BOOK REVIEW

CYBERSECURITY AND CYBERWAR.
WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW

Authors:

P. W. SINGER
ALLAN FRIEDMAN

REVIEWER:
CEZAR VASILESCU

Professor, PhD
Regional Department of Defense Resources Management Studies, Brasov, Romania

“Cybersecurity and Cyberwar - What everyone needs to know” written by P.W. Singer and Allan Friedman was issued at a time when the threats to personal and national security, determined by the uniqueness of information technology devices, attain an unprecedented level of complexity and risk.

The book constitutes an essential read for almost everybody concerned with the cyber phenomenon, no matter if they are working in business, military, media or are just simple citizens. The authors manage to find the common denominator for all those categories of persons, wonderfully presenting the facts, analyses and explanations in a simple, enjoyable and smart way, thus enabling the achieving of a comprehensive knowledge about the too often hidden world of cybersecurity.

Written in an accessible yet deeply informative style, the book captivates the lecturer from its introduction, where questions like why write such a book, and what the authors expect to accomplish are superbly addressed.

The book is structured in three parts, suggestively named after the propellant questions of cybersecurity: Part I - How it all works, Part II - Why it all matters and Part III - What we can do. Special emphasis is placed on engaging stories and subjects like the Stuxnet computer virus, the “hacktivism” phenomenon, the “Anonymous” hacker group or the newly created Chinese and US military cyber units to name just a few.
The authors conclude by analyzing the most important future trends in the cyber framework - such as cloud computing, big data, mobile technology, and the Internet of things - that are anticipating revolutionizing our concepts about security.

The following bright conclusion took a perfect and optimistic closure to the book: “We must accept and manage the risks of this online and real world, because of all that can be achieved in it”, from the ability to track down the answer to almost any question we might have to the opportunity to become friends with people whom we have never met.