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# Imagery Intelligence

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**U.S. Marine Corps**

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FOREWORD

Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication 2, *Intelligence*, and Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP) 2-1, *Intelligence Operations*, provide doctrine and higher order tactics, techniques, and procedures for intelligence operations. MCWP 2-15.4, *Imagery Intelligence*, complements and expands upon this information by detailing doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures for the conduct of imagery intelligence operations in support of the Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF). The primary target audience of this publication is intelligence personnel responsible for planning and execution of imagery intelligence operations. Personnel who provide support to imagery intelligence or who use results from these operations should also read this publication.

MCWP 2-15.4 describes aspects of imagery intelligence operations including doctrinal fundamentals, equipment, command and control, communications and information systems support, planning, execution, and training. MCWP 2-15.4 provides the information needed by Marines to understand, plan, and execute imagery intelligence operations in support of the MAGTF across the spectrum of conflict.

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

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# IMAGERY INTELLIGENCE

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# CHAPTER 1. FUNDAMENTALS

*If you can't get behind enemy lines and peer around with your own good eyes, what's your next best bet? A photograph, isn't it?*

—FMFRP 12-16, *Front Line Intelligence*

Imagery is the representation of objects reproduced electronically or by optical means on film, electronic display devices or other media.

Imagery, along with the graphical, geospatial, and textual intelligence products derived from it, is an increasingly critical element in the planning and decisionmaking efforts of commanders and supporting staffs at all echelons. Much of the imagery available to the Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) commander requires detailed analysis by highly trained specialists to fully exploit its value. Imagery and imagery-related information—when processed, exploited, analyzed, and fused with other intelligence information—results in imagery intelligence (IMINT).

Principal sources of imagery and related data are national overhead intelligence systems such as satellites; manned aircraft such as the F-14 or F/A-18 with the advanced tactical airborne reconnaissance system (ATARS); the U-2 and the joint surveillance target attack radar system (JSTARS); unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs); and various hand-held cameras.

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## Overview

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### IMINT Information vs. Intelligence

A critical distinction must be made when discussing, planning for, and executing IMINT operations and operations yielding imagery-related combat information. IMINT is the function performed by the G-2/S-2 that involves

imagery analysis and integration with other intelligence activities to produce all-source intelligence products. The intelligence battalion's (intel bn's) imagery intelligence platoon (IIP), unit intelligence personnel, and Marine Corps Intelligence Activity (MCIA) conduct IMINT operations, planning, collecting, producing, and disseminating information or intelligence to the commander, staff, and major subordinate commands (MSCs). To provide imagery analysis for fusion into intelligence, specifically trained technical personnel, adequate time, and sophisticated equipment are required. Imagery and related combat and sensor data from JSTARS, UAVs, and various reconnaissance sources with hand-held cameras may sometimes be rapidly disseminated to tactical commanders to effect decisions without extensive intelligence processing and analysis. This type of intelligence support is provided directly to the tactical commander without being analyzed or evaluated against other intelligence. Caution should be exercised to ensure that the commander is apprised of the strong potential for misleading information when the provided intelligence is based on a single, unevaluated intelligence source.

IMINT aids commanders and planners primarily through two forms of support. First, IMINT provides situational awareness for the terrain, both natural and manmade, to support the commander's intelligence preparation of the battlespace (IPB) effort through various baseline IMINT and geographic intelligence (GEOINT) based studies such as helicopter landing zones (HLZs); beach, coastal, port and airfield studies; and gridded reference graphics (GRG). Second, support is provided through imagery as a confirming source of intelligence for another discipline such as signals intelligence (SIGINT) or human intelligence (HUMINT).