

A Research on Planning and Deploying Information Security Mechanisms in Taiwan —Taking The Navy as An Example

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In response to the exponential internet and info technology growth, government bodies and businesses began to carry out information digitization, seeking to enhance work and management efficiencies. Although it brought about more convenience and allowed for enhanced collaboration, it also bred a large number of threats in information security, such as hacking and computer-corrupting virus. Breach in information security may cause great loss in organizations, therefore applying defense in depth information security mechanisms have become necessary for modern organizations.

In recent years, computer intrusions occurring in government, military, business, and educational organizations have become common place. Even though only some of these were reported on newspapers and magazines, the overall loss is too great to estimate. Since Taiwan's military is on the frontline to protect the nation, robust security measures must be followed. This article provides information security examples and discusses regulations focused on planning and deploying info sec mechanisms in Taiwan's naval units. We provide analysis and recommendations for improvement that every unit can reference. This creates a high quality digital environment, through the employment of various risk mitigation techniques.

1.Introduction

Digital task processing has grown continuous since the first computer, IBM650, was introduced on the National Chiao Tung University campus in Taiwan. In 1990, the Computer Center in the Ministry of Education established the Taiwan Academic Net (TANet) (note 1), which is now universal throughout Taiwan. Utilizing this new technology to process information has become an integral part of daily life. According to the newest survey, FIND, conducted by Institute for Information Industry, the popularity of computers among families in 2010 reached 2.3 computers per family (note 2). By years end 2010, the number of broadband Internet users reached 6,530,000, and the popularity rate of Taiwan's

broadband Internet has been raised to 82.8 percent (as shown in Figure 2). Demonstrated that the internet has the advantage of breaking the limitations of time and space (note 3). As the result, it has become indispensable in the modern times.

The worldwide use of Internet applications has made IS incidents more prevalent. In addition, more powerful computer processing has also resulted in an increased threat, in both variety and occurrence. According to the statistics issued by the Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting, and Statistics in the Executive Yuan, organizations with more than 30 people using computers, 54.77% of them has experienced IS incidents. In these incidents, the most frequent ones were virus (53.20%), the

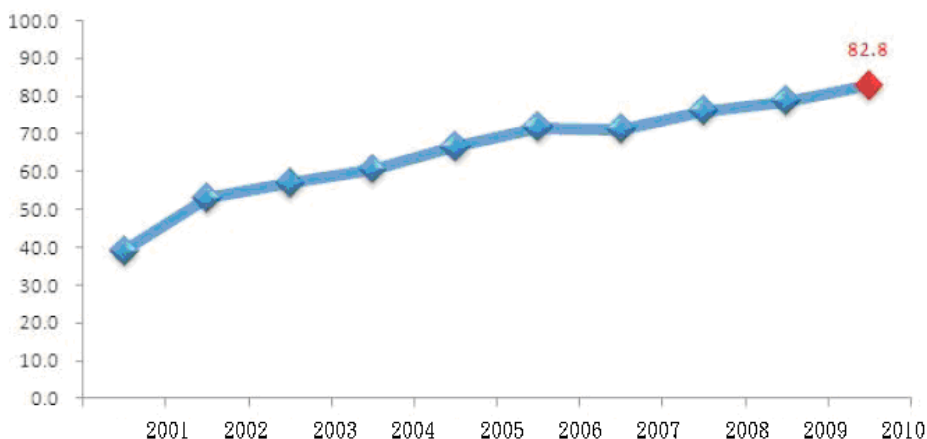


Figure 1. Compare the popularity rate of Taiwan's broadband Internet over the years
Resource: Foreseeing Innovative New Digiservices

second most frequent were backdoor (10.68%), and the third most frequent were distributed denial of service (DDOS) (2.96%) (note 4). Moreover, CSI/FBI's investigation report about computer crimes and security states that the most frequent four major incidents in 2009 (note 5, 6) were virus (64.3%), laptop theft/fraud (42.2%), insider abuse (29.7%), and DDOS (29.2%).

