CONFRONTING HYBRID THREATS — FRAGMENTATION AND RESHAPING OF REAL AND VIRTUAL NON-STATE THREATS

This Advanced Research Workshop (ARW) intended to shape strategic debate on the crucial junction between three main topics: strategies against evolving armed radicalism; terrorist funding as a lynchpin between extremism and armed operations; and integrating operationally Countering Violent Extremism (CVE). The workshop resulted in guidelines, a political summary to give direct support to delegations, and advice for a more integrated and efficient way to staunch the threat of terrorism. The workshop took place in December 2019 in Rome. This activity is led by Italy, Switzerland and Morocco [ref. G5598].

MOBILE ADAPTIVE/REACTIVE COUNTER UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM (MARCUS)

This ongoing Multi-Year Project (MYP) was launched in November 2018, and aims to develop technology to address current and future low-slow-small (LSS) threats to national security posed by unmanned aerial systems (UAS). The project will make use of both airborne and stationary/mobile ground-based sensors to increase situational awareness, and to efficiently neutralize LSS threats. This project is led by the United States of America and Switzerland [ref. G5568].
DETECTION, DIAGNOSIS AND HEALTH CONCERNS OF TOXIC CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL AGENTS

This Advanced Study Institute (ASI) brought together leading experts in the fields of modern molecular analysis and biological/health effects of warfare/toxic chemical and biological warfare agents. It introduced the “bioterrorism concept” to Ph.D. and postgraduate participants. This ASI presented the fundamental aspects and applications of molecular technologies, especially mass spectrometry, for the detection of chemical and biological agents, and for the assessment of their effects on human cells. The course consisted of lectures and small group discussions, and heavily involved young scientists and experts starting out in these respective fields. It took place in September/October 2019 in Siena, Italy. 

This ASI is led by Canada and Switzerland [ref. G5535].

LARGE SCALE COLLABORATIVE DETECTION AND LOCATION OF THREATS IN THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPACE

This MYP launched in 2018 with the objective of creating the foundations for an accurate, autonomous, fast and secure system that identifies intruders and attackers in the electromagnetic space, before the threat becomes serious. The system also learns about the characteristics of the threat (physical layer features) and its geographic location, and provides this information to the appropriate authorities, law enforcement agencies and decision makers. The system will be built upon the current Electrosense system (electrosense.org), initiative led by the members of this project, which uses low-cost spectrum sensors. The first generation of these sensors is already operational, both for research and for providing a first set of applications to end users and stakeholders. 

This project is led by Switzerland, Spain and Belgium [ref. G5461].

SHARING GOOD PRACTICE ON THE HANDLING OF GENDER-RELATED COMPLAINTS IN THE ARMED FORCES

An important barrier to women’s retention and equal participation in the armed forces is gender-based discrimination, harassment and abuse. This ARW allowed for the sharing of good practices in handling gender-related complaints in the armed forces. The event brought together experts from 30 NATO and partner nations in November 2015. One of the outputs of the workshop is a handbook focusing specifically on preventing, responding to and monitoring complaints, which will serve as a resource for national armed forces and defence ministries. 

This activity was organised by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) in Switzerland and the Parliamentary Ombudsman for the Norwegian Armed Forces [ref. G4959].

Workshop participants in Geneva