Pentagon to boost cybersecurity force

January 28 2013

The Pentagon building in Washington, DC is shown in 2011. The US Department of Defense has approved a fivefold expansion of its cybersecurity force over the coming years in a bid to increase its ability to defend critical computer networks, The Washington Post reported.

The US Department of Defense has approved a fivefold expansion of its cybersecurity force over the coming years in a bid to increase its ability to defend critical computer networks, The Washington Post reported.

Citing unnamed US officials, the newspaper said the Defense

Department's Cyber Command, which currently has a staff of about 900, will expand to about 4,900 troops and civilians.

The decision to expand the Cyber Command was made by senior Pentagon officials late last year in recognition of a growing threat in cyberspace, the report said.

Last November, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta conceded that US cybersecurity needed more financial support and human capital.

"We've got good people that are involved in it, but, very frankly, if we're going to stay on the cutting edge of what's happening with regards to the changes that are occurring, we have got to invest more in that area," he said during a speech in Washington hosted by the Center for a New American Security.

The seriousness of the threat has been underscored by a string of sabotage attacks, including one in which a virus was used to wipe data from more than 30,000 computers at a Saudi Arabian state oil company last summer, The Post pointed out.

According to the paper, the plan calls for the creation of three types of forces under the Cyber Command.

The "national mission forces" will protect computer systems that handle electrical grids, power plants and other infrastructure deemed critical, the paper said.

"Combat mission forces" will help commanders abroad plan and execute attacks or other offensive operations, The Post said.

Meanwhile, the task of "cyber protection forces" will be to shield the Defense Department's own networks, the paper noted.

(c) 2013 AFP

Citation: Pentagon to boost cybersecurity force (2013, January 28) retrieved 23 April 2024 from https://phys.org/news/2013-01-pentagon-boost-cybersecurity.html

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.