There is a well known saying, "Prevention is better than cure." To ensure that information technology and network grow under safely secured environments in our nation, as well as to prevent IS incidents such as breach of confidentiality, destruction of important information systems and network crimes, the Executive Yuan enacted IS management guidelines for organizations in 1999 (note 7). The Executive Yuan also proclaimed several regulations subsequently to reinforce the overall protection of IS in the nation. Following national policies and laws, government bodies established their own IS mechanisms one after another. Moreover, complying with "The Concrete Solutions for Dealing with IS Incidents And Risk for Government Bodies by the Executive Yuan in 2004, government bodies are required to acquire IS certificates from third-party IS institutions (BSi7799-2/CNS17800), making standardized IS management mechanisms directly by the Government.

The Taiwan Military, playing the role of

protecting the country, has also faced rigorous challenges after information digitalization. Due diligence must be taken since a single careless accident may lead to leakage of military intelligence, and pose great damage to the country. To solve the difficult situation in IS, related departments in the Taiwan Military keep deliberating ways to improve IS in order to reduce the chances of incident occurrences. In this research, we take the Navy as an example, we discuss about the current situation of planning and deploying IS mechanisms, and provide recommendations for improvement against all kinds of information threats, hoping to prevent further risk.

2.About Information Security

2.1The Definition of Information Security

The word "Information Security" has been used for more than 30 years. The Safety Criteria of FBI in the U.S. defined IS as "Protecting information from being intentionally or accidentally disclosed, transferred, altered, or destroyed". (note 8) "Unintentionally" implies that information is leaked or damaged by nonhuman factors such as blackout, earthquake, and fire. In contrast, "Intentionally" means that the source of damage comes from human intents(note 9).

The factors of "Unintentional" and "Intentional" are shown in Figure 2.

Therefore IS is to preserve information confidentiality, availability and integrity; other

properties such as authenticity, accountability, non-repudiation and reliability can also be involved (CAN 17799) (note 10). Effective safety measures must rely on the new ways of how new technologies make use of information, and prevent before things happen (Eugene C. Schneider Gregory W. Therkalsen,1990) in order to ensure the perpetual existence of an organization.

2.2 The Risk in Information Security

“Safety” and “Risk” are highly related. The weaknesses and threats confronted by the organization forms the basis of risk (note 10). Weaknesses are evaluated from the personnel, informational assets, and physical assets in an organization because the weaknesses inside can

result in the threats outside. Threats mainly come from outside factors such as hacker attacks, industrial spies, virus, and Trojan Horses, because threats outside often result from the weaknesses inside.

The IS weaknesses and threats of an organization are shown in Table 1:

2.3 Information Security Incidents

An incident is how the source of a threat poses damages to an organization(note 12). An information security event is an identified occurrence of system, service of network state indicating a possible breach of information security policy or failure of safeguards, or a previously unknown situation that may be security relevant. (ISO/IEC TR 18044:2004)

