

## Foreword

In the mid-1990s, it was my honor to command the 434<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Detachment (MID), a U.S. Army Reserve unit associated with Yale University and located in New Haven, Connecticut. Our unit wrote the first handbook for Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) for the U.S. Army. In 1994, our unit was honored with the Golden Candle Award presented by Open Source Solutions in recognition of its “unusual dedication and persistence ... in preparing a primer, *Open Source Intelligence Resources for the Military Intelligence Officer*, which is of value to all joint and coalition personnel.” The following year the Reserve Officers Association gave the 434<sup>th</sup> MID its “Outstanding USAR Small Unit Award” for 1995-1996, due in no small part because of its contributions to OSINT.

In 1997 General Peter Schoomaker, USA then Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), was briefed on OSINT, understood its value, and ordered the creation of an OSINT support cell within the Special Operations Command Joint Intelligence Center (SOCJIC). Today that small unit, for a negligible amount of money, is responsible for satisfying 40% of the all-source intelligence requirements generated by all elements of USSOCOM.

In 2000, General William F. Kernan, USA, then serving as both the ranking flag officer of the Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) and as the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic (SACLANT), agreed to a suggestion by Brigadier General James Cox of Canada, then the Deputy J-2 at Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), validated by General Kernan’s Deputy at the Atlantic Command, Admiral Sir James Perwone of the United Kingdom, and commissioned three study guides for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): the *NATO Open Source Intelligence Handbook*, the *NATO Open Source Intelligence Reader*, and (NATO) *Intelligence Exploitation of the Internet*. All three of these documents remain valid and useful today.

In the years between 1994 and today, over 40 countries have developed some form of OSINT Center or Cell, most of them for military use. The United

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States, however, was slow to focus on OSINT across the board, and on 11 September 2001, we were attacked on our homeland by a terrorist group whose intentions had been amply documented in both secret and open sources.

What we have learned since 9/11 is that Information Operations (IO) is the primary means of both understanding and of stabilizing the world. Belief systems in all languages, and an understanding of those belief systems in the context of their own history in their own language, their own sermons today in their own language, are the absolutely essential foundation for national security and national competitiveness in the age of globalization.

OSINT is an integral supporting element of IO. Robert Steele has done more than any other person to promote the effective use of OSINT in support of policy, acquisition, operations, logistics, and all-source intelligence, and with this book—his fourth book—he brings to Congress and the public carefully developed arguments and supporting documentation for the Smart Nation Act. The Open Source Solution refers to both OSINT and to open source software.<sup>1</sup>

As I reflect on all that I have learned since being Staff Director to Senator Barry Goldwater (R-AZ), then Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI); as an Army officer; and as a Congressman with responsibilities on both the House Armed Services Committee and as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment of the House Homeland Security Committee, I find myself seeing four areas where we can improve our Nation's prospects for the future:

First, it is clear, as this book suggests and as Dr. Cambone has demanded, that we must be able to access all information in all languages, all the time. Secret intelligence is a fraction of what we need to know to defend America, collaborate with allies, and enhance the prosperity of all countries. It is no longer enough to have spies and diplomats—we are engaged in a 100-year six-front Global War, and nothing less than universal information coverage will

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<sup>1</sup> Open Source Software, sometime called Free/Open Source Software, is not necessarily free of price, but rather free of the cumbersome restrictions that come with proprietary software. Open Source Software is not only very inexpensive in comparison with proprietary solutions, it is more secure, allows for faster better cheaper sharing of all forms of information, and is infinitely improvable by all.

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meet our needs. Nor can we limit ourselves to online information. We must be able to access historical and cultural documents, and all off-line information.

Second, it is clear to me that information sharing rather than secrecy must be the most important mind-set to be fostered as we go forward. Information must be shared in secure reasonable ways across all boundaries. Multi-national, multi-agency, multi-disciplinary, multi-domain information sharing—what the Swedes call M4IS—is the wave of the future.

Third, since 80% of what we need to know is controlled or accessible only to non-governmental organizations or private sector parties, most of whom have no wish to be associated with covert intelligence organizations, it is clear to me that the Nation needs to create a national Open Source Agency.

Fourth and finally, we must recognize that the traditional information technology approach, in which unlimited amounts of taxpayer dollars are applied to proprietary, unilateral, expensive systems operating in isolation from one another, is neither affordable nor sensible.

- External to the Republic, we must interact and share information with non-governmental organizations, universities, and foreign governments and their sub-state elements, all with limited budgets.
- Internal to the Republic, we must dramatically improve the ability of state, local, and tribal governments to make sense of all of the information available to them, while also making it possible for them to interact with our federal government and other parties using the best available *affordable* digital technologies.

