Common Intelligence Glossary

Administrative analysis – Focuses on the provision of economic, geographic, or social information to administrators. (Gottlieb, Singh and Arenberg, 1995, p. 13)

Analysis (law enforcement) – The review of information and the comparison of it to other information to determine the meaning of the data in reference to a criminal investigation or assessment. (Peterson, 1994, p. 269)

Collation – The process whereby information is stored and cross-referenced so that it can be retrieved easily. (INTERPOL, 1996, p. 10)

Collection – The directed, focused gathering of information from all available sources. (INTERPOL, 1996, p. 9)

Collection Plan – A preliminary step toward completing a strategic assessment which shows what needs to be collected, how it is going to be collected and by what date. (Peterson, 1994, p. 36)

Confidential – Information obtained through intelligence unit channels that is not classified as sensitive and is for law enforcement use only.

Counter-Intelligence – Information compiled, analyzed and/or disseminated in an effort to investigate espionage, sedition, subversion, etc., related to national security concerns.

Crime Analysis – A set of systematic, analytical processes directed at providing timely and pertinent information relative to crime patterns and trend correlations to assist operational and administrative personnel in planning in the deployment of resources for the prevention and suppression of criminal activities, aiding the investigative process, and increasing apprehensions and the clearance of cases. (Gottlieb, Singh and Arenberg, 1995, p. 13)

Crime Pattern Analysis – The process of examining the nature, extent and development of crime in a geographical area and in a certain period of time. (Europol, 2000, insert 3)

Criminal Analysis – The application of analytical methods and product to data within the criminal justice field. (Peterson, 1994, p. 2)

Criminal Intelligence – Information compiled, analyzed, and/or disseminated in an effort to anticipate, prevent, or monitor criminal activity.

Criminal Investigative Analysis – The use of components of a crime and/or the physical and psychological attributes of a criminal to ascertain the identity of the criminal. (Peterson, 1994, p. 42)

Data Owner – Agency or analyst that originally enters information or intelligence into a system.

Data Element – A field within a database that describes or defines a specific characteristic or attribute.

Descriptive Analysis – Data and information systematically organized, analyzed and presented. (Europol, 2000, insert 3)

Dissemination – The release of information; usually under certain protocols. (Peterson, 1994, p. 271)

Evaluation – An assessment of the reliability of the source and accuracy of the raw data. (Morris and Frost, 1983, p. iv)

Explanatory Analysis – Analysis that attempts to understand the causes of criminality. It often includes the study of a large amount of variables and an understanding of how they are related to each other. (Europol, 2000, insert 3)

Feedback/Re-Evaluation – Reviews the operation of the intelligence process and the value of the output to the consumer. (Harris, 1976, p. 133)

Forecasting – The process which predicts the future on the basis of past trends, current trends, and/or future speculation. (Peterson, 1994, p. 46)

Indicator – Detectable actions and publicly available information revealing critical information. (Krizan, 1999, p. 63).

Inference Development – Drawing conclusions based on facts. (Peterson, 1994, 48)

Information Classification – Protects sources, investigations, and the individual's right to privacy and includes levels: sensitive, confidential restricted, and unclassified. (LEIU File Guidelines, as printed in Peterson, Morehouse and Wright, 2001, p. 206)

Intelligence – The product of systematic gathering, evaluation, and synthesis of raw data on individuals or activities suspected of being, or known to be, criminal in nature. (Quoted in IACP, 1985, p. 5, from National Advisory Committee on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals, *Organized Crime,* 1976, p. 122). Intelligence is information that has been analyzed to determine its meaning and relevance. Information compiled, analyzed, and/or disseminated in an effort to anticipate, prevent, or monitor criminal activity. (IACP National Law Enforcement Policy Center, 1998)

Intelligence Cycle – Planning and direction, collection, processing and collating, analysis and production, dissemination. (Morehouse, 2001, p. 8)

Intelligence Files – Stored information on the activities and associations of individuals, organizations, businesses and groups who are suspected of being or having been involved in the actual or attempted planning, organizing, financing, or commission of criminal acts; or are suspected of being or having been involved in criminal activities with known or suspected crime figures. (LEIU Guidelines, in Peterson, Morehouse, and Wright, 2001, p. 202)

Intelligence Led Policing – Involves the collection and analysis of information to produce an intelligence end product designed to inform police decision-making at both the tactical and strategic levels. (Smith, 1997, p. 1)

Investigative Information – Information obtained from a variety of sources – public, governmental, confidential, etc. The information may be utilized to further an investigation or could be derived from an investigation.

Need-to-Know – An individual requesting access to criminal intelligence data has the need to obtain the data in order to execute official responsibilities.

Network – A structure or system of connecting components designed to function in a specific way.

Operational Analysis – Identifying the salient features such as groups of or individual criminals; relevant premises, contact points and methods of communication. (Europol, 2000, insert 3)

Operational Intelligence – Intelligence that details patterns, modus operandi, and vulnerabilities of criminal organizations but is not tactical in nature. (Morris and Frost, 1983, p. vi)

Operations Analysis – The analytic study of police service delivery problems, undertaken to provide commanders and police managers with a scientific basis for a decision or action to improve operations or deployment of resources. (Gottlieb, Singh and Arenberg, 1995, p. 34)

Pointer Index – A listing within a database containing particular items that serve to guide, point out, or otherwise provide a reference to more detailed information.

