

Technology Proliferation

Peer and near-peer state adversaries have and will continue to refine sophisticated anti-access/area denial (A2AD) capabilities that threaten our strategic reach and operational freedom of maneuver. Technology proliferation will ensure numerous non-state adversaries and individuals gain at least some capability at the tactical level. Many will be able to gain access to engineering knowledge for specialized weapons, commercially available unmanned systems, chemical and biological weapons, and new “*intelligent explosive devices*” that can hunt down their targets. Stand-off weapons such as anti-ship cruise missiles, precision-guided munitions, armed and persistent unmanned aerial systems (UAS), networked ISR and targeting systems, and surface-to-air missiles – all once the province of only the most modern militaries – are becoming commonplace. Increasingly lethal counter-air weapons and their growing availability even to non-state actors will further challenge our use of low-altitude airspace for maneuver, supply, and fire support.