

Cyberwar, deterrence, and 'unpeace' subject of IA brown-bag

University of Kansas Professor of Law, Dr. Michael Hoeflich led a discussion on deterrence and international law in the cyber domain at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College on Nov. 14. Dr. Hoeflich's presentation was part of the InterAgency Brown-Bag Lecture Series for academic year 2019.

Hoeflich began his presentation with a brief summary of the cold war, contrasting the threat of nuclear war to current threats faced in the cyber domain. With the rise of non-state and individual bad actors, said Hoeflich, the threat of mutually assured destruction is no longer a deterrent. Instead, there exists a state of "unpeace." The U.S. is not at war. The threat actors are not easily identifiable and can not be countered by kinetic weapons, but the threat is always there.

Hoeflich went on to review two recent cyber strategies produced by the White House and the Department of Defense. The strategies provide an updated definition of deterrence and outlines the military's jurisdiction in the cyber domain. However, according to Hoeflich, the strategies focus too heavily on threats from Russia and China, ignoring other state actors (e.g. North Korea and Iran) and non-state actors. The new cyber strategies also fail to clearly define who is responsible for defending entities and institutions outside the defense industrial base from cyber threats.

Dr. Michael H. Hoeflich is the John H. & John M. Kane Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Kansas and director of the new master's degree program in Homeland Security Law & Policy at the University of Kansas. He is an expert on cyber law, policy and the integration of the private and public sector. Dr. Hoeflich holds a juris doctor degree from Yale Law School and a Ph.D. from Cambridge University. He has taught at the University of Illinois, Syracuse University, and the University of Kansas and served as dean of the law schools at Syracuse and Kansas. Among his academic interests, ethics has played an important role for nearly four decades. Dr. Hoeflich has published numerous books and articles on the subject.

The InterAgency Brown-Bag Lecture Series is co-hosted by the CGSC Foundation's Simons Center with the U.S. Army Command and General Staff School (CGSS). The lecture series is an extracurricular, interagency topic-focused series that is intended to help enrich the CGSS curriculum. The CGSC Foundation and the Simons Center have received support for all brown-bag lectures in academic year 2019 from First Command Financial Services in Leavenworth, Kansas.

- Simons Center

Chiefs of Defense Conference focuses on countering violent extremism

Representatives from 83 nations participated in the third annual Counter Violent Extremist Organizations Chiefs of Defense Conference hosted by chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine Corps General Joe Dunford. The event, held in October, included U.S. combatant commanders and commanders of counterterrorism operations from around the world.

At the conference, Dunford spoke of the need to focus on the underlying conditions that lead to radicalization, saying that a whole-of-government approach is required. Economic development, education, healthcare, and infrastructure are essential to maintaining societies and countering extremism

- Department of Defense