

THREATCASTING AT THE INTERSECTION OF CYBER THREATS AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

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ABSTRACT:

Both state and non-state adversaries have indicated a growing willingness to employ a wide-range of offensive cyber tools for achieving a varied set of political and military ends. These operations are becoming increasingly sophisticated in nature, and steadily more integrated into adversary military doctrine, strategies, plans, and operations that already incorporate and integrate conventional and unconventional weapons, to include WMD. These developments necessitate an assessment of the potential nexus between offensive cyber operations and WMD and the implications of this interrelationship for the Countering WMD (CWMD) mission.

Threatcasting is a conceptual framework and process used to help multidisciplinary groups (e.g. government, military, private industry, trade associations, foundations and academia) to collaborate, innovate and envision possible and potential threat futures. Arizona State University's Threatcasting Lab is proposing to convene a threatcasting workshop to identify possible threats at the intersection of WMD and Cyber threats 10 years in the future. This proactive, collaborative, integrated approach will explore multiple threat futures to minimize the risks and unanticipated consequences of current and future cyber threats.

The results of the Threatcasting process and workshop will provide a new and innovative perspective on the broad range of possible and potential threats at the intersection of WMD and Cyber weapons. We will explore these threats in-depth and also outline the possible 2nd and 3rd order effects that might come from them. Additionally, the results will explore specific steps that can be taken today to disrupt, mitigate and recover from these threats. The output of Threatcasting also identifies not only actions that can be taken but also events, technologies and changes that could happen over the next decade that will indicate whether we are moving toward or away from the potential threats occurrence.

Research in Progress describes ongoing PASCC research. For more information please contact INSS@usafa.edu.