



**DEFENSIE**  
**LA DÉFENSE**

## Use of Propaganda & Other Methods of Influencing Other Nations

**Commandant Vanhalle Mark**



19 Sep 2019

**Ci-MEG (Civil-Military Engagement Group)**

# Agenda

- Introduction
- Terminology
- Risks & countermeasures
- NATO information strategy
- Experience Bfg eFP Estonia
- Question time

# Introduction

- Ci-MEG (Civil-Military Engagement Group)
  - Civil-military coordination (CIMIC)
  - Psychological Operations (PSYOPS)
  - Information Operations (Info Ops)



# Introduction

- Ci-MEG (Civil-Military Engagement Group)
  - Civil-military coordination (CIMIC)
  - Psychological Operations (PSYOPS)
  - Information Operations (Info Ops)
- Experience
  - Since 2011 in the Info Ops field
  - NATO / EU / UN deployments
  - Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP)

# Restrictions

*"...methods actually employed by Belgium for undertaking influencing operations and the existing policies in that field."*

- Limited to (Dis)Information (warfare)
- Unclass information only
- Legal constraints
- Chatham House rules

# Terminology

PSYOPS

Mil PA

Info Ops

Influencing

Fake news

**PROPAGANDA**

StratCom

Disinformation

Outreach





# Disinformation warfare

“the dissemination of deliberately false information, especially when supplied by a government or its agent to a foreign power or to the media, with the intention of influencing the policies or opinions of those who receive it”

# Belgium at risk?

- Belgium often target of RUS influencing:
  - Terrorist attacks (22/03/2016)
  - UN migration pact





# Military Operations at risk?



## SYRIA: Report Claims French, Belgian Intelligence Plotting 'Chemical False Flag' in Idlib

MARCH 29, 2019 BY 21WIRE 8 COMMENTS

**RT** QUESTION MORE LIVE

News USA UK Sport Russia Business Op-ed

Home / World News /

### French, Belgian intelligence are plotting false flag chemical attack in Syria's Idlib – Moscow

Published time: 29 Mar, 2019 19:12

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: Previous White Helmets 'chemical attack' media production specifically designed to trigger a US-led military strike against Syria in 2017.

