

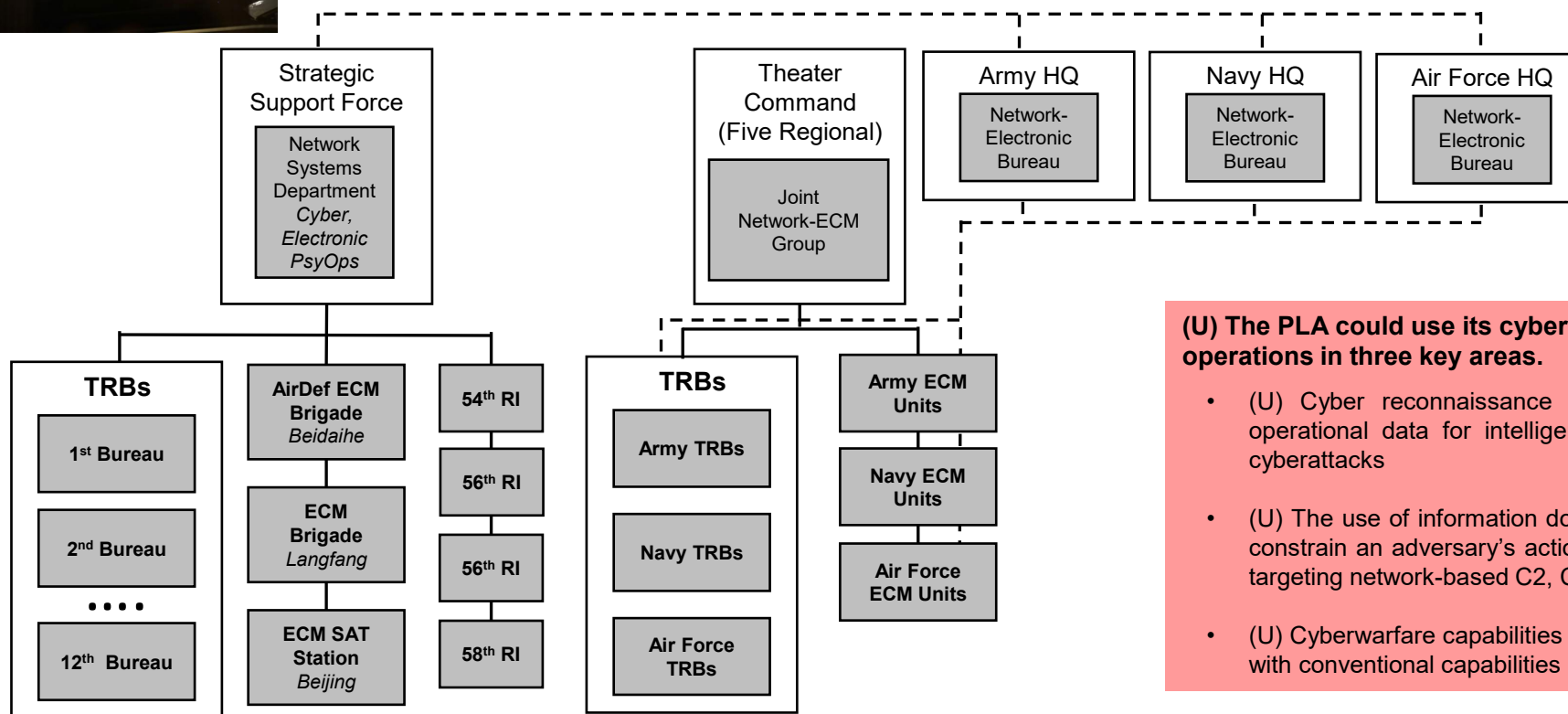


(U) CHINA'S CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS

(U) This infographic describes **Cyberspace Operations**. Authoritative PLA writings identify controlling the “information domain”—sometimes referred to as “information dominance”—as a prerequisite for achieving victory in a modern war and as essential for countering outside intervention in a conflict. The PLA’s broader concept of the information domain and of information operations encompasses the network, electromagnetic, psychological, and intelligence domains, with the “network domain” and corresponding “network warfare” roughly analogous to the current U.S. concept of the cyber domain and cyberwarfare. The PLA SSF may be the first step in the development of a cyber-force by combining cyber reconnaissance, cyberattack, and cyberdefense capabilities into one organization to reduce bureaucratic hurdles and centralize command and control of PLA cyber units.



(U) The JSD-NEB creates a new force-wide structure for the management of the cyber and electronic warfare missions in the SSF, theater commands, and other services. The creation of the JSD-NEB suggests that the PLA is maintaining a dual-echelon structure for cyber and EW, with the SSF’s cyber force assuming responsibilities for strategic national-level operations, while the services and theater commands continue to be responsible for cyber and EW operations at the operational and tactical levels.



(U) The PLA could use its cyberwarfare capabilities to support military operations in three key areas.

- (U) Cyber reconnaissance allows the PLA to collect technical and operational data for intelligence and potential operational planning for cyberattacks
- (U) The use of information dominance during early stages of a conflict to constrain an adversary’s actions or slow mobilization and deployment by targeting network-based C2, C4ISR, logistics, and commercial activities.
- (U) Cyberwarfare capabilities will serve as a force multiplier when coupled with conventional capabilities during a conflict.

(U) **Key:** AirDef: Air Defense; C2: Command and Control; C4ISR: Command, Control, Communications, Computer (C4), Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance; ECM: electronic countermeasure; EW: electronic warfare; HQ: headquarters; JSD-NEB: Joint Staff Department Network-Electronic Bureau; PLA: Peoples Liberation Army; PsyOps: psychological operations; RI: reconnaissance and intelligence; TRB: technical reconnaissance bureau; SSF: Strategic Support Force