

## [The Future of Things “Cyber”](#)

We encourage you to e-mail your comments to us at: [strategicstudiesquarterly@maxwell.af.mil](mailto:strategicstudiesquarterly@maxwell.af.mil).

### Reader's Comments

#### **From John:**

In reading your article of address from former Director Hayden, accessed by me through a discussion brought up in a LinkedIn group I participate in, I had these simple thoughts.

- 1) I thoroughly enjoyed the article and am aware that this is a new frontier.
- 2) Would a pertinent question, beyond the dilemma that General Hayden brings up of focus of commitment to defense vs. focus of commitment to mitigation and recovery, be one of “what are we willing to lose on the Net by its mere existence on it?” An analogy would be, if I have valuable things in my home, I can on one hand put in surveillance and protection equipment to protect against robbery, buy insurance as a stop-loss measure, or the third option, decide what I want of value to be in my home. If there is nothing to steal and criminals know that, they typically lose interest in breaking in. Perhaps there are other vehicles, which is what the internet is, for some items of criticality. Is this a relevant perspective?

#### **From Ben:**

The only saving grace for the entire SSQ so far (for me at least) was the introduction by Hayden, which I think excellently captures the state of confusion and misinformation surrounding “cyber” in government/military circles.

#### **From Kurt:**

General Hayden asks the question: “Is cyber really a domain?” and goes on to say “...other domains are natural, created by God, and this one is the creation of man.”

I don't think cyber is a separate domain. Land, air, sea, and space are only considered domains because we've invented machines (creations of man) that can exploit the properties of those domains. Sea, air, and space became domains for human use as time passed...although they had always existed.

We've now created machines that appear to operate outside those existing domains but they really don't. Computers, routers, ISPs, occupy a definite physical space. Information/data travels over wires or through the air and into space or under the sea...all the original domains created by God. We think of information as floating around in some sort of cloud, but in actuality it resides on servers somewhere.

If cyber is a domain, that could suggest that it has always existed. If that's true, perhaps that's a hint at how it can be exploited.

**From Michael:**

“General Hayden’s article is spot on. It points out the lack of a common lexicon and the clear need for the cyber community to agree on a framework of discourse to iron out the concepts, legal aspects, principles, policies, and engagement across the community to come up with greater consensus. Don’t get me wrong, we need contrary views, and counterarguments to every point. Debate is essential in our democracy. Ideas and the direction of our society must be discussed in the open, those that rise above and are accepted by our people as the way we want to go are the ones we need to accept because the majority has determined that it is in the best interest of the nation and in concert with our values and ideals. Privacy while not specifically mentioned in the constitution is considered to be a right of the people. Much like the right to own property and do as we please with that property, privacy has its limits. The government must be able to protect its citizens from foreign and domestic threats that will use our laws and communications infrastructures against us. Government must have power to breach the privacy of citizens and foreigners that are conspiring to attack and damage our people and national interests. Obviously, that power must be limited and overseen by the Judiciary and Legislature. General Hayden was a pioneer and leader in this arena. Getting the government to pull together the right people to develop the laws, proper oversight, policies, and regimen to harness and limit the government is like asking a drunk to limit his drinking. We need a private sector group to be established that will take on the role of overseeing the government, preferably one made up of private citizens, government employees, lawyers, educators, theologians, scientists, and practitioners in the fields of computer science, law, and military affairs. This group needs to be cleared to the highest levels, and able to report to the congress, president, and judiciary. Until we have such a commission we will continue to have government looking out for its interests and not the interests of the people. It is the public’s interests that must prevail, not the governments interests. I personally would love for General Hayden to lead such a commission. He appears to be one of the more forward thinking leaders we have.”