# International frameworks



EU vs Disinfo

NEWS AND ANALYSIS EUROPEAN ELECTIONS DISINFO REVIEW DISINFO CASES READ

IN THE MEDIA SUBSCRIBE CONT

## Missiles, Paedophilia, and the Anglo-Saxon Totalitarian Caste System

8 August 2019 | Disinformation Review, News and analysis, Top Story

Figure of the Week

6000+ DISINFORMATION CASES DEBUNKED\*

US	EU	UKRAINE	RUS
ELECTIONS	IMMIGRATION	WELL	DEMOCRACY

Latest Disinfo Reviews

Anglo-Saxon

NATO  
STRATCOM  
CENTRE  
OF EXCELLENCE  
RIGA, LATVIA

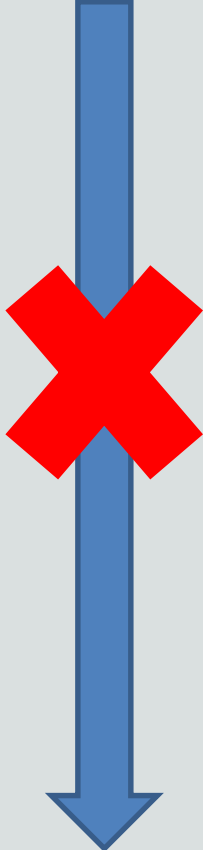
Hybrid CoE

STOP  
FAKE NEWS

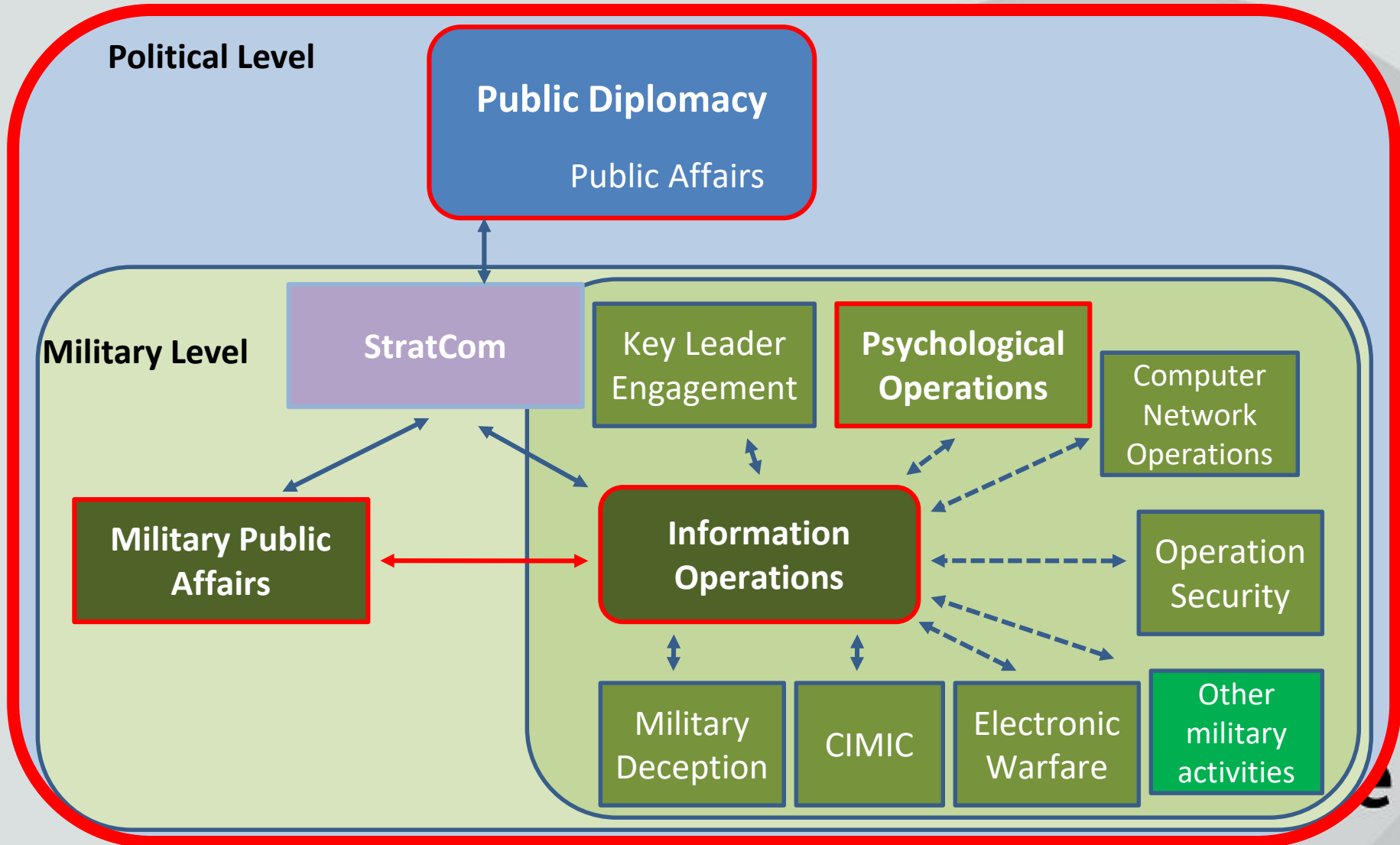
MIJN OPINIE MON OPINION

NL FR

# Information Strategy

- 
- Strategic Pol Obj
  - Strategic Mil Obj
  - Strategic Communications
    - Direction & guidance (Core narrative)
  - Info Ops
    - Coordination military information activities
  - PSYOPS
    - Influence perception/attitude/behaviour
  - Military Public Affairs
    - Credibility & understanding

