**WHO CAN YOU TRUST?**

**ASSESSING CANADIAN POLICE-MILITARY COLLABORATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

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ABSTRACT: Teamwork among police and soldiers in an emergency can be far from ideal, according to a study by the Canada Forces College for National Defence Canada. In 2008, the authors commenced an empirical study of collaborative experiences between the two institutions involving several police middle managers representing (#) police services across Canada. The research question investigated whether any attitudes or behaviours existed amongst policing personnel that might raise social or cognitive barriers to collaboration with military personnel in a public safety context in future. The authors employed the institutional analysis model of American sociologist W. Richard Scott to qualitatively assess the regulative, normative and cognitive-cultural similarities and differences between the two institutions. Scott’s work focuses on how organizational members shape their rules and prescriptions to gain or maintain legitimacy and how certain structural undercurrents or pressures affect the rationality of their decision making in times of change. The study results reinforce the perceptions of Scott that institutional change affects organizations on three levels: functional, social, and political. A decade after this fieldwork was commissioned, this paper takes this examination into the era of artificial intelligence and raises the issue of trust as a key impediment to collaboration between institutions and between humans and machines.

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