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From Wargame to Decision Advantage

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An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely San Francisco, with a network of white lines and nodes overlaid on the image, suggesting a data or communication network. The network is denser in the urban areas and extends into the surrounding water.

Agenda

- The challenge
- The missing piece
- MDO
- What we discovered
- Abstraction
- The design response
- So what
- Conclusion

The challenge

wargame to decision advantage

- More information does not equal better understanding
- Plans gain momentum faster than understanding
- Preserve and exploit the understanding

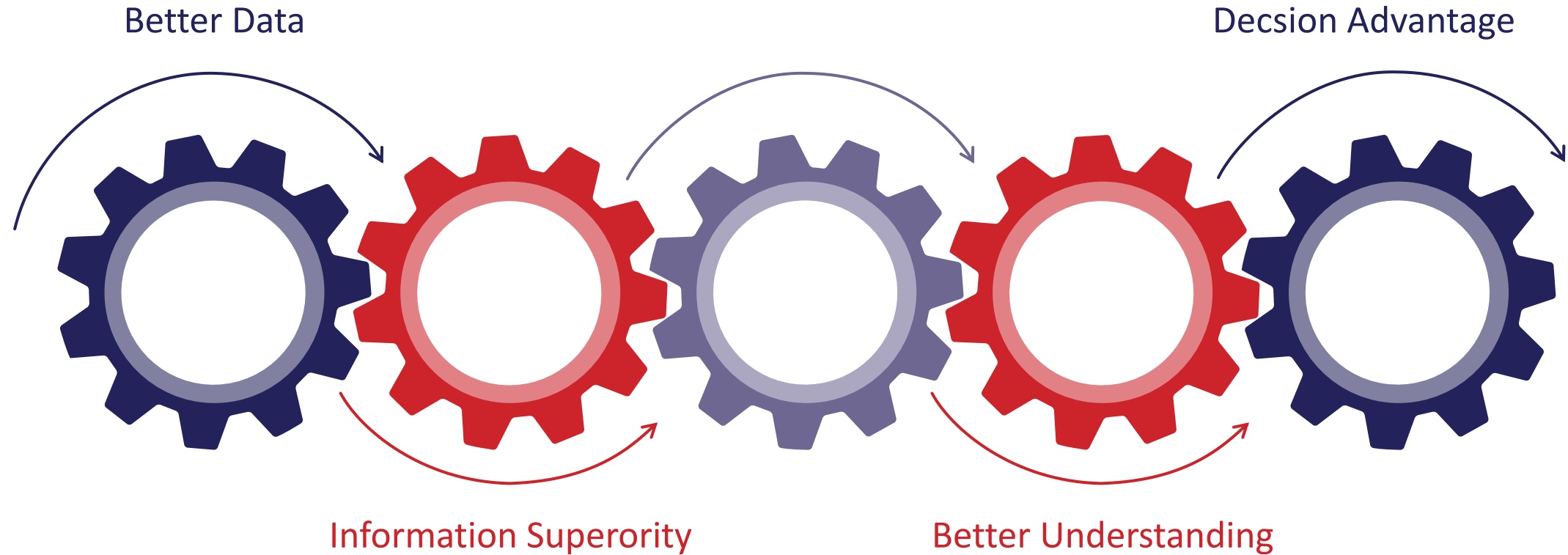


The missing piece

wargames expose reasoning: the 'why'



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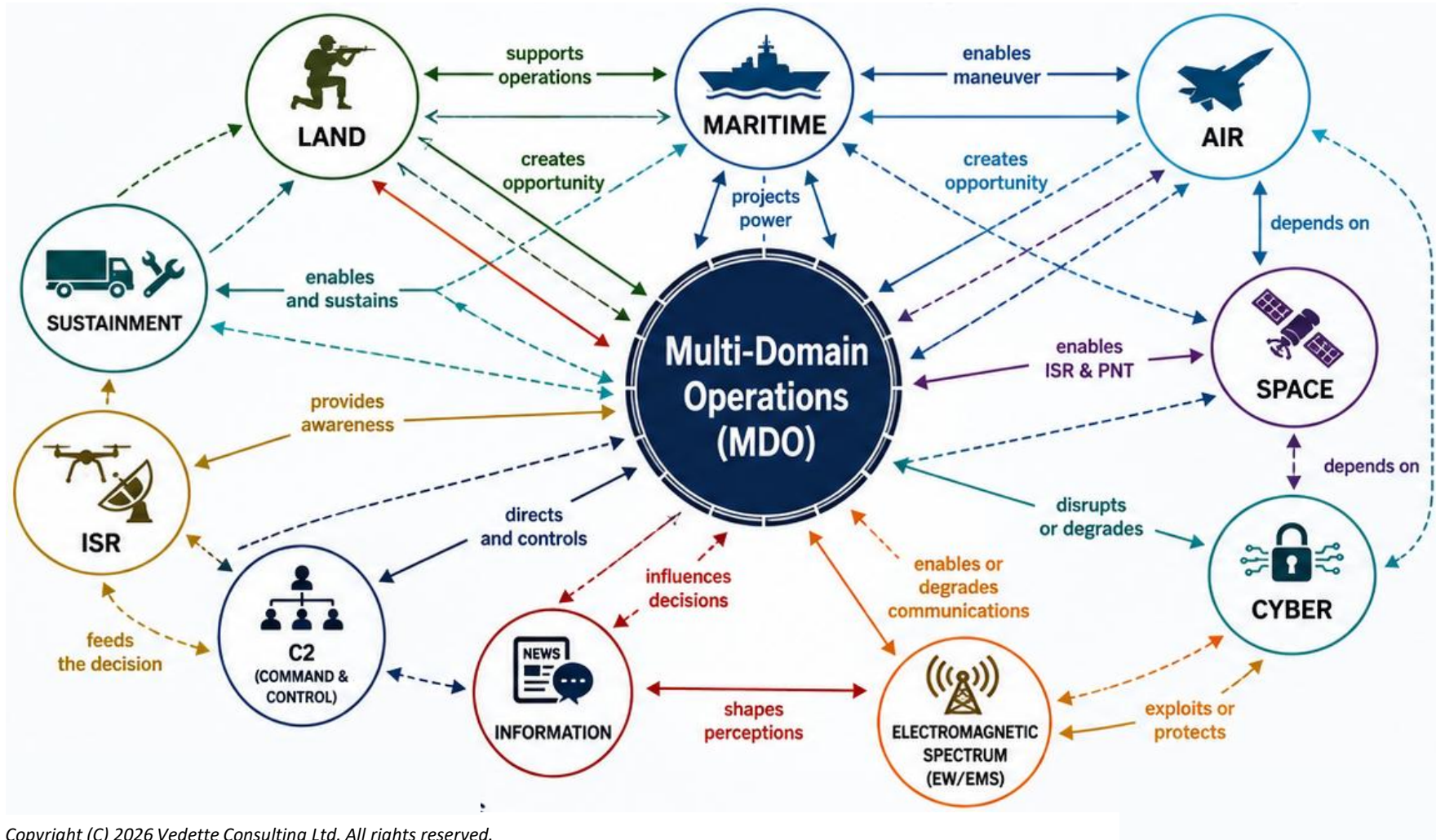


