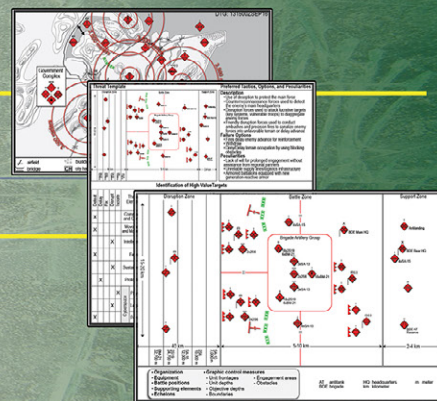


Aligning Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield Doctrine with the Current Threat

by Ms. Terri M. Lobdell



ATP 2-01.3, *Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield*, was officially authenticated and published on 1 March 2019. This article describes changes made through this latest revision of the publication. Intelligence preparation of the battlefield (IPB) is one of the most important processes and is critical to tactical operations. Because of this, MG Robert Walters, Jr., U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence Commanding General, has directed that the October-December 2019 issue of *Military Intelligence Professional Bulletin* will focus on all aspects of the IPB process.

IPB serves as the primary framework for analysis of the battlefield during the military decision-making process (MDMP). IPB is a collaborative staff effort led by the J-2/G-2/S-2 and the intelligence staff. The entire staff participates in IPB to develop and sustain an understanding of the enemy, terrain and weather, and civil considerations. IPB helps identify options available to friendly and threat forces.¹ The IPB process is a critical staff function, as it impacts the range of military operations, is relevant across all echelons, and is a fundamental element within all planning.

This version of the IPB publication retains time-tested doctrine constructs and provides updates to align with current Army doctrine. ATP 2-01.3 preserves the steps and sub-steps of the IPB process and highlights the staff processes and products used to assist commanders and staffs in identifying when and where to leverage friendly capabilities during operations. Further, we aligned this version with the updated doctrinal constructs found within the context of ADP, ADRP, and FM 3-0 (*Operations*) as well as ADP and FM 2-0 (*Intelligence*).² We focused on conducting IPB during large-scale combat operations, multi-domain operations, and operations against a peer threat. We discussed the complex operational environment in which U.S. forces will operate across all domains (air, land, space, maritime, and cyberspace), the information environment, and the electromagnetic spectrum.

What Remained the Same—Sound Doctrine Steps

Step 1—Define the Operational Environment. The intelligence staff identifies “those significant characteristics related to the mission variables of enemy, terrain and weather, and civil considerations that are relevant to the mission. The intelligence staff evaluates significant characteristics to identify gaps and initiate information collection.” During step 1, the area of operations, area of interest, and area of influence must also be identified and established.³

Step 2—Describe Environmental Effects on Operations. “The intelligence staff describes how significant characteristics affect friendly operations. The intelligence staff also describes how terrain, weather, civil considerations, and friendly forces affect threat forces...The entire staff determines the effects of friendly and threat force actions on the population.”⁴

Step 3—Evaluate the Threat. “The purpose of evaluating the threat is to understand how a threat can affect friendly operations.” Step 3 determines threat force capabilities and the doctrinal principles and tactics, techniques, and procedures threat forces prefer to employ.⁵

Step 4—Determine Threat Courses of Action. “The intelligence staff identifies and develops possible threat [courses of action] COAs that can affect accomplishing the friendly mission. The staff uses the products associated with determining threat COAs to assist in developing and selecting friendly COAs during COA steps of the MDMP. Identifying and developing all valid threat COAs minimize the potential of surprise to the commander by an unanticipated threat action.”⁶

Staff Collaboration

IPB begins in planning and continues throughout the operations process. IPB products are developed to assist the commander in determining where and when to leverage

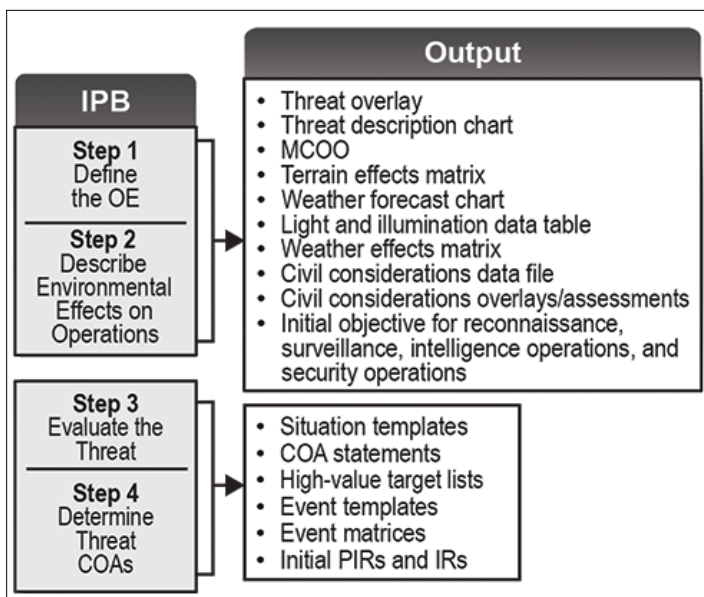


Figure 1. IPB Product Outputs⁷

friendly capabilities. Figure 1 shows the IPB product outputs that result from the MDMP.

