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Various-Actionable Intelligence Techniques

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Outline

Thesis: The usage of various intelligence techniques is vital, in order to achieve mission success

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Abstract

Information is power. This sentence is the foundation of my argumentative essay. During my essay I will explore the importance of military intelligence, its history; I will introduce the different intelligence forms, used by military units. I will cover some specific examples, introduced by H100 to analyze the efficacy of various techniques used by military units to obtain actionable intelligence in order to achieve mission success. Moreover I will talk about the factors that provide the greatest obstacles to gain exploitable intelligence. Last but not least I will identify the techniques that I believe will most help American Soldiers obtain actionable intelligence in the contemporary operating environment.

Introduction

Military intelligence is a military regulation that is based on the collecting, protection, analysis, and distribution of information on the enemy, area, and weather conditions in a location of operation. We can find intelligence actions at all levels from strategic to tactical throughout war and peacetime. The majority of militaries sustain military intelligence units with particular components for gathering information in exact ways. Armed forces have intelligence staff individuals at all level above battalion size units. Intelligence officers and NCOs are selected for their logical and systematical abilities or results from intelligence tests. Normally they get training in this regulation.

Importance of Military intelligence

As I mentioned in my abstract, information is power and all level of military leaders knows it. To accomplish the mission it is necessary to have all the required information. The way and form that military leaders try to gather this information can be different using different intelligence elements to use unsupported techniques.

History

The history of the Military intelligence dates back to the creation of the first organized military units. Military leaders at all levels always tried to get advantages in their fight by knowing more about the enemy, its weaknesses, and strong points. Military leaders further tried to know more, about the best places to fight the battles, the terrain and so on. In the beginning they formed small units called scout, these units functioned as the intelligence elements.

The Revolutionary War, with the manifestation of the Continental Army in 1775, is the foundation of American military history; however several of its contributors were hardened in

the French and Indian War. Mean while, the British Army created a Department of Military Knowledge in 1803 to gather terrain and Order of Battle information on possible enemies. No institute existed in the U.S. Army until 1885.

During their meeting, President Cleveland wanted Gen. R.C. Drum, to provide him some routine information. Drum felt uncomfortable because he couldn't answer; afterward he created the Military Information Division. It rose from one officer and four clerks in 1889 to 52 officers, 12 clerks, and 16 attaches. It gathered and stored substances on topography, different militaries, and provided directions to the attaches. Its greatest accomplishment was gathering information on military abilities and forces of Samoa, Mexico and Cuba. It assisted in the Spanish-American War of 1898.

The creation of the first operational and tactical field intelligence was throughout the Philippine War of 1899-1902. In order to fight against the insurgents, the Army separated the intelligence units into small bases in the region of the Philippines. At each base, an officer was in charge to organize the incoming information. They provided help to make graphic representation of their area of maneuvers. Additionally, they collected information on the insurgent. The majority of the information came from deserters, spies, prisoners, or confiscated documents and HUMINT sources. The creation of Military Information Division was in 1900, as a result to centralizing the efforts.

From the creation of the first Military intelligence unit looking at the actual Military intelligence elements we can recognize significant improvements in all areas. Military intelligence units took part in all conflicts that United States had as the Spanish-American war, World War I and II, Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, and last but not least in the Global War against the terrorism. The Military

Intelligence has become an important element of the military organization and play very important role in the today's war.

Various Intelligence techniques

Human Intelligence (HUMINT) is intelligence form based on human sources. It consists of interrogation of civilians and Enemy Prisoner of War (EPWs), rendition of confiscated documents, patrols, Operator (Ops), and forward troops.

Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) is intelligence form based on electrical transmission sources. It includes Communications Intelligence (COMINT) and Electronics Intelligence (ELINT). COMINT is the apprehending, monitoring, and locating of communications means for intelligence. ELINT is the same for non-communications means, i.e., RADAR.

Imagery Intelligence (IMINT) is intelligence form based on photographic, radar, or infrared imagery sources. Clearly this means pictures, but also consists of Ground Surveillance Radar (GSRs) and Night Observation Device (NODs).

