

Pushing Processing Power to the Tactical Edge

In a hierarchical C2 architecture, information flows predominately from higher headquarters to the lowest tactical units. This top-down flow made sense when computers, sensors and communications systems were large components or aggregations of bulky hardware and were essentially high-demand/low-density assets. The exponential increase in miniaturization makes greater processing power more available in compact or portable devices. To the extent we can benefit from continuing to push processing power to the lowest echelons possible, we must:

- Embrace a different way of thinking about how and when information should be pushed and pulled between higher and lower echelons.
- Balance empowering the lowest tactical elements with the need to preserve unity of command.
- Recognize and accommodate the complications that expanded connectivity between higher and lower echelons may pose to our efforts to improve signature management.
- Streamline information entry, processing, and access to enable temporal advantage and layered understanding.