

## THE ARMY ROLE IN ACHIEVING DETERRENCE IN CYBERSPACE

Jeffrey L. Caton

Strategic deterrence has been a significant issue for the Department of Defense (DoD) for over 70 years, but many limit this concept to the use of nuclear weapons. The 2015 *DoD Cyber Strategy* explicitly calls for a comprehensive strategy to provide credible deterrence in cyberspace against threats from key state and nonstate actors. To be effective, such activities must be coordinated with ongoing deterrence efforts in the physical realm, especially those of near-peers impacting critical global regions such as China in the Asia-Pacific region and Russia in Europe. It is important for the Army to identify and plan for any unique roles that they may provide to these endeavors.

This monograph is divided into three major sections. The first section addresses the question: What is the current U.S. deterrence posture for cyberspace? The discussion will include an assessment of relevant current national and DoD policies and concepts as well as an examination of key issues for cyber deterrence found in professional literature. The second section examines the question: What are the Army's roles in cyberspace deterrence? It provides background information on how Army cyber forces operate and examines the potential contributions of these forces to the deterrence efforts prescribed in the *DoD Cyber Strategy*, as well as to broader DoD strategic deterrence efforts. The section addresses how the priority of these contributions may change with escalating levels of conflict. The final section provides recommendations for changing or adapting DoD and Army responsibilities to better define and implement the evolving concepts and actions supporting deterrence in the dynamic domain of cyberspace.

The discussion in this monograph is limited to unclassified and publicly available sources of information available before October 2017. Since some of the issues addressed herein are well documented in many sources, this monograph serves as a primer on current and future cyberspace deterrence activities for senior policymakers, decision makers, military leaders, and their staffs. This monograph includes recommendations related to strategic and regional applications for deterrence, potential synergy of various forms of military deterrence, and the possibility of creating a cyber-triad deterrence concept.

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