

Effects on Adversary Decision Makers

Proficiency Code: B

To understand the effects of cyber capabilities, one must understand Information Operations (IO). IO is the integrated employment of IRCs in concert with other lines of operation to influence, disrupt, corrupt or usurp the decision-making of adversaries or potential adversaries while protecting our own. The purpose of IO is to affect adversary decision-making with the intent to modify behavior. By targeting an adversary's decision-making process, IO allows commanders to observe, orient, decide and act. Cyber Operations (CO) and IO are not synonymous, but rather CO supports IO objectives by prohibiting adversary interference to our forces. When the IRCs encompassed by IO combine with cyberspace operations, the collective effort allows maximum force maneuverability and feeds the objective to disrupt or destroy an adversary. For more specific guidance on how information operations occur in conjunction with cyber operations, refer to AFDD 3-13, Information Operations.