

(TS//SI//REL) Counterterrorism Analytic Working Group Meets in Madrid

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(TS//SI//REL) Attendees to SISECT Annual Working Group are briefed on terrorists' use of the Internet.

(TS//SI//REL) The 11th SIGINT Seniors Counterterrorism (SISECT) Analytic Working Group (AWG)

(U//FOUO) SISECT attendees in front of the Center for National Defense Studies

(TS//SI//REL) The briefings covered a vast range of counterterrorism targets, including threats from extremists that are currently active in Europe; North African Extremism; terrorist-related activities in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Lebanon; and much more! The topic-based briefings focused on the future of metadata sharing and a collaborative database initiative. The French delegation presented a very interesting briefing about the techniques they use to analyze al-Qa'ida. In addition, the UK delegation gave an excellent presentation on GCHQ's contribution to the successful disruption of the "OVERT" cell that was planning to attack aircraft departing the UK.

(TS//SI//REL) One of the most significant achievements was the half-day that was dedicated to briefings focused on terrorist use of the Internet. This was the result of an action from the June SIGINT Senior session in Rome and was led by the US, UK, and French delegations. The Internet discussion led to four SISECT actions that are focused on incorporating SIGINT exploitation of the Internet within SISECT and the development of new ideas to exchange Internet exploitation analytic knowledge. This is a huge step forward from previous conferences when some delegations were reluctant to acknowledge there was such a thing as the Internet!

(TS//SI//REL) Another highlight of the conference was the US presentation and group discussion about the potential for sharing language files using the SIGDASYS system. SIGDASYS is the shared communications system that provides the SISECT nations a medium for the regular exchange of signals intelligence information. The briefing, titled the "SISECT Language Processing Architecture Proposal," aggressively pushes the partners to leverage each other's language capabilities via SIGDASYS.

(TS//SI//REL) To date, SISECT partners rarely use existing SIGDASYS capability to share CT voice cuts/textual materials for translation. As a result of this discussion, all nations agreed to provide a list of their critical language capabilities and gaps. This will enable others to utilize the critical language skills of the other partners. This initiative resulted in three official actions that are currently being worked by the CT Issue Manager Team.

(U) Our Spanish hosts were exceptional in every aspect--outstanding lunches (at 2:00 PM each day!), a nice tour of Madrid on the bus ride departing work, and an exceptional hosted dinner (with opera singers providing the entertainment). The only negative was the weather -- it rained every day. And this was after our hosts had promised sunny weather -- a promise they made in writing!

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