



U.S. Intelligence: An Introduction
2-day Course
Description, Learning Objectives, Schedule

Description & Learning Objectives

U.S. Intelligence: An Introduction provides a broad overview of the roles, functions, activities and current issues facing the U.S. Intelligence Community. This course is specifically designed to provide government, military, academic, and contractor professionals working with the Intelligence Community a firm basis for understanding the Community's roles, needs and culture and the issues that they are facing today as the Community deals with a new structure and new threats. This course places special emphasis on the ongoing changes in U.S. Intelligence and the issues that these changes raise, and the changes that have been implemented since 2001 and how they are progressing. The 2-day course is comprised of the following core modules with associated learning objectives, each of which helps meet the needs noted above:

- *Legal Basis & Budgeting:* the laws and executive orders that govern U.S. intelligence and the structure of the budget, including the makeup of the two main components, the National Intelligence Program (NIP) and the Military Intelligence Program (MIP). The Learning Objectives include understanding the laws that govern U.S. intelligence structure and activities and understanding the basic composition of both parts of the intelligence budget, as well as major sub-components of the budget.
- *Structure & Missions:* the key organizing and methodological principles that guide the structure and function of the Intelligence Community; the role and function of each of the main agencies and of the DNI; and the issues that continue to be problematic in managing U.S. intelligence. The Learning Objectives include understanding the various types of functions carried out in U.S. intelligence (analysis, operational, acquisition) and the roles played by each of the major intelligence agencies, the inherent issue of coordination, and a sense of how the DNI is faring.
- *National Security Threats in the 21st Century:* what are the main policy issues that drive U.S. intelligence; the role of the National Intelligence Priorities Framework (NIPF); the intelligence implications of the main policy issues (including terrorism, WMD, failed states; military deployments, et al.); and the role of opportunity analysis. The Learning Objectives include understanding the key issues that currently concern policy makers and how these concerns are then translated into intelligence problem sets, many of which the students will be dealing with.



- *Collection:* we review the strengths and weaknesses of each of the collection disciplines (HUMINT, GEOINT, SIGINT, MASINT, OSINT), the intelligence issues (as discussed in the previous module) for which they are each best suited, and Community collection management issues. The Learning Objectives include understanding how the various INTs work, which agencies are responsible for them and the relative strengths and weaknesses of each INT.
- *Covert action:* formally, “activities of the United States Government to influence political, economic, or military conditions abroad” is among the most controversial activities undertaken by the Intelligence Community. Covert action raises issues of legal authorities, roles and missions, Congressional oversight and ethical and moral standards. This module discusses these various issues as well as the types of activities usually conducted as covert action, with historic examples. The Learning Objectives include understanding the legal basis and authorities for covert action; the concept of “plausible deniability”; and the types of activities that fall under the term “covert action.”
- *Intelligence Analysis:* the key issues driving US intelligence analysis, including policy maker focus, workforce issues, and the continuing legacy of 9/11 and Iraq WMD. The Learning Objectives include achieving a better understanding of the stresses, strengths and weaknesses inherent in intelligence analysis.
- *Congress & the Intelligence Community:* what is the role of Congress in intelligence; how intelligence oversight has developed; key intelligence issues between Congress and the Executive branch. The Learning Objectives emphasize a better appreciation of the legitimate role Congress plays in determining U.S. intelligence policy, as well as the political factors that come into play.
- *Cyber: An Introduction:* Cyber has moved to the top of the national security agenda. This module offers an introduction to some of the historical, policy, legal and intelligence issues related to cyber. The Learning Objective is to give the students a better context in which to think about cyber issues, without the attendant hype, and how they might best be handled.

We incorporate threat and collection exercises into the 2-day course. These are particularly useful in helping the students to begin applying their knowledge to real problems.



Schedule

Day 1

0800-0845 Course Overview, Introductions and Pre-Course Test
0845-0945 Module 1 – Legal Basis & Budgeting
0945-1000 Break
1000-1100 Module 2 – Structure & Missions
1100-1115 Break
1115-1215 Module 3 – National Security Threats in the 21st Century
1215-1315 Break for Lunch
1315-1415 Threat Exercise – Reading and Presentation Preparation
1415-1430 Break
1430-1530 Module 4 – Collection
1530-1545 Wrap-Up

Day 2

0800-0900 Threat Exercise Presentations
0900-1000 Module 5 – Covert Action
1000-1015 Break
1015-1130 Module 6 – Intelligence Analysis
1130-1230 Break for Lunch
1230-1330 Module 7 – Congress & the Intelligence Community
1330-1430 Module 8 – Cyber: An Introduction
1430-1445 Break
1445-1530 Collection Exercise
1530-1600 Post-Course Test, Wrap-Up