



# Working definition: NOW

## **Network Optional Warfare (NOW)**

- Vulnerabilities arise for naval forces conducting constant communications due to lack of stealth and dependence on continuous data exchange.
- Emissions control (EMCON) and judicious use of low-probability of intercept (LPI) data channels can restore naval covertness and tactical surprise.
- Data compression and a well-defined signal book can enable fluid operations across NCW and NOW, aiding command autonomy and freedom of action.

<https://wiki.nps.edu/display/NOW/Network+Optional+Warfare>



# Sea change in naval strategy is under way

## Imminent threats

- Freedom of maritime operations, South Pacific
- Budget pressures simply preclude status quo

## Major strategic response: **Flotilla concept**

- Bimodal fleet provides selective presence where needed, only use blue-water ships when decisive
- Bimodal fleet supports maritime collaboration and graduated response in littoral operations
- Must deeply integrate use of unmanned systems



# Strategic benefits as well

Low-cost escalation becomes practical rather than destabilizing reliance on high-stakes forces

- Leading with carriers and submarines carries risk of immense economic, political costs if one is lost
- ... U.S. might win battle but lose the longer war

Flotilla + NOW conops can change the playing field

- Shift economics of gradual escalation in our favor
- Stabilizing: allies hold the asymmetric advantage

# EMCON Signaling: OV-1 Operational View

