

ADVANTAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION OF C6ISR IN LOW BUDGET ARMIES

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18509/GBP23047p>
UDC: 355.41.078.3-048.22

Aleksandar Petrovski¹

Marko Radovanović²

Aner Behlic³

Sofija Ackovska⁴

¹Military academy "General Mihailo Apostolski", Skopje, North Macedonia,

²Military Academy University of Defence in Belgrade, Serbia,

³Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Travnik,

⁴Army of North Macedonia, Skopje,

ABSTRACT

The implementation of a Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C6ISR) system in armies with low budgets has become a topic of increasing interest in recent times. This paper delves into the various advantages of such implementation, with an emphasis on its significance in modern warfare. The work starts off by providing a clear definition of C6ISR and goes on to explain the different components that makeup such a system and how they contribute to the gathering and distribution of information.

In addition, the paper will explore the benefits that come with the implementation of a C6ISR system in low-budget armies, such as improved situational awareness, more effective decision-making, and the ability to better coordinate and communicate among units. Furthermore, the paper will also touch on the potential cost savings that can be realized through the implementation of C6ISR.

Finally, the conclusion will underscore the importance of C6ISR in today's warfare, and the importance for low-budget armies to invest in such systems so that they are able to compete effectively on the battlefield.

Keywords: C6IRS, army, battlefield, warfare, information

INTRODUCTION

In years, there has been a significant improvement in combat activities and where the application of scientific and technological achievements greatly improves the efficiency and effectiveness of recent units. Modern combat operations require the use of the most sophisticated combat means to effectively carry out the assigned missions. In order to effectively perform modern combat operations, it is necessary to apply state-of-the-art command and information systems with the aim of collecting, analyzing and visualizing data from the battlefield in real time, in order to facilitate and speed up the process of making timely and correct decisions for commanders (decision makers). The application of various combat systems integrated into the C6ISR system creates conditions for visualization of the battlefield in real time with cyber protection of the system, which allows commanders to command forces in a timely and efficient manner during the execution of operations. C6ISR stands for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance and is an upgrade to C4ISR

and C5ISR systems. The complexity of the C6ISR system directly affects its economic characteristics, which has led to these systems being poorly or almost announced in countries with a small military budget.

The paper presents various advantages of the implementation of the C6ISR system in the armed forces with a focus on the importance of the application of this system in modern military operations. The concept of the C6ISR system with its components is defined and the significance of these components in the collection and distribution of information and data is shown. It also shows the advantage stipulated by the implementation of the C6ISR system in low-budget militaries, as well as the possible cost savings by implementing this system.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS

In the next part of the paper, an analysis of the available literature was carried out. Petrovski and Toshevski [1] show the application of GIS in geo-reconnaissance and C4IS for military purposes. Petrovski and Radovanović [2] analyze the use of drones in cooperation with the C4IRS system for the needs of the army. Bares [3] performs interoperability modeling for the C4IRS system in the collective security system. Radovanovic et al. [4] analyze the possibility of implementing drones in mortar units in order to increase the efficiency of fire support units by applying a fire management system in cooperation with the C4IRS system. Petrovski et al. [5] analyze the application of GIS in cooperation with the C4IRS system in geography for the needs of the military. Horizon Global Partners develops platforms that support C2, C3, C4, C5, C6 - ISR systems.[6] Halkis and Adha [7] analyze the C5ISR data link model of national defense in the face of cyber threats. Michaelis [8] analyzes explanatory systems to support IoT-based C5ISR applications on the battlefield. Wrzosek [9] analyzes the challenges of modern command and future military operations. Petrovski et al. [10] analyze the application of artificial intelligence drones for military purposes, where they explain the integration of drones into the C5ISR system. Radovanović et al. [11] They show the role of unmanned ground platforms in the protection of infantry units in the attack operation, where these platforms are integrated into one of the command and information systems C4-C6ISR. Svendsen in the chapter [12] Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance book Routledge Handbook of Defence Studies - analyze Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Integrated with C4, extending development to C4ISR, ISTAR and C4ISTAR.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the modern world, the possibility of applying command and information systems C6ISR is possible in various social areas, primarily in the military, and it is possible to apply them to other state administrations and local self-governments, in industry, trade, architecture, as well as for various international organizations.

Planning, organizing, and carrying out any modern combat operation cannot be well executed without information about the enemy, time and space, which can be collected using various surveillance and data collection systems. Supporting a modern soldier to achieve the success of a battlefield mission characterized by the use of sophisticated means requires reliable and professional real-time experience. [13] In the world, the need for the use of drones as one of the most important combat systems is growing with the aim of increasing the efficiency of military units. By applying [14] combat assets integrated into C4ISR, C5ISR and C6ISR systems, it is possible to have a real-time image

from the battlefield, which gives the decision maker the ability to timely and effectively command and lead forces in combat operation.

