

Hot Wash - GE 2019 Elections Security Architecture

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Notable Highlights:

- Structure and format of SITE allowed for seamless sharing of intelligence within existing mandates. This allowed for quicker assessments and verification of respective agency holdings.
- Centralized SITE email address was effective in coordinating support.
- The unclassified CSE reports on cyber threats to Canada's democratic process were useful in establishing a baseline and acted as valuable communication tools.

Suggestions for the Future:

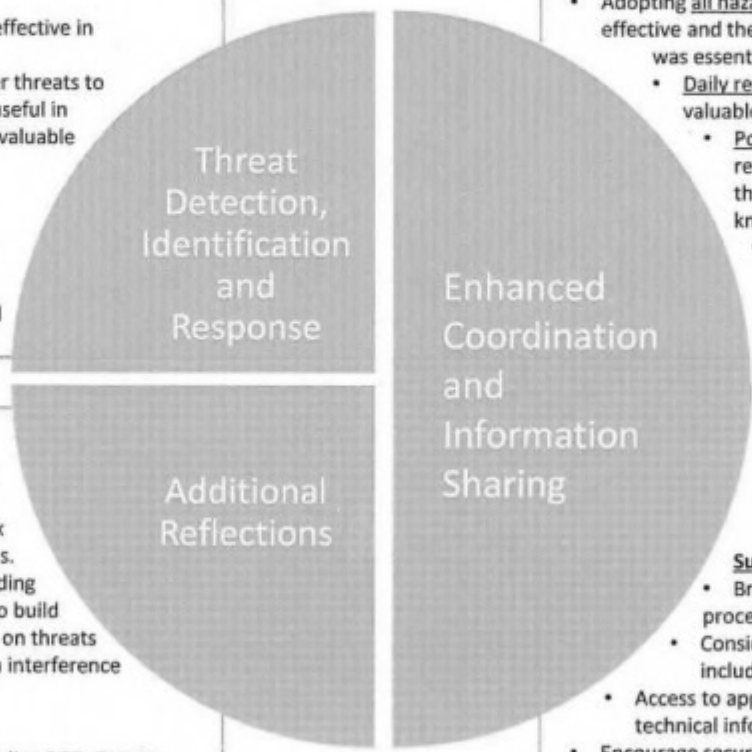
- Maintain operational engagement between SITE and non-traditional partners like Elections Canada.
- Could be helpful to integrate natural hazards into early planning.

Start Doing:

- Collaborating more closely with P/Ts on elections security.
- Consider a formal mechanism to work effectively with social media platforms.
- Increase education on all levels, including the public, in a non-electoral period to build awareness, confidence and resilience on threats to democratic institutions and foreign interference as well as the electoral process.

Continue:

- Continue using these structures, including SITE. Ensure this effort is appropriately scaled but maintain channels.
- Capitalize on the work of Elections Canada and the GOC, in the form of the Government of Canada 2019 Federal Election Support Plan, in future elections preparation.



Notable Highlights:

- Collaboration with non-traditional partners was effective and allowed for reflection of diverse views. Meeting frequency and content was appropriate.
- Adopting all hazards approach to electoral process was effective and the relationship with P/Ts that GOC provided was essential.
 - Daily reporting by the GOC and by SITE proved valuable to ensure situational awareness.
 - Political party briefings were a new and well-received addition. Though initially challenging, they brought value, established a baseline of knowledge and built trust.
 - Social media reporting from Elections Canada and its provision to partners allowed visibility and early warning.
 - Timely coordinated communications and centralized media responses were essential and effective. Technical briefings struck right balance.
 - Table-top exercises (TTXs) with political parties, ESCC and the Panel increased preparedness and raised the level of engagement.

Suggestions for the Future:

- Bring in communications earlier in the process and clarify a strategic approach.
- Consider a proactive outward facing message, including for SITE.
 - Access to appropriate systems would facilitate the technical information challenges encountered.
 - Encourage security clearances for political party leaders.
 - Explore limitations in areas such as disinformation and domestic interference.
 - Better incorporate / share lessons learned from TTXs.
 - Increase awareness of Panel discussions to allow Departments opportunity to better prepare the Deputies.

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