupt, corrupt, or usurp the decision-making of adversaries and potential adversaries while protecting our own.”

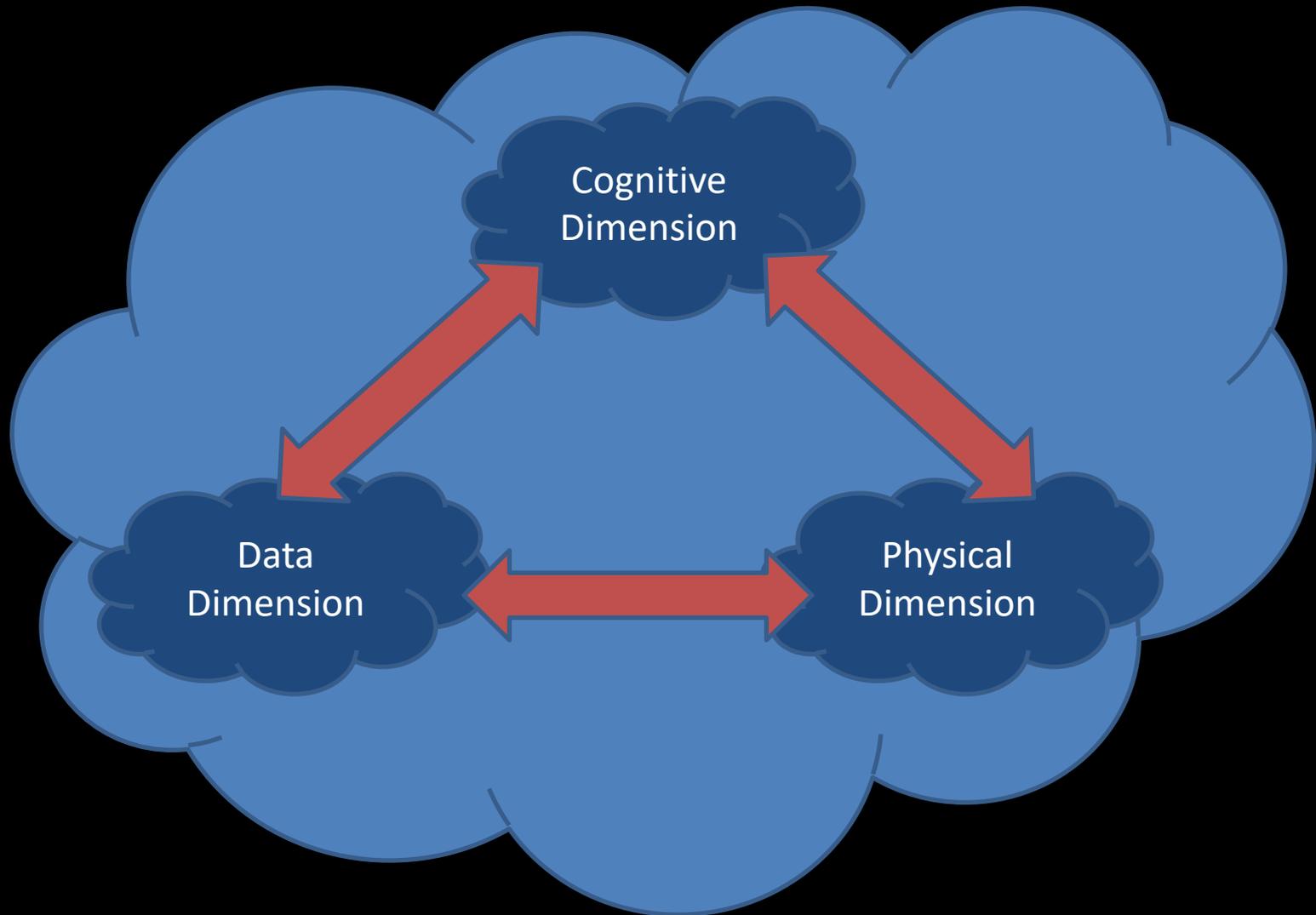


# Information-Related Capability (IRC)

- “A tool, technique, or activity employed within a dimension of the information environment that can be used to create effects and operationally desirable conditions.”
- Examples:
  - Electronic Warfare
  - Cyberspace Operations
  - Physical Targeting
  - Operations Security
  - Military Deception
  - Psychological Operations
  - Key Leadership Engagement
  - (and many others)



