## **Assignment 1: The Challenges of Cyber Space**

The cyber domain continues to grow—as a source of information, as a venue for economic activity, as a means to connect us, and as a source of threat. This latter part concerns President Obama greatly. He has therefore asked you, the National Security Council (NSC), to provide a set of recommendations for the construction of a new National Security Strategy (NSS) for cyberspace. An NSS articulates a framework that broadly guides the conduct of policy. The NSS will therefore be both a policy *and a political* document. More on this will be forthcoming.

For now, in order to prepare for your NSC meeting, you need to familiarize yourself with the cyber domain landscape (as of 1 June 2009). Choose one of the following and research an answer to it:

* Identify and explain two major trends in cyberspace.
* Identify and explain two *general* characteristics of cyber space.
* Identify and explain two major threats in cyberspace? Where do these threats come from? What do they look like?

*Some advice*

To do well on this assignment, you will need to identify (the easier part) *and* explain (the harder part) major trends, characteristics, or threats. How do you do this successfully? Imagine an intelligent audience that has little understanding of cyberspace. Can you provide them with sufficient information on the trends, characteristics, or threats you identify so that they can explain these items to someone else? Can you convince them of the importance of what you have identified? This requires clear writing, as well as research. You may even want to make an *argument* that the items you identify matter more than other items they might identify.

*Essential components*:

* A body—that is, the one page, single-spaced text that addresses one of the above points; and
* A references page (if applicable)

*Research:*

* Symantec. (2009) *Symantec Global Internet Security Threat Report, Trends for 2008.* Available in Repository A.
* Symantec. (2008) *Symantec Global Internet Security Threat Report, Trends for 2008.* Available in Repository A, for comparison with Symantec (2009).
* Singer, P.W., and Allan Friedman. (2014) *Cybersecurity and Cyberwar: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
* Buchanan, Ben. (2016) *The Cybersecurity Dilemma: Hacking, Trust, and Fear between Nations.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.