CALL FOR PAPERS - The Cyber Defense Review 2026
Special Issue on Emerging Concepts and Technologies in Electromagnetic Warfare

The Cyber Defense Review invites submissions for a special issue dedicated to Emerging Concepts and Technologies in Electromagnetic Warfare (EW). This issue seeks to advance understanding of the electromagnetic spectrum as a contested and decisive domain, highlighting the transformative role of new technologies, doctrines, and cross-domain integration in shaping the future of EW.

Theme and Scope
Electromagnetic Warfare has moved from a supporting capability to a core pillar of modern and future conflict, central to maintaining information superiority and operational resilience. Recent conflicts have underscored how spectrum denial, jamming, and spoofing can disrupt command-and-control, navigation, and sensor systems. At the same time, rapid advances in artificial intelligence, edge computing, adaptive storage, and distributed sensing are enabling new forms of spectrum awareness and spectrum dominance at machine speed.

This special issue will address the central question:
How can emerging political, technological, and operational advances shape the next generation of EW strategies and systems, ensuring superiority in a highly dynamic and adversarial spectrum environment?

We welcome original academic research, case studies, and strategic analyses on topics including (but not limited to):
AI and Machine Learning for RF Applications
- Real-time signal classification, anomaly detection, and adaptive spectrum management.
- Cognitive EW, autonomous systems, and human–machine teaming in EW environments.
- Electromagnetic Attack (EA) technique development, pairing, and response measures.

Integration of EW with Cyber and Information Operations
- Cross-domain threats, hybrid warfare, and resilience strategies and technologies, incl. agentic approaches.

Data, Storage, Edge, and Distributed Processing in EW
- Advanced architectures for developing, managing, sharing, processing, and exploiting massive spectrum datasets.

Applications in Military and Critical Infrastructure Contexts
- Studies from recent conflicts, implications for NATO/coalition operations, and civilian-military spectrum coexistence.

Policy, Strategy, and Doctrine
- Spectrum allocation, governance, authorities, and the future role of EW in multi-domain operations.

The issue is particularly timely given the convergence of geopolitical tensions, rapid technological innovation, and evolving defense strategies. The integration of EW with cyber defense and information warfare has become a focal point of strategic debate, while AI-driven and autonomous systems promise to revolutionize spectrum operations. This special issue aims to capture these developments, foster interdisciplinary dialogue, and set up a forward-looking research agenda for the community to build from.

Submission Guidelines
Detailed instructions and paper templates: Cyber Defense Review – Instructions for Authors.

Guest Editors
Dr. Karl Olson, U.S. Military Academy, Army Cyber Institute at West Point
Dr. Ravi Starzl, Carnegie Mellon University
Dr. Shouhuai Xu, University of Colorado Colorado Spring (UCCS)

Dates and Deadlines
Extended abstract deadline *(500-words, optional but recommended for early feedback)**:** 15 February 2026*
Full manuscript submission deadline: *15 April 2026*
Publication of Special Issue: *Fall 2026*
Accepted final manuscripts will be published immediately online to ensure timely relevance. Consolidation in a printed special issue will follow in Fall 2026.