# The Information Environment



Source: Joint Publication 3-13, *Information Operations*, 27 November 2012 (update 2014)

# The Evolving Strategic Environment

# Force in the International System



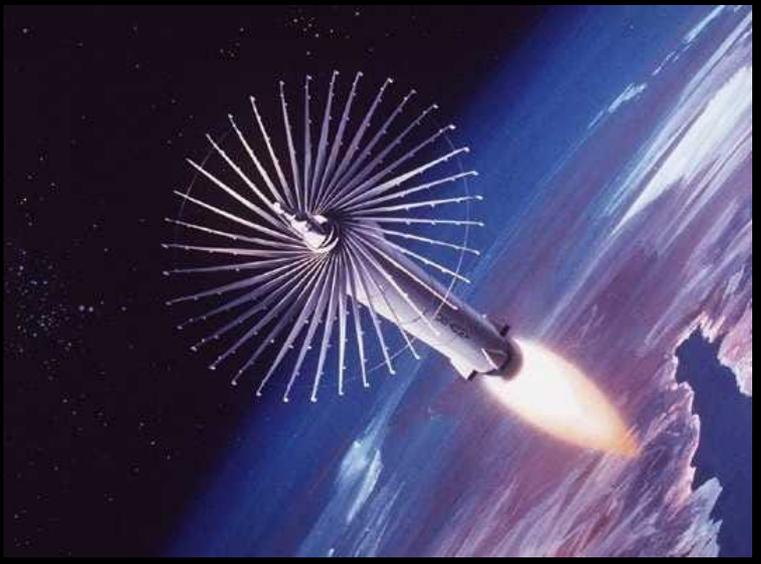
# Climate Change



# Urbanisation and Demographic Change

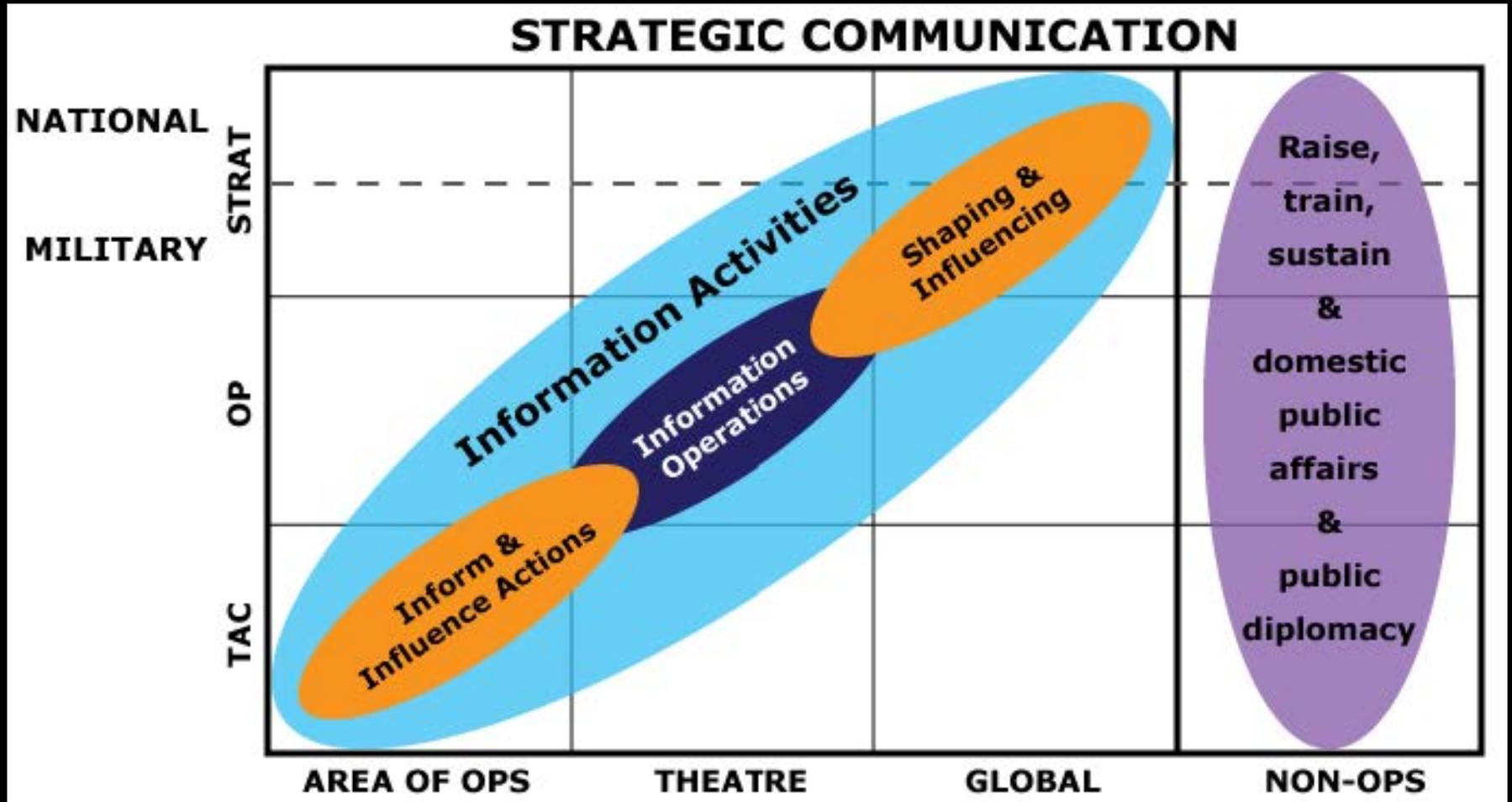


# Disruptive Technologies



# Australia's Current Approach to Information Operations

# Joint Approach



Source: Australian Defence Doctrine Publication 3-13, *Information Activities*, 6 November 2013

# Joint Arrangements and Capabilities

- Strategic
  - Military Strategic Planning Division (plans)
  - Military Strategic Commitments Division (operations)
  - Information Warfare Division (capability manager)
  - Chief Information Officer Group (network operations)
- Operational
  - HQ Joint Operations Command
- Tactical
  - Joint Task Force Headquarters
  - Assigned Service capabilities



# Royal Australian Navy Capabilities

- Key platforms and fittings
  - Hobart Class Destroyers
  - ANZAC Class Frigates
  - Hunter Class Frigates
  - Nulka decoy system
- Royal Australian Navy Information Warfare Force
  - Structure incorporating a range of information-related capabilities
- Royal Australian Navy Tactical Electronic Warfare Support Squadron
  - Embarked specialist electronic support teams
- General operations contribute to 'showing the flag'



# Australian Army Capabilities

- 6 Combat Support Brigade
  - 1st Intelligence Battalion (Psychological Operations)
  - 7 Signals Regiment (Electronic Warfare; defensive cyber operations)
- Civil Affairs Staffs
- Force Protection Electronic Countermeasures
- Presence-Posture-Profile aspect of land operations