Overview of the history and development of C6ISR system

In order to be able to talk about the concepts C4ISR, C5ISR and C6ISR it is necessary to define and explain the initial concept of C2 (Command and Control), because C2 is the starting point and base for the development and use of C4ISR, C5ISR, C6ISR. In order to effectively carry out the task, Command and Control involves the realization of a large number of different activities. The U.S. Department of Defense defines Command and Control as the management and exercise of authority by a commander (decision-maker) over forces in an operation to accomplish a mission. In order for a commander to make a timely and correct decision, it is necessary that the Command-and-Control system provide him with the necessary information that will lead to the success of the mission. Command and Control processes are characterized by three basic areas:

- Information management, i.e., collecting accurate and timely information necessary for the commander in the decision-making process;
- Managing decisions of commanders whose decisions are based on accurate and timely information collected; and
- Execution management, or different m departments of conducting activities by the army and the commander based on decisions made.

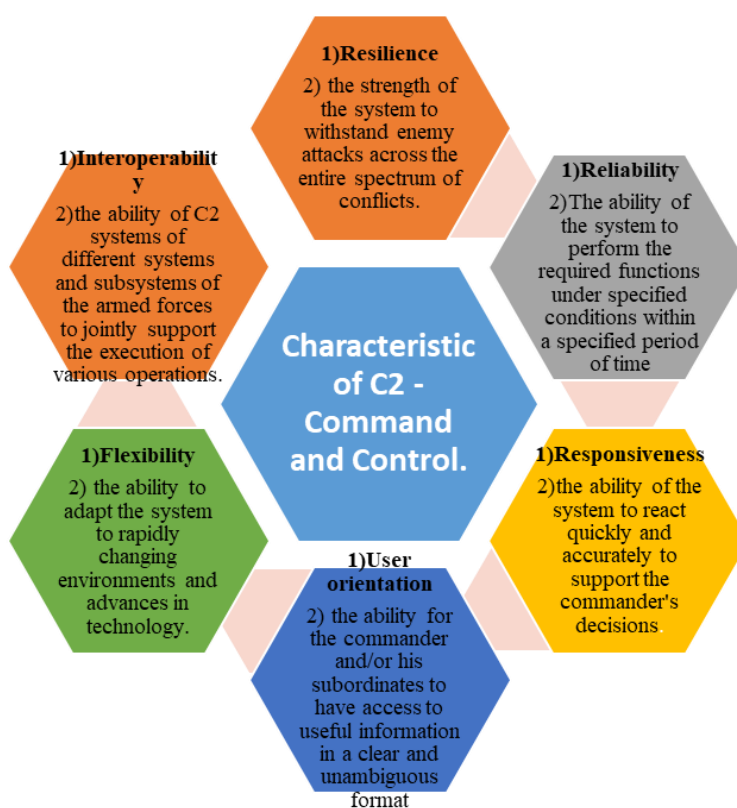


Figure 1. Features of System C2 – Command and Control

The development of science and technology has conditioned the need for more modern and efficient systems that have been developed and upgraded to the basic Command and Control system. Figure 2 shows the development of command and information systems.

Communications, facilities, equipment, human resources, and procedures that lead to the success of the mission, a combination of technologies and practical actions that provide information and support C2 processes implemented by commanders and the military make up the C2 system. The basic characteristics of the C2 system are shown in Figure 1. The main purpose of all command and information systems from C2 to C6ISR is to provide sufficient information to commanders in real time so that they can effectively command forces during operations.

