



CYBER & INNOVATION  
POLICY INSTITUTE  
U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

## Call for Applications: 2026 CIPI Summer Workshop on Cyber Seabed to Space

The U.S. Naval War College's Cyber & Innovation Policy Institute (CIPI) is pleased to invite applications for its annual Summer Workshop, which will take place on 27-29 May 2026. This exciting event brings together a select group of scholars, practitioners, and government officials in Newport, RI. The objective is to advance policy solutions through wargaming, informed deliberation, and high-impact writing.

**The workshop theme for 2026 is *Cyber Seabed to Space: Connectivity During Crisis and Conflict in the Pacific*.** China's military buildup and hostility toward its neighbors increase the risk that the United States and its partners and allies could soon face a crisis or conflict in the Pacific. In the case of Taiwan, both military and civilian communications in the region could be threatened if China were to pursue a coercive campaign short of war, a blockade, or a full-scale invasion. Kinetic attacks on undersea cables, cyberattacks on terrestrial telecommunications infrastructure, and interference with satellites are all possible. It is critical to understand these threats, potential countermeasures, and their implications for effective deterrence and warfighting.

Research questions for this workshop include but are not limited to: How could China use attacks against digital infrastructure in the Pacific to its advantage? To what extent do U.S. military, partner, and allied forces depend on civilian telecommunications for crisis response and warfighting? Are these dependencies also vulnerabilities, and what specific measures would be most effective at mitigating them? What lessons from the war in Ukraine do and do not apply to potential conflict over Taiwan? Are emerging technologies such as small satellites, autonomous drones, and artificial intelligence likely to change the balance of threats and countermeasures available to China, the United States, or partners and allies in the region? If so, what targeted investments stand to be most advantageous?

Workshop participants must arrive in Newport with a draft article in hand (~3000 words), and a realistic timeline for publication. Workshop activities will include wargaming along with panel discussions on each draft article for feedback from participants, guest speakers, CIPI Gravelly students, and NWC faculty.

Accepted applicants will receive up to three nights lodging in Newport, meals during the workshop, and a \$1500 honorarium for their time and travel. (International participants may qualify for additional support to defray travel costs.)

### Application

To apply, please submit: 1) a 500-word abstract that outlines your proposed policy paper or journal article, and 2) your resume. Send your application to [cipi.summer@usnwc.edu](mailto:cipi.summer@usnwc.edu)

Applications are due no later than **23 January 2026**

We welcome a diverse range of backgrounds, professions, and perspectives that relate to the workshop theme. If you have questions, please contact us at [cipi.summer@usnwc.edu](mailto:cipi.summer@usnwc.edu)