



INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION AND SECURITY CHALLENGES

Date: November 19, 2024

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KEY EVENTS

On November 19th, 2024, Superintendent Ben Maure presented *Interagency Collaboration in Security and Policing* at this year's West Coast Security Conference. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer period with questions from the audience and CASIS Vancouver executives. The key points discussed were Supt. Maure's work on international child exploitation, the security and legitimacy gaps in Haiti, and the need for better interagency cooperation and information sharing in Canada.

NATURE OF DISCUSSION

Superintendent Maure's presentation discussed the necessity of interagency collaboration in addressing complex security challenges both in Canada and internationally. He emphasized that while partnerships with foreign and domestic entities are essential, they must navigate legal, political, and ethical constraints. Drawing from his peacekeeping mission in the Dominican Republic, Supt. Maure detailed how collaboration between Canadian agencies, local law enforcement, and diplomatic channels led to policy changes combating child exploitation. The discussion highlighted systemic obstacles such as corruption in Haiti and the need for sustainable development to complement security interventions.

BACKGROUND

Presentation

Superintendent Maure worked on cases involving the exploitation of weaker groups when he was working in the Dominican Republic, namely child exploitation and human trafficking. He came across situations in which foreign predators exploited young children by traveling to nations like Haiti and the

Dominican Republic, frequently by taking advantage of the comparatively loose travel regulations in these areas. Supt. Maure's professional strategies placed a strong emphasis on cooperation between local government and Canadian law enforcement in these situations. For instance, through measures such as tracking travel records and identifying connections to individuals within the region, he was able to assist local agencies in addressing these crimes within the framework of their laws.

The constraints of information-sharing protocols and the requirement to uphold international law and national sovereignty, however, frequently hampered such attempts. For example, unless the suspect had a valid warrant or an Interpol red alert, Canadian police were not allowed to communicate critical information. This brought to light the wider difficulties associated with intelligence sharing in international police, including the dangers of information abuse and the possible repercussions if it ended up in the wrong hands. Supt. Maure demonstrated the value of using diplomatic channels to push for legislative improvements in spite of these challenges. For instance, in order to make it harder for those involved in illegal operations to move around freely, he collaborated with the Canadian Embassy to persuade the Dominican Republic to require passports for visitors from Canada and Europe. The Dominican Republic finally enacted stronger travel laws, despite their initial hesitancy because of worries about the possible effects on tourism.

Supt. Maure noted three crucial gaps—the security gap, the capacity gap, and the legitimacy gap—that are frequently brought up in scholarly and policy circles in light of Haiti's battles with gang violence and corruption. Although there have been some successes in addressing security and capacity through foreign aid, the legitimacy gap—which is a product of widespread corruption and weak institutions—remains a major obstacle. Supt. Maure claimed that although foreign parties, such as Canada, have contributed resources like police cars, intelligence software, and training, these initiatives are hampered by the lack of strong legal and governance frameworks to uphold them. Even well-trained and well-equipped police units cannot function successfully without institutional legitimacy and accountability, because they lack the larger systemic backing required to continue their activities. Supt. Maure stressed that resolving the legitimacy gap calls for a generational commitment above short-term financial measures.

In Canada, Supt. Maure has been a steadfast supporter of interagency cooperation. In order to handle logistical and operational requirements, such as obtaining suitable facilities and equipment for law enforcement teams, he highlighted the significance of agency collaboration in his work with the Federal Policing Pacific Region (FPPR). In a similar vein, Supt. Maure has emphasized the importance of collaborations with local law enforcement and other stakeholders in metropolitan areas, such as British Columbia's Lower Mainland, in order to guarantee security in high-risk locations.

Supt. Maure highlighted the need for systems that promote improved information exchange and safeguard sensitive material, whilst acknowledging the current responsibilities played in intelligence collecting by existing departments like the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). Given their operational and political ramifications as well as the changing risks presented by hostile state-sponsored operations, he acknowledges that these concerns demand increased attention.

Question and Answer

How can the international community address gang control in Haiti?

Supt. Maure addressed Haiti's entrenched challenges, including urban gang control, by discussing three critical gaps: security, capacity, and legitimacy. While international actors, including Canada, have provided security training and resources, these efforts often falter due to systemic corruption and weak institutional foundations. Supt. Maure emphasized the legitimacy gap as the most significant barrier, noting that even well-trained police forces fail when unsupported by reliable judicial and administrative systems. He argued that addressing this gap requires long-term investments—potentially spanning generations—and stressed that short-term funding cycles undermine sustainable development. Without this foundation, Haiti's security and governance remain vulnerable to collapse.

What are the challenges of intelligence-sharing with global partners like India?

Supt. Maure outlined the ethical and operational challenges of intelligence-sharing, particularly when human rights concerns are involved. He explained that Canadian agencies must carefully assess the potential consequences of sharing information, as they could be held liable if the intelligence is misused, such as in cases resulting in torture or other abuses. He cited examples where

Interpol requests from countries with poor human rights records were denied to protect Canadian values and legal obligations. Supt. Maure stressed that this cautious approach ensures Canada's international credibility and safeguards individuals from harm.

Should Canada establish a foreign intelligence collection service?

Supt. Maure noted that Canada's current intelligence framework, involving agencies like CSIS and the RCMP, is adequate but not without challenges. Issues arise from the difficulty of securely sharing intelligence between agencies, which can impede investigations and prosecutions. While acknowledging that a dedicated foreign intelligence service could address some of these challenges, Supt. Maure highlighted the political and logistical complexities involved. He pointed to recent high-profile cases in British Columbia as examples of the delicate balance between transparency, security, and public trust.

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- Intelligence-sharing requires ethical vigilance, as Canadian agencies must ensure that shared information does not contribute to human rights abuses or violate legal obligations.
- Corruption and weak institutions undermine security efforts in countries like Haiti, where addressing the legitimacy gap is essential for sustainable development.
- Domestic interagency collaboration is essential in strengthening regional security, as seen in federal policing initiatives in British Columbia and the Yukon.
- Creating a foreign intelligence service poses opportunities and risks, requiring careful consideration of political, operational, and ethical factors to enhance Canada's security capabilities.

FURTHER READING

Clunis, D. (2024). THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE: CANADIAN POLICING IN THE 21ST CENTURY. *The Journal of Intelligence, Conflict, and Warfare*, 6(3), 161–164.
<https://doi.org/10.21810/jicw.v6i3.6384>

Maure, B. (2020). *Leading at the Edge: True Tales from Canadian Police in Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping Missions Around the World*. Ben Maure.

Phillips, A. (2021). Interagency Collaboration and National Security. *The Journal of Intelligence, Conflict, and Warfare*, 3(3), 168–173.
<https://doi.org/10.21810/jicw.v3i3.2817>



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