



**Remarks by the Director of the National Counterproliferation Center (NCPC)
Ambassador Kenneth C. Brill**

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AMBASSADOR BRILL: I heard a story recently about the value of open source and thought I'd share it today.

During the first Gulf War, a request came in from US Central Command (CENTCOM) tasking the Intelligence Community for any information about the trafficability through the wastelands of southern Iraq. To put that into plain speak, CENTCOM needed to know where the sands would be too soft to support tanks.

Now, let me tell you how the Intelligence Community works. Of all the different types of intelligence we can collect – from particles in the air to images from the sky – some things, like this, can only be gathered through human intelligence – people on the ground reporting back what they have seen. We could have sent in covert teams to get the information firsthand, but whenever you put boots on the ground, you are risking lives and operational security.

So a search for that information within our intelligence systems began. As it turned out, the Library of Congress had what we needed. A group of intelligence officers spent three days poring over old archaeological manuscripts and found trafficability data. Nearly a century before, archeologists had recorded minutiae on the countryside in their diaries as they slowly made their way across the sands on camelback.

I think that example of open source success also provides a good metaphor for this conference to build on: that is, open source, like any other intelligence INT, allows intelligence professionals and policymakers to better comprehend the landscape around them. Open source intelligence (OSINT), in my view, is not simply a support for other intelligence INTs. Instead, it is a capability – vast and powerful – that is on par with any of the INTs, if we know how to use it and invest in it.

In preparing for today, I heard about countless stories that made just that point: times when open source was a key part of intelligence collection and analysis. All these stories remind me of a quote by Tsar Nicholas I during the Crimean war: “We have no need of spies. We have the *Times*.” Since we all know OSINT is much more than newspapers, I would update Tsar Nicholas’ statement and say that today, we need spies, satellites and open source intelligence.

When you think about open source in the realm of counterproliferation (CP), it seems almost counterintuitive. In CP, you have one of the most tightly controlled, highly compartmented areas

of intelligence, yet the CP community gets information from OSINT that it could not get from the other INTs, or if it could, it would come at a much higher cost.

Let me give a couple of examples aimed against two of our hardest collection targets: North Korea and Pakistan.

Gaining insight into North Korea's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs from any source is difficult because Pyongyang tightly controls information about all aspects of these activities and engages in extensive denial and deception activities. Nonetheless, exploring and correlating bits of information from various open sources enables us to get a view of North Korean programs that is not obvious from leadership pronouncements and media reporting – or from classified collection. An open source center (OSC) report made inferences about the scope and structure of North Korea's missile program by connecting patterns and terminology in Pyongyang's official portrayal of the program with sporadic but specific DPRK media references. Correlating Pyongyang's portrayal of its space and missile program with other technical information suggests that North Korea's industries have the capacity to produce avionics, airframe parts, propulsion systems, rocket propellant, aerospace ground equipment, launch facilities, and command and control software for the country's missile program.

Another example of open source's contribution to CP is OSC's work to identify and link scientists with master's degrees in chemistry, botany, pharmacy, biotechnology, and other disciplines. This type of information is invaluable for following Pakistan's capabilities, as well as exploring potential WMD-terrorism threats from Pakistan.

The value of OSINT to the CP mission is clear. I am glad to say that when NCPC was stood up in November 2005 we recognized the necessity of open source to the CP mission. We knew you could contribute, and we were right.

The CP unit with whom we worked to stand up in the Open Source Center has provided great insights and an increasingly robust stream of analytic products. Whenever I go up on the Hill, they are very happy to hear that we value and are investing in your work. But the payoff has been greater than just getting well-deserved credit for the Open Source Center – it has been in the greater understanding around the CP community of what open source information can do and a greater willingness to look for creative ways to exploit open sources of information for both analytic and collection purposes.

Still, there is more that we can do. The OSC has been successful in collecting, exploiting, and analyzing open source intelligence, but open source means more than just the Open Source Center. It means all of you – men and women from across the Intelligence Community. As good as it is, we need you to work beyond the traditional boundaries of the Open Source Center, and as a community, to develop a more effective integration of open source with other collection disciplines.

And over the next two days, I hope you will think about what more work we can take on together. During this conference, you'll conduct a comprehensive review of counterproliferation open source enterprise commitments. You'll also engage in discussions about new information

needs, key intelligence gaps, and resource issues as they relate to NCPC's recently published *National Intelligence Plan for Countering WMD Proliferation: 2009-2011* – the theme of which is moving from describing to countering proliferation.

- In that regard, I want to make a special point about the importance of open source collection to our work on over-the-horizon threats. Scientific research publications, think tank policy papers, conference attendance and other open source opportunities can provide early indications of intentions and motivations that could precede WMD programs in countries that do not have them today.
- As we seek to move from describing to countering WMD proliferation, I know that OSINT will be an important tool in the IC's CP toolbox.

This conference is an opportunity for the OSINT community to lean forward, design new and better collection strategies, improve information sharing methodologies, and partner to provide greater context for deeper analysis. Put simply, we need you in this fight, and we hope this conference will equip you with some new tools and a renewed sense of partnership as we pursue the WMD CP mission.

On behalf of the IC Counterproliferation Community, I thank you all for being here, and I look forward to our continued collaboration.

More information about the National Counterproliferation Center can be found online at www.counterwmd.gov and www.dni.gov.