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# Intelligence Operations

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U.S. Marine Corps

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FOREWORD

Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP) 2-1, *Intelligence Operations*, builds on the doctrinal foundation established in Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication (MCDP) 2, *Intelligence*. It provides tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) for Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) intelligence operations. This publication is intended for commanders, other users of intelligence, and intelligence personnel who plan and execute intelligence operations.

This publication supersedes MCWP 2-1, *Intelligence Operations*, dated 19 February 1998.

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

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# CHAPTER 1

## FUNDAMENTALS

Intelligence is knowledge of the battlespace and of the threat forces in that battlespace. Knowledge is generated in support of the commander's decisionmaking process and is the result of the collection, processing, exploitation, evaluation, integration, analysis, and interpretation of available information about the battlespace and threat.

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### Intelligence Objectives

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Intelligence has two objectives: to reduce uncertainty by providing accurate, timely, and relevant knowledge about the threat and the surrounding environment, and to assist in protecting friendly forces (to include Department of Defense [DOD] personnel, family members, resources, facilities and critical information) through counterintelligence (CI).

Uncertainty pervades the battlespace—it is a fundamental attribute of war. First and foremost, intelligence should support the commander's decisionmaking process by reducing uncertainty about the hostile situation. Intelligence should accomplish the following actions to achieve this objective:

- Identify and evaluate existing conditions and capabilities.
- On the basis of those existing conditions and capabilities, estimate possible enemy courses of action (COAs) and provide insight into possible future actions.
- Aid in identifying friendly critical vulnerabilities that the threat may exploit.
- Assist in developing and evaluating friendly COAs.

The fog and friction of war will never allow the commander to have a perfect picture of the battlespace. Because intelligence deals with the greatest number of unknowns—questions about an unfamiliar area and a hostile enemy who is actively trying to conceal information about his forces and intentions—there will almost always be gaps in intelligence, and the knowledge provided will lack the desired degree of detail and reliability. Intelligence cannot provide absolute certainty. It attempts to reduce the uncertainty facing the commander to a reasonable level by collecting relevant information, placing it in context to provide knowledge, and conveying it in the form of images to enhance understanding.

CI is information gathered and activities conducted to protect against espionage, other intelligence activities, sabotage or assassinations conducted by or on behalf of foreign governments or elements thereof, foreign organizations, foreign persons or international terrorist activities.

CI activities consist of active and passive measures, functions, and services. CI measures, functions, and services are intended to deny a potential adversary information that might increase the effectiveness of hostile operations against friendly forces; detect and neutralize foreign intelligence collection; and deceive the enemy as to friendly capabilities and intentions. In so doing, CI increases uncertainty for the enemy, thereby making a significant contribution to the success of operations. CI services identify friendly vulnerabilities, evaluate security measures, and assist in implementing appropriate plans to enhance a unit's force protection posture against the threats of sabotage, subversion, and terrorism.