What is New or Significantly Revised

In order to align with the current doctrinal constructs found in ADP, ADRP, and FM 3-0 and ADP and FM 2-0, this version highlights:

- ◆ **Army strategic roles.** “Operations to shape, prevent, conduct large-scale ground combat, and consolidate gains summarize the Army’s strategic roles as part of a joint force.” During shape and prevent, the IPB focus is on support for operational planning and training for large-scale combat operations. When operations shift to large-scale ground combat, time often becomes a factor. “Each echelon must effectively perform IPB to quickly generate those products that drive the rest of the military decision-making process.” Consolidation of gains is a continuous part of large-scale ground combat. However, “the IPB focus shifts to address not only the threat but also stability tasks, the local environment, and the information environment.”⁸
- ◆ **Multi-domain operations.** “The interrelationship of the air, land, maritime, space and cyberspace domains, the information environment (which includes cyberspace), and the [electromagnetic spectrum] EMS requires multi-domain situational understanding of the [operational environment] OE.”⁹ “A thorough IPB effort and intelligence analysis assists each echelon in focusing operations on all significant aspects of the OE in time and space across multiple domains.”¹⁰
- ◆ **Peer threats.** Discusses peer threats as adversaries or enemies with capabilities and capacity to oppose U.S.

forces. It provides enhanced understanding of the regular, irregular, and hybrid threats.

- ◆ **Operations and environments.** Included is an in-depth discussion (Part 3) on IPB for unified action and unique environments as well as additional considerations for multi-domain operations.
- ◆ **Scenarios.** Tailored scenarios and vignettes appear throughout the publication developed to facilitate better comprehension.
- ◆ **IPB tools appendix.** Restored an appendix on terrain, movement, and weapon data tables from the rescinded 1994 version of FM 34-130, *Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield*.
- ◆ **Cyberspace.** Added a new appendix on IPB cyberspace considerations. While the steps of IPB remain unchanged, the considerations for cyberspace require a different perspective. As an essential part of the information environment, there is a massive global dependence on the cyberspace domain for information exchange. With this dependence and the associated inherent vulnerabilities, the cyberspace domain must be considered during each step of the IPB process:
 - ◆ **“Step 1—Define the OE:** Visualize cyberspace components and threats through the three layers of cyberspace.
 - ◆ **Step 2—Describe environmental effects on operations:** Use military aspects of terrain.
 - ◆ **Step 3—Evaluate the threat:** Evaluate threats and [high-value targets] HVTs in cyberspace...
 - ◆ **Step 4—Determine threat COAs:** Consider the threat’s historical use of cyberspace and incorporate threat COAs, determine HVT lists within the cyberspace domain, [and] assist the S-6 staff to identify friendly networks that require protection.”¹¹


Figure 2 (on the next page) is an example IPB product available within this appendix.

How to Access the Publication

Army Publishing Directorate website:

https://armypubs.army.mil/ProductMaps/PubForm/Details.aspx?PUB_ID=1006342.

Intelligence Knowledge Network:

https://ikn.army.mil/apps/IKNWMS/Home/WebSite/MILITARY_DOCTRINE_CAC2 (common access card login required). 

