

INFORMATION PAPER

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SUBJECT: Army Web Risk Assessment Cell (AWRAC)

1. Purpose. To provide guidance on the mission of the Army Web Risk Assessment Cell
2. Facts: The AWRAC mission is to search DoD Websites and unofficial sites related to the Army for information and trends of data that could be used to breach security or pose a threat to defensive and offensive operations and military personnel. In addition, AWRAC evaluates website content to ensure compliance with departmental policies, federal regulations and procedures, and industry best practices. The AWRAC's core mission consists of website patrolling, bulk analysis, and operational security analysis.
3. AWRAC was established in February 2002 with one full-time person to review official Army (.mil) sites for possible OPSEC violations. The mission was expanded in June 2002 to include all .mil sites, including those with restricted domains. An Al Qaeda training manual recovered in Manchester, England, in 2003 stated that "using public sources openly and without restoring to illegal means, it is possible to gather at least 80% of information about the enemy."
4. AWRAC was added to AR 25-1 (Army Policy on Website Management) in June 2004. AWRAC's mission was expanded in August 2005 by the Army Chief of Staff to include scans of unofficial weblogs (blogs) which contained information concerning the Army, available to the public and found on the internet. AWRAC scans numerous sites, such as Family Support Group websites, unofficial Army websites posted by service members and other items found on the web, i.e., unpublished doctoral dissertations. The publication of DA Pam 25-1-1 (Information Technology Support and Services) in November 2005, required all individuals appointed to be Web masters/maintainers, reviewers, and content managers to complete training and certification, as necessary, equal to the duties assigned to them. The training site is located at: <https://iatraining.us.army.mil>.
5. Using the webcrawler program Watchfire, AWRAC analysts perform site-by-site, page-by-page evaluation of Department of the Army (DA) website content and unofficial sites. Using a browser, Operations Security (OPSEC) guidance, a web crawling software, and a list of target websites, monitors visit each DA Website and manually evaluate the content of each page on the site for inappropriate links to commercial, personal and classified sites, as well as for OPSEC violations.
6. AWRAC currently employs four full-time analysts, and coordinates for support from Army National Guard and Reserve soldiers to conduct analyses during their drill weekends and annual training. Analysts review sites, and contact webmasters or bloggers if a potential threat is found. AWRAC also supports a website on Army Knowledge Online at [https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal.do?\\$p=254224](https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal.do?$p=254224) to provide information on AWRAC issues.

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