Interview PSYOP Team, US EMB Abidjan, March 12, 2025

Participant name: MIST, Captain of ODA/Cross functional team

SF ODA commander who leads the cross functional team

Since October

* Priority is countering mis/disinformation
* China is viewed very positively and do not engage in mis/disinformation
* A lot of the mis/dis is coming from Russia and is more prominent in COT
* Sovereignty is important in Cot

MIS/DIS – MISO support to ministry

* They are scrubbing unclass open source content to see what disinformation is coming from Russia
* They do basic assessment of published articles, they do not have ability to conduct indepth OSINT analysis of social media channels or identify disinformation themes not readily available in the news;
* I ask if they OSINT capacity and they say no but suggest this would be welcomed
* Ivorians do not have separate PA/PSYOP capacities; PA is the focus of their training with COT
* They use the open source articles to craft messaging for the Ivorian communicators
* There are authorities for CFT to do knowledge exchanges. We talk about what they see, we talk about general concept of mis/disinformation. They are not advising or training.
* They recently did a two day event, they showed examples of disinformation and shared how they analyze it and counter it; we ask them to share thoughts on what they see and have done and use practical exercises
* Tactics, strategies to analyze disinformation, form attribution/origination and assess sources of content and intentions. Example is they will share a cocacola add, and discuss who is behind it, motivations, audience, goals;
* Discuss how to craft a good message and get narrative out.
* Response? Ivorians get it, they are highly intelligence, have good equipment.

Flintlock

* PAO Ivorian engaged
* Soveriegnty is a big issue, messagint that shows the country is a regional leader (by supporting Flintlock)
* Any message showing that western powers are conducting operations are bad
* COT supported Flintlock last year

Partner of choice messaging

* Cultural understanding is important, need to be cognizant of this to create messages
* There are appropriate times to understand partner equities
* Currently limiting messages about partner of choice given upcoming election; after election can more proactively disseminate
* Pushing out photos from trainings and engagements with partner force on embassy web page/social media. Team would not talk about other forms of messaging due to classification limitations. “Psyop Series development classified at secret level”

On X a few examples of Ivorian accounts that highlight malign Russian action, influence accounts that pot photos addressing malign Russian actions. Visible in the OSINT space.

Value in more proactive efforts. If you want to be the party of choice, need to dictate narrative, otherwise you are constantly on the defense; want to get your narrative out.

**SETAF support**

* Any OSINT platforms able to use and show to partner force. If it exists commercially we can make it easily disemmitable to Ivorians. This is valuable when authorities for intel sharing do not exist. This will help educate the partner force and increase their knowledge. (recommendation)

Influencers? Sydney is great person to speak with; talking with influencers is not something we do

**Ivorians not actively exposing Russia**

* China is preferred economic partner;
* No command level initiative in COT Army to counter Russia. the Ivorian military talking about Russia to local population is awkward. Some surveys recently suggest disparity on who is preferred partner (Todd: I think he is talking about recent survey showing high support for Russian military support but that survey according to POL-ECON may be an outlier). Perception that military opinions about Russia vary, especially between army and navy.

They are sending some intel reports on Russia on the high side.

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