

INFORMATION RESEARCH/COLLECTION GUIDE FOR ANALYSIS AND
BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT OF ADVERSARY/OTHER ACTORS

1. Describe and, as possible, characterize what is known of actor/group:
 - a. Values/value hierarchy (e.g., cultural, social, personal, professional/vocational, ideological/political, spiritual or transcendental)
 - b. Beliefs (core beliefs, and/or Worldview, as distinguished from values and attitudes). Beliefs are what the actor/group ACCEPTS as real or true, and enduring; these may not have a factual basis.
 - c. Main (especially current) Interests (economic, political, geographic/territorial, security concerns, socio-cultural, existential matters)
 - d. Role of actor (in society, culture, group, institution, religion, politics, governance, military system, insurgency, terrorist organization...)

2. Find information and assessments on actor/group:
 - a. Perceptions and/or Attitudes (on the issue or situation, the U.S. and our actions/intentions, about relevant "others"...))
 - b. Key factors for decision making (process or contextual factors, advisors/experts, approach or style)
 - c. Capabilities for planning or undertaking violent behavior (course of action development, targeting, attack methods, clandestine or counter-state infrastructure, coercive measures...)

3. Develop initial hypotheses about actor/group:
 - a. Long term goals
 - b. Shorter term objectives
 - c. Probable Intentions
 - d. Likely range of behaviors (within capabilities possessed or under development; aligned with values and objectives)

4. Give preliminary consideration to ways and means to “influence” actor/group behavior (e.g., deter, dissuade, stop, change, induce...)

a. Political/diplomatic

b. Information operations/strategic communications (“soft power” tools, perception management...)

c. Economic or financial

d. Intelligence activities or operations

e. Military means or methods

f. Other (persuasion; personal/social connections; hold values at risk; etc.)

Research suggestions:

1. Begin with socio-cultural information, as it is most readily obtained, and is essential for insights into the cultural and personal context.

2. Look at what is known of actor/group’s behavioral history, for clues as to habits, preferences, capabilities/competencies, and past modes of action

3. Try to discover what constraints exist on behavioral choices in physical/location, capabilities, resources, cultural imperatives, social mores, personal/group limitations, and external factors (e.g., politics, adversaries, information access, experience, etc.)

4. Evaluate all information sources for access, credibility, reliability, bias; compare sources and try to determine why they may differ.

5. Decide what can NOT be known through research and make, and state, necessary assumptions before beginning initial, systematic analysis

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September, 2007