

2018 Intelligence & National Security Summit: Protecting the U.S. from Influence Operations



Panel

- **Fran Moore**, *Chief of Intelligence, Financial Systemic Analysis & Resilience Center*
- **Joe Morosco**, *Assistant Director, Office of the National Intelligence Manager for Counterintelligence, ODNI*
- **Rand Waltzman**, *Ph.D., Senior Information Scientist, RAND Corporation*
- **Shane Harris**, *Intelligence & National Security Correspondent, The Washington Post (moderator)*

Topic Overview

Foreign governments and non-state actors work continually to influence public opinion, political discourse, and government policy in the United States to advance their interests. Both government organizations and ordinary citizens can employ a range of tools – including analytic tradecraft techniques employed in the Intelligence Community – to interpret large quantities of information of varying credibility.

Panel Summary

Foreign states and non-state actors work to manipulate U.S. political and social discourse in many ways, including disseminating disinformation through traditional media, social media, and outreach through academics, students, and other influencers. Social media has provided adversaries a low cost method of disseminating their messages to large audiences who often fail to assess the credibility of the source. Traditional and non-traditional media companies have a responsibility to detect and combat disinformation; government agencies should publicly identify those responsible to highlight their motivations and tactics; and educational institutions must teach Americans from an early age how to evaluate information with a critical eye.

Key Insights:

- Hostile states and non-state actors continually work to influence policy, legislation, and public discourse.
- The low cost and extensive reach of social media has expanded the impact of influence campaigns on political and social discourse in the United States.
- Election infrastructure is becoming increasingly vulnerable to foreign governments and non-state actors.

Recommendations:

- Key public and private stakeholders – including intelligence agencies and social media companies – must agree upon critical roles and responsibilities to combat foreign influence operations.
- Intelligence and law enforcement agencies should partner with private media and social media organizations to raise awareness of disinformation threats.
- Academic institutions at all education levels must teach critical thinking skills needed to identify and evaluate large quantities of information of unknown credibility.
- Ordinary citizens can employ intelligence analytic tradecraft – such as assessing the credibility of a source and comparing new claims to known data – to evaluate new information.

Thank You, Sponsors and Partners:



ABOUT INSA

The Intelligence and National Security Alliance's mission is to foster dialogue between public and private elements of the national security sector. INSA approaches this mission through a variety of means, including by organizing conferences, symposia, exercises, and other discussions. INSA also convenes government and industry experts in nine policy councils that address topics ranging from security clearance reform and insider threats to acquisition management and intelligence law.