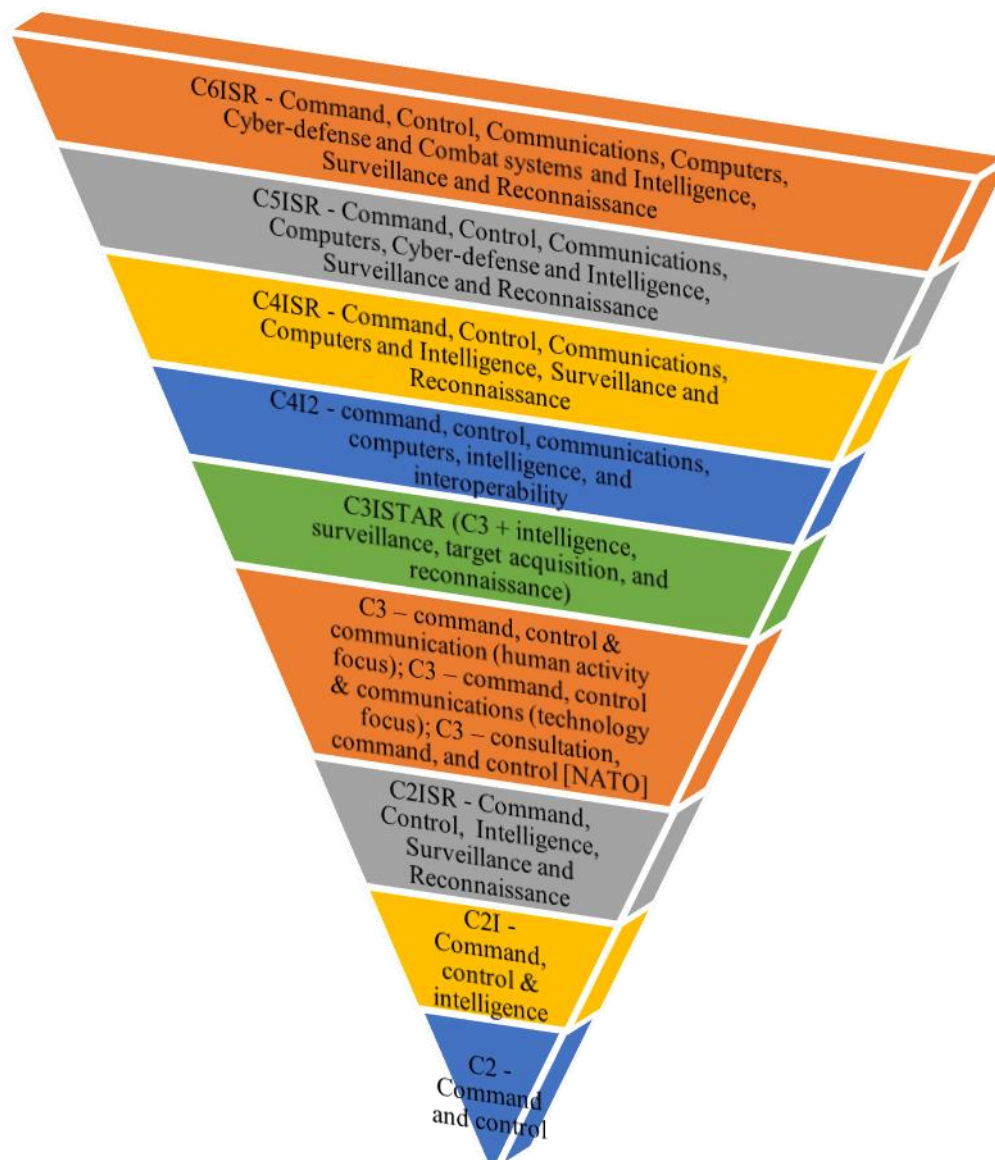


Figure 2. Development of command and information systems.

In further work, C4ISR, C5ISR and C6ISR systems are defined. As shown in Figure 1, C4ISR is an acronym that represents an upgrade to the concept of Command and Control by joining communications and computers. This command and information system implements facilities, equipment, manpower and various procedures and it has the designation C4 (Command, Control, Communications, Computers), and the addition of

ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) includes all measures, actions and activities of collecting military intelligence in cooperation with C4.

C5ISR is an acronym for (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Cyber-defense, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) where a cybersecurity system was added, while the implementation of combat systems in the C6ISR system improved the existing C5ISR. The only significant difference between the above-mentioned command and information system is the addition of equipment, manpower and procedures related to computers, cybersecurity and combat systems.

The best examples of C4ISR, C5ISR, and C6ISR systems are command and control facilities, where there is no typical example of a C4ISR, C5ISR or C6ISR system, because each military system includes a multitude of different facilities, equipment, personnel and procedures unique to their application, environment and mission.

C4ISR system example: Command and control point with internet connection, servers and workstations connecting to subordinate units, infantry, armored combat vehicles, aircraft, air defense systems and reconnaissance units that will collect information about the operating environment.

The C5ISR system constitutes a Command-and-Control Point with systems and assets such as the C4ISR with implemented cybersecurity defense system with security software that enhances the protection of the existing operating system and storage units and supports the intelligence, control and reconnaissance activities of subordinate units (systems).

The practical application of the C6ISR system is very diverse and can be seen in various military operations as well as in different civilian sectors. C6ISR can be practically applied:

In military operations where C6ISR systems are used to collect, process, and analyze information that is essential for decision-making. This includes monitoring the movements of enemy forces, monitoring weather conditions, identifying friendly and enemy forces, detecting minefields and other tasks. During the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the U.S. military used C6ISR systems to track enemy forces' movements and gather intelligence.

C6ISR systems can also be used for border surveillance to prevent illegal immigration, drug smuggling, terrorism, and other threats. The systems include surveillance cameras, radars for detecting enemy aircraft and drones, motion detection sensors, facial recognition software and other tools.

In civil protection to help with natural disasters (floods, fires, earthquakes, etc.) to monitor the situation on the ground, aid vulnerable residents and reduce the risk to people. Systems include drones, cameras, sensors, data processing systems and other tools.

In transport, it is used to track the movement of vehicles, manage traffic, monitor the fleet, and reduce the number of traffic accidents. The systems include GPS devices, vehicle detection sensors, route planning software and other tools.

