

Homeland Security Intelligence: Perceptions and Uses

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Information vs. Intelligence

- Information is raw data.
 - May be collected openly – from newspapers, the internet, or commercial sources such as airline flight manifest data
 - Or covertly – SIGINT, IMINT, HUMINT.
 - May be useful or not.
- Information becomes ‘intelligence’ when analysis is added.
- Intelligence should be tailored for its consumers
 - Policy makers, military commanders, risk managers

Foreign Intelligence

“Knowledge and foreknowledge of the world around us – the prelude to decision and action by policy makers.”

– Central Intelligence Agency

- Concerned with external threats – particularly military ones.
- Explores intentions and capabilities of adversaries
- Proactive, forward looking

Domestic Intelligence

- Safeguard domestic or internal security
- Supports efforts to counter the danger from *within*.
 - Spies, subversives, criminals, or homegrown terrorists.
- Investigative case bias, retrospective orientation

The National Security Paradigm Changes

- Collapse of the Soviet Union and 9/11 terrorist attacks leads to recognition that transnational threats, such as terrorism, are national security threats.
- Now necessary to:
 - integrate the foreign, military, and domestic dimensions of United States intelligence.
 - “connect the dots” across the foreign-domestic divide.

Homeland Security Intelligence

- No statutory definition.
- But, the Homeland Security Act defines *homeland security information* as:
 - “any information possessed by a federal, state, or local agency that:
 - (a) is related to the threat of terrorist activity,
 - (b) relates to the ability to prevent, interdict or disrupt terrorist activity,
 - (c) would improve the identification or investigation of a suspected terrorist or terrorist organization; or
 - (d) would improve the response to a terrorist act.”

“...it’s not only about spies and satellites.”

“Intelligence is about the thousands and thousands of routine, everyday observations and activities. Surveillance, interactions—each of which may be taken in isolation as not a particularly meaningful piece of information, but when fused together, gives us a sense of the patterns and the flow that really is at the core of what intelligence analysis is all about...”

– Michael Chertoff

Former Secretary of Homeland Security

Homeland Security Intelligence

- Derived from a variety of collection methods and a combination of foreign and domestic sources.
 - Technical specifications of roadside bomb in Iraq
 - Intercepted cell phone call
 - Border crossing or cargo shipment data
 - Interview with foreign merchant seaman
 - Critical infrastructure data

Homeland Security Intelligence



Information Sharing

- The fusion and analysis of homeland security information shared among and by Federal, state, local, and tribal organizations help produce relevant intelligence:
 - Intelligence Community products at an accessible classification level.
 - Suspicious activity reporting from state and local law enforcement
 - Records of local police encounters

A Working Definition...

- Homeland security intelligence is “all-source” intelligence:
 - derived from foreign and domestic sources:
 - Law enforcement
 - Intelligence
 - Non-traditional
 - collected through open and clandestine means.

The Homeland Security Intelligence “Community of Interest”

- Owners and operators of the nation’s critical infrastructure facilities and key resources
- State, local, and tribal governments
- Federal agencies:
 - National Counterterrorism Center
 - FBI
 - DHS
 - Others

Uses for Homeland Security Intelligence

- Provide Warning
- Disrupt terrorist plots
- Enhance existing defensive security measures
- Identify trends and emerging threats
- Inform risk management decision making
 - Prioritization of protected assets
 - Allocation of finite security resources
 - Development of sustainable security capabilities

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