

Information Warfare

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Content

- Information warfare – definition
- Case studies
 - US
 - Russia
 - Czech Republic
 - War in Ukraine
- Information warfare as concept – critical reflection

Information warfare: concept

- Use of information to overpower the enemy
- *Information warfare is about gathering, providing, and denying information in order to improve one's own decision-making while damaging the enemy's.*
- Various techniques:
 - Psychological operations
 - Reconnaissance
 - Disinformation
 - Electronic and cyber warfare



Information warfare: development

- Observation about importance of information is classical in thinking about conflict
- Sun Tzu: *What is of supreme importance in war is to attack the enemy's strategy*
- But in 1990s significant reshaping of information space
 - Third revolution in warfare?
 - Cyberspace as a new domain of conflict for NATO (2016)
- Constant tension between technical (cyber) and human (psychological) aspect of IW

Information warfare: US tradition

- Institutionalization during WWII (Office of War Information operating between 1942 and 1945)
- Information operations key for success of D-Day
 - Operation Fortitude
- Abandoning after WWII
 - Negative attitude towards propaganda
- Classical dilemma of democracy
 - Aim of IW is to achieve advantage on the battlefield



Information warfare: US tradition

- Lack of coordination
 - Mainly tradition in air force experimenting with electronic warfare
- Gulf war in 1991 as a triumph of deception
- First military manual in 1996
 - *Actions taken to achieve information superiority by affecting adversary information, information-based processes, information systems and computer-based networks while defending one's own information, information-based processes, information systems and computer-based networks.*

Information warfare: US tradition

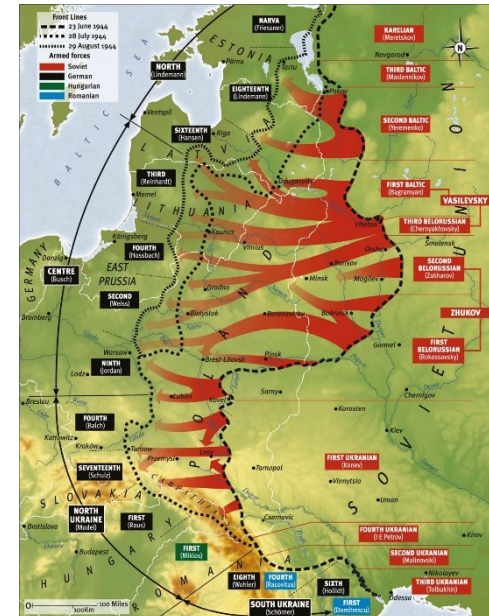
- According to Libicki (2017) still lack of coordination and overfocus on technical aspect
- Army Cyber Command
 - Change of mission in 2019

**OPERATE, DEFEND, ATTACK,
INFLUENCE, INFORM!**

ARCYBER is the US Military's premiere data-centric force informing and enabling Army and Joint Force Commanders to achieve Information Advantage throughout the spectrum of competition in a highly-contested, multi-domain environment.

Information warfare: Russian tradition

- Long-time practice
 - Maskirova – art of deception during conflict developed already at the beginning of 1900s
 - Field Regulations of Red Army from 1929 - *Surprise has a stunning effect on the enemy. For this reason all troop operations must be accomplished with the greatest concealment and speed.*
- Important part of key military operations during WWII
 - Operation Bagration in 1944



Information warfare: Russian tradition

- Not limited to military affairs – 1989 perceived as result of successful Western information warfare
- War/conflict as normal state of international affairs
 - Aim is to achieve political objectives (military + non-military)
 - Sovereignty in information space (new authoritarian regimes, law about foreign agents)
- Annexation of Crimea
 - „Little green man“ x „polite people“



Information warfare: CZ

- After 2014 need to react to new security environment
 - Russian propaganda present also in Czech information space but general need to update state capabilities
 - Complex and messy process (Jankowicz, Eberle and Daniel)
- National Security Audit (2016)
 - *The old - new **manifestation of the influence of foreign power is then propaganda and the spread of disinformation such means of information warfare** through which foreign powers attempt to influence the state in the field of governance and use of communication and information channels or technologies through which it operates public opinion.*

Information warfare: CZ

- Establishing relevant institutions
 - Centre Against Terrorism and Hybrid Threats (2017)
 - National Cyber and Information Security Agency (2017)
 - Karel Řehka – military general and author of book Information warfare
 - Cyber Forces Command (2020)
 - *CIW forces provide the ability to defend domestic parts of cyberspace, conduct infoops, infoops in cyberspace, PsyOps and CMI/CIMIC.*



War in Ukraine

- Significant information component from the start
 - US information about planned invasion
 - RU operation is executed in the way to maximize panic
 - UK successfully applies various IW tools to counter the invasion



What is [#NAFO](#)? NAFO is the HIMARS of social media. [#NAFOellas](#) use the most powerful weapons: (un)sophisticated memes & and satire to hurt the feelings of sensitive Russian trolls. And yes, we will win the info war.



Concepts

- Basic tool of science allowing research to describe phenomenon and formulate hypothesis
- Name – definition – cases
- Usefulness of concept
 - Resonance
 - Differentiation
 - Strength

*Words
Create
Worlds*

Information warfare: conceptual critique

- Resonance
 - Information as key aspect or cyberspace as a new domain?
- Differentiation
 - Was there any war/conflict without deception?
 - Difference between information war, propaganda and strategic communication?
- Strength
 - Disinformation, intelligence gathering and destruction of computer networks under one conceptual umbrella?

Thank you for your
attention.