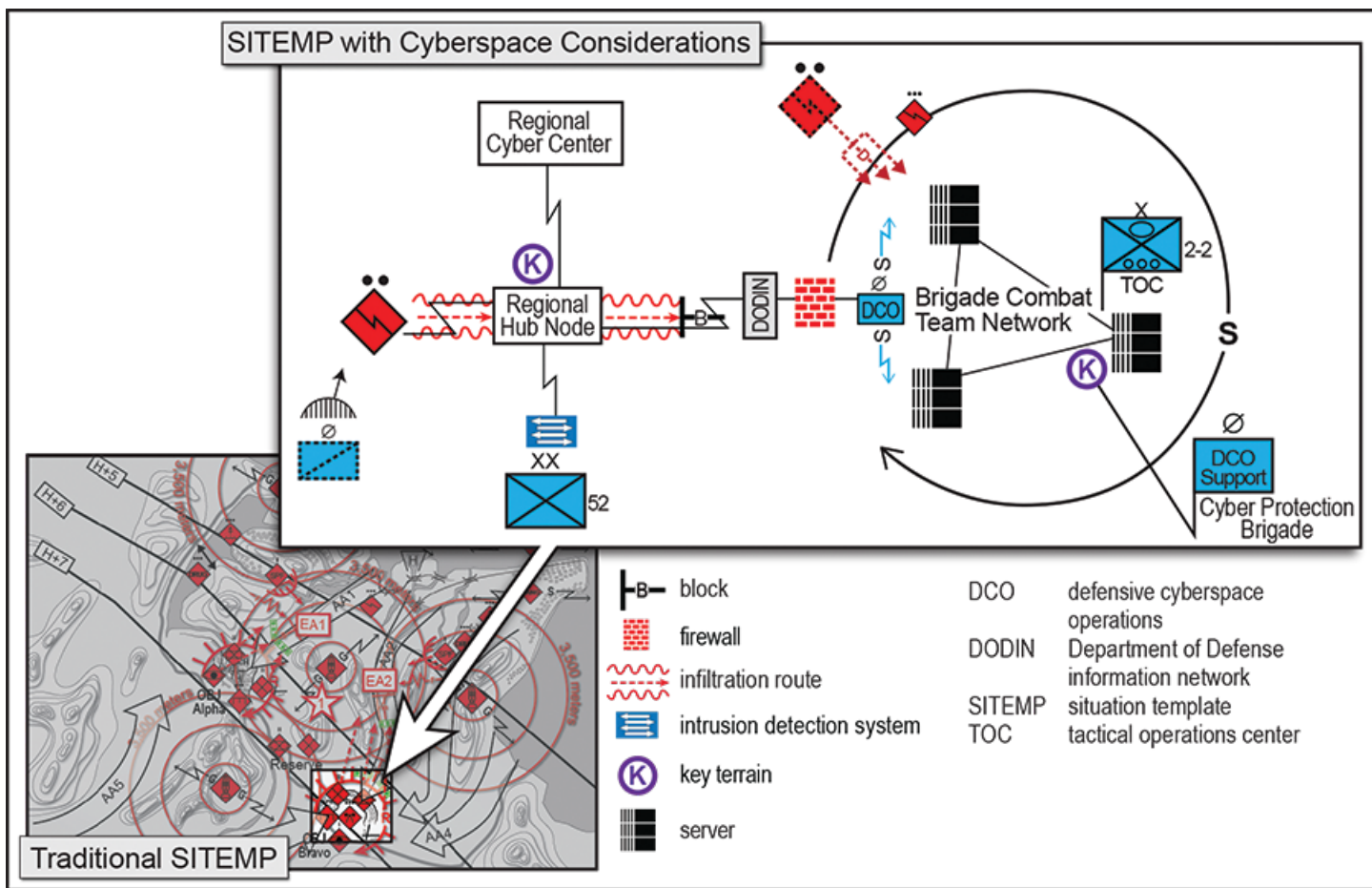


Figure 2. Threat Situation Template with Cyberspace Considerations¹²

Endnotes

1. Department of the Army, Army Doctrine Publication 5-0, *The Operations Process* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Publishing Office [GPO], 17 May 2012).
2. Recent articles that discuss doctrinal revisions are "The Return of U.S. Army Field Manual 3-0, Operations," *Military Intelligence Professional Bulletin* 44, no. 2 (April-June 2018): 5-11; "Doctrine Corner: Multi-Domain Operations," *Military Intelligence Professional Bulletin* 44, no.3 (July-September 2018): 100-101; Terri M. Lobdell, "Resetting Intelligence Doctrine," *Military Intelligence Professional Bulletin* 44, no. 4 (October-December 2018): 9-19; and Terri M. Lobdell, "ADP 2-0 Update," *Military Intelligence Professional Bulletin* 45, no. 1 (January-March 2019): 7-8.
3. Department of the Army, Army Techniques Publication 2-01.3, *Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield* (Washington, DC: U.S. GPO, 1 March 2019), 1-3.

4. *Ibid.*, 1-4.
5. *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid.*
7. *Ibid.*, 2-2.
8. *Ibid.*, 1-15–1-16.
9. *Ibid.*, 1-12.
10. *Ibid.*, 1-14.
11. *Ibid.*, D-1.
12. *Ibid.*, D-16.

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The use of the newly developed military asset, the airplane, flew its first reconnaissance mission during Brigadier General Pershing's 1916 Punitive Expedition into Mexico in pursuit of the bandit-turned-revolutionary Pancho Villa.