Situational Awareness for Project Management (Security Style)

Project management is a function that all managers do either as a daily task or consider and acknowledge the title when a special project must be undertaken. Let us consider a project as a clock. Each function designated to a person is a cog. If the cogs do not work in sequence – the clock, simply will not work.

Multi-cultures working on projects could fail for numerous reasons pertaining to behaviour and communication [1] (Sharma. V, (2016), [2]Farah & Vuniqi (2012*)*, [3]Onal & Endsley (2012), Vardaan Sharma (2016). In this work, we add that distinct cultures could misinterpret , be offended by others or could be racist or biased [4] Nickerson (1998), and therefore project could fail when people cannot work in harmony

Security projects could involve life impacting or life & death situations and therefore is key to a successful project. The project transparency and accountability success will depend on the level of situational awareness of the decision makers on the ground and reaction speed.
The success of any project will depend on reliable and all the information to start with. There must be consistent flow of correct and transparent information all the time during the project until completion because any actions based on insufficient information will deliver collateral damage.

[1] Vardaan Sharma (2016)
[1]Farah & Vuniqi (2012*)*

Onah & Endsley (2012) *Requirements and Design for Cultural Awareness*
[4] Nickerson (1998)

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Project Brief

The manager is briefed on the project. Perhaps, the manager is not totally clear on the brief, or is provided insufficient information for whatever reason. It is up to the project manager to ensure that they gather reliable and all the information for the project before embarking to selecting the right people that will participate. If the initial brief does not contain accurate and sufficient information and the manager finds issues, then, the manager must explore the reasons why this has taken place. Could the project be sabotaged from the beginning with lack of information or misinformation, doomed to fail and for what reason?

A project is only as good as its people. People may not be forthcoming with information. People do lie, hide or volunteer information for their own agenda. How do we know that we are placing the right people in the right position for the right reason at the right time?
Capable; They may say that they can do the job, but in-fact are chancing it for their own agenda.

Accurate reporting - There may be someone that indicates that they have completed their portion of the project and ready to advance to the next stage but may be lying when asked by the project manager. They may not be lying because they want to sabotage the project but simply because they are embarrassed about something they did nor did not do. They may be hiding something or volunteering information for some reason such as protecting others.

Situation: Understanding the situation must take all into consideration based on historic data, current challenges and especially the X Factor which are issues that the manager is unaware of. This is the biggest nightmare – not knowing what is truly going on under the manager's nose. It is possible that distinct cultures could be working together. In the issues and impact of behaviour and communication [5]Vardaan Sharma (2016) outlines major problems.

Position: Decisions based on inaccurate or insufficient information will lead to collateral damage

Implications: Project failure, Loss of funding, lives impacted or death

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