CTC #3

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CSCE 525

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The textbook provided an interesting analogy of cyberspace to the sea domain. As a general overview it compares the sea to cyberspace in that it a vast expanse, and in the absence of satellites, it is very easy to go unnoticed or hide away due to the size of it. Another similarity is that there are all different kinds of actors on the sea like cyberspace. There are nation-state actors in cyber and sea, there are criminals, companies, and individuals. There are also large expanses of each domain that are not controlled by any one nation. Countries may control small areas of ocean and this is analogous to the networks that a country’s government may maintain.

Additionally, the emergence of aircraft carrier technology in the sea domain rapidly overtook and surpassed the technology of the battleship. In those times, the admirals of the navy were resistant to the idea that the aircraft carrier could outclass the battleship. This provides an important analogy to cyberspace because in cyberspace, the warfighting tools and technologies we use change at a much faster pace, but we have to make sure that we don’t get so caught up in the capabilities of today’s tools that we lose sight of the tools and technology that are in progress that could eventually make today’s tools obsolete.

Sea conflict and cyber conflict have some analogies as well. Just as hackers produce viruses and target companies with them, so to do pirates on the sea target companies shipping goods and try to take over or exploit them for their own gain.

The sea-cyber analogy is not a perfect one. On the sea, there are established international laws that have been written so as to regulate interactions on the ocean. In cyberspace, there has not been much in the way of established international cyber law, and so the interactions that take place in cyberspace cannot always be regulated like the actions on the sea.

References

Andress, Jason, and Steve Winterfeld. *Cyber Warfare: Techniques, Tactics and Tools for Security Practitioners*. Waltham, MA: Syngress, 2014. Accessed October 12, 2018.