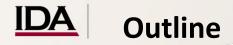


### Cyber Persistence and National Security

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- Strategic environments and the central questions
- How US cyber operations/campaigns can support deterrence strategies
- How cyber operations/campaigns and other cyber actions can undermine deterrence strategies
- Closing comments

### IDA Strategic Environments and the Central Questions

**Mixed-security Environment** 

- Nuclear
  - Security rests in the mind of your adversary (deterrence)
- Conventional
  - Security rests in aligning your strategy to the prevailing offense-defense condition (offense or defense advantage)

#### Cyber

- Security rests in initiative persistence, which manifests primarily as continuous, exploitative cyber *fait accompli* campaigns whose effects are short of threats and uses of force
- Questions:
  - How can US exploitative cyber campaigning support the efficacy of US deterrence strategies?
  - How can cyber campaigns/operations and other cyber actions undermine the efficacy of US deterrence strategies?



How US Cyber Campaigning can Provide Support to Deterrence Strategies

- Day after day, the Department will strengthen integrated deterrence and gain advantage against competitors' most consequential coercive and exploitative, non-coercive actions that <u>fall below perceived</u> <u>thresholds for US military action</u> by *campaigning in and through cyberspace.* (modified from 2022 NDS to include emphases in 2023 NCS)
- In support of *Integrated Deterrence*, exploitative cyber campaigning can:\*
  - Limit, frustrate, and disrupt competitor activities that seriously affect US interests, especially those carried out in the gray zone
  - Oppose acute forms of coercion
  - Improve baseline understanding of the operating environment
  - Improve position (set conditions in one's favor)
  - Shape perceptions, including sowing doubt
  - Complicate competitors' military preparations

\* These bullets should not be considered exhaustive or mutually exclusive.



#### How Cyber Operations/Campaigns could Undermine Deterrence Strategies

- Adversary exploitative cyber campaigning could
  - Alter the international distribution of power.
  - Alter the actual or perceived local balance of power.
  - Alter resolve by eroding social or alliance cohesion.
- "Winning too much" in and through such campaigning could encourage an opponent to resort to arms to redress losses.
- Targeting nuclear command, control, and communications through such campaigning in competition and militarized crisis could
  - Remove "assured" from "assured second strike," and
  - Undermine nuclear strategic stability *and* global geostrategic stability.
- Novel, independent cyber operations in a crisis could
  - Introduce uncertainties, thereby increasing the likelihood of miscalculation which, in turn, increases the potential for accidental or inadvertent escalation into armed conflict.



- Exploitative cyber campaigning contributes to national security in two ways:
  - By independently generating or inhibiting strategic outcomes
  - By supporting other security strategies, e.g., integrated deterrence.
- The strategic value of cyber capabilities primarily derives from continuous, exploitative campaigning short of threat or use of force.
- Campaigning in competition establishes the strategic value of cyber capabilities in competition, crisis, and armed conflict.

# Backups

# IDA From the 2022 National Defense Strategy ...

- The Department will advance our priorities through integrated deterrence, campaigning, and actions that build enduring advantage. *Integrated deterrence* entails working seamlessly across warfighting domains, theaters, the spectrum of conflict, all instruments of U.S. national power, and our network of alliances and partnerships.
- Day after day, the Department will strengthen deterrence and gain advantage against competitors' most consequential coercive measures by *campaigning* the conduct and sequencing of logically-linked military initiatives aimed at advancing well-defined, strategy-aligned priorities over time.
- Gray-zone activities: Competitors now commonly seek adverse changes in the status quo using gray zone methods – *coercive* approaches that may <u>fall below</u> <u>perceived thresholds for US military action</u> and across areas of responsibility of difference part of USG.
- Deterrence or a variant is mentioned 91 times; coercion or a variant is mentioned 20 times.

## IDA From the 2023 National Cybersecurity Strategy ...

- Cybersecurity is essential to the basic functioning of our economy, the operation of our critical infrastructure, the strength of our democracy and democratic institutions, the privacy of our data and communication, and our national defense.
  - These represent national sources of power and instruments of national power that are being subject to adversary exploitative cyber actions that <u>fall below perceived thresholds for US military action.</u>
- Technologies have been misused to: steal data and intellectual property; distribute disinformation; disrupt critical infrastructure; proliferate online harassment, exploitation, and abuse; enable criminals and foster violent extremism; and threaten peace and stability.
- Pillar II: Enhance collaboration around disrupting and dismantling threat actors.
  - Disruption *campaigns* must be sustained and executed at scale.
- Deterrence or a variant is not mentioned at all; Coercion or a variant is mentioned once.