All-Source Intelligence (ASI), all of these intelligence regulations have abridgement and strength. By uniting them you can counteract the limitations and develop its strengths. The conception of all-source intelligence is much like joint arms is for combat arms.

Specific examples referred to H100

At the end of the Civil War, the U.S. military paid attention to the border of the country where a different kind of warfare would occupy them for the next part of a century. The conflict of the Indian Wars led forward the resource fullness that would become the trademark of the American Army commander. Usage of Indian Scouts by U.S. Army leaders on the boundary was an example of military intelligence which was in use with creativity and efficiency. A well-known example was the Apache campaign in Arizona and New Mexico between 1862 and 1886. Their

use in Arizona as reconnaissance patrols in the field and spies on the reservations, gave credibility for bringing the renegade Apaches to considerably decrease the Apache operations.

The French-Algerian war from 1954-1962 is the second example for using different Military intelligence techniques. In those days France was at war against the Algerian insurgents that generally used violence against French populace in Algeria and against Arabs as well. The French measured Algeria as a part of France, not a colony, and more than a million French people lived there. The menace of terrorism intended for the French people was regular and the government decided that this justified the use of all available means to destroy the insurgents. Use of torture to gather information from prisoners became a well used practice of the French Military intelligence units. The French command knew and accepted of the practice. French officials, as well as Interior Minister Francois Mitterrand, who later became the President of France, were aware that torture and in some case the executions were systematically used by French units in Algeria.

The most favored intelligence techniques

However the HUMINT as an intelligence element has a long history in the U.S military history, it has improved greatly and has become the most favored military intelligence technique, and the reasons are complex.

There are no high equipment requirements; it can be used in all weather condition, and it is one of the cheapest intelligence forms. The HUMINT units showed significant successfulness in all campaigns that United States took part.

With the technological improvement the SIGINT and IMINT intelligence elements have also become favored intelligence techniques. These techniques provided excellent power for the military forces to accomplish their missions.

Obstacle factors of Military Intelligence

There are a lot of obstacles which factor into Military Intelligence to obtain actionable intelligence. Each of the intelligence elements has different problems. The first thing we have to mention is the terrain condition. The terrain conditions can make the work of the intelligence unit to hard. As the urbanization, forests, and mountains are the targets in an open or crowded place. The weather conditions also great obstacle factors. Majority of the technical intelligence equipments depend on the weather conditions.

The human factor of the given target can be a problem too. The attitude of the local population is an important factor, all levels of intelligence units have to pay attention for it. The language is also an obstacle factor, mainly in the joint operations. The Global War against the terrorism has spread on all over the world. The education and the usage of common language for the allied forces are necessary to accomplish the mission, also the usage of educated and trustworthy interpreters.

Last, but not least, the flexibility of the leadership. The commanders must be ready to change the regulations if they do not serve the mission success. For example, in 2004 when the European Forces (EUFOR) replaced the Stabilization Forces (SFOR) in Bosnia, it was not allowed for the EUFOR HUMINT operators to wear civilian clothes during their missions. This was one reason why they lost so many good contacts.

Future effectiveness of intelligence techniques

All intelligence techniques are a part of a system which provided assistance to the commanders in the mission success. I think using all intelligence elements is indispensable to be effective in the battle or in any given mission. It is more important that the intelligence units be ready for the challenges of the future. As we can see the Global War on terrorism has spread out

all over the world and the enemy is at the gate. The intelligence elements have the mission to take advance on the enemy, before the enemy executes their missions.

Conclusion

Military Intelligence plays an important role in the structure of the Military. If we take a look back to the past we can recognize that all successful military leaders used different intelligence techniques, as covered by the H100 class too. I think there is no sequence between the intelligence elements, when we talk about that which techniques will help U.S. Soldiers to gain actionable intelligence in the present-day operating environment? Everything is acceptable, that helps us to accomplish the mission and that save our Soldiers lives.

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