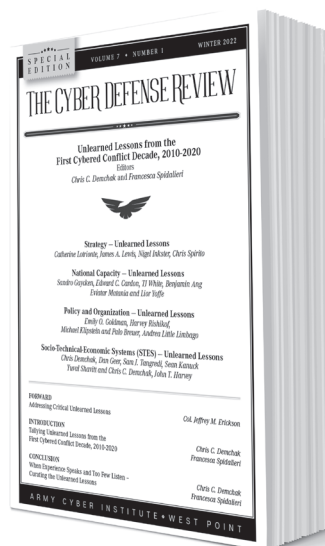


## SPECIAL EDITION

# *The Cyber Defense Review:* Addressing Critical Unlearned Lessons

Colonel Jeffrey M. Erickson



Welcome to a unique Special Edition of *The Cyber Defense Review* (CDR). For the last decade, those who have worked in the cyberspace domain will likely agree that some persistent issues and problems continue to be debated with no clear resolution. These include ideas and solutions that may have been identified but did not gain the necessary traction to achieve positive outcomes. This issue focuses on those “Unlearned Lessons” from the last decade with the intent of encouraging action.

The variety of topics covered in the special edition are wide. In this issue, you will find articles on diplomacy, international relations, adversaries, alliances, emerging threats, economics, and beyond. These are not just technical issues, but also societal and governmental challenges exacerbated through the dramatic nature of cyber technology. Each article is kept intentionally short and to the point for maximum effect.

It is also worth pointing out that just because the US may not have learned these lessons, our adversaries may not be in the same situation. Differences in government, priorities, and cultures may not be a hindrance to our adversaries. The “Unlearned Lessons” may have given our adversaries a first-mover advantage in the cyberspace domain, which further increases the need for us to consider, understand, and potentially act on these topics.

The special edition authors represent a diverse group of leaders from the cyberspace domain. They have all dedicated a significant portion of their professional careers wrestling with these challenging issues, and it is prudent that we all think about what they are saying. When these authors speak, it is incumbent upon members of government, the military, academia, and industry to take the time and pay heed to their words.

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**Colonel Jeffrey M. Erickson** is the Director of the Army Cyber Institute at the United States Military Academy (USMA) located at West Point, New York. As Director, COL Erickson leads a 60-person, multi-disciplinary research institute focused on expanding the Army's knowledge of the cyberspace domain. He began his Army career as an Armor officer before transitioning to the Simulation Operations functional area, where for the last 15 years, he has been using simulations to train from the individual to the Joint and Combatant Command levels. He has a B.S. in Computer Science from the United States Military Academy, an M.S. in Management Information Systems from Bowie State University, and an M.S. in National Resource Strategy from the Eisenhower School (formerly the Industrial College of the Armed Forces). His fields of interest are simulations for live-virtual-constructive training, testing, and wargaming.

A special thank you to Dr. Chris Demchak (Naval War College) and Prof. Francesca Spidalieri (University of Maryland) as the Guest Editors for crafting this critically important issue. Their time and effort in making this issue a success and a must-read for the community are apparent throughout.

We hope that continued dialogue with key leaders in the community will lead to decisive action. As much as I look forward to future issues of the CDR, I hope that we do not have to see a “*Lessons (Still) Unlearned from the Second Decade of Cyber Conflict*” special edition ten years from now. We can avoid ending up with that future issue by turning the page, considering the thoughtful points made by these authors, and then working to address these challenges within the larger community. 🇺🇸