

WAR AND DEFENSE IN VIRTUAL SPACE

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Abstract: *In the information society, information - as a weapon, target and strategic raw material is at the root of all decisions.*

Information warfare has become an area of exceptional research and development, for which increased attention is paid, but also the resources needed for research and implementation, due to the rapid advances in information technology in recent decades.

The conflict in cyberspace or cyber-war has become a phenomenon at the confluence of several forms of confrontation between these actors, such as imagistic warfare, psychological warfare, information / counter-information warfare, cyber-terrorism, network-based warfare, electronic war, cybercrime, etc.

Cyberspace has become the fifth dimension of the military confrontation so that in the information warfare, we can define, depending on the states of peace, crisis, conflict (war) or the post-conflict period, some specific phases of cyber confrontation.

The common feature in the cyber-space confrontations is the continual antagonistic ratio established between cyber-threatening threats (terrorism, espionage, sabotage, subversion and organized crime) and information security.

NATO has developed policies and strategies and set up bodies and institutions in the field of cyber defense. Romania has acted in accordance with European and NATO measures by developing similar documents and creating specific national cyber security structures.

Keywords: *information warfare, cyber war, virtual space, cyber security, cyber terrorism, electronic warfare, information security.*

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