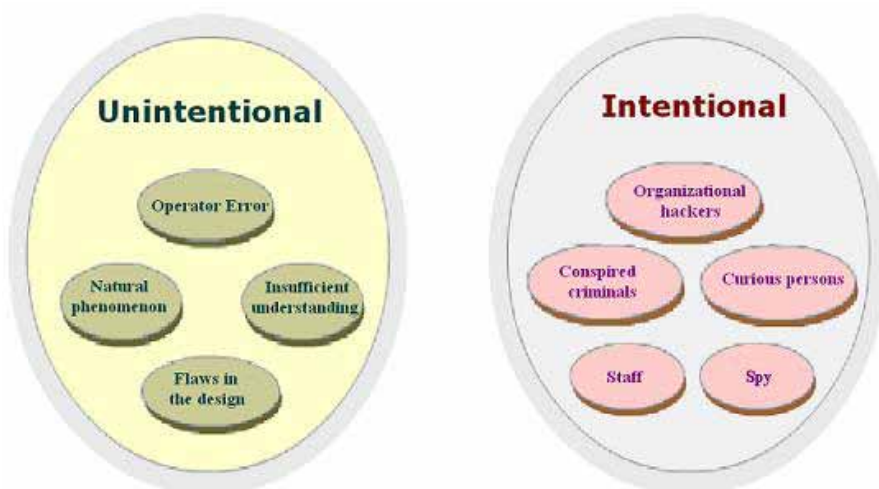


Figure 2. Factors Endangering Information Security

Resource: Public Servant's E-Learning Campus of the Republic of China

Weaknesses Inside An Organization	Informational Assets, Documents, Software, Physical Assets, Personnel, Services, Image and Advertisements
Threats Outside an Organization	Hacker Attacks, Information Theft, Spies, Virus or Trojan Horses, Intentional or Unintentional Deletion, Awareness, Power Outages

Table 1. The IS weaknesses and threats of an organization
Resource: He, Ying-Jhou ,2007

In the investigation report on computer crimes and security conducted by the CSI/FBI(note 5), tracing back to the occurring rates of major types of IS incidents between 1990 and 2008 (as shown in Figure 3), 4 types with the highest occurring rates are “Virus”, “Insider Abuse”, “Laptop Theft/Fraud”, and “Unauthorized Access” respectively. The rate for “Insider Abuse” was even higher than “Virus” (which always had the highest rate) for a certain period in 2007. In addition, we can see that “unauthorized access” grew higher in 2008 than in 2007.

The Service Group for Planning on Elevating Campus Information Security Services in the Ministry of Education classified “Top 10 Threats on Network Security in 2008” announced by the organization SANS (responsible for security trainings, authentication, and study) into four major categories: “Website Threats”, “Act Threats”, “Insider Threats”, and “Social Engineering Threats” (note 13). Here we refer to

“Notes on Responding to Emergent Information Security Incidents And Risk for Organizations” (note 14) enacted by the Executive Yuan and classify domestic and foreign IS incidents as follows:

- Man-made disasters: can be classified as “Risk from Inside” and “Intrusion from Outside” according to the sources. The “Internet Security” aspect includes sniffing, tampering, and DDOS; the “System Security” aspect includes virus, worms, backdoors, Trojan Horses, invasion, weakness threats; the “Management Security” aspect includes inappropriate access, account embezzlement, unauthorized login, social engineering, theft, destruction of informational assets.
- Natural disasters: such as hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes.
- Unexpected incidents: unforeseen accidents such as conflagrations, explosions, nuclear incidents, severe building damages, hardware damages, power outages.

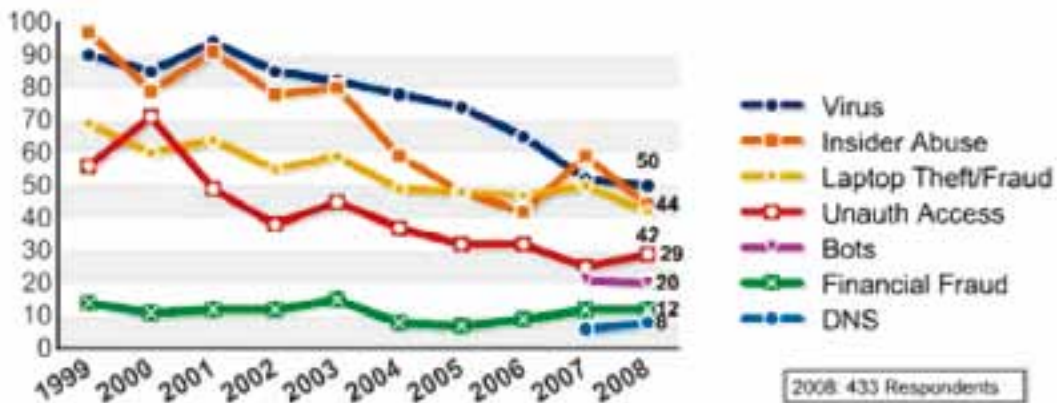


Figure 3. Occurring Rates of Major Types of IS Incidents
Resource: Robert Richardson(2009),CSI 2008

2.4 Information Management System

According to the 15th workgroup conference held by National Information And Communication Security Taskforce (NICST) on July 7th, 2006, in order to define accurate procedures for IS responsibilities of government bodies, “The Execution Plan for Information Security Responsibility Classification for Government Bodies” was enacted in the hope of preventing information from being destroyed by potential threats and elevating national IS protection level. By considering the subjective and objective situations from a management perspective, organizations were classified into 4 predefined IS levels: A (Important Core), B (Core), C (Important), and D (General) (note 15).

