

SY403 - National Security Decision Making in the Cyber Age

“Assignment Two”

Note the Deadlines of 22 October 2019 and 29 October 2019

Title and thesis statement is due: 22 October 2019 and Paper due: 29 October 2019

Background:

The end of course exercise for SY403 will be based on a hypothetical scenario which postulates future tensions between the US and the Peoples Republic of China (PRC). While hypothetical, the exercise will be based on a realistic portrayal of expectations, relationships, and tensions that do exist in the realm of cyberspace and the western pacific region.

The planned exercise will include consideration of US military forces deployed to the region and those supporting cyber operations, the full range of US instruments of power (separate and apart from military capabilities), allied expectations and initiatives, and, of course, the expectations, aspirations, and actions of the PRC.

Assignment (to be turned in at beginning of class on 29 October 2019):

Write a short (5-7 pages) paper outlining some aspect of the cyber landscape and/or the US-PRC relationship that will inform the exercise players in our December end-of-course exercise. You must choose a topic relevant to cyber operations, policy, capabilities. Sample theses are:

- *Making the case and plotting a course for Cyber Collaboration – now - between the PRC and the US*
- *Confidence through strength – the case for a vigorous offensive capability in countering Chinese adventurism*
- *Bringing Cyber into the 21st Century – the case for integrated kinetic and cyber actions*
- *Preventing conflict in the western pacific – what the US should do now to signal intent and avoid conflict*

Emphasis should be placed on determining and exposing the “facts on the ground” and on analysis that will inform decision makers during the exercise.

Sample elements/issues needed to support your thesis will be:

- What are the perspectives of the prospective participants in any western pacific contingency (esp, as regards cyber)?
- What are the capabilities of US, allied, and PRC forces to conduct cyber operations and/or to sustain kinetic operations in the face of cyber attack?
- What is the relationship between the DoD and other instruments of national and private power that might be “in play” during a western pacific contingency?

You must submit your chosen title and thesis statement by 22 October 2018 (via e-mail to your instructor or in writing at beginning of class...)