

A Pilot Ethnography: Current Role of Open Source
Intelligence in the Analysis and Control Element

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ABSTRACT:

This paper identified and examined the common roles and perceptions of open source intelligence (OSINT) in the Analysis and Control Element (ACE) of the 470th MI BDE. This unit provides daily intelligence products for US Army Southern Command, as well as support for elements of Special Operations Command and friendly forces within the Central and South American areas of focus (AOF). The research collection method consisted of first person observations, as well as interviews with junior and senior military intelligence analysts in various military and contracting positions within the ACE. It also consisted of a literature review to provide depth and background to the observations. It investigated the current role of OSINT, and recommended the expansion of OSINT capabilities to provide more reliable and resilient intelligence products and analysis.

KEYWORDS: ethnography, open source intelligence, analysis and control element, collaborative cross checking

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