



## ISR CENTERS

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Much of today's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) support comes from dedicated organizations and units. These organizations respond to Air Force requirements for analysis in specialized areas of knowledge and practice. As directed by Air Force senior leaders, Centers of Excellence provide focused research, lessons-learned, education, outreach and support. Centers serve the needs of Airmen, leaders and the Air Force organizations responsible for policy, doctrine, training and specialized military roles. Centers also provide intelligence support to national intelligence organizations (Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), NSA, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA), etc.) and national policymakers, responsible for using such information to make strategic and policy decisions. Global integrated ISR professionals are integrated into these centers to provide timely, relevant, and focused intelligence to support center objectives.

These centers provide specific expertise that can be leveraged by the commander, Air Force forces (COMAFFOR) and air operations center (AOC) when they lack resources or required expertise. Some examples of centers of excellence are: National Air and Space Intelligence Center (the Air Force and DOD center for all-source air and space intelligence), Air Force Targeting Center<sup>1</sup> (for geospatial intelligence, target analysis and precision engagement intelligence), 688th Cyberspace Wing, the USAF Expeditionary Operations School (Air Force expeditionary combat support), and Air Force Cyberspace Technical Center of Excellence.

### DESIGNATED ISR WINGS, GROUPS AND SQUADRONS

Air Force ISR Wings perform a variety of functions. Specific global integrated ISR functions may include the production of tailored intelligence for weapons systems acquisition, mission planning and targeting, collection management, logistics and readiness issues, and communications/computer system support. Additionally, some ISR Groups have specific operational missions that relate to C2; acquisition/research and development; space surveillance; threat warning and technical analysis; [signals intelligence](#) (SIGINT) oriented cryptologic support; and scientific and technical intelligence (S&TI) support.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: IAW PAD 14-02 (yet to be approved), the AFTC is being inactivated concurrent with the stand-up of the 363ISRW (to be assigned to 25AF).

ISR squadrons collect, process, exploit, and disseminate intelligence in response to taskings from national authorities, theater commanders, and the COMAFFOR. ISR squadrons conduct various missions including military capabilities and order of battle (OOB) analysis, unit support, targeting support, [human intelligence](#) (HUMINT), [geospatial intelligence](#) (GEOINT) and SIGINT collection, processing, exploitation, and dissemination.

## **WING, GROUP and SQUADRON INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT**

The primary focus of global integrated ISR at the operational wing, group, and squadron levels is the application of all-source intelligence information to sustain operations. Although the wing's intelligence capability is focused within a flight of either the unit's Operations Group or Operations Support Squadron, intelligence personnel and assets are assigned to each operational squadron or may be attached to wing staffs. This capability supports unit deployments, readiness training, mission planning, and other wing-level mission functions. Most unit-level intelligence organizations are composed of two branches—operational intelligence (also termed “combat” intelligence) and target intelligence. Each performs a specific function. First, operational intelligence keeps the commander and operations crews informed of intelligence matters needed to perform the mission. It maintains intelligence database holdings, provides current threat briefings and training, and helps with mission planning. Second, target intelligence assembles and maintains mission or planning folders with related target planning documentation including imagery, maps, and navigation charts. Important global integrated ISR functions that may be performed at the unit level include:

- ✦ Mission planning and joint intelligence preparation of the operational environment (JIPOE) support.
- ✦ Defensive threat capabilities and penetration analysis.
- ✦ Mission folder construction and maintenance.
- ✦ Crew target study, mission planning, threat avoidance/defeat planning, and certification.
- ✦ Debriefing, assessment, weapons system recorded media exploitation, and intelligence reporting.
- ✦ Essential elements of information (EEI) and requests for information (RFI) management.

## **AIR CONTROL SQUADRONS**

Air control squadrons employ the Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), the Control and Reporting Center (CRC), and the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) which provide long range and persistent surveillance, early warning, airspace control, and airborne battle management capabilities for operations across the spectrum of conflict. While these units do not generally produce raw data specifically designed for the global integrated ISR processes, much of the information generated by these units is useful and can be fused with existing data to create a more accurate

picture of the operational environment. AOC collection planners should work with Combat Operations and Plans Divisions to ensure that collection requirements do not interfere with execution of current operations.

## **RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRONS**

Reconnaissance squadrons are responsible for providing raw data for input into the PCPAD process. These units are responsible for providing national and theater command authorities with a wide array of timely, reliable, high-quality, reconnaissance products. Additionally, critical, perishable reconnaissance data can be routed directly to the shooter in near-real time. Reconnaissance data is often fused together with other intelligence to form a variety of global integrated ISR-related products which range from indications and warning (I&W) to long-range assessments of adversary capabilities.

## **SPACE OPERATIONS UNITS**

Space operations units typically operate military and national-level assets; including ground-based radars, satellites, and other sensors, which collect information to support strategic-, operational-, and tactical-level decision-making. Forward units can access this data through tools and reachback processes. DIA coordinates requirements through NGA, National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) and NSA for tasking of national reconnaissance systems. For additional information on space operations, see Annex 3-14, [Space Operations](#).

## **MULTINATIONAL INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS**

Multinational operations are becoming the norm for military operations, making intelligence-sharing with allies and coalition partners increasingly important. In some multinational operations or campaigns, multinational force commanders will be able to use existing international standardization agreements (STANAGs) (e.g., North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO] STANAGs) as a basis for establishing rules and policies for conducting joint intelligence operations. A United States JFC participating in a multinational operation should tailor procedures for that particular operation based on CCDR guidance and national policy as contained in National Disclosure Policy (NDP) 1, *National Policy and Procedures for the Disclosure of Classified Military Information to Foreign Governments and International Organizations*. NDP 1 provides policy and procedures in the form of specific disclosure criteria and limitations, definition of terms, release arrangements, and other guidance. The disclosure of classified information is never automatic. Any disclosure should be consistent with US national policy and US military objectives and be done with the assistance of a foreign disclosure officer.

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