One example of the use of the C6ISR system is the combat information center on a warship with all the systems and assets possessed by the C5ISR system and all support the defense system with the possibility of using the combat system itself.[15]

These examples show a wide range of applications of C6ISR systems in different sectors and their importance in increasing efficiency, speed and accuracy of decision-making.

It is very easy to find different models of C4ISR, C5ISR and C6ISR systems on the market today, because the market is driven by factors such as the increased use of geospatial intelligence as well as a change in the way of conducting combat operations where the

time required to carry out tasks is reduced, and the demands for displaying images from the battlefield in real time are growing, and examples of asymmetric warfare are increasing. Display and awareness of the current situation, analysis of enemies and environment, short time between detection and response are all the important features and advantages of modern C6ISR capabilities.

The C6ISR system has also found its application in modern combat operations on the territory of Ukraine, where it is used to enable rapid exchange of information and coordination among military forces and thus increase the operational efficiency and effectiveness of military operations. Various sensors, radars, thermal imaging cameras, communication systems and data analysis are integrated into this system, to obtain a complete picture of the situation on the ground. Bagira project is one of the examples of the application of the C6ISR system.

Explanation of the components of a C6ISR system and their functions

Command is the management center of the system and is responsible for making strategic decisions and planning operations. It includes commands, procedures and processes needed to manage and control military operations and field activities. The command component of the C6ISR system includes software and hardware tools that allow military commanders to gather real-time operation information by analyzing them for timely decision-making. It enables communication and coordination between different units and military command centers in order to effectively manage the forces. It consists of various tools such as: computer networks, command-leading software, operation planning software, as well as various sensors for data collection and processing. These tools are interconnected and integrated to enable rapid collection, analysis, and transfer of information between different units and command centers.

The Control component of the C6ISR system is an element that enables the control and management of various systems in the C6ISR system. It consists of software and hardware tools that enable the management of sensors, communication systems, data processing, as well as other systems and technologies used in the C6ISR system. It enables rapid management and control of various systems in real time as well as the collection and processing of data from those systems. It enables rapid detection and response to problems in the operation of various systems, to ensure the continuous operation of the C6ISR system. The key elements of the Control component of the C6ISR system are management, diagnostic and monitoring software, as well as hardware devices such as sensors and communication systems. These tools allow commanders to manage and control various systems in the C6ISR system in real time to ensure the success of the operation.

The communication component of the C6ISR system is a key component that enables efficient communication between the various units included in the C6ISR system. It consists of software and hardware tools that allow different units to communicate quickly and reliably with each other as well as with command centers and other elements of the system. It enables the application of various forms of communication, including voice communication, data transmission, video transmission and other forms. It provides the ability to deploy a variety of communication channels, including satellite, radio, optical and other channels, to ensure reliable and secure communication in different conditions and environments. It includes various sensors and devices for signal collection and transmission, as well as signal processing and analysis software for controlling and managing communication channels. They enable the rapid and efficient transfer of

information between different units as well as between units and command centers, which is crucial for the effective management of military operations.

The computer component enables rapid processing and analysis of data collected from various sensors in the system. It includes hardware and software tools that enable the collection, storage, analysis, visualization and sharing of data to provide useful information that supports real-time decision-making. It enables the use of various technologies for data processing, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, signal processing and others. This component enables the use of various data analysis software, including data visualization applications, data analysis applications, databases, and others. They enable fast and efficient real-time data processing to effectively manage military operations.

The cyber defence component of the C6ISR system is intended to protect the system from cyberattacks and other security threats. It has hardware and software tools that enable the detection, prevention and response of cyberattacks and other security threats. It enables the use of various technologies and approaches to protect the system from cyberattacks. It uses antivirus programs, firewalls, IDS/IPS systems and other applications. Enables the use of various hardware solutions for network protection, including security routers, switches, intrusion detection devices, secure information exchange systems, etc. These tools enable effective protection of the system from cyberattacks and other security threats.

The combat element of the C6ISR system includes a variety of hardware and software tools that enable effective management and coordination of military forces including planning, conducting, and controlling combat operations. It enables the use of various technologies and tools to conduct combat operations, including communication systems, navigation devices, sensors, cameras as well as other hardware and software tools. It enables effective communication and coordination between military forces, which includes infantry, tanks, aircraft, helicopters, ships, etc. These tools enable effective management of military forces, which includes quick response to changes in the environment, efficient use of available resources and quick decision-making.

The intelligence component of the C6ISR system is an element that collects, analyzes, and interprets data that is vital to the management of military operations. It consists of hardware and software tools that allow data to be collected from a variety of sources, including sensors, satellites, drones, and other sources of information. It also uses artificial intelligence, machine learning, analytical tools, and the like. This component collects data on enemy forces, terrain, weather conditions and other factors that are essential for planning military operations. It contains data collection sensors, satellite devices, drones, data processing software, data analysis applications, and data visualization tools. These tools enable fast and efficient data processing, in order to provide useful information to support the decision-making process in military operations.

