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AFRL

AI – Cyber – Information Warfare Convergence

2024 CYBER SECURITY DAY

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Bryant Wysocki DAF Technical Advisor Dr. Sarah Muccio Deputy DAF Tech Advisor

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THE AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY

M AFRL Information Directorate (RI)

MISSION:

To EXPLORE, PROTOTYPE, and DEMONSTRATE high-impact, game-changing technologies that enable the Air Force and Nation to maintain its superior technical advantage.

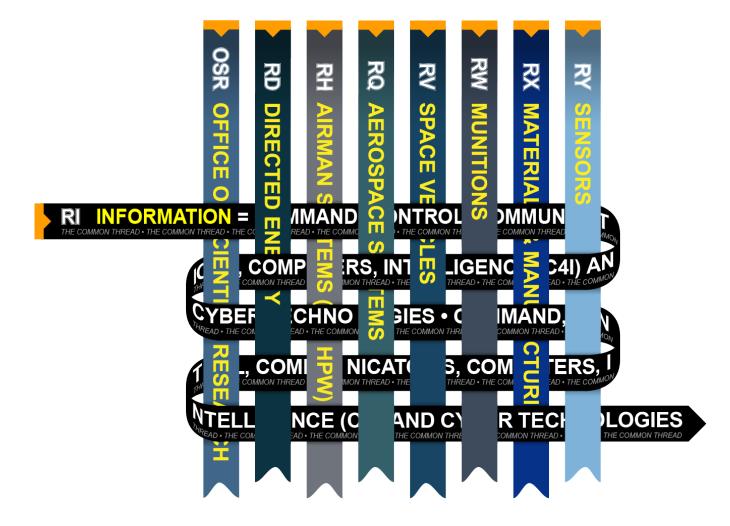


C48Cyber

VISION: To <u>LEAD</u> the Air Force and Nation in COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS, COMPUTERS, AND INTELLIGENCE (C4I) AND CYBER science, technology, research and development.



Information Technologies Touch Every Core Mission



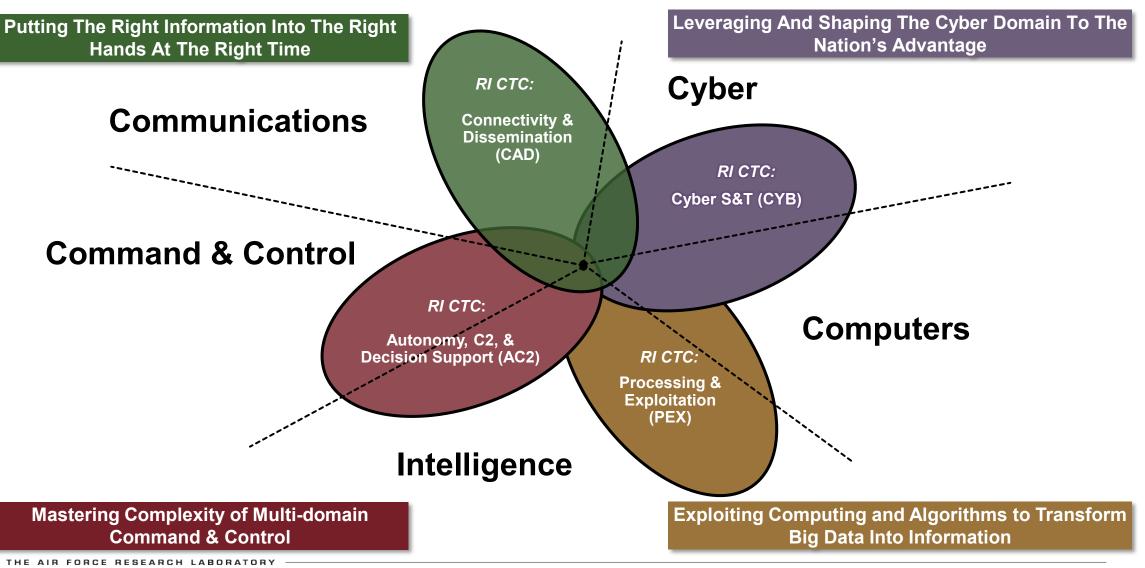
C⁴I²Cyber

AFRL

Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence and Cyber



Information Directorate Core Technical Competencies (CTC)



