Cornwallis XIX
Report back to
31 ISMOR

Tony Hopkin
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A small concerned gathering of analysts at ISMOR
- New threats to world peace
- OA addressing current or old threats
- Inadequate opportunity to look at new approaches to new problems
- Large workshops limit comprehensive exchange

Out of ISMOR, in 1996, The Cornwallis Group was born

The Cornwallis Group takes its name from Cornwallis Park, Nova Scotia, home to the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre; venue for the Group meetings until 2003. Cornwallis Park, in turn, is named for Colonel Edward Cornwallis, Governor of Nova Scotia in the mid-18th century; Edward was uncle to Charles Cornwallis, the general who surrendered the British Army to George Washington, at Yorktown in 1781.
Uniquely Cornwallis Group

ISMOR, MORS and The Cornwallis Group met at the 82nd MORS Symposium. The following were identified as positive and unique to the Cornwallis Group

- Forward learning and academic
- Feedback by referees papers (Accepted as peer review by GMU)
- Exploring analytical challenges beyond direct operational operations
- More orientated to peace, stability, security
- The reach to OGD, CSO, NGO
- 1-hour (min) papers, deeper discussion
If you want to find out more

• We have a website (info)

  www.thecornwallisgroup.org/

• We are on facebook (engage)

  www.facebook.com/groups/thecornwallisgroup/
Cornwallis XIX: Analysis of Commercial & Market Force Roles in Conflict Management & Mitigation

• Private companies and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are increasingly considered a partner in the prevention, settlement and transformation of violent conflicts.
• Their future as part of the mix within operational theatres seems assured for the immediate and medium term.
• How has analysis has been used to produce a ‘Blended Solution’ plan of action to improve the effectiveness of the response?
• The Group has accepted presentations that cover issues outside the theme. This principle will contribute to the richness of discussions.
First the numbers

Participation at Cornwallis XIX

The Sloggett effect!

We jumped the gun!

Comfortable
First the numbers

• Participation at Cornwallis XIX: ~30 (ave.)
  – Cornwallis since 2010: ~22 (ave.)
  – Cornwallis since 1996: 18 – 45

• Papers: 6
  – 3 UK; 2 US; 1 NATO
  – 3 on theme; 3 broader OR

• The numbers at Cornwallis XIX were great!
Key messages

• Format informative and stimulating
• 1-hour did promote discussion
• Great opportunity to discuss the latest topics with main experts
• Involved the older holders of corporate memory
• Presenters gained useful feedback on research
• Useful contacts made
• Syria case study very interesting

Not part of the Cornwallis XIX Workshop!
Best quote

“The contractors refused to move our hand grenades because they didn’t like our policy. They didn’t like what we were doing with them...

...I mean, I don’t know what they thought we were going to do with them, other than throw them at people?!”
Future considerations

• More ‘on topic’ papers
  – Better knowledge sharing
  – Show benefit of participation to sponsor
• More provocative discussion
• Running Cornwallis as part of ISMOR worked well, but
  – Be careful it doesn’t become a valuable possession we put in the attic
  – We don’t want to lose the reach to OGD, CSO, NGO although,
    – Austerity and workloads: could people justify attending both ISMOR and Cornwallis if they were separate?
Ideas for next year’s theme

• Relationships with military / IO / NGO and lessons learned from recent operations
• Insurgency, civil war, and jihad
• Risk
• Non-military effects in conflict. Eg social media; traditional media; public perception; etc
• Maybe a variety and not just one theme
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