THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

## Pathways to Changeability: Examining Form, Operational, & Cyber Change Mechanisms

Aditya Singh

PhD Candidate, Department of Systems Engineering & Engineering Management Doctoral Fellow, Co-Design of Trustworthy AI Work Systems

Acquisition Research Symposium, May 11, 2023 Naval Postgraduate School, Monterrey, CA

## Introduction & Motivation



Protracted design phases and long lifecycles introduce uncertainty in operating environments

# **Research Question**



Research has not properly examined how capabilities are gained during operation

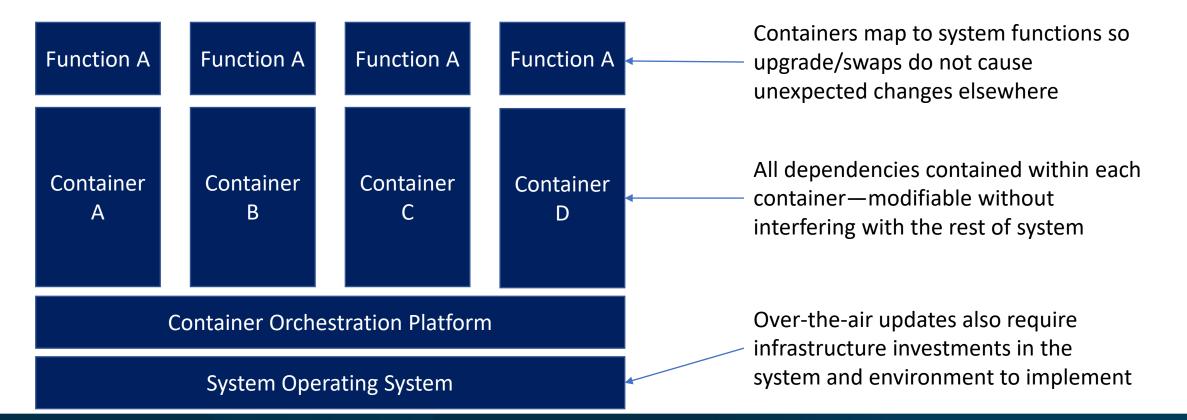


## **Lessons from Previous Work**

Margin	Modularity	Operations
Excess of a system parameter enables additions to the system	Loose coupling of modules, function to form mapping, and common interfaces enable module swapping	Change <i>how</i> the system is used without extensive change to the form of the system
6V 2V Requirement Margin	A A A A	No Change to Form of System

Previous empirical work showed that margin, modularity, and operations have been used for capability gain

# **Software Changeability**



## Form Change: GPU-5/A



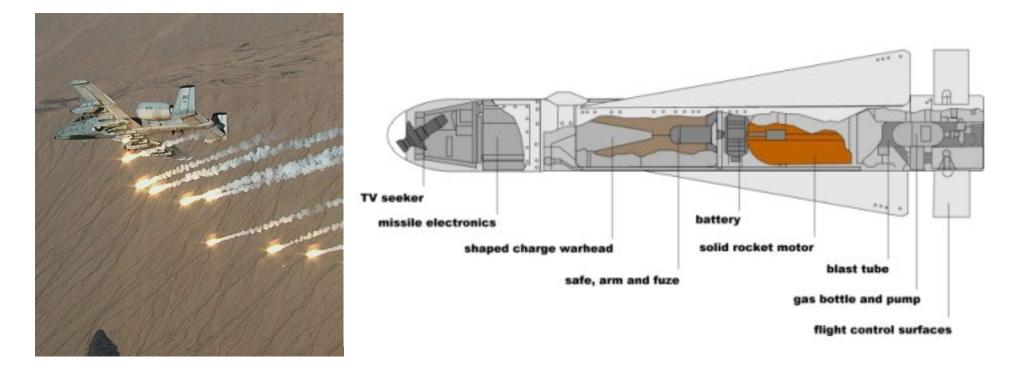
Modularity is important, but it is not a silver bullet

## Form Change: Agile Pod



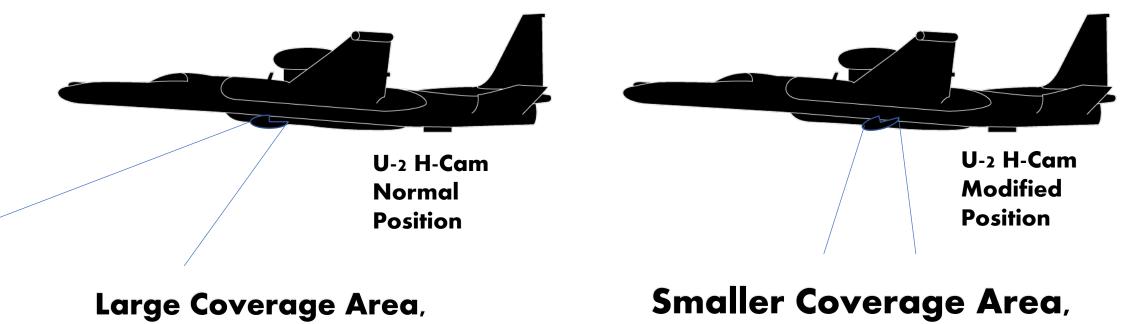


# **Operational Change: A-10 Nighttime Flight**



Changning *how* a system is used can enable new capabilities rapidly

# **Operational Change: Desert Storm H-Cam**



Low Resolution

#### Smaller Coverage Area, Higher Resolution



## **Cyber Change: Over-the-Air Updates**



# Rapid software changes can bring enhance and add capabilities

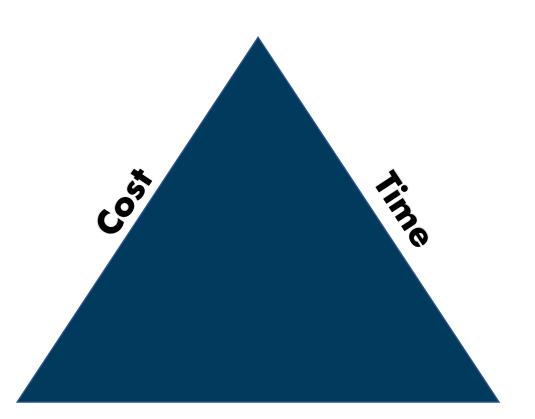
## Cyber Change: F-16 & F-22



F-16 also got OTA updates and F-22 flew with 3<sup>rd</sup> party apps by leveraging open cyber architecture

# **Tradeoff Triangle**

- Form Change
  - High Cost, Long Time to Implement, Potentially High Performance
- Operational Change
  - Low Cost, Rapid Implementation, Constrained Performance
- Cyber Change
  - Cost, Time, & Performance are Moderate



#### Performance

# Enabling Change: Margin

- Form and cyber changes are limited by the constraints of the system as originally designed
- If changeability of systems is a priority, margin needs to be built into our systems
- While increasing upfront costs, addition of margin may lower lifecycle costs and increase *value* if systems



# **Conclusions & Recommendations**

- Operational changes drive the most urgent needs
- Cyber changeability needs to be a greater emphasis
- Cyber changes require infrastructure, hardware investment
- For systems we anticipate will be in service for a long time, implementing margin is critical for changeability and system value



#### THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC