**Introduction**:  Where the subject of the assessment is clearly identifiable and provisions exist to make some form of intervention against that subject, the target-centric assessment approach may be used.  The theory is very simple, the subject for action, or target, is identified and efforts are initially made to **find** the target for further gathering.  For example, the National Security Agency, breaks down gathering into many smaller compartments focusing not only on foreign, but domestic interests.  In doing so, they bring in both local, federal and national information to get a clear picture of what might or might not be a threat.   This activity will identify where intervention against the target that can provide beneficial effects.

**What are the types of Intelligence:**  We can break down these areas of focus into the following:  Data Gathering:  In this stage, also known as collection, raw information is acquired through activities such as interviews, technical, and physical surveillance, human source operations, search and liaison relationships, information can be gathered from open, covert, electronic, and satellite sources.

**These six basic intelligence sources are:**

**Signals Intelligence (SIGINT):**  The interception of signals, whether between people, between machines, or a combination of both.  The National Security Agency is responsible for collecting, processing and reporting SIGINT.  The National SIGINT Committee advises the NSA Director and the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) on policy issues and manages the SIGINT requirement systems.

**Imagery Intelligence (IMINT):**  Representation of objects reproduced electronically or by optical means on film, electronic display devices or other media. It can be derived from visual photography, radar sensors, infrared sensors, lasers and electro-optics.  The National Geospatial Intelligence Agency manages all IMINT activities, both classified and unclassified, within the government.  This includes requirements, collection, processing, exploitation, dissemination, archiving, and retrieval.

**Measurement and Signature Intelligence (MASINT):**  Scientific and technical intelligence used to locate, identify or describe distinctive characteristics of specific targets.  It employs a broad group of disciplines including nuclear, optical, radio-frequency, acoustics, seismic, and material sciences.  For example, MASINT can identify distinctive radar signatures created by specific aircraft systems or chemical composition of air and water samples.  The Central MASINT Organization, a component of the Defense Intelligence Agency is the focus for all national and Department of Defense (DOD) MASINT matters.

**Human Source Intelligence (HUMINT**):  The oldest method for collecting information, this is intelligence derived from human sources.  Collection includes clandestine acquisition of photography, documents and other material, overt collection by personnel in diplomatic and consular posts, debriefing of foreign nationals and US citizens who travel abroad, and official contacts with foreign governments.  To the public, HUMINT is

synonymous with espionage, and clandestine activities.  However, most of its is accumulated by overt collectors such as diplomats and military attaches.

**Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)**:  Publically available information appearing in print or electronic form including radio, television, newspapers, journals, the internet, commercial databases, and video, graphics, and drawings.

**Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT)**:  Imagery and geospatial data produced through integration of imagery, imagery intelligence and geographic information.  GEOINT is typically, gathered from commercial satellites, government satellites, reconnaissance aircraft or by means such as maps, commercial databases, census information, GPS waypoints, utility schematics or any discrete databases that have location on earth.  The data is used fro troops on the battlefield as well as humanitarian and disaster relief efforts.

**The Prepper's Intelligence Sources**:  So what is the average prepper able to focus on in completing an intelligence gathering-assessment.  Well it is quite obvious that we are limited in the areas/scope of all six areas or is it?

**SIGINT**:  If you have a robust home communication system consisting of a HAM and CB Radio combined with a very good Scanner and with an avid interest of monitoring the material is a great start.  My father was also an avid fan of the old reel to reel tape recorders.  Now modern preppers can purchase software that would allow you to monitor radio conversations and edit the material in the specific width of transmission.  Granted this takes time and a good pair of headphones.  Preppers who enjoy this area of interest could begin to gather information from US and this transmission quite easily and begin to catalog it for future use.  While access to 800mhz radios are controlled, it is possible to gain one and this would open up other avenues should an event impact your area.

Imagery and Geospatial Intelligence are a booming business in today's modern world.  In fact, even the home prepper with a small light aircraft fitted with a go-pro camera can gather Imagery Intelligence.  Google Earth imagery is a elementary source of information, but it does offer the prepper who can't afford expensive aerial or drone capability, a cheap alternative, but limited on real-time images for developing a defense in-depth plan for your home or BOL.  Commercial companies such as NC One Map, Terra Server, and GIS Depot are great sources of satellite photography that will allow the prepper the ability to manipulate and design his/her own plot map.
NC One Map:  http://data.nconemap.com/geoportal/catalog/raster/download.page
Terra Server: http://www.terraserver.com/
GIS Depot:  http://data.geocomm.com/

DigitalGlobe a commercial company also provides alterative satellite photos for a fee.

Possibly the one government resource that preppers should be aware and use in developing a well designed mapping overlay is USGS for maps

maps[http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/b2c/display/(xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd&layout=6_1_61_50_2&uiarea=2&ctype=areaDetails&carea=0000000009)/.do](http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/b2c/display/(xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd&layout=6_1_61_50_2&uiarea=2&ctype=areaDetails&carea=0000000009)/.do)

[http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/usgs/maplocator/(ctype=areaDetails&xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd&carea=%24ROOT&layout=6_1_61_48&uiarea=2)/.do](http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/usgs/maplocator/(ctype=areaDetails&xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd&carea=%24ROOT&layout=6_1_61_48&uiarea=2)/.do)


Sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture is the The The National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) acquires aerial imagery during the agricultural growing seasons in the continental United States. Visit:
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/apfoapp?area=home&subject=prog&topic=landing

Human Intelligence is a challenge, but not completely.  People are extremely careless in modern society, we take it for granted today that we live in an American society that we are secure every day, but are we.  Do you know what organized crime is located in your area, do you have access to this information?  Do you know that police reports can be accessed through the "Freedom of Information" Act?  Are you a sleuth or had an interest one time in being a news reporter?  If so, you've see a second calling, the great ones like Bernstein didn't happen into Watergate, they did investigative reporting.  So can the modern prepper, do you really know your neighbors?  What type of car do they drive?  What do they do for a living?  How many family members live in the home, do you?  These are simple benign observations you can make and write in an intelligence document or portfolio, no different that the U.S. has done on their friendly neighbors in past media reports.  Why do we do it?  To safeguard America's interests and to verify who we can count upon, when the chips are down?  Why shouldn't'a prepper be any different?  Do you know what families are somewhat prepared in your area for a natural disaster?  Do you know how many law enforcement or medical professionals live within a square mile of you?  Do you have a former veterans or retired military people living amongst you?  How many criminals do you have living near you?  Divorces, separations, etc…this all plays into a intelligence source.

Here is one that I typically do, take an evening walk, notice the number of open garages along your walk?  What sort of stuff do they have?  Is it organized or is stuff just thrown about?   Do they have a gun locker in the garage?  Camping gear?  Do they have a four wheeler?  I'd give more ideas, but you get the picture. If you serious about what you read and are not sure, then simply PM me, I can give you a spreadsheet that typically generates my data.  What is your estimate could they be a friend or foe?  Do they have the firepower and resources to be a threat to you and your family?   I am not talking about the blowhard guy…I am talking about one that you might have to keep an eye on if they begin to organize or are they organized.  In my neighborhood, I've got a bunch of military, law enforcement and medical professionals, but there is one that I am very interested based on my data-gathering, I place him in a high category to be a threat, he is very stand-off type of person and shows all the markings of what I would place as a person of high interest.   Whether he is a friend or foe, is still to be determined, but until time and access allow, this is a potential issue with me.  One that can't be ignored, no

different than the prison that exists 10 miles from here, if you have those types of threats than at least your aware and now its up to you to plan.

Open Source Documents are simple, they can be obtained on line or in person.  County or any municipality is a great source of this information.  The weekly divorce and marriage announcements are another.  You name it, takes a bit of time, but again open sources are for a treasure trove of info to place in your portfolio.

While this document is not meant to supersede any existing Intelligence platforms it's a great start.  Stay tuned, I will add a PDF on great websites for intelligence in the near future.