

THE INFORMATIONAL ELEMENT OF POWER

The informational element of power is used to pursue and facilitate the three goals of the National Security Strategy. Used in combination with the political, military, and economic elements of power, the information element of power enables the U.S. to monitor, control, deliver, receive, or disrupt the flow of information in order to further national interests. The information element cuts across all other elements of power and may both diminish or multiply another element's strength. Instruments of information power or ways that resources are applied include but are not limited to psychological operations; cyber warfare; command, control, communication, computer, and intelligence technology transfer; mass media and film communications; public policy statements; public education; and use of the world-wide web.

Elements of power are the basic means at the national level, from which resources for strategy are derived. Examples of elements of informational power include: public and diplomatic broadcasting organizations; high speed computer networks; technology; space based systems; intelligence and law enforcement agencies; print, television, and film media; voice and other data networks.
