
An Unprecedented Intelligence Operation: USA intervention to Afghanistan



Lecture's overview

- Intelligence
- Plan for al-Qaida destruction
- Putting it into effect
- Taliban crumbles, al-Qaida retreats

Why intelligence

- To avoid strategic surprises
- To provide long-term expertise
- To support the policy process
- To maintain secrecy of information, need and methods

Defining Intelligence

„Intelligence is the process by which specific types of information important to national security are requested, collected, analysed, and provided to policy makers; the products of that process; safeguarding of these process and this information by counterintelligence activities; and the carrying out of operations as requested by lawful activities“ Lowenthal, 2000

„Intelligence is the umbrella term referring to the range of activities – from planning and information collection to analysis and dissemination – conducted in secret, and aimed at maintaining or enhancing relative security by providing forewarning of threats or potential threats in a manner that allows for the timely implementation of a preventive policy or strategy, including, where deemed desirable, covert activities“ Gill & Pythian, 2006

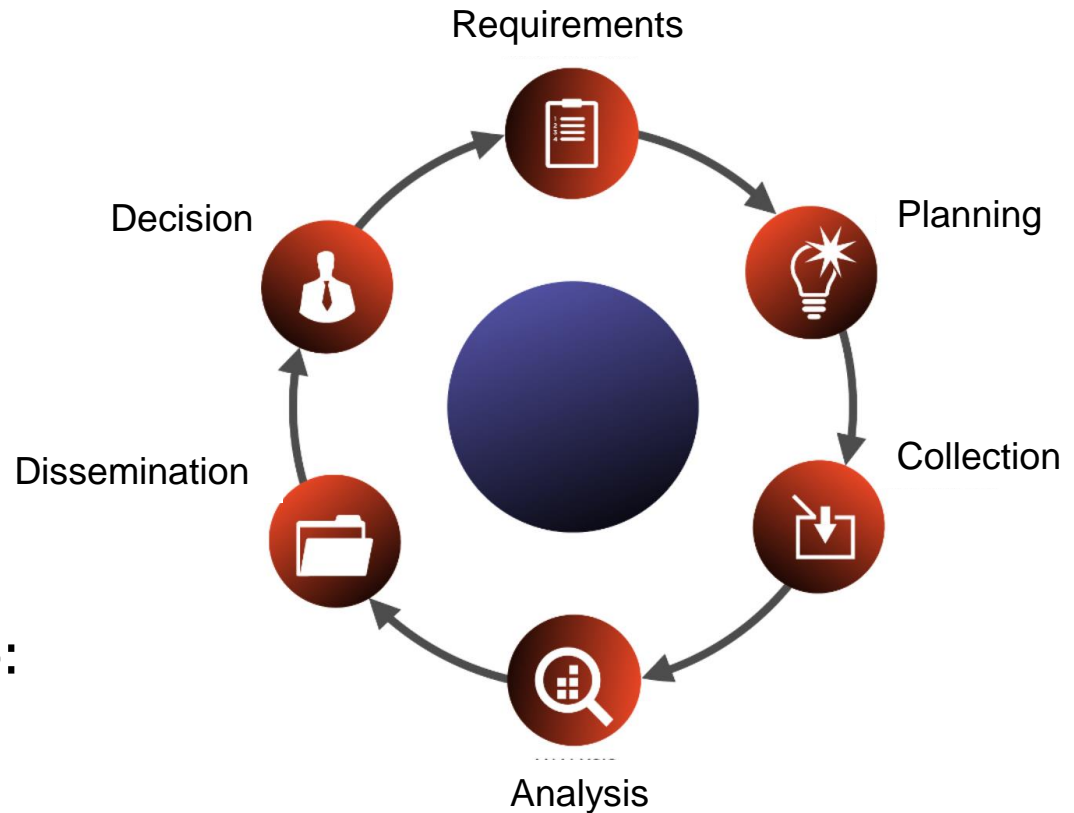
Another point of view on intelligence

- Intelligence as:

- Process
- Product
- Organisation

- Intelligence operations to:

- Obtain information
- Disrupt a target
 - intervention to Afghanistan
- Influence an outcome
 - negotiation with the Taliban



Planning for destruction of al-Qaida

- CIA at the forefront of the effort

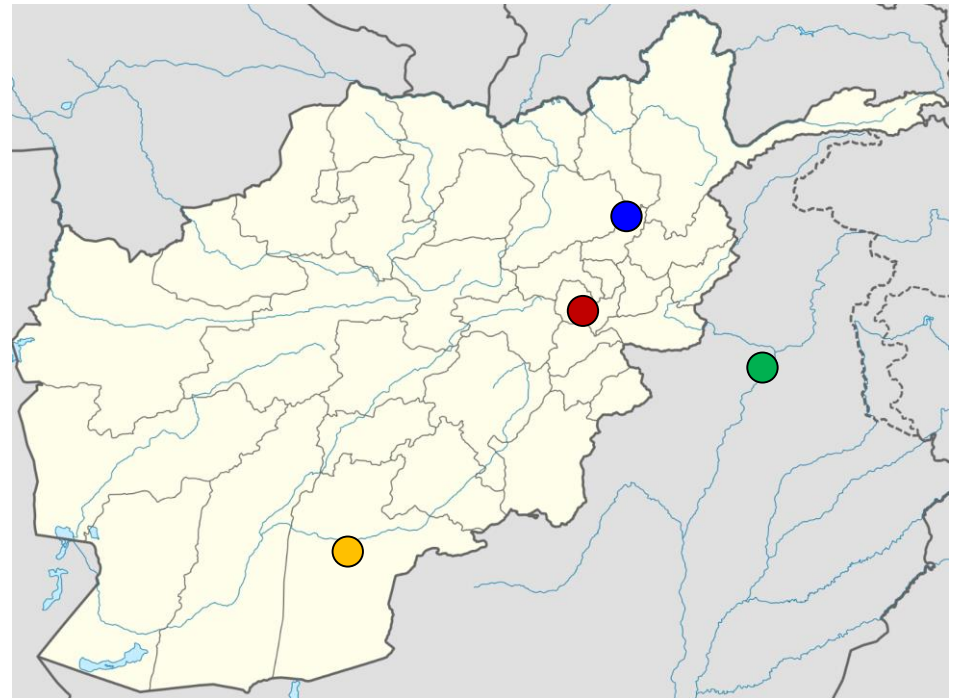
„When we're through with them they will have flies walking across their eyeballs“

- Two competing voices
 - Counter-terrorism centre
 - Chief of station – Islamabad
- Alec station since 1996
- Jawbreaker since 1999
- CENTCOM in a supporting role
- Pakistani ISI also helped



Outlines of the plan

1. Recruit tribal militias
 2. Embed special forces
 3. Use air power
- Find and destroy al-Qaida
 - Not to alienate Pashtuns
 - Kabul as sensitive issue
 - Few boots on the ground imperative



- Islamabad
- Northern Alliance HQ
- Kabul
- Kandahar – Taliban HQ

Putting it into effect

- First team deployed on 26.9.
- 7 teams deployed in total, only two of them in the South
- Effective air campaign
 - Disastrous on TB morale
 - Boosting allies' morale
- Taliban unprepared – no defence planning; lack of communication
- 7.12. Kandahar fell



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Taliban crumbles, al-Qaida retreats

- Lots of TB prisoners
- AQ leaders and operatives retreated to Pakistan and Iran
 - Lots of friendly networks in Pakistan
- Bombing attack on IND parliament – PAKMIL moved unit to the Eastern border
- Some of the CIA allies get bribed to allow AQ retreat
- Not enough US forces on the ground to prevent that