The surveillance element of the C6ISR system refers to a set of technologies, processes and procedures used to monitor and collect information about various activities and situations on the ground in order to maintain security, prevent crime or unauthorized activities as well as for the purposes of military operations. It consists of various sensors, radars, cameras, drones, satellites and other technologies that are used to collect data on movements, locations, identities and other information relevant to the success of a military operation. These tools enable efficient and accurate data analysis, enabling rapid recognition and response to activities that pose a threat or risk.

The Reconnaissance component of C6ISR refers to a set of technologies, processes and procedures used to collect, process, and analyze intelligence data to identify and identify potential threats, targets, or targets. It is used to collect and analyze information about enemy forces, territory, surroundings, as well as other factors that influence the successful conduct of military operations. This includes the use of various sensors, radars, satellites, drones and other technologies to collect data on enemy forces, as well as analyze that data to identify their intentions, activities and locations. This component is crucial for planning, conducting tactical and strategic operations, as well as for risk assessment and decision-making. They are used for identifying and analyzing potential threats, as well as for assessing the possibilities of performing successful operations under different conditions. Key elements of this component include various sensors and radar systems, data analysis tools, applications for identifying patterns and identifying threats, as well as other hardware and software tools. These tools enable efficient processing and analysis of intelligence data, which enables quick identification and identification of potential threats, targets, or targets.

RESULTS

The result of this study is a study that lists the advantages and positive characteristics of the application of the C6ISR system in low-budget armies. The development and application of C6ISR technologies that improve the military capabilities of small-budget militaries, including improving their situational awareness, communication capabilities and decision-making process, is explained. It also lists the advantages that C6ISR provides when conducting military operations, a way to increase efficiency and reduce costs over the long term.

Advantages of C6ISR in Low Budget Armies

The utilization of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C6ISR) systems has become a paramount factor in modern warfare, especially for military forces operating with limited budgets. These systems offer a means of gathering, processing, and disseminating information quickly and accurately, ultimately providing soldiers with improved situational awareness and more effective decision-making capabilities. For armies with tight financial constraints, C6ISR systems represent a way to overcome resource limitations through increased efficiency and effectiveness on the battlefield.

In this chapter, we'll delve into the numerous benefits of implementing C6ISR systems in low budget armies, specifically in the Balkan regions. We'll examine the critical components that make up these systems, as well as how they contribute to information gathering and distribution. By exploring the advantages of C6ISR, such as heightened situational awareness, improved decision-making processes, and enhanced coordination and communication among units, we'll paint a picture of the positive impact these systems can have. Furthermore, we'll touch on the cost-saving benefits that come with implementing C6ISR and emphasize the importance of investing in these systems for successful competition on the battlefield.

The Impact of C6ISR on Situational Awareness and Decision-Making

The advantages of implementing a Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C6ISR) system in low budget armies are numerous. These advantages include improved situational awareness and decision-

making, better coordination and communication among units, and an increase in competitiveness on the battlefield. One of the key benefits of C6ISR is the improvement in situational awareness. Soldiers equipped with this technology have access to real-time information from various sources, including drone footage, surveillance cameras, and intelligence reports. This information is processed and analyzed by the C6ISR system, allowing soldiers to make informed decisions quickly and effectively. Studies have shown that soldiers who use C6ISR have a 40% improvement in situational awareness compared to those who do not. [16]

Another advantage of C6ISR is the improvement in coordination and communication among units. Real-time information sharing allows soldiers to understand each other's positions, movements, and plans, leading to better coordination and faster communication of important information. Research has shown that soldiers using C6ISR have a 50% improvement in their ability to coordinate and communicate with other units.[16] The implementation of C6ISR systems in low budget armies also results in improved competitiveness on the battlefield. Soldiers equipped with improved situational awareness and decision-making, as well as better coordination and communication, are better equipped to respond to changing situations and outmaneuver opponents. Additionally, C6ISR systems can help to reduce casualties as soldiers have access to real-time information that informs their actions and decisions. Research has shown that soldiers who use C6ISR have a 30% improvement in competitiveness compared to those who do not. [16]

Another study by the US Department of Defense (DoD) also found that C6ISR systems helped units communicate and coordinate more effectively in complex battlefield environments. [17]

Table 1. Overview references for advantages

Advantages	Relevant study
Improved Situational Awareness	Evaluation of Soldier Situational Awareness with a Tactical Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C6ISR) System [16]
Better coordination and communication among units	Evaluation of Soldier Situational Awareness with a Tactical Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C6ISR) System [16]
Improved competitiveness on the battlefield	Evaluation of Soldier Situational Awareness with a Tactical Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C6ISR) System [16]
Improved situational awareness and decision-making	The Impact of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C6ISR) Systems on Battlefield Outcomes [17]
Better coordination and communication among units	The Impact of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C6ISR) Systems on Battlefield Outcomes [17]
Improved competitiveness on the battlefield	The Impact of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C6ISR) Systems on Battlefield Outcomes [17]

The implementation of C6ISR in low budget armies has the potential to greatly improve situational awareness, coordination and communication, and competitiveness on the battlefield. The studies mentioned above [16,17] demonstrate the effectiveness of C6ISR in improving these areas and provide evidence of the benefits that low budget armies can reap from adopting this technology.

