

RAND
National Defense Research Institute

THE
ADVENT
OF NETWAR

JOHN ARQUILLA
DAVID RONFELDT

The research described in this report was sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), under RAND's National Defense Research Institute, a federally funded research and development center supported by the OSD, the Joint Staff, and the defense agencies, Contract No. DASW01-95-C-0059/T001.

ISBN: 0-8330-2414-0

RAND is a nonprofit institution that helps improve public policy through research and analysis. RAND's publications do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of its research sponsors.

© Copyright 1996 RAND

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form by any electronic or mechanical means (including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval) without permission in writing from RAND.

Published 1996 by RAND

1700 Main Street, P.O. Box 2138, Santa Monica, CA 90407-2138

RAND URL: <http://www.rand.org/>

To order RAND documents or to obtain additional information, contact Distribution Services: Telephone: (310) 451-7002; Fax: (310) 451-6915; Internet: order@rand.org

National Defense Research Institute

THE ADVENT OF NETWAR

JOHN ARQUILLA

DAVID RONFELDT

Prepared for the
Office of the Secretary of Defense

RAND

Approved for public release; distribution unlimited

This documented briefing was prepared for a project on new modes of information-age conflict titled “Advent of Netwar.” That project is sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence), OASD (C3I), and is being conducted within the Acquisition and Technology Policy Center of RAND’s National Defense Research Institute (NDRI). NDRI is a federally funded research and development center sponsored by the office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, and the defense agencies.

This document provides an overview of the “netwar” concept, which we have been developing for the purpose of better understanding the nature of conflict and crime in the information age. The document is based on several briefings that we have presented since May 1995 using charts like those included here.

A briefing is supposed to tell a story at a pace and in a way that attracts the listeners’ attention, the better to inform them. Readers unfamiliar with the briefing style should be apprised that while the text is meant to expand on the points of the chart, not all points are always addressed in the text, and the text may not echo precisely the wording on a chart. That can be particularly true for a briefing with as many charts as this one.

Primarily of interest to U.S. government officials and policy analysts, this briefing should also interest those concerned with the changing nature of conflict and crime in the information age.

Comments are invited.

John Arquilla
Associate Professor
Dept. of National Security Affairs
U.S. Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, CA 93943

(408) 656-3450
jarquilla@mnltry.nps.navy.mil

David Ronfeldt
Senior Social Scientist
International Policy Group
RAND
Santa Monica, CA 90407-2138

(310) 393-0411
ronfeldt@rand.org