Tasks that organizations in each level should execute are concluded in the following table 2:

The application of Information Security Management System (ISMS) is also included as part of the management tasks. ISMS is one of the largest management systems and also an important part in the overall management system. It is based on operational risk, using personnel, information, equipment, access, system security, and environment safety as the scope of IS and adopts a process approach for establishing, implementing, operating, monitoring, reviewing and improving an organization’s ISMS (ISO/IEC 27001:2005).

Level	Contents	Items	Defense Strength	Defense Depth	ISMS Promotion	Auditing Methods	IS Trainings (Commanders, Managers, Technicians, General Personnel)	Certificate
A	4	NSOC/SOC IDS Firewall Antivirus	Organizations certified by third- party in 2007	At least 2 self audit annually	(4,6,18,4 hours)/ year	2 certificates of IS proficiency in 2007		
B	3	SOC(OP) IDS Firewall Antivirus	Organizations certified by third- party in 2008	At least 1 self audit annually	(4,6,18,4 hours)/ year	1 certificate of IS proficiency in 2008		
C	2	IDS Firewall Antivirus	Organizations plan to set up their own promotion groups.	Self-examination	(2,6,12,4 hours)/ year	Trainings in IS proficiency		
D	1	Firewall Antivirus	Promote ISMS concepts	Self-examination	(1,4,8,2 hours)/year	Trainings in IS proficiency		

Table 2. Responsibilities of Information Security Systems in Different Levels

Resource: NICST,2005

ISIS applies Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) model to correct the ISMS to ensure its efficacy. The model is shown in Figure 4. The following is the brief description for the model:

- Plan (establish the ISMS): Establish ISMS policy, objectives, processes, and procedures relevant to managing risk and improving information security to deliver results in accordance with an organization's overall policies and objectives.

- Do (implement and operate the ISMS): Implement and operate the ISMS policy, controls, processes, and procedures.
- Check (monitor and review the ISMS): Assess and, where applicable, measure process performance against ISMS policy, objectives and practical experience and report the results to management for review.

- Act (maintain and improve the ISMS): Take corrective and preventive actions, based on the results of the internal ISMS audit and management review or other relevant information, to achieve continual improvement of the ISMS(note 10)(note 16) (note 17).

Before the international standards for the ISMS are enacted, the Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection, Ministry of Economic Affairs in Taiwan chose ISO/IEC 27001:2005 as the verification standard for the ISMS in our nation (note 17). ISO27001 is an International Standard for the ISMS. It is a management system rather than a technique and includes 11 domain areas, 39 control objectives and 133 controls(note 11) (note 17).

11 domain areas are described briefly as follows:

- Information Security Policy: To provide management direction and support for information security in accordance with business requirements and relevant laws and regulations.
- Organization of Information Security: To set up a managing structure used to manage and control IS in an organization as well as executes existing IS regulations.
- Asset Management: To ensure that all informational assets are efficiently protected in the organization.
- Human Resources Security: To define security responsibilities and roles of all personnel.

