

Let's Schmooze

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Are We Going to Get Hoisted on Our Own Petard(s)?

This often-quoted saying comes from William Shakespeare's play Hamlet. To be "hoisted on one's own petard" is like being killed when your gun unexpectedly explodes in your hand as you aim and shoot at someone else. You die at the hands of your own weapon.

Today, we happen to see a lot of that. Suicidal terrorist bombers intentionally hoist themselves on their own petard (bomb).

According to a report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), as a nation we are at risk of getting "hoisted on our own petard." The GAO report was authorized by the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee.

Why? Because U.S. weapon systems are at great risk of being hacked into and hijacked by our opponents. Ergo, we can fire off a missile, only to have it hijacked by a terrorist hacker and turned back against us.

It has been proven that ill-intentioned hackers can hijack our weapon systems in less than 10 seconds ~ undetected. We wouldn't even have time to kiss our proverbial backsides "good-bye!"

What's the use of spending trillions of dollars on weapon systems if our enemies can commandeer them in seconds, and turn our own weapons against us?

And, when you think of it, our enemies don't have to spend a lot of money on developing their own weapon systems, as long as they are confident that they can commandeer our

weapon systems in a few seconds. Thru undetected hacking, our weapon systems will instantly become their weapon systems.

That's embarrassing!

We need to take cyber-warfare seriously, and put some genuine dollars into it. Right now the private sector is sucking up the top talent with big paychecks. To get that top talent, Uncle Sam is going to have to start matching private sector payrolls.

It is better to have less powerful weapons that are hijack-proof, than more powerful weapons that can be hijacked and turned against us.

At least we won't run the risk of being "hoisted on our own petard(s)!" ~ and destroyed with our own weapons.

~ 'til we meet again ~