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1:10 PM - 1:30 PM

Optimizing the Last Tactical Mile: Adaptive Logistics, Resource Allocation, and Autonomous Coordination Across Contested Networks

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Abstract:

The next fight will be fast, spread out, and changing constantly under uncertainty. That puts unprecedented load on the systems that move and prioritize people, equipment, supplies, and autonomous assets. This session addresses optimizing logistics, resource allocation, and autonomous coordination across domains in near real time while keeping systems working when bandwidth is tight and there is no central control.

Two requirements converge into one problem. First, sustainment: distributed, predictive planning with no single hub that re-prioritizes how combat power moves as conditions, demand, and losses change. That is the digital backbone of the NDS industrial-base and readiness line of effort. Second, autonomy: running swarms of air, ground, or sea platforms that adjust to mission, threat, and losses without central authority. The optimization that counts is time. Every delay getting a re-prioritized plan out across a contested, disconnected network means combat power arrives late. In a fight where sustainment is already tight, late means lost.

In the Indo-Pacific, contested logistics across long distances decides outcomes more than sensing does. That is a command-and-control and time problem, and it is the one most likely to decide a long war.

