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 priorities.

-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.


-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


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


-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.


  - 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?
