

Gates approves creation of new cyber command

June 23 2009, By LOLITA C. BALDOR , Associated Press Writer

(AP) -- Defense Secretary Robert Gates has formally ordered the creation of a new military cyber command that will coordinate the Pentagon's efforts to defend its networks and conduct cyberwarfare.

A memo signed by Gates on Tuesday asks that U.S. Strategic Command begin plans to set up a subcommand and be prepared to provide a proposal by the fall.

Officials have said the new command would be located at Fort Meade in Maryland, and would be ready to go by the end of next year.

The low-key launch of the new military unit reflects the Pentagon's worry that the military not be seen as taking control over the nation's computer networks.

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