CYBER WARFARE THREAT TO PAKISTAN

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Abstract

The tremendous growth in the field of Computers and Information Technology has turned the word into a global village. The phenomenon has not only reduced the distances but has also resulted into diversifying the threats, increasing the vulnerabilities, rise in fraudulent and criminal activities in the cyber domain. Cheap hardware, ease of accessibility and rise in the hacking software have opened new means in the cyber warfare infringing the privacy of individuals, organizations and states alike. Not being different, Pakistan is also facing the blunt of cyber threat in all the fields. In the article, the concept of cyber warfare has been elaborated in terms of cyber-attacks on the government, corporate and private sectors around the world to highlight the future threat that would emanate for Pakistan's computer network, infrastructure and resources. Moreover, the weaknesses in legislative and organizational framework have been highlighted.Threats posed by various organizations and countries with respect to Pakistan have also been discussed in detail. It is feared that nonexistence or presence of weak cyber laws, lack of an effective response mechanism and organizational structure in Pakistan may make its cyberspacee a ground for the hardliner criminals, non-state actors and international players. Timely realization of cyber threats and consequences of their uncontrolled usage have to be assessed by theGovernment of Pakistan an appropriate response mechanism has to be devised to guard

against any threats arising. Beside development at policy level, there is a need for developing a strategic, tactical, technical and organizational level to deal with the menace of cyber war.

4.   **Key words:** ICT, Cyber space, Cyber Warfare.