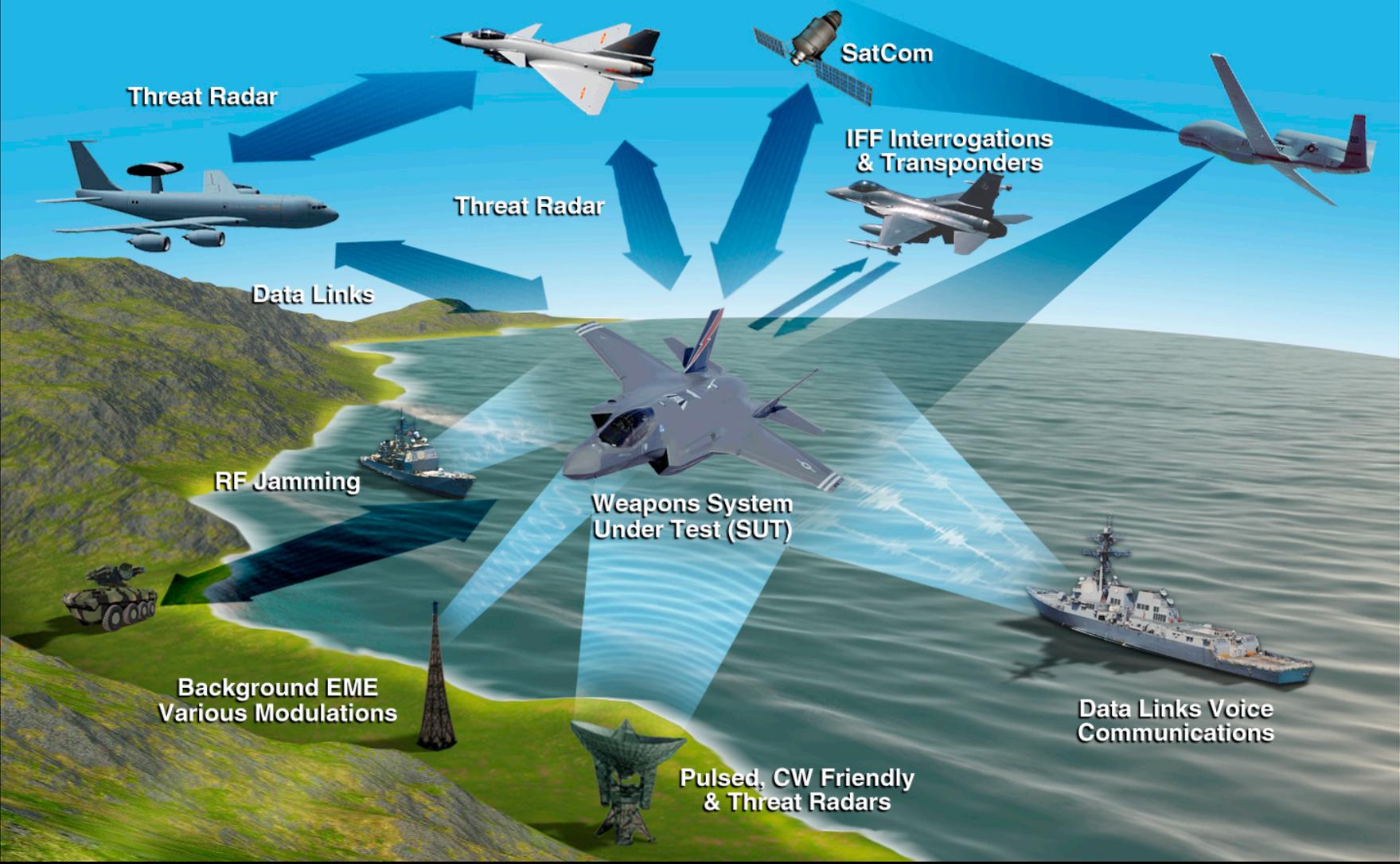
# Royal Australian Air Force Capabilities

- Key platforms
  - EA-18G Growler
  - MC-55A Peregrine
  - E-7A Wedgetail
  - P-8A Poseidon
  - MQ-4C Triton
  - F-35A Lightning II
- Air Warfare Centre (Directorate of Information Warfare)
  - Joint Electronic Warfare Support Unit (countermeasures)
  - 462 Squadron (defensive cyber operations)



# Emerging Issues and Challenges

# Joint Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations



# Integrating Cyber Operations



# Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning



# National Level Challenges



Conclusion

# Summary

- Australia's approach to Information Operations is in a state of evolution
- The emerging global security environment will provide new opportunities for the conduct of Information Operations
- A range of challenges exist for conducting Information Operations effectively into the future
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Questions?