WORC 2024

World Overflight Risk Conference

2 - 4 July 2024 | Warsaw, Poland

Keynote: Balancing Secrecy and Insight – Harnessing the Power of Open Source Intelligence in a Classified World

Air Marshal Johnny Stringer

Deputy Commander NATO Air Command

#WORC2024

Scope

- NATO Air Command Priorities
- OSINT:
  - Realities
  - Contribution and Opportunities
  - Challenges and Risks
  - The Future?

COM AIRCOM Top 5 Priorities

- Counter - Anti-Access and Area Denial
- Integrated Air & Missile Defence
- Air C2
- Information Sharing
- Agile Combat Employment

Implications for airspace design & use, civ/mil integration, sharing information & awareness

OSINT Realities

- Ubiquity/ Pervasiveness
- Sources/ Feeds
- Outputs
- Accessibility & Availability
- Speed
- Veracity (?)
- Penetration

OSINT Contribution and Opportunities

- Insights and Start Points
- (Another) layer of information
- (Almost) ‘unstoppable’
- Pervasiveness affects behaviours
- Utility: Now, Before, Next
- Tactical to Strategic impact

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Bellingcat Investigation Team
The Bellingcat Investigation Team is an award winning group of volunteers and full time investigators who make up the core of the Bellingcat's investigative efforts.
The GRU's MH17 Disinformation Operations Part 1: The Bonanza Media Project
November 12, 2020 GRU MH17
Translations: English (UK) Русский (Россия)
An investigation by Bellingcat and its investigative partners has discovered evidence that Bonanza Media, a self-styled independent investigative platform, is in fact a special disinformation project working in coordination with Russia's military intelligence.

MAXAR

OSINT Challenges and Risks

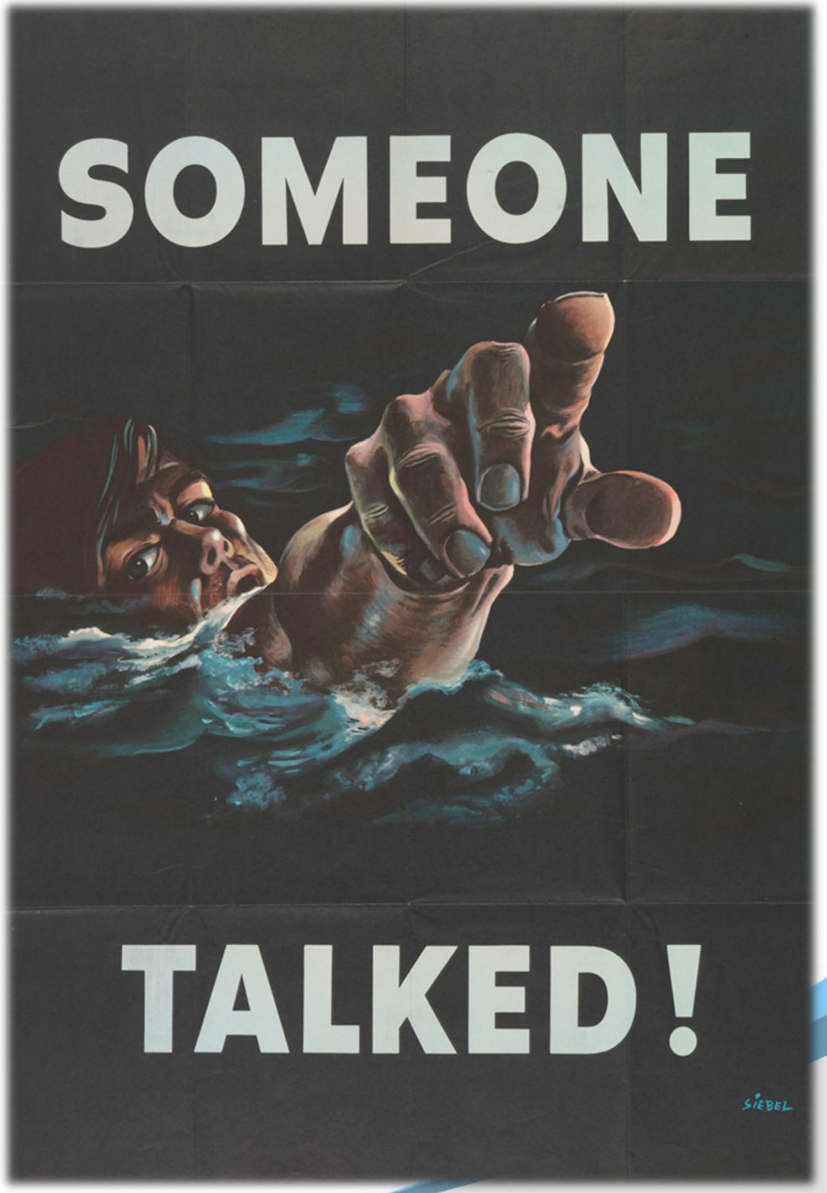
- Manipulation e.g. Deep Fakes
- Adversaries benefit too
- ‘Democratising Intelligence’
- Bias – personal / cultural / organisational
- (Over) reliance & emphasis
- Act fast, repent at leisure?

WIRED **The Strava Heat Map and the End of Secrets**

A MODERN EQUIVALENT of the World War II era warning that "loose lips sink ships" may be "FFS don't share your Fitbit data on duty." Over the weekend, researchers and journalists raised the alarm about how anyone can identify secretive military bases and patrol routes based on public data shared by a "social network for athletes" called Strava.

OSINT: The Future?

- Ever-increasing 'product'
- Importance of digital support
  - e.g. Big Data Analytics, AI/ML
- Analyst support
- Commercial expansion
- Impact on Strategic Communications and the Information Environment
- Only likely to increase



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