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(SIRC STUDY 2013-09)

Security Intelligence Review Committee April 4, 2014

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1 INTRODUCTION

While

not a new discipline, its application to counter-intelligence and counter-terrorism activities is a more recent and emerging area of expertise.

In recent years, SIRC has observed that CSIS's

has been called upon more frequently to complement operational activities.

As evidence of its value,

within the Service has grown

as well as

research and development expertise.

SIRC's review focussed on the work specifically on how its insight contribute to CSIS's understanding of and the threat environment. SIRC also examined how

are perceived and utilized among different units in the Service. Overall, SIRC was impressed with and found that the expertise it provides has helped to enhance CSIS's operational capabilities.

One challenge is the absence of guidelines surrounding the practice in an intelligence setting. SIRC found that has put a lot of effort into creating guidelines

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2 METHODOLOGY

SIRC examined a variety of products produced by

Section SIRC also looked

at feedback forms completed by the end users

. An in-depth briefing was also held with

personnel.

The core review period for this study was from January 1, 2010 to September 30, 2013. Other documentation and relevant issues falling outside of the core review period were also examined in order to provide a more complete picture.

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SECTION

The core mandate of the

Section

is to support CSIS operations

This assistance began in the mid 1990's in the form of requests

from operational staff

and gradually expanded

to requests

Owing to the growing demand,

evolved from

to its current staff complement

who conduct assessments and provide support

operations, and

research and development,

3.1 Contribution to CSIS's Operations

contribute to the Service's operations

Operational desks may request target assessments for various reasons,

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SIRC's review noted that

insight and input was of benefit to operations.

As mentioned earlier, the nature of

work has evolved over the years.

SIRC saw the value of

involvement in

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operating in a dangerous environment.

This

is validated by feedback received from CSIS users, which was overwhelmingly positive.

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Overall, SIRC was impressed with

expertise it provides has helped to enhance CSIS's operational capabilities and to mitigate risks

SIRC also found value in having a second set of eyes review

was able to provide additional insight

3.2 Research and Development

On the research and development side, focus on carrying out a program of applied research to enhance the Service's understanding

Research and development has also occasionally produced research papers

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Finally,

which is designed as a secure forum to share ideas and expertise with from allied countries. This forum also creates interesting opportunities for collaboration,

SIRC found that research and development team has made a respected contribution to the field

The section's work is recognized

and appreciated by partners

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4 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Currently, there are no standards of practice

SIRC's review looked at how ensure that, in carrying out its work for CSIS, a manner that could contravene the

endeavours to does not act in

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SIRC found that,
performed its duties with due care and regard for the potential ethical
concerns that could arise from providing services to a security intelligence
agency, and that it also had a proactive and methodologically-sound approach to
creating an ethical framework. The Service's work to develop a coherent and
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is withheld pursuant to sections est retenue en vertu des articles

of the Access to Information Act de la Loi sur l'accès à l'information

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5 CONCLUSION

SIRC found that its personnel's work represent a valuable contribution to the Service's activities and operations. Overall, SIRC was impressed with and found that expertise it provides helps to enhance the Service's operational capabilities.

SIRC noted that some operational branches have indicated a degree of dissatisfaction with the wait time

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