

Enhanced Concept of Intelligence

Current and future forces will increasingly rely on sensors, networks, architectures, and tradecraft to establish and maintain battlespace awareness, influence the operating environment, and support decision-making at higher headquarters and on down to the point of action. The MAGTF must draw on the full portfolio of U.S. intelligence systems, including space-based assets, to build and maintain an accurate, current, and actionable operational knowledge base. Further, the MAGTF must complement this with information harvested from commercial and social information sources as well as a deeper understanding of the environment developed from the collected observations, information, and experiences of Marines up and down the echelons of the force. While we have gained some clarity/understanding from efforts to create and refine the Common Operational Picture (COP) at higher command levels, we must seek to capture the value of pushing networked intelligence down to tactical units (for example, to the rifle platoon or squad levels) throughout the MAGTF. To do this, we must:

- Empower the Marine Corps ISR Enterprise (MCISRE) to evolve at the pace of information technology development, for example, folding open-source intelligence (OSINT) into every aspect of situational understanding to expand the scope of our knowledge base and greatly ease the challenges of sharing information with allies and coalition partners.
- Explore ways the MCISRE could invert its reliance on highly classified information, expanding the role of OSINT and augmenting it with classified intelligence only where it adds value.
- Explore data strategies and information sharing architectures that would let us reap benefits from machine-aided tipping, machine-aided relational visualization and display of battlefield threats, and opportunities that help commanders and other decision-makers quickly and intuitively understand complex situations.
- Continue to pursue unmanned ISR systems that can provide actionable information – letting the small-unit leader know what’s around the corner and what’s in, on, and below the building – in ways that support distributed units with highly compressed timelines for situational awareness, intelligence, decision-making, and action.
- See the opportunities inherent in having every aircraft and every vehicle, potentially even every individual Marine, capable as a battlefield sensor.
- Task-organize MAGTFs to include mission-appropriate intelligence capabilities through a consistent approach to develop Marines qualified to staff mutually supporting intelligence nodes across all MAGTF organizations.
- Develop a tailorable COP that can be distributed based on mission and user needs.