**Title**
From Fighting 'Industrial Wars' To 'Wars Amongst the Peoples' : The efforts of the United States Armed Forces to improve its Stability and Support Operations capabilities

**Subject**
International Politics

**Level**
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**Abstract**
The study examines the impact that the ongoing transformation of the United States military has on the ability of the U.S. military to conduct Stability and Support Operations (SASO). It does this by fusing Thomas Barnett’s Core-Gap and Leviathan-SysAdmin frameworks with Barry Posen’s Command of the Commons-Contested zones concepts and then using the synthesized framework to evaluate whether the nature of changes in three spheres of the United States Armed Forces indicate that it will have an improved and more permanent SASO capability in the future. Public material, including national security strategies and other military publications are evaluated through the synthesized conceptual model. The first sphere, changes in national strategies and doctrines, suggests that while there was recognition for the need to transform the military by the late 1990s, little was done until 2004. Since then, both strategies and doctrines suggest increased political-bureaucratic support for addressing challenges related to SASO. The second sphere, changes in the organization of the United States Army, suggests that after a shift from division to brigade sized units of maneuver the Army will be in a better position to address the unique challenges posed by SASO. Changes in the procurement and training strategies of service branches also point to an increase in the attention paid to the needs of soldiers supporting Stability and Support Operations. Overall, the analysis suggests that the ongoing transformation of the United States military will increase ability of the U.S. Armed Forces to conduct successful SASO, while maintaining an unchallenged mastery of more conventional military operations.

**Keywords**
Barnett, Thomas
Posen, Barry
crisis management
armed forces
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**Additional information**
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