

## **Transnational Threats Audit: Information Sharing in the Public/Private Sector Sectors**

With the evolving nature of threats in the post-September 11 environment, both the private and public sectors have adjusted their security priorities to prevent and reduce threats to their interests. To address the urgent issue of information sharing between these sectors—a necessary component of effective national threat analysis, prevention, and reduction—the CSIS Transnational Threats Initiative (TNT) launched its first annual Transnational Threats Audit on February 13.

The off-the-record session provided a platform for 70 Fortune-500 senior corporate security executives and a number of senior national security specialists to examine the impact of transnational threats on the private/public sectors, comparing perceptions and discussing strategies to move the corporate community ahead of the terror curve. The event was built on the momentum already achieved by the International Security Management Association (ISMA), Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), and Law Enforcement and National Security (LENS) through synergistic national security–corporate panel discussions.

Erik Peterson, CSIS Director of Studies, and Robin Niblett, CSIS Executive Vice President, kicked off the conference with a presentation of the CSIS signature project, *Seven Revolutions*, a multimedia presentation identifying and analyzing seven distinct drivers of revolutionary change: population, resource management, technological innovation and diffusion, the generation and distribution of knowledge and information, economic integration, global instability and conflict, and the challenge of governance.

In his keynote remarks FBI Director Robert Mueller discussed the expanding role of the bureau and ways to leverage corporations in intelligence cooperation. Director Mueller, accentuating the need for further collaboration among the FBI, the law enforcement community, and private industry, stated: “what is most important to us is the heightened vigilance that comes from all of us in this room understanding that we all have to be alert to things that are out of the ordinary and...work together to determine whether or not there is something that relates to a threat against our infrastructure, whether it be a terrorist threat, a counterintelligence challenge, or a cyber attack.”

The first panel, comprising CSIS experts Anthony Cordesman, Arleigh Burke Chair in Strategy, Daniel Benjamin, Senior Fellow, and Teresita Schaffer, Director of the South Asia Program, addressed key transnational threats, including an in-depth look at the actors, their motives, and their capabilities.

The second panel addressed corporate views and approaches to threats with highlights of current corporate strategies from Brian Jenkins of Rand, Neil Gallagher of Bank of America, and Ronald Marks of Syntegra Federal. During the luncheon session Ambassador Paul Bremer touched on the necessity for improved public-private cooperation and the issues facing these two sectors.

The third and final panel featured senior representatives of the U.S. national security community, former Vice Chairman of the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and former U.S. Senator Warren Rudman, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations & Low-Intensity Conflict H. Allen Holmes, and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics Jonathan Winer. The panelists discussed ways to resolve gaps in threat perceptions and reduce public/private sector vulnerabilities.

The Transnational Threats Audit is overseen by an advisory group consisting of 20-plus senior corporate security executives and policy officials. The advisory group, cochaired by Carol Hallett, former President and CEO of the Air Transportation Association, and Robert Littlejohn, Vice President for Global Security, Avon Products, provides strategic direction to the Transnational Threats Audit. The group, which will closely monitor various analytic reports and other initiatives associated with the audit, met on the eve of the conference with ranking government representatives, Admiral Steven Abbot, acting director of the White House Office of Homeland Security, Commissioner Robert Bonner, U.S. Customs Service, and Frank Cilluffo, Special Assistant to the President, Office of Homeland Security.

The group plans to meet again in early spring to review the audit’s report, scheduled for publication in Summer 2003. Under the leadership of Arnaud de Borchgrave, CSIS Senior Adviser, the TNT team intends to work closely with the advisory group as it meets with government representatives to improve coordination in information and intelligence sharing between the public and private sectors and engages in related substantive policy issues such as domestic security and international cooperation.