Wanted: a National Information Strategy for the Interconnected Age

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“My Opinions…not the USG/DOD/NDU”
Thesis #1
“the battlespace”

- Information
  - Weapon - Tool - Process – Target?
    - more than aid to “Blast - Heat - Fragmentation”
      - LTG Mike Hayden, DirNSA

- Synergy
  - human factors + information technology

- Information is now…
  - element of national power
  - operational environment/”battlespace”
Thesis #2
“the threat”

- Modern societies are increasingly vulnerable
  - Technologically/Economically
    - Infrastructures
      - telecommunications, energy, transportation, etc
  - Socially/Politically
    - Perception management, politics
      - “CNN Effect”, “strategic influence”, Al Jazeera, etc
- Employment/Protection requires BOTH technological capability AND political will
Thesis #3
“the partnership”

- The Department of Defense (or MOD), Federal Government, and the private sector share
  - Roles
  - Responsibilities
  - Capabilities

In protecting, leveraging, exploiting:
“national cyberspace” & information power
4 Fundamental Changes

New Geostrategic Context

- **Cyberspace**: new operational realm/battlespace
  - Dominant in business, politics, warfare

- **Convergence**
  - Digital: 1110101110001010 = lingua franca
  - Information mediums (radio, TV, phone, etc)

- **Global Omnilinking**
  - Electronic digital connectivity of people, organizations, governments…globally & instantly

- **Critical Infrastructure Protection**
  - Opportunity….and vulnerability
  - Critical to advanced societies, but public/private links poorly understood
    - Roles and missions; what does “interagency” mean?
What it Adds Up To

- **Global Economy**
  - Dependent on interlinked networks
  - Information as critical as energy and capital

- **Global Audience**
  - Real-time 24-hour cycle
  - Waning controllability of information

- **Global Society**
  - Contact anyone, anywhere, anytime

- **Strategic Impact:** Diplomatic, Economic, Military
Information & National Power

- The information component
  - “Use of information content and technology as strategic instruments to shape fundamental political, economic, military and cultural forces on a long-term basis to affect the global behavior of governments, supra-governmental organizations, and societies to support national security”

  - Drs Dan Kuehl/Bob Neilson, Georgetown’s NSSQ 1999
  - President Ronald Reagan:
    - NSDD 130 (1984)
    - National Security Strategy (1987)
Information Environment

- **Physical: “Ether”/Cyberspace/”eSpace”**
  - Realm of electronic connectivity
  - Physical space
    - Future: increasingly dominant
      - business/economics, politics, warfare

- **Contextual: “influence/perception space”**
  - “Cognitive Space”
  - analogy: “political/economic environments”
    - Example: Serbian TV vs NATO cohesion 1999
  - If you lose the battle here, winning the other may not matter: see Mogadishu, 1993
IO Roadmap
SecDef 30 October 2003

- IO as a core military competency, on par with air-ground-maritime-special ops
  - We must dominate the information spectrum

- Core capabilities
  - EW, CNO, Psyop, Military Deception, Opsec
  - Why these five?
    - Immediate operational impact
    - Interdependent and require integration
    - Organize-Train-Equip implications

- Supporting/Related functions
  - Physical attack and security, IA, Counter-Intel, Public Affairs, Civil-Military Ops
Paradigm Kuehl

- National Information Power
  - Brodest range of military, governmental and civilian capabilities; exploit the global information environment & dominate strategic context

- Information Operations
  - Wide range of military and governmental operations to protect and/or exploit the environment

- Information Warfare
  - Military offensive & defensive actions to control/exploit the environment

- C2W (information tech in war)
  - blast, heat, fragmentation

Dan Kuehl, “Joint Information Warfare”
NDU Press Strategic Forum #105
www.ndu.edu/inss
3 Key pillars

- Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP)
  - Vital national interest, use force to defend
  - “Partnership” of public-private sectors

- Information Warfare/Operations (IW/IO)
  - Lead to Network Centric Ops -- Transformation?

- Public Diplomacy/International Public Information (PD/IPI).....”Softpower”, “Information Engagement”
  - “increasingly vital....transmit [our] message to people around the world” to “counter misinformation/incitement...mitigate conflict”
“Infrastructure”, “Information Ops”
- 1 reference to each

“Public Diplomacy/Information”
- 3 references

No sense of information as power or environment: no sense of its impact

No coordination of Administration efforts
- Diplomatically, militarily, economically

Kuehl/Neilson ”No Strategy for an Info Age” USNIP Sept 2003
Information Power…
Who’s in Charge?

Diplomatic and Military…
Centralized and Hierarchical

Economic and Information…
Diffused and Shared
What’s Lacking

- Who and Where do we go for the COGs of Information Power?
  - National Information Council?
  - Who would be on it?
- What do we need from them?
  - What are we lacking?
  - National Information Strategy
  - Why don’t we have one?
  - We need a strategic and conceptual foundation for how we can employ Information Power to support national security

The “Long Telegram”

861.00/2 - 2246: Telegram
The Charge in the Soviet Union (Kennan) to the Secretary of State
SECRET
Moscow, February 22, 1946--9 p.m. [Received February 22--3; 52 p.m.]
511. Answer to Dept's 284, Feb 3 [13] involves questions so intricate, so delicate, so strange to our form of thought, and so important to analysis of our international environment that I cannot compress answers into single brief message without yielding to what I feel would be dangerous degree of oversimplification. I hope, therefore, Dept will bear with me if I submit in answer to this question five parts, subjects of which will be roughly as follows:
(1) Basic features of post-war Soviet outlook.
(2) Background of this outlook
(3) Its projection in practical policy on official level.
(4) Its projection on unofficial level.
(5) Practical deductions from standpoint of US policy.
National Information Strategy (Suggested)
Build on ‘99/’00 National Security Strategies

- Partnerships
  - Need to build on PDD-63/HSPD-7 efforts…globally

- Information Superiority
  - New American Way of War; JV2010/2020
    - Cyberspace and Information Operations…Net Centric Ops

- The Economy
  - IT’s decisive and dominant role…globally

- Influence
  - Internet and TV in “global cognitive battlespace”
  - Essential operational medium for “War of Ideas”

- Dr Dan Kuehl, “Information Power & the National Security Strategy”, Cyberwar 3.0
What’s Needed

- Information-age corollary to the “Long Telegram”

- New strategy is not “Containment”…it’s CONNECTIVITY!

- Free flows of information can enhance
  - Democracy
  - Human rights
  - Economic development
  - Peace
Conclusion

The information environment and element of power: critical to current/future military & national security strategy

- Learn how to exploit and defend the information environment...or be defeated via it
- National security in the **Interconnected Age** requires new alliances and partnerships
  - In Defense, in the Government, in the World
- At least the future won’t be dull and boring!