Lesson 3.5e
Analysis of Information Terrain
Lesson Content

• Understanding the peacekeeping information terrain

• Information requirements of the information terrain

• Analysis of the information terrain

• Working with the public information function
Learning Outcomes

• Explain the peacekeeping information terrain

• Describe information requirements for the information terrain

• Apply techniques to analyze the information terrain

• Explain public information function
Understanding Peacekeeping Information Terrain

• Information environment, is where individuals, organizations, systems collect, process, disseminate, or act on information.

• Consists of 3 key elements: actors, resources and the employment of resources by actors to influence others.
Understanding the Peacekeeping Information Terrain

- Resides within air, land, sea and space domains
- 3 interrelated dimensions: physical, informational, and cognitive
- Close relationship with HT and PT
Dimensions of the Information Terrain

**Physical Dimension**
- Information environment overlaps with physical world
- Information systems and networks
- Computers and communications systems and supporting infrastructure

**Informational Dimension**
- Information is collected, processed, stored, disseminated, displayed, protected
- Information itself and the medium
- Links physical and cognitive dimensions
- Where automated decision-making takes place

**Cognitive Dimension**
- Where human decision-making takes place
- Dimensions of intangibles such as morale, public opinion, situational awareness
- Key characters: perceptions, emotions, awareness and understanding
Understanding the Peacekeeping Information Terrain

• Not simple

• Associated technologies accessible to everyone

• Growing information operations (IO) capabilities for actors

• Actors capable of countering UN efforts through propaganda
Learning Activity # 1

Case 1:
In 1994, a radio station, Radio Mille Collines, played a crucial role in launching, inciting and directing the Rwandan genocide and triggered conflict throughout the Great Lakes region.

Instructions:
Discuss how the information terrain of UN peacekeeping operations can impact mandate implementation. You will receive a detailed Handout for use in this case.

Time: Approx. 20 minutes (group discussion)
Information Requirements of the Information Terrain

• Physical properties
• Informational properties
• Cognitive properties
Information Requirements of the Information Terrain

Population/Local Nationals

- How do the local nationals communicate
- How do they influence / advertise
- Any media bias linked to demographics or religion
Information Requirements of the Information Terrain

Host Nation

• How do host nation security forces communicate

• Is this secure

• Do the host nation security forces conduct information operations / influence media or social media
Information Requirements of the Information Terrain

Threat Actors

• How does threat actor communicate?

• Is this secure

• How does threat actor communicate with local nationals

• Does threat actor conduct information operations / influence media or social media
Information Requirements of the Information Terrain

UN Forces

• Collect information from the opponent media

• Exploitation opportunities

• Communicate with local nationals via host nation media or social media

• Conduct information operations / influence media or social media
Learning Activity # 2

Arguments for and against using social media for UNMMIG

1. Situation
Use social media to support the mission by promoting the mission, enhancing communications and sharing information.

2. Instruction
Conduct a short discussion about the Pro’s and Con’s regarding using social media by UNMMIG in Garland.

3. Approx. Time: 20 minutes Group work and discussion
**Analysis Techniques: ASCOPE – PMESII**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas</th>
<th>Political</th>
<th>Military</th>
<th>Economic</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
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- Completed from basic and current intelligence
- What is known become factors for further Analysis;
- What is unknown become Information Requirements

Ongoing process throughout the Mission life cycle
Analysis Techniques: Three Column Format

• Find the known factors

• Drawn from basic and current intelligence:
  – List key physical factors- people, organizations, areas, structures, capabilities
  – List key informational factors- systems, penetration
  – List key cognitive factors- cultural, historical, social
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Deduction</th>
<th>Output</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ron influences Tribal Group A</td>
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## Column Two – Deductions

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<td>IR. What are Ron’s political beliefs? IR. What is Ron’s attitude to the UN? IR,. What is Ron’s attitude to threat group B?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning Activity  # 3

What do you know about your sector (factors)?

What are your unknowns (IR)?

Consider:

  Physical (areas, structures, people, organizations), informational (systems, penetration), cognitive dimensions (how people are influenced)

Approx. Time: 15 min
Information Terrain Mapping

Intelligence staff should consider producing the following overlays:

• Telecommunications infrastructure
• Cell-phone blackspots, internet blackspots
• Locations of group meeting areas
• Pro-UN media and extent of coverage
• Anti-UN media and extent of coverage
• Electromagnetic spectrum usage and overview
Information Terrain Mapping
Support to Public Information Functions

Input / advice in the PI planning process:

• Physical dimension
• Informational dimension
• Cognitive dimension
Learning Activity # 4

Tasks: - IdentifyKnowns
- Identify IRs
- Analyze using 3-column format

Outputs: List of IRs; record of relevant deductions; Terrain overlay.

Tip: Have one-member recording IRs, and another recording deductions; put two students preparing the overlay based on knowns and deductions

Time: 1.5 hours
Take Away

• The success of peacekeeping operations depends on information and information systems

• An effective information strategy is an operational necessity

• Analysis of the information terrain is key to understanding the peacekeeping information environment and decision-making

• Intelligence staff must work closely with the public information function for planning and executing operations