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The Influence of Cybersecurity on Aviation Threat Management

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Background:

For many centuries, the aviation industry has still remained one of the most impactful global sectors with significant reputations toward other industries throughout the industrialization era in the history of humanity. The industry has since taken countless approaches to maintain its adaptability toward then the paradigm shift in the 80s which was characterized by the digital technology to improve the knowledge and efficiency in operation in the ground units as well as flight crews. As the complexity of computer network, software development, information technology has unpredictably grown far from the early existence of digital products, they have become a part of a systematic networks consisting of intertwined pool of database and other classified information.

Aviation has a rich historical association with terrorism and other armed forces on a global scale. There have been multiple news that highlight air transportation related accidents caused by the conflicts between nations, but the unforgettable 9/11 event remains deep rooted in sentimental memory of every single individuals that are still living to this date. Despite the level of trauma the event has caused, it was still a tangible event that was visible to the naked eyes and very few saw it coming at the time. On the other hand, the sophistication of the digital network system has created a new type of terrorism – cyberterrorism. With a nature that is characterized as extremely sophisticated, intangible, anonymous, terrorist attacks caused by cyberterrorists have the foreseeable potential to stir up the economy by casting adversaries with equal or greater catastrophic consequences compared to other historical war disasters. This study emphasizes to raise the awareness of cybercrime and help cybersecurity share the spotlights with other defense sectors to overlook the safety of the industry in the digital environment.

Biography:

Dr. Fred Barez is a professor of Mechanical Engineering and the Department Chair of Aviation and Technology at San Jose State University. He earned his PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. His research is related to autonomous vehicles, smart home and space exploration and Aviation Technology.

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