Appendix D

To procure a copy of Open *Source Intelligence (OSINT) Link Directory*
Contact ben.benavides@gmail.com

According to the NATO Open Source Intelligence Handbook, November 2001, there are four distinct categories of open source information and intelligence.

1) Open Source Data (OSD). Data is the raw print, broadcast, oral debriefing, or other form of information from a primary source. It can be a photograph, a tape recording, a commercial satellite image, or a personal letter from an individual. A god example is a reporter embedded with forces in Afghanistan or Iraq. He/she is taking pictures, talking to soldiers, recording conversations and firefights, and taking notes with a pen or pencil. This is considered raw data until it goes through a conversion process to create a coherent product.

2) Open Source Information (OSI). OSI is comprised of the raw data that can be put together, generally by an editorial process that provides some filtering and validation as well as presentation management. OSI is generic information that is usually widely disseminated. Newspapers, books, broadcasts, and general daily reports are part of the OSI world. An example is a reporter embedded with forces who takes the raw data and converts it into a meaningful article that is printed in newspapers, magazines or broadcasted over the air waves. OSI is what a Soldier would purchase at the bookstore inside the Post Exchange in the form of USA Today or Newsweek.

3) Open Source Intelligence (OSINT). OSINT is information that has been deliberately discovered, discriminated, distilled, and disseminated to a select audience, generally the commander and his/her immediate staff, in order to address a specific question. In the case of a battlefield commander, it would more than likely be answering the priority intelligence requirements (PIR) or specific orders or requests (SOR). OSINT, in other words, applies the proven process of intelligence to the broad diversity of open sources of information, and creates intelligence. Example: The meaningful article above (OSI) that was created from raw data is used to support an operation. It's quite possible that a photo accompanying the article may be of a house known to harbor insurgents. The photo in the article identifies the location and now can be used to support a tailored operation to attack the insurgents.

4) Validated OSINT (OSINT-V). OSINT-V is information to which a very high degree of certainty can be attributed. It can only be produced by an all-source intelligence professional, with access to classified intelligence sources, whether working for a nation or for a coalition staff. It can also come from an assured open source to which no question can be raised concerning its validity (live video of an aircraft arriving at an airport that is broadcast over the media). OSINT-V is OSINT for which there are either confirming or unavailable classified sources or there are no available classified sources disputing OSINT. OSINT-V is produced only when the analyst has access to classified sources.

How To Use Open Source Intelligence

By eHow Culture & Society Editor

http://www.ehow.com/how_2126848_use-open-source-intelligence.html

Open source intelligence is a process of information gathering from public and overt sources, such as newspapers and military trade journals, that produces "actionable intelligence." Far from being the hobby of amateurs, open source intelligence is used by official military and government intelligence agencies on a regular basis.

1. Gather sources. The number of possible open source intelligence outlets is limitless. Some basic ones are newspapers, which report on things like troop and fleet movement, and even civilians who visit other countries and can make relevant observations upon return. Strategy and defense information websites, such as Jane's Group, also provide high quality information for you to harvest.

2. Pick a region or topic. Monitoring all varieties of open source intelligence across regional and topical interests takes huge amounts of manpower. To effectively use open source intelligence you should focus on one

region or issue at a time. This will help you to stay on top of the latest information and will allow you to develop a background understanding of intelligence items.

3. Connect the dots. Once you have gathered your sources you need to monitor news and information in order to connect the dots. Look, for example, at how heads of state visits coincide with arms sales. Then consider troop and fleet movement against rising tensions in various regions. Use widely available technology such as Google Earth, Bing Maps 3D, and others to get views of important locations. Take all this kind of information and try to deduce the most likely intelligence information from it.

4. Test your theories. One of the best ways to test a theory that you've constructed on the basis of open source intelligence is to publish the theory. You can post theories on strategy discussion forums or you can send your piece to influential military bloggers or even newspapers. Check the responses from other members of the open source intelligence community to see what the criticisms might be.