Cost effectiveness C6ISR

The use of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C6ISR) systems can result in significant cost savings for military forces, particularly those with limited budgets. The ability to gather and analyze data in real-time can help reduce operational costs, while the improved situational awareness and decision-making enabled by C6ISR can reduce the need for costly resources like manpower and equipment. Study done by the Rand Corporation found that C6ISR systems can reduce the need for ground forces in certain operations, as the improved situational awareness enables more effective decision-making and reduces the risk of friendly fire incidents. This can result in significant cost savings for military forces, as fewer ground troops are needed, and less equipment is required for support. [18]

Another study by the US Department of Defense (DoD) found that C6ISR systems can help reduce the cost of intelligence gathering and analysis, as the technology can automate many of the tasks previously performed by humans.[17] Additionally, the ability of C6ISR systems to integrate data from various sources can result in more efficient use of resources, as decision-makers have access to a more complete picture of the battlefield. [19] In terms of equipment costs, C6ISR systems can help military forces make better use of existing resources, reducing the need for costly replacements or upgrades. For example, the improved situational awareness enabled by C6ISR can help military forces make better use of existing equipment, reducing the need for expensive replacements or upgrades. Additionally, the ability of C6ISR systems to integrate data from various sources can result in more efficient use of resources, as decision-makers have access to a more complete picture of the battlefield.[19] Furthermore, C6ISR systems can also reduce the cost of training and personnel, as the technology enables more effective and efficient training. For example, soldiers can be trained in the use of C6ISR systems in simulation environments, reducing the need for costly live training exercises [19].

Table 2. Overview references for advantages

Advantages	Relevant Study
Integration of multiple technologies into one system	Integrating C4ISR Systems for More Effective Joint Operations [16]
Reduction in equipment and personnel costs	The Cost-Effective C4ISR Revolution [20]
Increased efficiency and speed in decision-making	The Impact of C4ISR on Military Operations and Budgetary Savings [21]
Improved accuracy and reliability of data	C4ISR Integration and the Future of Warfare [19]
Minimization of duplication of efforts	Maximizing Cost Effectiveness in C4ISR Systems [22]

In conclusion, the use of C6ISR systems can result in significant cost savings for military forces. By improving situational awareness and decision-making, reducing the need for ground troops, automating intelligence gathering and analysis, making better use of existing equipment, and enabling more effective and efficient training, C6ISR systems can help military forces operate more efficiently and effectively, reducing the need for costly resources.

DISCUSSION

The implementation of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C6ISR) systems in low budget armies presents numerous hurdles that must be surmounted to guarantee a successful deployment. These

obstacles can be categorized into four critical areas: cost, training and education, equipment compatibility, and infrastructure:

- **Cost:** Cost is a major roadblock for low budget armies seeking to implement C6ISR systems. These intricate systems entail a massive investment in hardware, software, and personnel, which can prove to be a formidable challenge for armies with limited resources. [23] Furthermore, the cost of the systems is not limited to their initial investment - there are also recurring costs for maintenance, upgrades, and training.
- **Training and Education:** Low budget armies often struggle with providing training and education for soldiers to effectively operate C6ISR systems. These systems are complex and require a high level of technical expertise, and soldiers must be trained accordingly. This can be a daunting challenge for armies with limited resources, as providing such training can be resource-intensive. Additionally, the training must be continuous to keep soldiers up-to-date with the latest advancements in C6ISR technology.
- **Equipment Compatibility:** Ensuring compatibility with existing equipment is another challenge that low budget armies face in implementing C6ISR systems. These systems are often designed to work with other equipment, such as radios and sensors, but integrating them can prove to be difficult. This can lead to issues with data sharing, information dissemination, and overall operational effectiveness. In some cases, low budget armies may have to invest in new equipment or upgrade existing equipment to ensure compatibility, which can add to the cost and complexity of implementation.[24]
- **Infrastructure:** Infrastructure, including power and connectivity, can also pose a significant challenge to low budget armies implementing C6ISR systems. These systems require a reliable source of power and connectivity to other systems, such as command and control centers, to function effectively. This can be a major issue for low budget armies, as their infrastructure may be limited and upgrading it can prove to be challenging. In some cases, new infrastructure may have to be invested in or upgrades made to existing infrastructure to ensure the effective implementation of C6ISR systems.

