

UNCLASSIFIED

VIII INTERNATIONAL ATLANTIC SYMPOSIUM ON C4I

INTELLIGENCE IN THE GLOBAL AGE

8-9 MAY 2007

Critical Aspects of Information Age Social Risks:
The Fundamentals for an Information Strategy

Border Security

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Abstract

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The growing interconnectivity of telecommunications infrastructures and the increasing impact of information on global competition and on world economy created a global information grid and new sources of vulnerabilities for organizations and societies.

With the increasing growth of Internet use, we have witnessed a significant change in both the nature of threats and the level of malicious attacks directed against the Internet-connected systems. These systems, and their structural components, which make up the national information infrastructures, are the tangible part of a virtual world that we call cyberspace.

Different actors can explore and use cyberspace in a competitive or hostile way to attack enterprises or government critical decision making processes and information infrastructures. Depending on their nature and estimated level of disruption to society, these attacks can configure a danger to critical infrastructures that are vital for the survival of "information age societies".

This paper discusses the definition of social vulnerability, risk analysis and risk management in the information arena and delimitates the concepts of competitive intelligence, information warfare and national information strategy.

Information Assurance and National Information Infrastructure Protection concepts are also discussed, reflecting its main areas and its complex interrelationships. They play a key role in every country's military strategy and security policy.

Key-Words

Cyberspace, Information Warfare, Information Strategy, Information Assurance, Social Risk Analysis, Social Risk Management, National Information Infrastructure Protection.