

Preface

THE cyber domain is undergoing extraordinary changes, many of which present exceptional opportunities to the users of cyberspace. This evolution is apparent in the increasing numbers of participants in cyberspace and the quality of their participation, both technically and socially. As an example, it is projected that by the year 2010, approximately 2 billion people will be connected to the Internet. In addition, if the participants in the MySpace Web site were to comprise a nation, it would be the 11th largest country in the world. However, trends in cyberspace also raise major challenges. These arise from the use of cyberspace by malevolent actors (such as terrorists and criminals) and the many security vulnerabilities that plague cyberspace (for example, challenges in attribution, denial of service attacks, and exfiltration or corruption of sensitive data).

In order to exploit these opportunities and to overcome these challenges, we must begin to assemble a balanced body of knowledge on the cyber domain. This book by the Center for Technology and National Security Policy at the National Defense University provides the foundation for that body of knowledge. It is unique in that it has assembled an extraordinary set of world-class experts to provide a holistic view of the complex issues that characterize the cyber domain.

One of the major contributions of this book is that it frames key cyber issues in the appropriate context and formulates sound recommendations for policymakers to pursue. Of equal importance, it identifies key cyber questions that senior decisionmakers will have to address in the near future. These include building the human capacity to address cyber issues, balancing civil liberties with national security considerations, and developing the international partnerships needed to address cyber challenges.

We heartily recommend this book to those of you who will be fortunate enough to realize the opportunities of the cyber domain and overcome its challenges.