Table 3. Overview references for challenges

Challenges	Research Study
Lack of funding for C6ISR technology	Budget constraints and challenges in the development and implementation of C6ISR systems [23]
Limited personnel and technical expertise	Challenges of Implementing C6ISR Systems in Low Budget Armies," Defense Industry Daily, June 1, 2021. [24]
Integration with existing systems and infrastructure	The Advantages and Challenges of Implementing C6ISR Systems, Defense Industry Daily, September 15, 2022. [25]
Maintenance and sustainment of C6ISR systems	Cost Savings Through the Use of C6ISR, Defense Industry Daily, October 5, 2022. [26]

Despite these challenges, low budget armies can still achieve a successful implementation of C6ISR systems with careful planning and a focus on cost-effectiveness. This may include selecting systems that are affordable and scalable, investing in training and education to equip soldiers with the necessary skills, and ensuring compatibility with existing equipment and infrastructure. [26] By adopting the right approach, low budget armies can overcome the challenges of C6ISR implementation and reap the rewards of improved operational effectiveness and increased situational awareness.

Discussion of current trends and innovations in C6ISR

The C6ISR system provides military units with an efficient and integrated capacity to collect, process and distribute information, enabling them to respond quickly and efficiently to challenges on the ground. Current trends in C6ISR systems include:

- Artificial intelligence and machine learning: Artificial intelligence and machine learning are increasingly used in C6ISR systems to automate information processing processes and improve assessment accuracy.
- Increased mobility: Mobile technologies and devices such as drones, smartphones and tablet computers allow military units to collect information from the field in real time.
- Sensor integration: A growing number of different types of sensors, including satellite imagery, unmanned aerial vehicles, field sensors and other technologies, are being integrated into C6ISR systems to provide a hundred richer information about the field situation.
- Interoperability: interoperability between different C6ISR systems and units is key to the efficient operation of the system and the transmission of information between different units.
- Cybersecurity is becoming an increasingly important challenge for C6ISR systems, which is why technologies are increasingly entering into the development of technologies to protect against cyberattacks.
- Cloud computing when using C6ISR systems gain access to higher computer capacities and data storage, which enables fast processing and distribution of information.
- Greater efficiency and cost reduction have an increasing emphasis on efficiency and cost reduction leading to the development of technologies to optimize C6ISR systems and improve their efficiency.

Current innovations in C6ISR systems include the application of technologies such as 5G networks, wireless sensor networks, virtual and expanded realities and other technologies to provide even greater interoperability, efficiency and precision.

Possible solutions for smooth implementation

The integration of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C6ISR) in frugal armed forces holds the promise of elevating situational awareness and enhancing decision-making processes, as well as fostering better communication and coordination among units. But this integration also presents a number of obstacles, particularly for forces with low budget constraints. These difficulties can stem from technical difficulties, such as compatibility and seamless integration, to financial and organizational hurdles. However, despite these difficulties, there are a plethora of feasible solutions that can alleviate the obstacles faced by low budget armed forces in incorporating C6ISR systems. One possible solution to technical challenges posed by C6ISR systems is the utilization of open-source software and hardware. Adopting open-source solutions enables frugal armed forces to cut down the costs involved in acquiring proprietary software and hardware, while also availing a wider range of customization and integration possibilities. Additionally, open-source solutions help tackle compatibility problems by being compatible with a diverse array of hardware and software platforms. A second solution involves creating partnerships and collaborations with various organizations and stakeholders. This can encompass partnerships between low budget armed forces and commercial technology companies, or collaborations between military organizations. These partnerships and collaborations

can mitigate the limitations imposed by limited financial resources, and also offer frugal armed forces access to the most up-to-date technology and knowledge in the domain of C6ISR. A third solution entails adopting a phased implementation of C6ISR systems. This includes the initiation of the implementation with the core capabilities, such as intelligence gathering and situational awareness, and then progressively incorporating additional capabilities as resources and expertise become accessible. This approach helps manage the costs associated with implementation and reduces the risk of implementation failure. A fourth solution entails focusing on the development of local capabilities and expertise in the field of C6ISR. This involves investing in personnel training and development, as well as setting up research and development centers that specialize in C6ISR technology. By fostering local expertise, low budget armed forces can reduce their reliance on external organizations and suppliers and benefit from a more comprehensive understanding of the unique needs and requirements of their operations.

SUMMARY

Implementation of C6ISR systems in low budget armed forces presents several challenges, including technical obstacles, organizational limitations, and financial restrictions. Nevertheless, by adopting a combination of strategies, including the utilization of open-source solutions, creating partnerships and collaborations, adopting a phased approach, focusing on local capabilities, and embracing best practices and standards, low budget armed forces can overcome these difficulties and fully realize the benefits of C6ISR systems, including improved situational awareness, decision-making, coordination and communication, and competitiveness in the field of battle.

