

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TERRORISM - THE IMPACT OF EMERGING COMMERCIAL CAPABILITIES

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The fourth International Workshop for CITMO (Commercial Information Technology for Military Operations) 2005 was held in the lovely city of Plovdiv, Bulgaria from 15 to 17 June 2005.

The theme for CITMO 2005 was *Information Technology and Terrorism – The Impact of Emerging Commercial Capabilities*. Since the governments, military and commercial sectors are major players in the war on terrorism, it is essential that each sector understands how to make the best use of the new and emerging technologies while denying critical capabilities to terrorist organizations. It is obvious that cooperation among the military and commercial sectors and across the nations will be necessary to reach this understanding so that appropriate actions can be taken in the commercial marketplace to steer technology in ways that are most productive and supportive of peace, stability, and prosperity.

The issue for IT is how we fuse and distribute sensitive information in a multi-security network to support the right decision makers in a timely manner with trustworthy/dependable information and protect the sources should that be necessary. These are real challenges for IT, made more complex by a continuously changing set of disparate partners working across the network, anyone of which could potentially be a hacker or terrorist themselves. We must also consider how we link disparate organizations and many interested, but not necessarily coalition/ allied nations/ groups together to achieve common goals in the “war on terrorism.” This is the ultimate cyber ad hoc network because it is forever shifting depending on the whim of the terrorist—in other words it is not necessarily predictable ahead of time—there is not a single threat that a coalition or allied group can focus on.

Issues such as parties/ platforms quickly entering or leaving the network, multi-level security, and trust, all come to mind as issues that are both technical and policy re-

lated and must co-evolve in years to come so that we get the right technology and policy ultimately in place to achieve our common goal to reduce the threat of terrorism.

In order to have a meaningful discussion of the issues stated in the paragraphs above, we were fortunate to have had presentations from a varied group coming from government, industry and academia offering information, latest technology, practices and experience learned. Some of the articles in this volume give the reader a taste of what had been presented.

As we came away from CITMO 2005, we were not only grateful for the input of our host country, Bulgaria, but also impressed by the wide-range of input from our participants. The work for CITMO 2006 is well underway and the subject of Information Technology and Terrorism will continue to be the focus.