

For Public Release

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RDIMS # 3071991

PIMD International Team - Meeting Summary
Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) visit to Public Safety Canada

Date / Location:

June 13, 2019; 9:30 – 11:30 / 269 Laurier Ave West, Ottawa ON; Boardroom 18C-2900

Overview:

On June 13th, Public Safety Canada hosted representatives of Sweden's Civil Contingency Agency (MSB) for a morning of strategic discussions on topics of mutual interest, as part of a two-day visit to Ottawa. During the visit, MSB met with Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC), with whom they have a formal arrangement; a local emergency service provider in Ottawa; and the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security. The MSB also participated in a roundtable discussion with a focus on forest fires at the Swedish Official Residence, followed by a dinner hosted by the Swedish Ambassador to Canada (which was attended by [redacted] of the Canada Centre, and Colleen Merchant of NCSB).

Topics of Discussion:

- Foreign interference/hostile state activity, led by [redacted] (NSOD);
- Cyber security and critical infrastructure – led by Colleen Merchant (NCSB); [redacted] of the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security, and [redacted] (CI)

Canadian Delegation:

- [redacted] Director General, Canadian Centre for Cyber Security
- Colleen Merchant, Director General, National Cyber Security Directorate
- [redacted] Policy Advisor, National Cyber Security Directorate
- [redacted] Policy Analyst, National Cyber Security Directorate
- [redacted] Director, National Security Operations Directorate
- [redacted] Senior Policy Advisor, National Security Operations Directorate
- [redacted] Manager, Critical Infrastructure Directorate

MSB Delegation:

- [redacted] Director General, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB);
- [redacted] Head of Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection Department;
- [redacted] Acting Deputy Head of Coordination and Operations Department and Head of SB Counter Influence Task Force for Election 2018;
- [redacted] Head of EU and International Affairs;
- [redacted] Senior Advisor for Euro-Atlantic Affairs.

Summary:

Overall, the discussions highlighted the importance of a whole-of-government and -society approach to tackling these important issues, which have become increasingly interdependent, and working towards effectively and securely taking their respective countries into the future, while both Canada and the Swedish MSB showed interest in continuing cooperation and sharing experiences in their common areas of focus.

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RDIMS # 3071991**Hostile State Activity:**

Within the context of Canada's upcoming Federal Election, there is increased focus on electoral security, with Public Safety is currently working with various partners to monitor and examine potential threats, and how information will be presented to the public in the event of foreign interference. The MSB was praised as having set an example in the area of public information after having distributed a pamphlet to the Swedish public on how to deal with such occurrences (RDIMS # 3077671) - which proved to have a very high rate of acknowledgement and overall effect on the general public. The MSB outlined three elements as the key to success: examining vulnerabilities in order to identify weaknesses and potential relevant threats; raising awareness among the population (as was done with the pamphlet) and providing training to civil servants; and increased cooperation between the agency and society to prevent having a weak and vulnerable state.

Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure:

The MSB demonstrated a particular interest in cyber security: specifically, how Canada achieved such a high rate of participation in a survey distributed to small- and medium-sized businesses, and how the relationship between the central government (Public Safety) and the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security is managed. Sweden is planning to launch a cyber security centre in the coming months.

Canada explained that Canadian businesses are very interested in what the Government is doing to assist with managing cyber issues and threats, yielding a significant amount of data for the development of Canada's 2018 strategy. The Canadian Centre for Cyber Security expressed that reporting of cyber incidents among private business is still low due to businesses' fears of disciplinary action, and explained that they continue to work to build trust with businesses to motivate increased engagement with Canadian businesses.

The MSB asked about overlap between the Cyber Centre mandates and those of other organizations such as Public Safety Canada. Canada explained that there are clear distinctions in the roles, mandates, priorities, and objectives of each body, which are determined by cabinet, to eliminate confusion on the larger scale. However, given increased interdependencies, some overlap at the working level may arise, putting an increased importance on cooperation among all groups.

Critical Infrastructure:

With the increased relevance of cyber security to critical infrastructure, there is a need to examine and analyze the effectiveness of Canada's 10 year old National Strategy for Critical Infrastructure, which does not specifically address cyber security. Canada reiterated the effective cooperation between Public Safety Canada and the Canadian Cyber Security Centre as they focus on protecting democratic institutions, particularly within the context of the impending 2019 Federal Election; working to ensure security of Cloud technology, as government systems are increasingly moving in this direction; and providing input and support to cabinet with regarding to the introduction of 5g technology in Canada. Sweden discussed the additional challenge they face of ensuring consistency with EU regulations and standards in addition to working with Swedish legislation.

Next Steps:

MSB and Public Safety Canada will continue to communicate on an ad-hoc basis as issues arise.