For these two reasons, open source software must join open source information as a foundation for global information sharing and IO.

The Smart Nation Act, originally conceptualized by the author in 1994, and then included as Chapter 15 of his first book, *ON INTELLIGENCE: Spies and Secrecy in an Open World*, a book honored with a Foreword by Senator David Boren (D-OK), retired and past Chairman of the Senate Select

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Committee on Intelligence, has been re-directed in three important ways by recent circumstances, including the introduction by Congressman Jeff Flake (R-AZ-06) and Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA-29) of the Intelligence Oversight Act demanding intelligence sharing for all Committees.

First and most importantly, the Act, originally developed to create an Open Source Agency within the U.S. Intelligence Community, now distinguishes between the protection and enhancement of open source intelligence in support of secret intelligence, and the need to have the primary national open source information collection and sharing capability *outside* the U.S. Intelligence Community, as a sister agency to the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG).<sup>2</sup>

Second, inspired by the bi-partisan leadership of Congressmen Flake and Schiff, the Act has been modified to add two capabilities supportive of Congressional oversight of both intelligence and all jurisdictions:

- The first, as called for by the Intelligence Oversight Act, provides for each Congressional committee to have a sub-committee of at least two individuals, two *Members*, who shall have access to classified information relevant to their jurisdictions.
- The second, inspired by the need of Congress for tailored intelligence across each jurisdiction, creates a Congressional Public Intelligence Office that has absolutely no access to secret sources and methods, in order to provide Congress, and the public, with the best available open source intelligence on all important topics across all jurisdictions. This will be our public baseline.

Congress may wish to integrate elements of the Smart Nation Act into the Intelligence Oversight Act, or move in other directions, but at least all of these needs and proposed solutions are now before the public, not just Members.

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<sup>2</sup> This important intellectual contribution is from Dr. Joseph Markowitz, the only Director of the Community Open Source Program Office (COSPO), before it was shut down by individuals who did not appreciate the value of open sources of information.

- It creates the long-needed Community Intelligence Centers and state-wide county-level networks for collecting, evaluating, and acting on the “bottom-up” dots that have no place to go today—the Federal level has been in the past unresponsive and ineffective at the state, local, and tribal level. This capability includes very innovative 119 and 114 numbers for citizens to alert each other via cell phone in an emergency, or report suspicions without overburdening the 911 system. The Centers, relying on low-cost open source software equally available to Statehouses, schools, and Chambers of Commerce, will also allow us to deliver, at no further cost to the tax-payer, all of the open source information collected about the world, down to the municipality level—this will not only enhance our national security, it will enhance our educational system and our business competitiveness in a globalized environment.
- It creates a national virtual translation network that allows all organizations to leverage their own employees, to share employee language translation and cultural understanding capabilities among varied organizations, and to default to commercially-provided expert human translators when none is otherwise available. This not only solves the increasingly urgent need for being able to receive 911 calls in all languages, but it also affords both Members and state, local, and tribal authorities a ready means of interacting with constituents, especially elderly constituents, whose life circumstances have not allowed them to learn English. It can also support our troops in the field, with a global reach-back capability that is now affordable on a 24/7 basis in all languages.
- Finally, it moves open source software to the forefront of the Homeland Security information sharing environment. Building on STRONG ANGEL III, which has pioneered open source software capabilities that can be delivered free to non-governmental organizations as well as state, local,

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and tribal governments, this extraordinary suite of advanced analytic, collaborative work, and information sharing within a commercially secure environment, breaks down all of the barriers that have prevented the varying levels and types of government and non-government organizations from near-real-time distributed collaboration and inter-agency analytics.

I have worked very hard during my three terms in Congress to date, both to serve the needs of my constituents that count on me to represent them, and to enhance the capabilities that contribute to both the well-being of our Armed Forces in the field and in harms way, and to the depth and breadth of our Homeland Security, including the all-important security of our ports and territorial waters.

I defer to the Chairmen of the varied Committees of Congress and to the broader body of Members who will have an opportunity to adopt some or all of the provisions of the Smart Nation Act. Simply by putting this Act forward for consideration, here and now in September 2006, I believe that the author has rendered a useful national service. The time is ripe to engage in a national discussion of these issues.

This book is an invitation to think about how public intelligence might contribute to sound public policy in the public interest. I urge the reader to take it to heart and to mind. God Bless America!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Simmons". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "R" and a cursive "Simmons".

Second District, Connecticut  
Colonel, USAR, RET