National Security Cyberspace Institute

The National Security Cyberspace Institute, Inc. (NSCI) provides cyberspace and C4ISR services to public and private entities, including U.S. government departments and agencies, academia and industry. Specific activities include education; research; concept development; analysis and capability maturation; and collaboration with other organizations involved in enhancing cyberspace and C4ISR knowledge and capabilities.

Education

NSCI enhances public and private awareness through world-class education and research. In an effort to keep cyberspace professionals informed, NSCI publishes *CyberPro* – a bi-weekly electronic newsletter distributed to thousands of subscribers. Through summaries of the latest open-source cyber-related news articles as well as feature articles and interviews, *CyberPro* aims to increase situational awareness and provide a form of dialogue for professionals in the ever-growing field of cyberspace.

NSCI seeks to improve formal and informal education in coordination and collaboration with academia and other organizations and strives to improve targeted dissemination of research challenges, findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Research

NSCI research includes examining issues in detail and developing specific recommendations regarding current and future capabilities, challenges and opportunities. Research is typically conducted through a combination of individual subject matter experts, committees, task forces, work groups and advisory councils. NSCI leverages a large network of affiliated experts and invites other experts and groups to participate in research, analysis and the development of recommendations. NSCI team members frequently interact with Department of Defense (DoD) and industry research laboratories to identify research challenges and assist in transitioning mature efforts to the operational community.

Concept Development

NSCI actively engages in concept development to support various DoD organizations. Key projects have included drafting a Cyberspace Planning Joint Enabling Capability concept for the U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) Director of Capability and Resource Integration; drafting a "GIG Network Tasking Order" whitepaper; and drafting an outline and summary information for a "Commanders Cyberspace Integration Handbook." Along with senior mentors, NSCI authored a Cyberspace Shared Situational Awareness concept paper outlining requirements and an approach for pursuing their maturation.

NSCI also played a key role in coordinating a combined effort for concept development, collaboration and experimentation among USSTRATCOM and the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University – a think tank that examines international norms, legal issues and the proper role of government in balancing the need to secure the Internet while protecting individual privacy rights.

Improving the Future of Cyberspace...

Analysis & Capability Maturation

NSCI is instrumental in maturing and validating concepts, capabilities and processes. We have assisted USSTRATCOM and U.S. Joint Forces Command in the development of a Cyberspace Experimentation Campaign Plan supporting the stand-up of USCYBERCOM. NSCI has also assisted USSTRATCOM in identifying a baseline of Computer Network Attack/Computer Network Exploitation (CNA/CNE) skill sets and manpower requirements. Our team assisted in identifying a process for establishing priorities for defense of critical cyberspace assets, enhancing DoD's ability to secure, operate and defend the Global Information Grid. The issues and recommendations were briefed to the Joint Staff-led Force Support Functional Capabilities Board and went forward to the Joint Requirements Oversight Council, resulting in Joint Staff validation.

In addition to research and analysis support, NSCI provided senior mentors who facilitated discussions and promoted consensus among the Services and Combatant Commands (COCOMs) during Limited Objective Experiments (LOEs) and workshops. These senior mentors were instrumental in presenting findings, recommendations and advocacy briefings from the LOEs and workshops to senior DoD leadership, including the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Senior mentors also supported a data collection effort on how the Services plan to organize, train and equip personnel in support of U.S. Cyber Command.

NSCI supports the development of cyberspace data calls to all COCOMs and Services, analyzes data and provides recommendations to USSTRATCOM in support of Joint Requirements Oversight Council tasking.

Collaboration

NSCI is influential in promoting cyberspace security awareness by hosting and sponsoring various cyber-related conferences and symposiums. In 2008, NSCI jointly co-sponsored a one-day cyber security conference with the city of Hampton, Va., to observe a federally-designated Cyber Security Awareness Month. NSCI has also served as a corporate sponsor for a number of cybersecurity symposiums and conferences.

These sponsorships and our other activities supporting and advocating for increased cyber awareness have been instrumental in securing our place as an industry leader in this still-maturing and all-important discipline.

To contact NSCI regarding cyber support, e-mail Larry McKee at *nsci@nsci-va.org*.

...Issues, Ideas, Answers.