

# What's in a Name?

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In the U.S. Army, we rely on the strategic thinkers and planners whose experience, insight and expertise help create the force that is the best Army in the world. That is their job, and they do it well. All the way down the line, it is the job of the members of the Army to implement their vision and orders. That is our job, and we do it very well.

In the realm of cyber security and information assurance, the battle space is infinitely fluid with no physical boundaries. It is an area of continuous conflict, and as long as there is a single digital device working, the threat will not go away. For those of us ordered to defend our portion of this battle space, things don't change that much. We use the latest technologies and tactics to stay one step ahead of the enemy. But soldiers are soldiers and conversations like the ones below have been heard throughout history.

(In the Company briefing room)

 *Alright ladies and gentlemen it's our job to protect the Network.*

Is that any different from protecting the GNEC,  
or the Grid,  
or the GIG?

 *Only in spelling, Sergeant.*

So, is that network with a capital N, Sir?

 *Absolutely!*

So, our mission is still to keep the bad guys outside of the cyber wire.

 *Roger that.*

 So how has that mission changed?

 *It's a bigger cyber perimeter with more inside it.*

 Sir, the Wireheads don't like the term perimeter.  
You know, because of that whole "cloud" thing.

 *Noted.*

 Sir, do we get more resources to protect this perimeter...uh, cloud...uh, Network?

 *Soldier do you bother reading the news?*

 I guess that would be a “no” then?

 *Roger that.*

 So then how do we do it, Sir?

 *Same as always...through Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability, Authentication and Non-Repudiation.*

Are there any new names for those defenses, Sir?

 *Not this week.*

So, the more things change...

 *That's right, Sergeant. The more they stay the same.*

Except this “same” is bigger and better and more capable, but it's still the same. Just “new and improved.”

Are our cyber defenses new and improved, Sir?

 *You answer that question soldier. Do you know more about cyber security than you did last week?*

Yessir. Staying on top of it.

 *Hoo-ah*

HOO-ah!

 *So whose responsibility is it in this room to protect the Network?*

Mine.

Mine.

Mine. Mine.

 *Exactly. Each and every one of us has the responsibility to protect military information and communications even if they decide to call it Larry or Cindy June instead of The Network.*

Hoo-ah.

 *Are we done here Sergeant?*

Never Sir, when it comes to information assurance and cyber security.

 *Roger that.*