Setting the Scene: Hate Speech and Disinformation in the European Context

WACC and CEC Assembly April 10th 2019
Max Arhippainen, Chief of Public Affairs
Defence Command, Finland
The Use of Information and Values is a Part of Modern Conflicts

- Both propaganda and collecting information by intelligence and spying, and analyzing it, have always been central in conflicts
- Intelligence and analysis still have a role, but more and more information is available from open sources

⇒ The frontline has today moved from technical analyzing of information towards the use of information, sentiments and values as an effort to influence the minds, and above all, the behavior of target groups and people
Aims of Influencing by Information

• The aim is to influence the mental state of a population and the decision making ability

and thus

• Influence decision making nationally and in the European Union
• Divide rows and split national unity
• Make target groups behave in a certain way
• Change focus away from something else, as embarrassing things
Targets and Players

Opponents main goal:
• Make target groups behave in a certain way

Lessons learned:
• Forget focusing only on fake news as such, and if it is believed or not.
• Focus on if it changes the behavior of a target group

The target groups and players:
• Not only government agencies play
• Different citizen groups, activists and anonymous “troll groups” have a central role
• Disinformation and hostile information operations are present everywhere
A Swedish Example of Reflective Control

Dear Magnus,

I am profoundly grateful to you for setting up the presentation for our Ukrainian partners. They admired the Archer System capabilities. Even the initial order may amount up to 12 units. In fact, according to Ukraine’s Ministry of Defense if the operating experience is successful, a wide range of options will be available to BAE Systems Bofors AB.

Ukraine’s Armed Forces are critically in need of cutting edge artillery systems. I am sure you will successfully take the opportunity. You have my congratulations and my full support in this matter.

Best regards,

Peter Hultqvist

Chief of Public Affairs Max Arhippainen
Defence Command, Finland

26.4.2019
The Leading Russian Narrative in Europe
Child Care Issues and Charges of Russofobia

Russian ombudsman: Finland engaging in “juvenile terror”

In a tweet posted late Friday evening on the Russian social media platform, the Russian children’s ombudsman called on international human rights organizations to take action against Finland for engaging in child terrorism. He expressed concern about the situation for Russian children in Finland.

According to the ombudsman, the Russian authorities had been monitoring the situation in Finland and were considering legal action to protect Russian children.

The Finnish government has stated that the children are safe and that no Russian children have been taken from Russian families in Finland. The government has also stated that it will continue to monitor the situation to ensure the safety of Russian children in Finland.

Chief of Public Affairs Max Arhippainen
Defence Command, Finland

26.4.2019

Kokoomus tappaa venäläisiä kadulle

Venäläinen Irina Kirillovaan rasistinen murho Helsingissä on uutinen, jota yleisö on suomalainen media ei saa kertoa, mutta se on yleiskunnossa yli 50-vuotiaana vuosiksi Helsingin.

Kaikeksi Venäjän valtakunnalliset tw-kannat ovat liiketaitoiset kuvastavinaan

Helsingin kokoomusnurtojen johtaja, reservi upseeri Jukka Romppainen murhasi naapurissaan venäläisen Kirillovan, joka oli pienikoulusaarna ja Romppaasta yli 50 vuotta vanhempi.

Chief of Public Affairs Max Arhippainen
Defence Command, Finland

26.4.2019
Conflicting Narratives about Military Cooperation and Aligement
How to Shoot Down Half of the Finnish Air Force
Threats and Pressure

My Year as a Pro-Russia Troll Magnet: International Shaming Campaign and an SMS from Dead Father

A year ago Yle investigative journalist Jessikka Aro started a series on Russian infowar and became a target for systematic pro-Russia propaganda. This is her story.

9.11.2015 klo 10:54
Jaa: Facebook 6.2 k Twitter 1.2 k WhatsApp

Finnish Broadcasting Company Yle's investigative journalist Jessikka Aro has been harassed in disturbing ways while she has covered Russian online propaganda.
The Role of Religion
How Can a Democracy Cope with Hostile Influencing by Information?

• Broadly-based cooperation
• High level of general education and media literacy
• Media committed to good journalistic practice; strong media
• Revealing blatant lies
• Open society
• Research
• Revealing propaganda structures
• Own narrative and story
The Final Very Disturbing Assymetrical Obstacle

• We are set not only to defend our national security, but more importantly certain values; democracy, freedom of thought, freedom of speech and freedom of the press
• But our opponents hit us under protection of these exact values
• Hitting back using similar measures and methods we would betray exactly the values we are here to protect
How Answer to this Assymetrical Challenge?

1. Awakening
   Knowledge of being targeted is the first step in the defence against disinformation and hostile information operations

2. Enlightenment
   Build your own narrative and story

3. Civilization
   The general civilization and media literacy of a population is the strongest protection
The Most Important Information
Warrior: the Primary School Teacher

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26.4.2019