Joint Publication 2-0

Joint Intelligence

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2. The Purposes of Joint Intelligence

The primary function of joint intelligence is to provide information and assessments to facilitate accomplishment of the mission. This function is supported by more-specific "purposes of joint intelligence" (described below) to guide the intelligence directorate of a joint staff (J-2) staff and those of supporting organizations (see Figure I-2).

a. **Inform the Commander.** The J-2 directly supports the joint force commander (JFC) in planning, transitioning from planning to operations, and conducting assessment of those operations. The J-2 analyzes the adversary and other relevant aspects of the operational environment, and produces threat assessments on a continuing basis to support the commander in creating and/or exploiting opportunities to accomplish friendly force objectives. To maintain the initiative, the JFC will seek to understand and potentially influence the adversary's decision-making process (i.e., the JFC will seek new and accurate intelligence that will enable friendly forces to take effective action faster than the adversary). The J-2 must assess the characteristics of the adversary's decision-making process and identify weaknesses that may be exploited. The J-2 must ensure this critical intelligence is appropriately disseminated in a timely manner to the JFC, staff, and components.

b. **Identify, Define, and Nominate Objectives.** All aspects of military planning are dependent on the determination of clearly defined, achievable, and measurable objectives. In the process of identifying and nominating objectives, the J-2 should understand the command's responsibilities; the JFC's mission and intent; means available, including host nation and multinational forces, interagency partners, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs); the adversary; weather; and characteristics of the operational area. Intelligence should provide the commander with an understanding of the adversary's probable intention, objectives, strengths, weaknesses, critical vulnerabilities, human factors, and COAs to include most dangerous COA and most likely COA. The J-2 also recommends objectives based on adversary critical capabilities, requirements, and vulnerabilities;

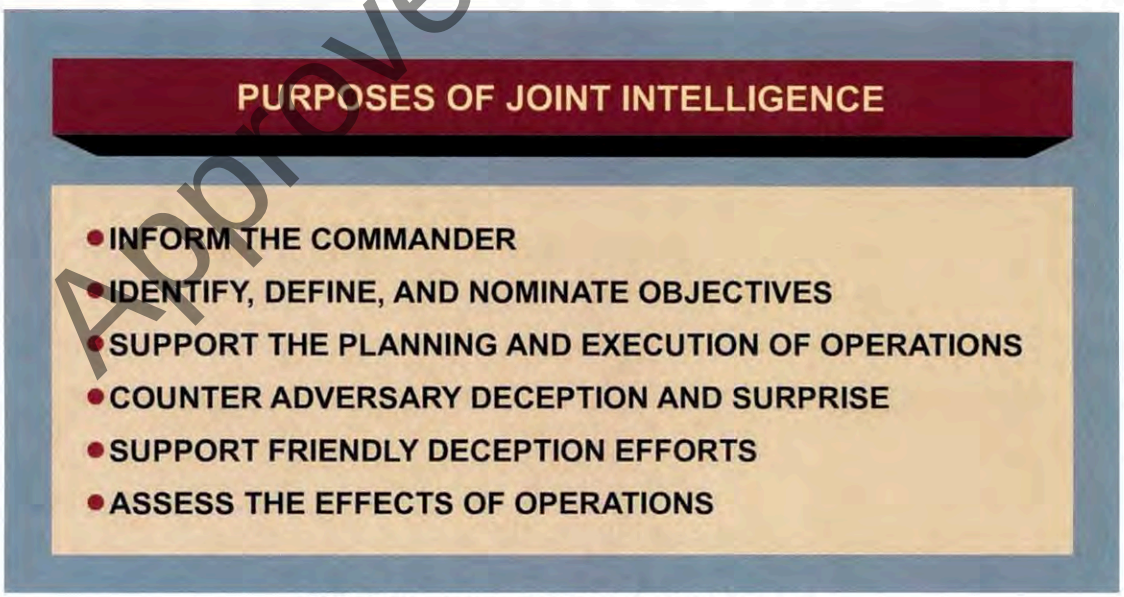

Figure I-2. Purposes of Joint Intelligence

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centers of gravity (COGs); and likely COAs. Once these objectives are approved by the commander, the J-2 must continuously review them with respect to the adversary and the changing situation to determine whether they remain relevant to the commander's intent.

c. **Support the Planning and Execution of Operations.** Commanders and staffs at all levels of command require intelligence for planning, directing, conducting, and assessing operations once the objectives, nature, and scope of military operations have been determined by the JFC. This intelligence is crucial to commanders, staffs, and components in identifying and selecting specific objectives and targets with desired and undesired effects, and in determining the means, operations, and tactics to be used in achieving the JFC's overall mission. The J-2 then supports the execution of the plan with the strategic, operational, and tactical intelligence needed to sustain the operation, attain joint force objectives, and support force protection.

d. **Counter Adversary Deception and Surprise.** The method by which J-2s and the intelligence staffs of supporting organizations approach collection, analysis, and dissemination will, to a large extent, determine friendly force vulnerability to adversary deception efforts. Despite the apparent weight of evidence and decision-making predisposition, intelligence analysts must remain sensitive to the possibility that they are being deceived and should consider all possible adversary capabilities and intentions. Similarly, analytical approaches that emphasize anomalies characterized by a lack of activity (e.g., absence of seasonal training, important persons missing from ceremonial events) are particularly valuable. To counter adversary deception efforts, intelligence analysts must confirm their analysis using multiple collection sources and proven analytical methods and processes (e.g., use of red teams, devil's advocates, alternative hypotheses).

e. **Support Friendly Deception Efforts.** Attacking the mind of the adversary – to mislead, delude, or create uncertainty – helps to achieve security and surprise. Intelligence supports effective friendly information operations, especially military deception, through human factors analysis of the adversary leadership, assessing their beliefs, information environment, and decision-making processes. The J-2 also conducts assessments to determine how the adversary is reacting to the friendly deception effort. The process of identifying deception objectives to complement operational objectives should be an interactive process, with the commander in a central role orchestrating the efforts of operations and intelligence resources.

f. **Assess the Effects of Operations.** Intelligence helps evaluate military operations by assessing their impact on the adversary and other relevant aspects of the operational environment with respect to the JFC's intent and objectives. Intelligence should assist JFCs in determining if operations are producing desired or undesired effects, when objectives have been attained, and when unforeseen opportunities can be exploited or require a change in planned operations to respond to adversary (enemy) actions.

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