

Greg and Dan Show April 10, 2023

UK's Plan for Offensive Cyber Operations

- The NCF (National Cyber Force) is the UK's equivalent of the US Cyber Command and was established in 2020.
 - NCF operates "in and through cyberspace to disrupt, deny, degrade and contest those who would do harm to the UK and its allies".
 - It brings together personnel from UK defense and intelligence agencies.
 - It's not just a group of cyber geeks, it also included SIS (Secret Intelligence Service) aka MI6 (Military Intelligence, Section 6).
 - MI6 is basically the same as our CIA. ~Think James Bond.
- So, what is so intriguing about an agency that combines cyber experts with Human Intelligence experts for offensive purposes?
 - An IBM study found that 95% of cyber attacks involve human error, such as falling for phishing scams or sharing sensitive information.
 - A large percentage of cybercrime involves disinformation.
 - Social media is full of disinformation aimed at affecting elections, dividing a nation's citizens, etc.
- The bad guys utilize messing with people's minds to get what they want, whether that is access to systems they can exploit, or cause social distrust and chaos.
- The bad guys are humans, just like their targets, so why not use their tactics against them? This is what NCF is doing.
- The NCF calls this focus on adversary behavior the "doctrine of cognitive effect". In layman's terms, they screw with their minds.
- What are we really talking about?
 - Sometimes the good guys trick the bad guys into giving up information that allows us to hack their systems.
 - Sometimes the bad guys are given false information. This makes them distrust the information they use to attack us.
 - Sometimes disinformation is leaked to the bad guys to make them distrust each other.

- Sometimes the good guys launch persistent cyber attacks against the bad guys, causing them to use their energy and resources to defend themselves instead of launching their own attacks.
- Do we do this in the US? I can't say, but I do have a friend in a 3-letter agency who specializes in two areas. Cybersecurity and Human Intelligence.