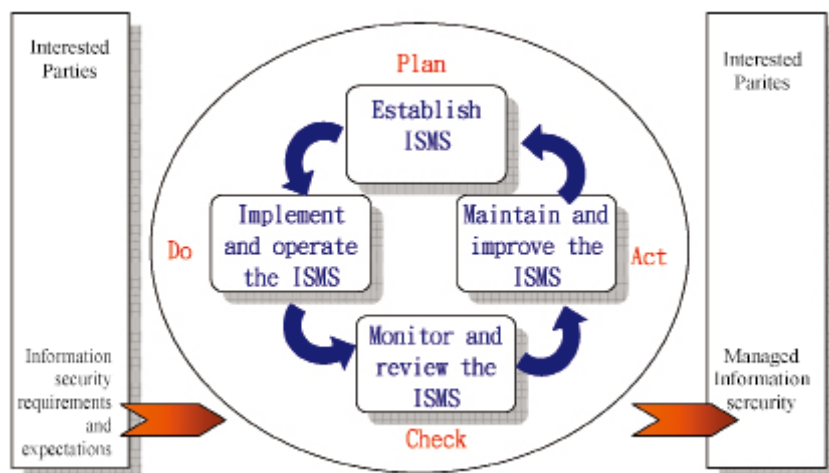


Figure 4. PDCA applied to ISMS processes
Resource: ISO 27001:2005

- **Physical and Environmental Security:** To propose simple and precise safety requirements to all personnel in the work places.
- **Communications and Operations Management:** To facilitate communication inside and outside the company as completely as possible in order to make ISMS function successfully.
- **Access Control:** To control access to information.
- **Information Systems Acquisition, Development and Maintenance:** To ensure IT projects and related supporting activities are safely controlled in the company, and controls and encrypts data when necessary.
- **Information Security Incident Management:** To ensures IS incidents and weaknesses related to the ISMS are conveyed in some degree in order to take real time corrective actions and use persistent measures to manage IS incidents.
- **Business Continuity Management:** To develop and maintain enterprise's continuous operation plans and protects key activities from the effects of disasters or interruptions.
- **Compliance:** To comply with IS regulations and requirements.

3.The Current Situation of Planning And Deploying Information Security Mechanisms in the Navy in Taiwan

As the era of digitization comes, learning how to prevent computer network crimes and crisis as well as maintaining information system security become the most important mission of the Government. Therefore, the Executive Yuan approved the first period "Establishing National Information And Communication Infrastructure Security Mechanisms Plan(2001-

2004)" in January, 2001, and founded the National Information And Communication Security Taskforce (NICST). It was since then that the government started to systematically promote the establishment of information and communication security in our nation(note 18).

Our nation experienced two periods of promotion of "Plan on Establishing Information And Communication Infrastructure Security Mechanisms in Taiwan (2001-2008)" (note 19), totaling up to 8 years. In the first period (2001-2004), national information and communication security organizations and emergency centers were established, and government bodies were encouraged to set up "Information And Communication Security Teams", defining "Ensure a secured and reliable information and communication environment in our nation" as the goal of this period. In the second period (2005-2008), the Government planned four policy goals: "Shorten the timing of notification", "Enhance the protection ability for information security", "Reinforce understanding and education in information security", and "Promote international cooperation". The "Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)" responsibility system and the "Responsibility Level of Information Security" were approved, distinguished into four levels: A, B, C, and D, according to their importance. The Government also continuously worked on performing maneuver on the defense/attack/notification of information and communication security, spreading information and communication management systems, information and communication education, and services for audit, and actively constructed the infrastructure of information and communication security. Moreover, NICST was regrouped in July, 2004. After completing

the missions in these two periods, following National Information and Communication Initiative Plans, the Government set its goal to construct quality Internet society.

In the organization structure of NICST, the Ministry of National Defense belongs to “The Standard Group”, “The Audit Group”, “The Regulation Group”, and “The Response to Notification Group”. It actively promoted each kind of IS protection constructions in order to establish the IS defense ability of “Alert early and respond to changes”, and took the measure of “Detect and defend actively” to set up IS defense mechanisms. It proclaimed several IS control measures, deliberated reward and punishment regulations for IS, pushed identification mechanisms for IS, executed physical segregation of networks, popularized IS education, required management by responsible people, and emphasized audit for IS in order to establish the defense systems that are protected by multilayered measures and immediate controllability, achieving the IS protection target: “Can’t get in and out, not understandable, and can’t be taken away”.