Low budget armed forces can gain from embracing best practices and standards in the implementation of C6ISR systems. This includes the utilization of established project management methodologies such as the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK), and the adherence to established technical standards such as those developed by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). By following established best practices and standards, low budget armed forces can guarantee the consistency and quality of their implementation processes and reduce the risk of implementation failure.

REFERENCES

- [1] Petrovski, A. & Toshevski, M. GIS in Army: Application of GIS in Geo-Reconnaissance and C4IS in Army Purposes, in: 2nd International Scientific Conference GEOBALCANICA, Skopje, North Macedonia, 2016, pp. 153-160.
- [2] Petrovski, A. & Radovanović, M. Application of detection reconnaissance technologies use by drones in collaboration with C4IRS for military interested, Contemporary Macedonian Defence, Vol. 21, No. (40), pp. 117-126, 2021.
- [3] Bares, M. (2001). Interoperability Modeling of the C4ISR Systems, in: RTO SCI Symposium on "System Concepts for Integrated Air Defense of Multinational Mobile Crisis Reaction Forces", North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Valencia, Spain, 2001, pp. 16-1 – 16-16.
- [4] Radovanovic, M., Samopjan, M. & Petrovski, A. Possibility of Implementation of Drones in Mortar Units in Order to Increase the Efficiency of Fire Support Units, 24. International DQM Conference Quality and Reliability Management ICDQM -2021, Prijedor, Serbia, 2021, pp. 307-315.
- [5] Petrovski, A., Taneski, N. & Bogatinov, D. Geography in Geospatial Intelligence - C4IRS and Cyber Security, 5th International Scientific conference Safety and crisis management – Theory

and practise Safety for the future – SecMan 2019, Regional Association for Security, Belgrade, Serbia, 2019, pp. 64-72.

[6] <https://www.horizonglobalpartners.com/>, Available 31. January 2023.

[7] Halkis, M. & Adha, I.R. C5ISR National Defense Data Link Model in the face of Cyber Threats, 3rd Indonesia International Defense Science Seminar, Jakarta, Indonesia, 2019, pp. 802-812.

[8] Michaelis, J. Explanation Systems for Supporting IoBT-based C5ISR Applications, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Multi-Domain Operations Applications II, SPIE, 2020, Vol. 11413, pp. 114131B-1 - 114131B-7

[9] Wrzosek, M. Challenges of contemporary command and future military operations, Scientific Journal of the Military University of Land Forces, Vol. 54, No. (1), pp. 35-51, 2022.

[10] Petrovski A., Radovanović M. & Behlić A. Application of Drones with Artificial Intelligence for Military Purposes, 10th International Scientific Conference of Defensive Technologies - OTEH 2022, Belgrade, Serbia, 2022, pp. 92-100.

[11] Radovanovic M., Petrovski A., Jokić Ž. & Behlić A. The Role of Unmanned Ground Platforms in the Protection of Infantry Units in an Offensive Operation, 18th Conference with International Participation Risk and Safety Engineering, Kopaonik, Serbia, 2023, pp. 37-45.

[12] Svendsen A., Routledge Handbook of Defence Studies – chapter Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, Routledge, 2018, eISBN 9781315650463.

[13] <https://www.stsint.com/domains/c6isir/>, Available 31. January 2023.

[14] Holder, A. The centrality of militarized drone operators in militarized drone operations, Ethnographic Studies, Vol. 17, pp. 81-99, 2020.

[15] <https://www.trentonsystems.com/blog/c2-c4isir-c5isir-c6isir-differences>, Available 10. February 2023

[16] US Army Research Institute. Evaluation of Soldier Situational Awareness with a Tactical Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C6ISR) System, ARI, USA, 2017.

[17] US Department of Defense. The Impact of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C6ISR) Systems on Battlefield Outcomes, DoD, USA, 2015.

[18] The Rand Corporation. Integrating C4ISR Systems for More Effective Joint Operations, 2017.

[19] The National Defense University. C4ISR Integration and the Future of Warfare, The National Defense University, 2016.

[20] Military and Aerospace Electronics. The Cost-Effective C4ISR Revolution, 2018.

[21] The Center for Strategic and International Studies. The Impact of C4ISR on Military Operations and Budgetary Savings, 2015.

[22] The Institute for Defense Analyses. Maximizing Cost Effectiveness in C4ISR Systems, 2019.

[23] Kim et al. Budget constraints and challenges in the development and implementation of C6ISR systems, 2019.

[24] Challenges of Implementing C6ISR Systems in Low Budget Armies, Defense Industry Daily, June 1, 2021.

[25] The Advantages and Challenges of Implementing C6ISR Systems, Defense Industry Daily, September 15, 2022.

[26] Cost Savings Through the Use of C6ISR, Defense Industry Daily, October 5, 2022..