MDO is more complex

interconnections and interactions



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What we discovered

planners told us they really needed

- **Rapid and repeatable** over precise
- **Failure and why**, not predicted success
- **Adaptation** over perfection
- **Transparency** over automation
- **Reasoning**, not just outcomes



Abstraction

enough fidelity to understand: simple, not simplistic



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Sense

Decide

Act

Sustain

Communicate

The design response

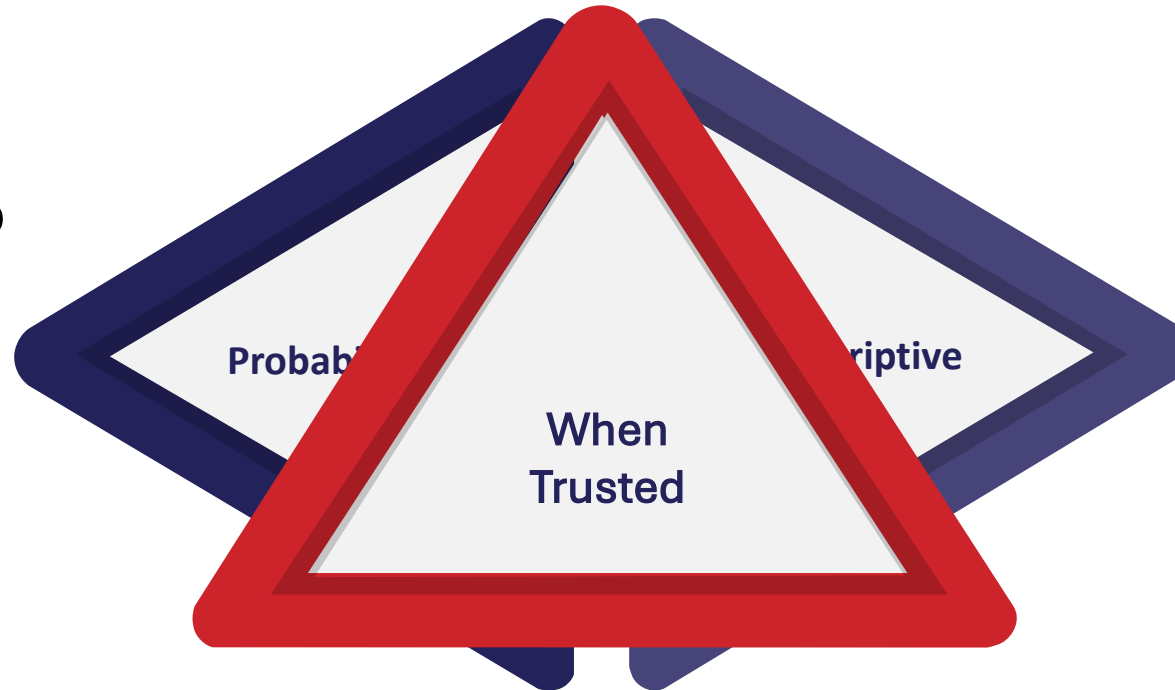
an AI-enabled wargaming layer



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Screen and Develop COAs

Suitable abstraction to
allow for rapid and
repeatable
experimentation



Narrative approach aids
understanding
AI does not determine
outcomes

Transparent adjudication

Ensures that reasoning follows a plan

Code adjudicates: AI explains: Humans decide

So what?

for professional wargamers.....



- Simple enough to cope with complexity at pace
- Design for repeatability
- Ensure adjudication can be challenged
- Capture reasoning (why), not merely moves and results
- Preserve outputs so they can be transferred
- The wargame is part of a wider process, not an isolated event

Conclusion



advantage isn't predicting the future. It's adapting before your adversary does

- Information superiority does not automatically create decision advantage
- Wargames expose the **why** — assumptions, dependencies and consequences
- Understanding must be generated early and preserved as the plan evolves
- AI can accelerate explanation and comparison without determining the outcome

Questions?



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Get in touch

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