# Information Strategy

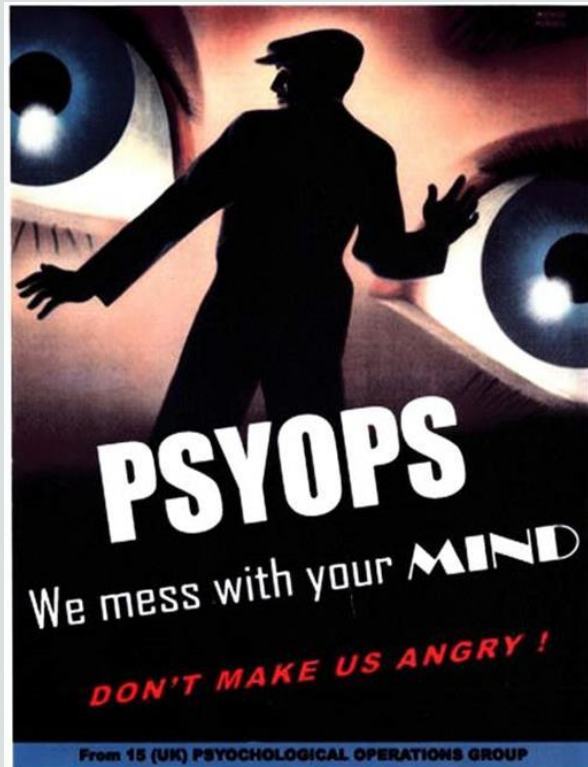




# Capabilities, Tools and Techniques PSYOPS



*PSYOPS* are planned activities using methods of communications and other means directed to approved audiences in order to **influence** perceptions, attitudes and behaviour, affecting the achievement of political and military objectives.





# Capabilities, Tools and Techniques Key Leader Engagement (KLE)



The planned and coordinated use of the (senior) leadership of the friendly force to influence key decision-makers / opinion shapers / influencers / leaders in the assigned area of operations in support of the commanders objectives.

## AIM

- **Identify key actors** and inter-relationship.
- A way to **reach target audiences** that you otherwise would not reach and also a way of preventing problems before they arise.
- **Synchronize** the engagement levels and ensure coherence.



# Capabilities, Tools and Techniques Presence, Posture and Profile (PPP)



- Presence: Physical presence of a military force
- Posture: How the military members act
- Profile: Use of military commanders to transmit key messages

## AIM

Deploying even **limited** capability **to the right place at the right time** can add substantial credibility to messages being delivered through other channels and provide a major contribution to deterrence.

**DeMorgen.** **Cult.** **Zine.**  
Muziek, film, tv, expo Interview, foto, lifestyle

### Para's moeten arafatsjaal terug opbergen

25-01-15, 11.26u - Sander Denayer - Bron: Gazet van Antwerpen [LEES LATER ★](#)



©kos 3

In de Joodse wijk van Antwerpen doken de afgelopen dagen enkele arafatsjaals op bij de paracommando's. Een doorn in het oog voor de Joodse gemeenschap, waarop Defensie besloot om de sjaals uit het straatbeeld te halen.

[f](#) [t](#)



