Cybersecurity and International Relations

Group Project

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1 Introduction

The group project is intended to introduce you to a cyber policy crisis. You will take the role of advisors to the National Security Council during a cyber attack on the Philippines by unknown actors. Your job is to advise the President on how the United States should respond. We will provide you with an Intelligence Report that contains the policy details and evidence regarding the attack. We will then distribute a technical report on the attack to individual groups. The policy report will be shared by all groups but the technical details will vary. You should not under any circumstances view another groups technical report. You will write a five page document with your group that outlines your recommended plans to the President. We advise you to offer a series of different plans that the President can choose from. There is no requirement about the structure of this document but you will be graded along the criteria listed in the Intelligence Report. You will then present for 10 minutes during class and field 5 minutes of questions from your classmates and the TAs. You are welcome to present in character but it is not required. You may receive extra credit for creative dress and behavior that matches your characters. Good luck.

2 Technical Report

Once you have your team, notify the TA staff so that we can share you on your technical report. The technical details of the scenario will be specific to your group and should be kept confidential until your presentation. The report will be a one page, single space document from the National Security Agency outlining the operational details of the attack. These details will include the affected systems, the attack style, and a damage assessment. This document will be highly technical and require additional research beyond the course material as well as consultation with lecture notes.

3 Deliverables

Every group must hand in a five page document detailing their proposed policy responses and an analysis of their responses. The document should have no more than half a page of analysis of the scenario itself. Our expectations match exactly what is in the Cyber 9/12 Intelligence Report. Written Policy Brief: “Write an analytical policy brief discussing the implications of the cyberattack for different state and non-state actors. Explore the policy response alternatives you are recommending in depth. The length of the brief is limited to five single-sided pages in length.” The document must be five pages.

In addition, you should prepare a 10 minute presentation on your alternatives with argumentation for why your preferred response is optimal. You will give this presentation in class after you turn in your document. You will then field five minutes of questions from the TAs and from the other students.
4 Intelligent Report

Please review the attached intelligence report. Follow the instructions on the document and read carefully. There is ample information in this brief to respond to.

Link to Intelligence Report