The first phase of the intelligence process is ‘Planning and Guidance’. Direction regarding this phase requires leadership to be actively involved. Decision makers determine what the intelligence requirements are and aligns then with the objectives of the organization.

The second phase of the intelligence process is ‘Collection’. In this phase we collect all the raw data necessary to cultivate complete intelligence. We do this in compliance with the requirements from the decision makers in phase one. By applying available sources and methods we can seek intelligence from other collection organizations. Some intelligence gathering disciplines are human intelligence, imagery intelligence, electronic intelligence, signals intelligence, and open-source intelligence.

After the information needed is collected, we move on to phase three of the intelligence process which is ‘Processing and Exploitation’. During this phase we translate the raw intelligence from a foreign or machine language into something that humans can understand. From there the information is evaluated for its relevance and reliability. The raw intelligence is then collated to prepare for exploitation.

‘Analysis and Production’ is the fourth phase of the intelligence process. This will establish the significance and implications of the collected intelligence. By combining the various pieces of intelligence, we can then identify any patterns or collateral information. Any newly attained knowledge can also be interpreted for its significance.

The final phase of the intelligence process is ‘Dissemination’. This is where we take full consideration of the proper timeliness, medium, level of precision and other factors to distribute the finished intelligence as necessary. The organization or community must decide the level of urgency for various types of intelligence as well.