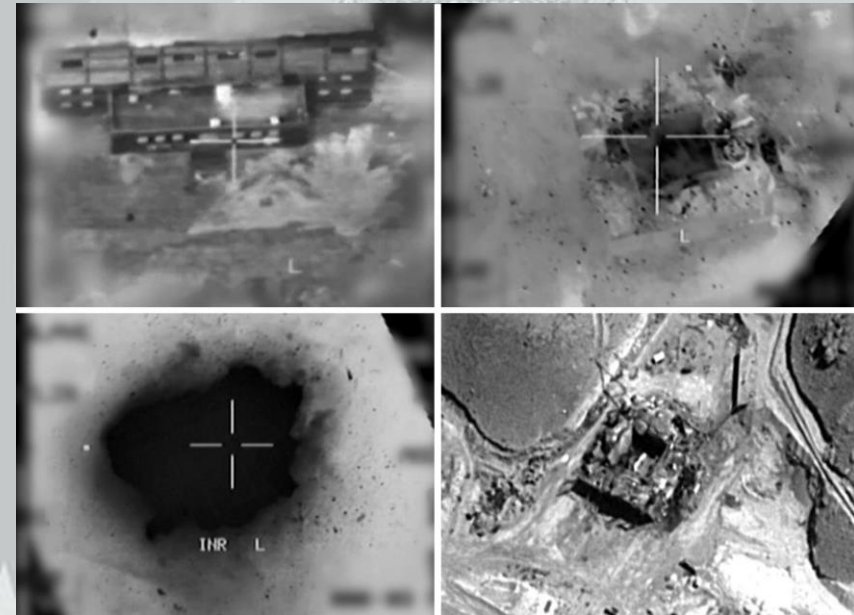
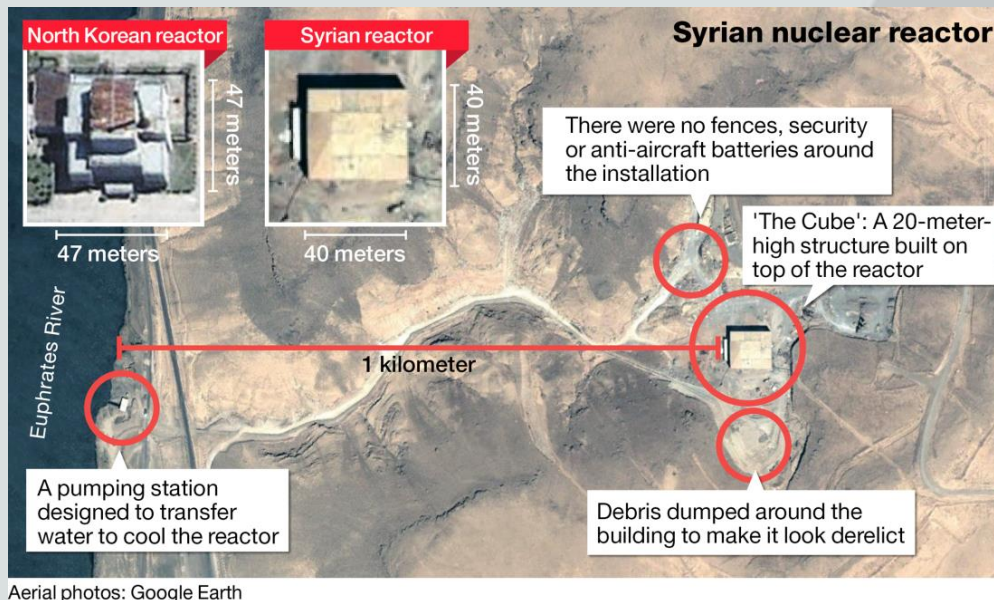


# Capabilities, Tools and Techniques Physical Destruction



## AIM

- Attacks on C2 systems, physical destruction will **affect** the understanding of an **adversary** and **his ability to apply**.
- Sends a **strong message** and consequently the direct application of force through physical destruction will have significant **psychological impact**.



# Mission experience: eFP-EST

(enhanced Forward Presence - Estonia)



# BEL StratCom Obj

- Reassurance & Deterrence
- **Credible & capable force**
- Positive perception EST population





# BEL winter capability

## Eesti kaitsevägi kostitas belglasi jääauguga

EESTI

Vahur Lauri

Eile kell 21.18



Belgia sõdurid hüppasid Tapa lähistel jääauku. See oli osa Briti kuningliku merejalaväe talvesõjajharjutusest. Suurbritannia juhib NATO rahvusvahelist kontingenti Eestis, Belgia kompanii ühines kontingendiga 17. jaanuaril.



