

Non-state actors (terrorist groups) in cyberspace

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Abstract

Cyber terrorism is an international problem in today's global community and any nations are affected, whether directly or indirectly. With the development of the information technology, the terrorist attacks also has become more powerful and secretive. Since internet access is available in many countries, terrorist organizations use internet not only for threaten their opponents but also to exchange information and data, attack and to gain attraction. Today's cyber terrorists do not even need an army to settle couple of attacks because a single controller can find a gate easily to sneak on important systems, if the system is not strong enough.

This study was fully focused on the behavior of the non-state actors (terrorist groups) in cyberspace. So, the objectives are to gain familiarity with the term 'cyber terrorism, identify the cyberterrorists comparing with other non-state actors in cyberspace, determine the motivations and advantages of cyberterrorism and lastly the methods of cyber attacks frequently use nowadays. To fulfill these objectives, the secondary data was collected by examine eight different cyber attacks which happened since 2001 to present based on case study analysis. The study reviews that the religious based motivations are the main cause of the cyberterrorism rather than other motivation like political and economics. However the main target is to coerce a government by using Twitter and other social networks. Since cyberterrorism in particular is likely to involve multiple international jurisdictions, a universally accepted definition of cyberterrorism is necessary.

Key words: terrorism, cyberterrorism, cybercrime, cyberwarfare, cyberspace

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