Military Cybersecurity and Small States in an Age of Great Power Competition

Hearing organised in cooperation with Folketinget’s Defence Committee at Landstingssalen on 11 September 2019

Cyberspace poses new strategic questions and changes the conditions for the use of military force. Modern communications technology has altered the geopolitical interactions of states, as intelligence agencies hack, probe, steal, and reveal information to their advantage; as militaries use these capabilities to more effectively conduct military operations; and as private companies have made information a key source of wealth, power, and influence. Cyberspace and cybertools therefore shape the conditions for – and the kind of – military force that states will wield in the 21st century.

Organized by the Centre for Military Studies (CMS) this conference will highlight some of the most pertinent dimensions of military cybersecurity and discuss their implications for Denmark. The conference builds on the recent book Understanding Cybersecurity: Emerging Governance and Strategy, edited by CMS Senior Researcher Gary Schaub Jr.

Programme:

11:30 – 12:00: Arrival and conference registration

12:00 - 12:10: Welcome and Introductory Remarks by Henrik Breitenbauch

12:10 – 12:30: Keynote by Chairman of Defence Committee Naser Khader
12:30 – 13:45: Session 1: Cyber Weapons in Military Operations

How has the emergence of cyberspace affected the character and contours of conflict amongst states? What shape could a future cyber-enabled conflict take? What kinds of weapons and operations are currently envisaged? What dynamics, vulnerabilities, opportunities, and responsibilities follow from this? What consequences are there for how wars are fought and for how war and peace are distinguished?

- ‘Understanding Cyber Strategy’ Gary Schaub Jr. (Centre for Military Studies)
- ‘Chinese Cyber Weapons in the Pacific War of 2025’, Christopher Bronk (University of Houston)
- ‘Cybered Conflict, CORA, and Defense of Democracies’, Chris Demchak (US Naval War College)
- Moderator: Kristian Søby Kristensen (Centre for Military Studies)

13:45 – 14:15: Coffee Break

14:15 – 15:30: Session 2: Cyber and Defense Policy

Cyber weapons are part of the defence arsenal. But they also play a role in peacetime. How do states – big and small – organize for cyber defence? Cyberspace bridges military and civilian, public and private, and domestic and international divides. How have, can, and should states organize to operate offensively and defensively in cyberspace? What trade-offs between privacy, economy and security should governments consider when they develop policies, legislation, strategies, and bureaucracies to both regulate online behavior and defend their citizens, institutions, and infrastructure as well as when contemplating offensive cyber operations?

- ‘The Cyber Military Balance’, Bastian Giegerich (International Institute for Strategic Studies)
- ‘Small State Cyber Strategy Challenges’, Lior Tabansky (Tel Aviv University)
- ‘Norway’s Cyber Strategy’, Ole Felix Dahl (Norwegian Ministry of Defence)
- Moderator: Henrik Breitenbauch (Centre for Military Studies)

15:30 – 15:45: Conference Wrap Up

15:45 – 17:00: Reception sponsored by the CMS