The Iranian Way of (Near) War

Professor DB Des Roches
david.desroches@ndu.edu
www.facebook.com/dbdesroches
@DBDesRoches
9 January 2020
How Does Iran Fight?

DISRUPTION not Dominance
Proxy Attacks
Disrupt Shipping
Take Hostages
The Spectrum of Hybrid Warfare

- **Low Hidden**
  - Political subversion
    - Seize government buildings & strongpoints
    - Sabotage, assassination, terrorism
    - Agitprop & media campaign
    - Insertion of agents

- **Proxy sanctum**
  - Consolidate controlled areas
  - Core cadre, 'volunteers', militia
  - Destroy government infrastructure
  - Local recruitment

- **Intervention**
  - Threaten & prepare for invasion
  - Destroy isolated government forces
  - Logistics & fire support
  - Cyber disruption

- **Coercive deterrence**
  - Public talk of nuclear power
  - Fly-bys & force demonstrations
  - Deploy dual-capable SSMs to area
  - Hints of escalation

**Degree of state responsibility**
- Low Hidden
- Mixed
- Overt
Iran possesses the largest and most diverse missile arsenal in the Middle East, with thousands of short- and medium-range ballistic and cruise missiles capable of striking as far as Israel and southeast Europe. Missiles have become a central tool of Iranian power projection and anti-access/area-denial capabilities in the face of U.S. and Gulf Cooperation Council naval and air power in the region.
Deterrence in Hybrid Warfare

Line of Response

Artillery
Raid
Airstrike

Rocket Attack
Mortar Attack
Hostage Taking

Sniper Attack
Landmines
QUESTIONS

Professor DB Des Roches
david.desroches@ndu.edu
www.facebook.com/dbdesroches
@DBDesRoches
9 January 2020