Week 4. Technical and Open Source Collection

A. Major Collection Issues and Controversies

-The size of the collection budget and the need for classification.

-The allocation of collection resources between national and military priotities.

-Whether too much data is collected that can ever be processed, exploited, and disseminated.

-Is technical collection useful in the war on terrorism?

B. Overview of Major Collection Agencies and INTS.

-NRO. 1960. Chantilly, VA. Formerly a joint agency. CIA/DOD. Now almost all DOD, but new Director from CIA. Does both national and military collection, but focus may change.

    -History of competition with CIA on overhead collection: airborne, satellites and UAVs. U2s, satellites (electro-optical, radar, SIGINT,), UAVs in Bosnia. CIA special authorities.

    -DOD and industry driven. New commercial competition since 1990. Cheap sats.

 -Types of satellites/airborne collectors

    -IMINT (electro-optical, radar, infrared) orbits issues, strengths and weaknesses.

    -SIGINT (comint, elint, telint) ground/naval vs airborne.

    -MASINT (feel, taste, smell vs see, hear). Who exploits MASINT? Air Force

-NSA. 1952. Ft. Meade, MD. Early SIGINT was Army vs Navy. Encyption vs open. One time pads and computers. Pre-satellite ground stations. Embassy sites. NSA-CIA competition and cooperation. Stealing codes, machines, numbers.

    -Traffic analysis (volume, patterns, structure, alerts) Direction Finding (DFing.)

    -New challenges. Data overload. Wire taps, devices, underwater cables, fiber-optical, microwave, cell phones, satellite uplinks and down links. Websites and Information Warfare (IW). Attacking and protection all computer networks.

    -Post Cold War problems. Support for military vs terrorism. Continued need for Elint, Telint,? Detecting missile and nuclear tests. National/strategic vs military tactical.

-NGA. 1996. Bethesda, MD. DC Naval Yard, Ft Belvoir, VA. Formerly NPIC, now DOD.

Impact of Desert Storm. (Deutch). Does imagery exploitation and dissemination.

-Did more disaster support post Cold War. Earthquakes, fires, floods. Gore effort.

-Problems. a. Merger with DMA. b. priorities and tasking (national vs military)
c. Mapping vs targeting. d. Data overload. (tactical collectors)
e. Commercial vs government

-Open Source (OSINT). No single agency collection effort. But used by all intel agencies.

-Role of FBIS. Focus on foreign media. Print, broadcast, websites.

-DCI will create swat team to address priority issues.

-Problems. Data overload, credibility, data mining. Not panacea.

-Use of think tanks, academics. Value of expertise. NIC outreach.

C. Key Collections Issues.

-Strengths and Weaknesses of various INTS. Capabilities and intentions. Tech collection strong on capabilities, usually weak on intentions. Science vs art. Seeing is believing.

 -Issue of D&D. Can all INTS be denied or deceived?

-Issue of cost. Tech very expensive. Humint and open source less so.

-Issue of exploitation. Too much collected. Privatize tech?

-Issue of relevance. National vs military. Conventional war vs terrorism. Close in tech. vs space.ie wire taps, listening devices. On-site DFing.

-Issue of classification, security, and oversight. Traditional stovepipes. Sharing. Rumsfeld Commission. Collectors own data. Decide classification, dissemination. Code word clearances. "Need to know" Real dangers of compromise. Who gets clearances. Knowledge is power.