# Perception management

- Mil Trg Activities (multinational)



The screenshot shows a video player interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: "UUDISED", "TV", "RAADIO", and "LASTELE". Below these are sub-tabs: "VALIMISED", "FESTI", "ARVAMUS", "MAJANDUS", "VÄLISMAA", and "KULTUUR". The main content is a video player showing a post from "NATO Battlegroup Estonia". The post text reads: "Tutvuge meie Belgia pommikoer Kayaga! 🇧🇪 🐕" and "Meet Kaya, the Belgian bomb disposal dog! 🇧🇪 🐕". The video shows a close-up of a brown and black dog's head in a snowy field. The video player has a progress bar at the bottom showing "-2:19" and control icons for play, volume, and settings.

kas: mil.ee

# Perception management

- Mil Trg Activities (multinational)
- Specific Mil capacities
- VVIP visits

Belgian prime minister visits  
NATO troops

NEWS

BNS, ERR News

Today at 08.49



## Eestisse tuleb visiidile Belgia kuningas Philippe

EESTI

Eile kell 15.28



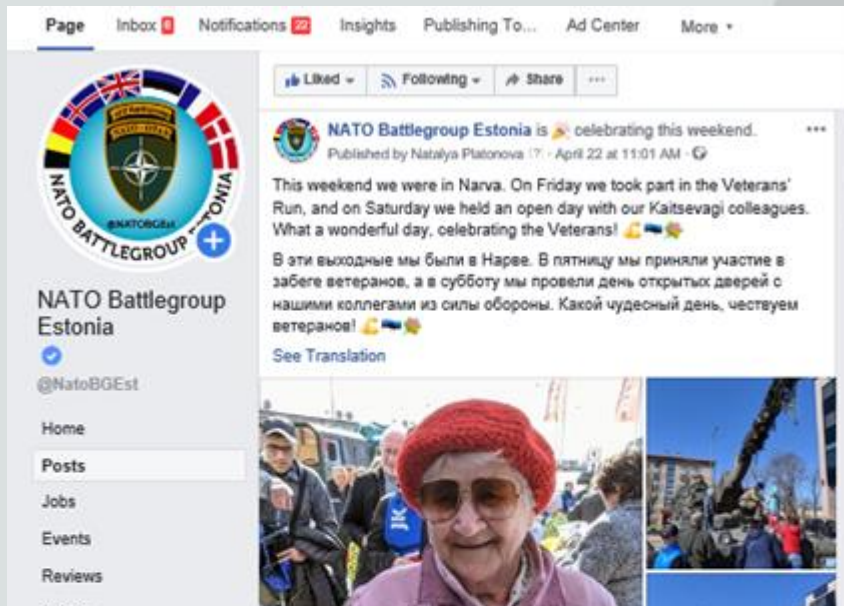
Belgia kuningas Philippe. Autor/allikas: AFP/Scanpix

Presidendi kantsilei teatas teisipäeval, et 2. aprillil saabub Eestisse visiidile Belgia kuningas



# Perception management

- Mil Trg Activities (multinational)
- Specific Mil capacities
- VVIP visits
- Outreach & community events





DEFENSIE  
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## In Latvia, a fuel truck and an Estonian truck collided with ammunition to Estonia (87)

www.DELFI.ee

208



Photo is for illustrative purposes

Photo: Tanel Meos

Today there was a traffic accident near Riga (on the Salaspils-Babite ring), which collided with a petrol-carrying car and a truck that made ammunition for the Defense Forces.



.be



# Issues

- National interests vs NATO objectives
- Rigid chains of command
  - Approval authority vs timeliness
  - Adaptation to new evolutions
- Offensive capability
  - Political will
  - Authorized target audiences only
- Measurement of effectiveness

# Questions?

