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)
“...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

Disinformation

Outreach

StratCom

PROPAGANDA
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?

Belgium Investigates Whether Or Not It Was Responsible for Mosul Civilian Deaths

SYRIA: Report Claims French, Belgian Intelligence Plotting ‘Chemical False Flag’ in Idlib

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

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
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

Political Level

Public Diplomacy
- Public Affairs

Military Level

StratCom
- Key Leader Engagement
- Psychological Operations

Military Public Affairs
- Information Operations
- CIMIC
- Electronic Warfare
- Operation Security
- Computer Network Operations
- Operation Security
- Other military activities

Military Deception
**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.
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.
Capabilites, 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.
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

Belgia södurid hüppasid Tapa lähistel jääaku. See oli osa Briti kuningliku merejalavää talvesöjaharjutusest. Suurbritannia juhib NATO rahvusvahelist kontingenti Eestis, Belgia kompanii ühines kontingendiga 17. jaanuaril.
Perception management

- Mil Trg Activities (multinational)
Perception management

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

- Mil Trg Activities (multinational)
- Specific Mil capacities
- VVIP visits
- Outreach & community events
In Latvia, a fuel truck and an Estonian truck collided with ammunition to Estonia (87)

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.
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?