

Asymmetric calorie-burning strategy explained as sports metaphor

Imagine two teams with fixed rosters competing in a foot race. Team A chose to use a relay team of four runners. Team B is just a single runner who is much faster than any of the runners on Team A.

In the first race, Team B wins with a comfortable margin. Then the teams race again. This time B wins as well but feels more tired than the runners on Team A. The third race ends in a tie, and Team A finally wins the fourth race. In the fifth race, the runner on Team B starts cramping, and Team A comfortably wins every race after that, no matter how many times the race is repeated.

Even though the runner on Team B is a superior athlete, his metabolism can't sustain running four times his competitors' distance at a pace fast enough to win. Even with some time to rest, eat and hydrate between races, he can't recover from the repeated exertion fast enough; the lactic acid will still build up in his muscles and joints. He must either forfeit most races or rotate with other runners on his team.

Although the Russian Army has leapfrogged U.S. cyber, EW and ADA capability, in theater there are few of these systems relative to the number of U.S. platoons that need to be targeted. These systems and their personnel can't operate 24 hours a day/seven days a week indefinitely, and Russian sustainment can't rotate, repair or replace the systems fast enough to keep up with well-sustained U.S. troops maneuvering across a broad front. If a BTG tried to keep up with the 75 platoons in a BCT, they will wear out equipment and burn out key personnel – the equivalent of pulling a hamstring mid-race!