

## Should the Marines set up a cyber command?

October 6, 2009 - 5:00am

By [Jason Miller](#), Executive Editor, FederalNewsRadio

The Marine Corps is considering developing a cybersecurity command.

In a new concept paper issued Tuesday, the corps is asking commanders to think about the issues surrounding cyberspace and discuss how to move forward. The paper is listed as For Official Use Only (FOUO) and available only to .mil users.

"The Marine Corps must clarify its role in supporting DoD cyberspace efforts and determine its own optimum capabilities and capacities," the Corps writes in a notice on its Web site.

The paper discusses the need for the Marines to decide whether it should continue to treat cyber operations as a special program, or bring it all together under a single organization.

The notice states that currently the cyber programs segregate "most planners and operators from the knowledge, skills and expertise gained in recent operations.

"The USMC needs to take advantage of potential offensive opportunities in the cyberspace domain and minimize the asymmetric, critical vulnerabilities created by our reliance on networked communications," the notice states.

The Marine Corps is following in the steps of several other services that are setting up cyber units or commands. The Army and Air Force already have cyber offices in place, while the Defense Department will create a departmentwide command later this month.

On the Web:

Marine Corps-- [Cyber concept paper announcement](#)

FederalNewsRadio-- [New command at tip of DoD cyber spear, Lt. Gen. Alexander says](#)

FederalNewsRadio-- [Army sets up servicewide cyber office](#)