Predictive Analysis – Using either descriptive or explanatory analytical results to reduce uncertainties and make an "educated guess." (Europol, 2000, insert 3)

Preventive Intelligence – Product of proactive intelligence. (Morris and Frost, 1983, vi)

Privacy – An individual's interests in preventing the inappropriate collection, use, and release of personally identifiable information. Privacy interests include privacy of personal behavior, privacy of personal communications, and privacy of personal data.

Problem Profile – Identifies established and emerging crime or incident series. (NCIS, 2001, p. 18)

Procedural Guidelines – Every criminal justice agency should establish procedural guidelines designed to provide a basic and general description for the collection of intelligence data. The guidelines should take into consideration the rights of privacy and any other constitutional guarantees. (IACP, 1985, p. 6)

Proactive – Obtaining data regarding criminal conspiracies in order to anticipate problems and forestall the commission of crimes. (Morris and Frost, 1983, vi)

Reasonable Indication – The reasonable indication threshold for collecting criminal intelligence is substantially lower than probable cause. A reasonable indication may exist where there is not yet a current substantive or preparatory crime, but where facts or circumstances reasonably indicate that such a crime will occur in the future.

Reasonable Suspicion – When information exists which establishes sufficient fact to give a trained law enforcement employee a basis to believe that there is a reasonable possibility that an individual organization is involved in a definable criminal activity or enterprise. (Criminal Intelligence System Operating Policies, as printed in Peterson, Morehouse and Wright, 2001, p. 212)

Recommendations – Suggestions for action to be taken by law enforcement management as a result of an analysis. (Peterson, 1994, p. 275)

Requirements – Validated and prioritized statements of consumers' needs for intelligence information. (Morris and Frost, 1983, vi)

Restricted Data – Reports, which at an earlier date, were classified sensitive or confidential, and the need for high-level security no longer exists.

RFI- Request for Information. Used when requesting additional information about a subject from other agencies, staff or persons.

Right-to-Know – An individual requesting access to criminal intelligence data has the right to access due to legal authority to obtain the information pursuant to a court order, statute, or decisional law.

Risk Assessment – A report aimed at identifying and examining vulnerable areas of the society that are, or could be, exploited. (Europol, 2000, insert 3) (Also see *Vulnerability Assessment*)

Security – A series of procedures and measures which, when combined, provide protection of people from harm; information from improper disclosure or alteration; and, assets from theft or damage. (Criminal Justice Commission, 1995, as reprinted in *Intelligence 2000: Revising the Basic Elements*, p. 159)

Sensitive Data – Information pertaining to significant law enforcement cases currently under investigation and criminal intelligence reports that require strict dissemination and release criteria.

Situation Report – A mainly descriptive report which is only oriented towards the current crime situation. (Europol, 2000, insert 3)

Strategic Assessment – A long-term, high-level look at the law enforcement issues, which not only considers current activities but also try to provide a forecast of likely developments. (NCIS, 2001, p. 17)

Strategic Intelligence – Strategic intelligence is most often related to the structure and movement of organized criminal elements, the patterns of criminal activity, the activities of criminal elements, projecting criminal trends, or projective planning. (IACP, 1985, p. 6, quoting National Advisory Committee 1976 p. 122)

System – A group of databases that interact and form a whole structure.

Tactical Assessment – A tactical assessment is able to identify emerging patterns and trends requiring attention, including further analysis. (NCIS, 2000, p. 17)

Tactical Intelligence – Information regarding a specific criminal event that can be used immediately by operational units to further a criminal investigation, plan tactical operations, and provide for officer safety. (IACP, 1998, as reprinted in Peterson, Morehouse and Wright, 2001, p. 218)

Target Profile – A profile that is person-specific and contains sufficient detail to initiate a target operation or support an ongoing operation against an individual or networked group of individuals. (NCIS, 2001, p. 18)

Tear-Line Report – A classified report that has information redacted from its content, primarily relating to the source of the data and method of collection.

Threat Assessment – A strategic document that looks at a group's propensity for violence or criminality, or the possible occurrence of a criminal activity in a certain time or place. (Peterson, 1994, pp. 56-57)

Unclassified Data – Civic-related information to which, in its original form, the general public had direct access (i.e., birth and death certificates). This would also include newspaper, magazine, and periodical clippings.

Vet – To subject to an expert appraisal, or examine and evaluate for correctness.

Vulnerability Assessment – A strategic document which views the weaknesses in a system that might be exploited by a criminal endeavor.

Warning – A tactical warning is a very short-term warning that attack is either under way or so imminent that the forces are in motion or cannot be called back. A strategic warning is any type of warning or judgment issued early enough to permit decision-makers to undertake countermeasures...ideally such warning may enable (them) to take measures to forestall the threat altogether. (Grabo, 1987, p. 6)

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