3.1 The Defense Mechanisms for Information Security in The Navy

- Computer Emergency Response: Complying with the IS policies proclaimed by the Ministry of National Defense, the Navy Command Headquarters approved “The Plan on Computer Emergency Response” which combines policy enactment, notification processing, development, consulting, and Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) in every unit to set up the Navy Computer Emergency Response Team (NCERT), focusing on notification, early alert of information system and network incidents, effectively reducing the loss and recovering rapidly, ensuring the safety of the military networks to support combat missions.
- The Navy Information Security Control Center: The Navy set up “The Navy Information Security Control Centers” in 2007, integrated all kinds of IS defense software, and set monitoring points inside the camps in coordination with the IS monitoring systems. They combined defense tools such as firewalls and intrusion protection systems to gather, report, respond to IS incidents with a single standard, enhancing the defense capability of the IS control system(note 21).
- Information Security Defense Structures: Regarding the IS management in an unit, the “Higher Authorities Instruct The Subordinates” mechanism was established to audit and supervise the IS situation of units in different levels(note 22). Meetings between chief IS officers are held periodically in order to eliminate IS incidents. The IS system is described as follows:
 - 1.The chief IS officer system: The vice leaders of all units of different levels play the role of the chief IS officers who are responsible for supervising the execution of IS related jobs.
 - 2.The IS manager system: The managers or vice managers of the IS departments take on the IS managers, in charge of executing IS related jobs.
 - 3.The IS officer system: Every unit assigns IS officers to perform tasks including maintaining information systems, auditing and notifying IS incidents.
- Information Security Defense Techniques: Facing current IS threats and following the development plans by the Ministry of National Defense, the Navy applied the single

port mechanism to physically segregate targets, deploy AD access control, develop new electronic authentication system, use encryption software and USB disks, monitor the usage of wireless networks, and utilize the IS setting widget, informational assets and file security management systems. In the future, it will apply digital file protection mechanisms and enhance electronic authentication by combining other applications to satisfy the six needs in IS: “Physical Safety”, “Personnel Safety”, “System Security”, “Network Security”, “Computer Security”, and “Data Security” (note 23) (note 24).

3.2 Information Security Regulations

The Navy Command Headquarters complied with the regulations and plans by the Ministry of National Defense and required that all units should prohibit doing business at home without exceptions. Moreover, in the efforts to completely cover all aspects related to IS and make officers and soldiers work within a standard, IS regulations and plans were proclaimed. Recent IS regulations are summarized in Table 3.

3.3 Education and Promotion Activities for Information Security Awareness

To reinforce officers and soldiers’ belief in the idea that IS defense should be treated like wars, and enable them to understand more about the severe results of breaches of confidentiality, IS classes are included into the fundamental and advanced education in the Navy. Officers and soldiers are trained and imbued with IS knowledge as well as confidentiality keeping and related laws. Small cards Educational material and CDs that describe the control of IS are created, and personnel are educated and

tested on the issues of IS when entering a new department in order to reinforce IS concepts.

General trainings on IS are held periodically through itinerant lectures, certificate of IS proficiency for IS officers, lecturing for personnel violating IS regulations, and lectures on IS for personnel going abroad on business. E-learning platforms on IS are also created so that officers and officers and soldiers can learn by themselves through Internet at any time.

IS proficiency trainings are held by the Navy itself or non-governmental organizations. The scope of the former includes trainings on the systems the military uses, project trainings, and seminars. Trainings held by non-governmental organizations are funded by units at different levels. Representatives of these units are sent to the trainings, and are responsible for training others in the units afterward. The proficiency in IS is elevated by doing so.

To promote IS education even more, all kinds of military or academic magazines (such as the Naval Academia Bimonthly, Naval Officer School Quarterly, and the Army Forum) publish IS-related articles and even provide special columns as the interaction platforms between soldiers and IS experts. They discuss about the points on IS affairs and key experiences on the defense measures, imbuing officers and soldiers with the concept that everyone is responsible for IS.

