
New plan to enhance intel

AIA incorporates Army intel concept into Air Force doctrine

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The Air Force is in the initial stages of adapting the Army's Intelligence Preparation of the Battlespace methodology into Air Force doctrine to evolve the intelligence process and enhance battlespace awareness.

The Air Intelligence Agency plans to incorporate IPB as a predictive analysis tool to achieve Air Force and Joint Visions for the 21st century. As the office of primary responsibility, AIA will publish an instruction to establish guidance based on Joint and Air Force doctrine for employing IPB.

IPB adoption into Air Force doctrine and training will enhance intelligence analysis for the commander's decision-making process. The Air Force will employ IPB to enhance its core competencies and contribute to achieving full spectrum dominance.

The move from service-oriented missions to joint operations has made the battlespace more complex. IPB will help decision makers analyze the battlespace by focusing resources against enemy centers of gravity while protecting our own centers of gravity and the information infrastructure that holds these centers together.

IPB begins in the planning and direction phase of the intelligence

cycle when multiple source information is fused through analysis, interpretation and correlation activities. It will maximize the commander's available resources by reducing duplication of effort.

IPB products are continuously evaluated and updated to ensure their timeliness, accuracy, utility, completeness and relevancy. In the future, products will be produced to train and equip Air Force personnel for joint, combined and coalition operations.

The commander requires intelligence in peacetime and at all levels of war in a format that is useful for decision-making. The IPB process is proven, standardized and continuous.

IPB reduces uncertainties concerning the enemy, environment and terrain for all types of operations. IPB also constructs an extensive database to determine the impact of the enemy, environment and battlespace on friendly operations, and presents it in a written or graphic format. IPB has the potential to assemble the vast array of available information into a coherent picture, reducing uncertainty and enhancing situational awareness.

IPB is used to analyze land, sea, air, space, information and human

dimensions of the battlespace. It can determine an adversary's capabilities to operate in these environments. The most current information available regarding the adversary situation and the battlespace environment is integrated into the IPB databases.

Since it is both a continuous and cyclical process, the IPB process must be conducted both prior to and during military operations. IPB must also plan for the next operation or contingency.

Define environment

This first step focuses on defining the limits of the battlespace as determined by the command's area of operations, mission and area of interest.

IPB examines the area of operations for significant characteristics that could affect the command and its mission. The dimensions of the battlespace are determined by looking beyond the area of operations and area of interest, to consider elements such as space, the electromagnetic spectrum and information requirements.

With the battlespace environment defined, a decision is made on the level of detail required and time available for executing the mission. Data-

bases are analyzed to determine if sufficient information is available and to highlight intelligence gaps for future collection requirements or production.

IPB concentrates intelligence collection on those dimensions and characteristics of the battlespace that have a critical influence on the command's mission and to support the commander's decision-making process.

Analyze battlespace

Second, the battlespace, including terrain, mobility obstacles and weather, must be analyzed to evaluate its effects on military operations, on adversary and friendly capabilities and on adversary and friendly courses of action.

Terrain analysis includes observation, fields of fire, cover and concealment, obstacles, key terrain and avenues of approach. These aspects contribute to the construction of a modified combined obstacle overlay, which gives the commander a graphical depiction of the battlespace, which enhances decision-making and the commander's situational awareness.

Although Army IPB tends to focus on the ground environment, Air Force IPB must analyze the maritime, air, space, information and human dimensions.

The Air Force must collect additional information that may affect military operations including politics, history, health concerns, logistics, infrastructure, demographics and economics. IPB identifies how the battlespace influences friendly and enemy operations.

Know the enemy

The third step determines threat force capabilities, doctrinal principles and adversary tactics, techniques and procedures—in other words: know the enemy.

Graphical depictions of the adversary's doctrine and organization are drawn and written descriptions of adversary tactics and techniques are prepared.

IPB identifies high value targets required by the adversary to successfully complete the mission.

Next, the current adversary situation is determined through careful and detailed analysis of their order of battle, highlighting the adversary's strengths and weaknesses and identifying the adversary's capabilities.

The desired outcome is to know the enemy and develop threat models to represent how the adversary normally execute operations and how they have reacted in the past to similar situations. IPB then predicts current adversary capabilities.

Course of action

The last step examines the courses of action available to an adversary to achieve a desired end-state. IPB employs predictive analysis techniques to identify the most likely enemy objective and the potential courses of action available to achieve that objective.

Intelligence analysts then prioritize the most likely courses of action to identify key indicators that might reveal adversary intentions. Collection managers use these key indicators to task collection systems to determine which course of action the adversary is pursuing.

Two IPB products created are the situation and event templates.

The situation template depicts enemy dispositions given a particular course of action, whereas the event template is used as a guide for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance planning.

The event template depicts locations where critical events and activities are expected to occur and where critical targets might appear for all identified courses of action. Event templates depict, among other, time phase lines and named areas of interest.

Advantages

First, IPB can save time and effort by focusing resources on areas which influence an adversary's courses of action and have a bearing

on the commander's decision-making process.

Second, IPB allows the commander to quickly exploit and deny enemy opportunities to seize the initiative, while at the same time it identifies facts and assumptions for the development of friendly courses of action. IPB also provides a base for intelligence direction and synchronization that supports the commander's campaign plan, allowing for complete staff synchronization.

Finally, IPB is the foundation for preparing intelligence estimates.

Although IPB has great potential, there are still several issues that must be addressed before IPB can be institutionalized into Air Force doctrine.

The U.S. Army designed IPB to focus mainly on close battle, between the forward line of troops and the fire support coordination line, to assist them in defeating an enemy offensive.

Army IPB, as originally developed in the early 1980's, did not address all the dimensions of the battlespace. Air Force IPB must adapt Army IPB processes and methods to conform to Air Force missions and core competencies.

Fundamentally, the Air Force must adapt an essentially two-dimensional paradigm to a three-dimensional battlespace, devising IPB methodologies for counterair, counterspace, theater missile defense, counterinformation and Air Force special operations.

The Air Force is developing automated IPB tools to facilitate and assist in executing IPB. The goal is to automate IPB. Intelligence analysts must be able to perform IPB manually—a bullet through a computer leaves you high-tech junk, but a bullet through a map still leaves you a map.

Many issues must be addressed to incorporate IPB into the Air Force; this is just the tip of the iceberg. IPB enhances your ability to know yourself, know the enemy and know the battlespace. ■