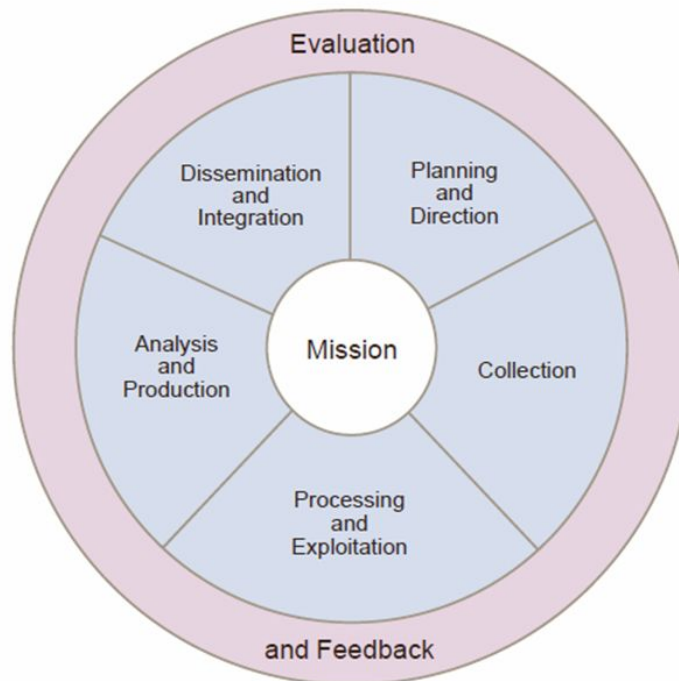


02-Traditional Intelligence Cycle

The traditional **Intelligence cycle** is the fundamental [cycle](#) of [intelligence](#) processing in a civilian or military [intelligence agency](#) or in law enforcement as a closed [path](#) consisting of repeating [nodes](#). The stages of the intelligence cycle include the issuance of requirements by decision makers, collection, processing, analysis, and publication of intelligence.^[1] The circuit is completed when decision makers provide feedback and revised requirements. The intelligence cycle is also called the Intelligence Process by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the uniformed services.^[2] The intelligence cycle is an effective way of processing information and turning it into relevant and actionable intelligence.^[3]

Conceptual model

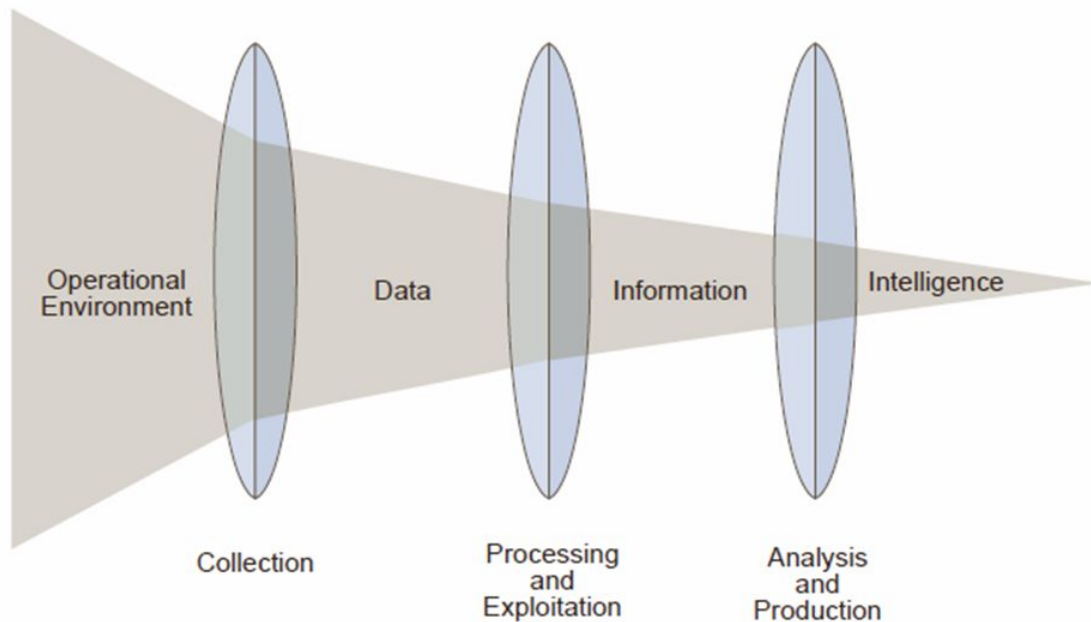
The Intelligence Process



Source: Joint Intelligence / Joint Publication 2-0 (Joint Chiefs of Staff)

The Intelligence Process or Cycle

Relationship of Data, Information and Intelligence



Source: Joint Intelligence / Joint Publication 2-0 (Joint Chiefs of Staff)

Intelligence reflects a progressive refinement of data and information

Direction

[Intelligence requirements](#) are determined by a decision maker to meet his/her objectives. In the [Federal government of the United States](#), requirements can be issued from the [White House](#) or the [Congress](#). In [NATO](#), a [commander](#) uses requirements (sometimes called 'Essential Elements of Intelligence (EEIs)') to initiate the intelligence cycle.

Collection

In response to requirements, an intelligence staff develops an [intelligence collection plan](#) applying available sources and methods and seeking intelligence from other agencies. Collection includes inputs from several [intelligence gathering disciplines](#), such as [HUMINT](#) (human intelligence), [IMINT](#)

(imagery intelligence), [ELINT](#) (electronic intelligence), [SIGINT](#) (Signals Intelligence), [OSINT](#) (open source, or publicly available intelligence), etc.

Processing

Once the collection plan is executed and information arrives, it is processed for exploitation. This involves the [translation](#) of raw intelligence materials from a foreign language, [evaluation](#) of relevance and reliability, and [collation](#) of the raw intelligence in preparation for exploitation.

Analysis

Analysis establishes the significance and implications of processed intelligence, integrates it by combining disparate pieces of information to identify collateral information and patterns, then interprets the significance of any newly developed knowledge.

Dissemination

Finished intelligence products take many forms depending on the needs of the decision maker and reporting requirements. The level of urgency of various types of intelligence is typically established by an intelligence organization or community. For example, an indications and warning (I&W) bulletin would require higher precedence than an annual report.

Feedback

The intelligence cycle is a closed loop; feedback is received from the decision maker and revised requirements issued.

References

1. <https://www.cia.gov/kids-page/6-12th-grade/who-we-are-what-we-do/the-intelligence-cycle.html>
2. ["Joint Publication 2-0, Joint Intelligence"](#) (PDF). *Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC)*. Department of Defense. 22 June 2007. pp. GL–11. Retrieved February 22, 2013.
3. ["The Intelligence Cycle: An Introduction to Direction, Collection, Analysis & Dissemination of Intelligence | Intelligence 101"](#). *www.intelligence101.com*. Retrieved 2016-12-04.