3.4 Information Security Supervision And Examination

The Taiwan Military faces current IS threats and identified “Information of national defense does not leak” and “Information processing does not stop” as the major needs for IS. To testify all kinds of defense measures, in addition to the attack/defense in the annual maneuvers,

Recent IS regulations and plans	
2001	The Regulation on Network Usage And Security
2001	The Regulation on Information Security for The Usage of Personal Computer
2004	The Notes on Physical Segregation and Control
2005	The Improvement Measures for The Control of Information Security
2005	The SOP of Information Networks
2005	The Regulation on PC I/O Devices
2006	The Disposition of Old/Broken Properties
2006	The Control of Informational Equipment And Storage Devices
2006	The Inspection And Learning of Physical Segregation of Networks and Storage Management of Informational Equipment
2006	The Management of Informational Equipment and Media
2006	The Management of URL
2006	The Management of Laptop
2007	The Policies on Information Security
2007	The Management of Websites
2007	The Control of CD/DVD Rom Usage
2007	The Control of Input/Output Devices And Portable Storage Media
2007	The Measures for The Improvement of Information Security Control Mechanisms
2007	The Wireless Network Monitoring System
2007	The Note on The Management of Information Security for Personnel Going Abroad on Business
2008	Lecturing for Personnel Violating Information Security Regulations
2008	The Supplement of Informational Equipment
2008	The Usage And Management of Encrypting USB Disks
2008	The Evaluation And Instruction of New Generation Personal Computer Systems
2008	The Regulation on The Rewards/Punishments for Information Security
2008	The Regulation on The Control of Portable Media And Management of Software
2009	The Revision of The Regulation on The Auditing Process of Military Data on The Internet
2009	The SOP of The Information Security Control Center
2009	The Revision of the SOP on The Assignment of Informational Equipment
2009	The Promotion of Education on Information and Communication Security
2009	The Plan of Computer Emergency Response
2009	The Execution of Connecting to The Internet through Single Port for All Units
2010	The Control of Informational Assets
2010	The Education And Trainings in Information
2010	The Certification of Information Security Proficiency
2010	The Revision of The Concrete Measures for Controlling And Auditing "Higher Authorities Instruct The Subordinates"
2010	The Deployment of PKI

Table 3. Information Security Defense Related Regulations

Resource: Lin, Chei-E, 2006 and this research

the Navy receives annual and nonscheduled IS audit from the Ministry of National Defense. Moreover, the Navy also carries through the plan on “Higher Authorities Instruct The Subordinates”, supervising the subordinates and discussing about the advantages and disadvantages in IS meetings. Personnel performing well or violating regulations are rewarded or punished according to regulations, expecting that officers and soldiers can follow the requirements on IS and fulfill IS defense rules.

Beside the audit by the Ministry of National Defense, the Navy Command Headquarters even promoted ISO27001, which is about the certificate of IS management. Under the PDCA model of ISMS, the Navy continuously supervised IS management of all units and got the certification in October, 2008. In addition to conforming to the international standards, the Navy also expects to reduce organizational IS risk and impacts on officers and soldiers’ work, and makes officers and soldiers acquire the ability to defend themselves in the long run, proceeding to create a quality IS environment(note 25).

4. Conclusion

The Navy reinforces protection measures for IS based on the establishment of troops for information wars, and actively constructs tight IS protection mechanisms and

capability. Besides enhancing multilayered and comprehensive IS mechanisms for troops at different levels, the Navy should further enhance professional IS skills, transform IS from passive defense into active detection and control, and continuously maintain its strength in the battlefield of information between China and Taiwan. Five suggestions for improvement are provided as follows(note 21):

- Increase training in information technology and communication, cultivate information and communication talents, and develop professional skills in information technology to maintain the strengths.
- Accelerate the combination of the resources in the military and complete the transformation process of information technology and communication human resources.
- Continuously enhance information and communication systems and defensive combat techniques by interacting with the industry and academy, and gathering information about the deeds in information war of other countries.
- Reinforce IS disciplines, carry out security supervision, and establish IS management systems with complete confidentiality.
- Enhance information management, absolutely follow IS regulations, and strengthen cross examination to prevent breaches of confidentiality. 🇨🇳

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