12th ICCRTS
"Adapting C2 to the 21st Century"

Addressing the Practical Challenges of Fourth Generation Warfare

**Requirements of Theory
Practical Challenges
The Knowledge Exploitation Environment**

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ABSTRACT

Title: Addressing the Practical Challenges of Fourth Generation Warfare (4GW)

Thesis: Our current C2 structures and doctrine are hard-pressed to understand contemporary operating environments. Lacking sufficient understanding, theory indicates that any military operation carries larger risks, and consumes more resources. Enabling C2 over the next century will require fundamental shifts in skill sets, reshaping of staff processes, and better use of available technology.

> The Requirements of Theory: 4th Generation Warfare (4GW) requires a 'sufficient' understanding of the operating environment – including the interconnected relationships between political, military, social, economic, information, and infrastructure (PMESII) systems. 'Understanding,' in this context, invokes the four primary functions of theory (categorize, explain, predict, control). How do we assess ourselves against these four functions?

> Practical Challenges: In modern military units, understanding of the operational environment – and subsequent decision support - is generated by combinations of skill sets and processes in staff organizations and subordinates. How are today's units prepared to support the commander in 4GW?

> Knowledge Exploitation Environment: A combination of new skill sets, staff processes, and decision support tools must be created in order to meet the demands of 4GW and complex operating environments. What is the general outline of these critical changes?