PUZZLE

The topic of technology and war is broad but what is missing is a scientific discussion about how emerging technologies are going to impact the individual soldier. The Centre for International and Defence Policy (CIDP) at Queen's University is leading a project called The Future Canadian Soldier and Enhancement of Human Performance to focus on the question of how science and technology can enhance our soldiers, while not losing sight of the ethical, social and policy implications of these enhancements. After coorganizing thematic workshops, both scholars and practitioners realized the urgency of bringing this debate to government and military stakeholders because advances in rehabilitation have a clear dual-use for enhancement.

Policy Brief: The Future of the Canadian Soldier and Enhancement of Human Performance

H. Christian Breede, Sara Greco, and Stéfanie von Hlatky

BACKGROUND

In September 2015 and June 2016, participants from different professional sectors convened in Kingston to investigate the policy trade-offs linked to human performance enhancement (HPE) in the armed forces. Participants debated the merits and implications of such enhancements on the solider, the mission, and society at large. The birth and development of this project has been made possible through cosponsorship between the CIDP and the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research (CIMVHR), as well as generous grants from the Department of National Defence's (DND) Defence Engagement Program (DEP) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). This partnership facilitated the creation of a network called the HPE Group, with individuals from academic,