MANENT REPERLACE

MSc (D&SS)

NON-KINETIC WARFARE IN PREVAILING SECURITY MILIEU

BY

Lieutenant Colonel SAJJAD ALI (PAKISTAN)

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CERTIFICATE OF SUPERVISORS

NAME OF THE STUDENT

Lt Col Sajjad Ali (Pakistan)

NAME OF THE SUPERVISOR

Lt Col KMPSB Kulatunga RSP psc SLAC

SIGNATURE OF THE

SUPERVISOR

NAME OF THE SUPERVISOR

Brig RGU Rajapaksha RSP psc

SIGNATURE OF THE

SUPERVISOR

PERMANENT REFERENCE



ABSTRACT

- 1. The concept of non-kinetic warfare is not new; it is traced back to 500 BC in Sun Tzu's Art of War where he advocates defeating enemy without using any kinetic or physical sinews of war as the best strategy. Same has been advocated by many other military theorists in various forms like use of no power to win the war or economy of effort as principle of war and theory of paralysis to achieve national policy objectives.
- 2. World War II was such a forum where, over 48 million people both military and civilians died. Devastating event compelled the world to get closer, think and avoid such catastrophic and inhuman war in future. Resultantly, United Nations came into being in 1945 as central body to world peace and to coordinate efforts to this effect. United Nations remained successful in averting large scale war due to its preventive diplomacy, promotion of globalization through its various agencies working on human security and people to people contact. Globalization thereof also became really handy by increasing socio-cultural to socio-economic ties between the nations; raising the level of interdependence to unprecedented level that even countries with huge list of conflicting interests, still remain dependent on each other in number of sectors.
- 3. After so much of realizations and efforts to make the world a peaceful one to live with mutual co-existence, still nations are spending ever increasing budgets on military machines and lethality of weapon systems is increasing too. This means, aspiration to control the adversary is part of human nature and may not go away. Here non-kinetic warfare or soft power comes into play; which provides sufficient space to nations to achieve their national policy objectives by using its various domains while remaining away from kinetic means. Overall social, political and security environment of the globe also precludes and prevents use of such sophisticated weapons and promotes non-kinetic policies.
- 4. Indeed, these materials are a source of power projection and coercion against the target state but at same time their use seems less attractive, cost prohibitive and

lethal to humanity. These perspectives have given a new trend to the kinetic warfare too like limited war, force projection, economic strangulation, insurgencies/guerilla warfare, information/cyber war.

5. While living within the parameters of non-kinetic warfare, states would keep encountering non-traditional security threats and internal conflicts but chances of major international conflict have been reduced to a very considerable limit and space has been taken over by non-kinetic warfare. All major stake holders of the world and the countries with fragile peace or internal fault lines/inadequacies will have some challenge to face all the times in domain of non-kinetic warfare, may it be internal or external. Therefore, study would conclude on some workable recommendations for the states having internal instability situation that how to counter such threats.