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Al in Cyber Warfare

<text>

AI can enhance the capabilities of both defensive and offensive cyber operations



Predictive Analytics

- Future attacks based on historical data
- Real-time monitoring
- Proactively strengthen defenses

Automated Threat Detection and Response

- Monitor
- Detect
- Respond

Adaptive Cyber Offensives

- Automated vulnerability discovery & exploitation
- Dynamic malware generation
- AI-driven social engineering attacks





Al in Information Warfare



Manipulation of information to influence public perception & decision-making, is increasingly driven by AI



Deep Fakes

Al-generated or Real?

Take a look at this image and share whether you think it is generated by AI or not, and how confident you are in this judgment. You have unlimited time to look at the

image.



□ I have seen this before.

Real: This is a real image.
Fake: This is a synthetic image generated by AI.

Northwestern Kellogg

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Targeted Propaganda and PSYOPS



Psychological Operations



Air Force Doctrine Document 2–5.3 27 August 1999 This document complements inlated discussion found in Joint Publication 350 Occurring for June Psychological Operations











Cyber and Information Warfare Convergence



Bringing technologies to the fight





AI-Augmented





Ethical and Legal Challenges:

- Autonomous decision-making in attack operations
- The spread of deepfakes
- The manipulation of public opinion.



Escalation of Hybrid Warfare:

- Kinetic, cyber, and information operations are combined into a cohesive strategy
- Blur the lines between conventional and nonconventional warfare

Increased Complexity of Defense:

 defend spectrum of threats, from advanced cyberattacks to information manipulation

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- Al-based countermeasures:
 - Al-driven disinformation detection
 - Automated response systems
 - Target space
 - Attack vectors





Key Take Away

Convergence between Al, cyber, and information warfare signifies a shift towards more autonomous, adaptive, and pervasive forms of conflict, where control over information and digital infrastructure is as crucial as traditional military dominance.



INFORMATION DIRECTORATE: C4 Cyber **Global Persistent Awareness Resilient Information Sharing** Rapid, Effective Decision-Making Complexity, Unpredictability, and Mass Speed and Reach of Disruption and Lethality

AEDI





Questions

LEAD · DISCOVER · DEVELOP · DELIVER

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Image Reference slide

• Slide 6 AI in CW

Image of Robot: "AI in cybersecurity" aibusiness.com 8.11.0222

• Slide 8 AI in IW

Image on left Cyber Warrior: "Cyberwarfare and information warfare..." c4ISRnet.com, 4.25.2017 Image on upper right: "Information Warfare – Modern Diplomacy" moderndiplomacy.eu 3.7.2018 Image on lower right: "Information Warfare in 2021 – Are you protected from cyber attacks? – Connected IT Blog - Community.connection.com 19 Feb 2021

• Slide 9 Deep Fakes

Image of Man: "AI generated or Real?" https://detectfakes.kellogg.northwestern.edu/ 2022 published

• Slide 10 Targeted

Image of robot thinking: https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/targeted-advertising-using-machine-learning/Slide 2 - IW 3.1.2023

• Slide 11 CW IW convergence

Image star exploding: Space Telescope Science Institute Office of Public Outreach Credit: NASA, ESA, and J. Kastner (RIT) https://singularityhub.com/2024/04/16/exploding-stars-are-rare-but-if-one-was-close-enough-it-could-threaten-life-on-earth/ 4.16.2024

Slide 12 AI-Augmented

Image of man/night sky: "The Age of AI" https://www.act.nato.int/article/the-convergence-of-emerging-technologies/1.31.2024