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Defensive Information Warfare

Lillian A. Burke

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Alberts, David S. *Defensive Information Warfare*. Washington, D.C. National Defense Univ., 1996. 80pp. (Available on request)

If you are a senior policy maker or someone involved in crafting legislation or regulations regarding information technology, this book is for you. David Alberts, director of the Advanced Concepts, Technologies, and Information Strategies directorate at the National Defense University, presents a succinct overview of information warfare defense, enumerating the challenges posed by the increasing reliance of the United States on quick and open access to information, and developing a framework for finding solutions.

Alberts defines information attacks as "attacks on decision makers, the information and information-based processes they rely on, and their means of communicating," but he focuses on attacks against information infrastructure. He compares information warfare defense to efforts to combat disease, requiring the same constant vigilance by public and private institutions, acting in concert. According to Alberts, direct economic damage from an information attack is a less significant threat than the potential that citizens will lose confidence in the government's ability to protect them. For example, if a large number of U.S. citizens were to lose confidence in the security of the banking system, the economic consequences could be far more severe than any direct information attack.

Most discussions of information warfare acknowledge difficulties in determining the players and ascertaining their motives, since the threat is as likely to

arise from actors like economic competitors or criminal organizations as it is from states and terrorist organizations. Alberts does not resolve these difficulties but attempts to bound the problem by developing threat topology and characteristics. He allocates responsibilities for the everyday threat to the private sector, the strategic threat to the public sector, and the "potentially strategic threat" to a combination of both.

Alberts participated in a series of war games conducted by the RAND Corporation, and from them he draws the unsurprising conclusion that in order to respond to information warfare attacks effectively the United States requires more awareness and understanding of the nature of its own capabilities and vulnerabilities. Additionally, he recommends the development of defense in depth for information warfare, including a system of alerts (with required actions to be taken at each level) and a battle-damage assessment process.

This book is a short overview intended for high-level policy makers. It is refreshingly free of computer jargon, and Alberts defines each new term, which makes the topic more accessible to the average reader. Unfortunately, he does not include any examples or possible scenarios, which would have clarified his points.

Systems administrators may find this book somewhat frustrating, in that it emphasizes the need for action without providing much help in how to go about it. Nonetheless, those trying to understand what information warfare

defense is all about will find this book a worthwhile investment.

LILLIAN A. BURKE
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy

Haydon, Peter T., and Ann L. Griffiths, eds. *Multinational Naval Forces: From Theory to Practice*. Halifax: Dalhousie Univ. Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, 1996. 261pp. \$19.95 (CDN)

Thomas, Robert H. *Multinational Naval Cooperation* (Maritime Security Paper no. 3). Halifax: Dalhousie Univ. Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, 1996. 98pp. \$9.35 (CDN)

Multinational Naval Forces documents the proceedings of a three-day workshop held at the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies in July 1995. It brought together many international participants, including representatives from the U.S. Naval War College and the Center for Naval Analyses. As might be expected, however, the majority of those who attended were from the Canadian Maritime Command and the Centre itself. The purpose of this workshop was to "examine the interplay of political, military, and other factors that govern the ways by which ships of different navies can work together." Participants looked at three issues: interaction of political and military planning criteria and concepts, civil-military relations, and the impact of the media. These were examined under the rubrics of planning, organizational concepts, and lessons learned from recent Canadian experience. Individual chapters

(although not organized as such) document the individual presentations and cover such varied topics as "Media Relations and Multinational Naval Operations," "Is a Standing UN Naval Force Realistic?" and "Canadian Coordination of the Persian Gulf Combat Logistics Force."

The editors admit that when a workshop covers as many and as varied topics as this one did, it is sometimes difficult to draw conclusions. Still the papers carry one common thread: that multinational naval operations can work and achieve success, but the key is planning, and the biggest impediment is the disconnect between political expectations and military capabilities.

Multinational Naval Cooperation was published as Maritime Security Paper no. 3 by the Centre, an internationally recognized institute for the study of maritime security and oceans policy. It examines the evolution of multinational naval cooperation, noting that the precedent had been set at the Battle of Salamis (480 B.C.), when a naval alliance of Greek city-states successfully cooperated in the defeat of the Persians. However, specific details begin with World War I and trace the varying models for cooperation up through the intervention in Haiti in 1994.

Robert Thomas, the author of *Multinational Naval Cooperation*, is a retired captain in the Canadian navy with over thirty years of experience in both operational and staff assignments. Thomas holds both a B.A. and an M.A. from the Royal Military College. He is a graduate of the Canadian Land Forces and Canadian Forces Command and Staff colleges, and he directed National