

[The Future of Things “Cyber”](#)

We encourage you to e-mail your comments to us at: 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.