

Unit 1. Intelligence Briefings

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WE in the Operations Intelligence career field are involved in many types of intelligence support activities. During your career, you will have the opportunity to present briefings to aircrews, or situation briefings to your commander. Whichever is the case, you have a responsibility to be knowledgeable about the information you brief. Decision makers and war fighters depend on you, and make decisions that are based on what you tell them. Lives may depend on what you know, or do not, say. This unit will cover the different types of briefings you may be called upon to present during your intelligence career.

1–1. Planning Intelligence Briefings

Since briefing is one of the many tasks you may find yourself doing, your ability to prepare and present a briefing is vital to your success as an intelligence specialist. Some people are very talented in briefing techniques and seem to be born with that type of talent; however, most of us have to work hard at refining our briefing presentation skills. The uncomfortable feeling will disappear as these skills are refined. Refinement comes only with preparation and practice. This section will cover the different styles of briefings as well as suggestions for briefing your commander and staff.

201. Identifying the different styles of briefings

Before we get into the specific types of intelligence briefings, let’s quickly review the purpose a briefing serves. Webster’s dictionary defines a briefing as “an act or instance of giving precise instructions or essential information.” An intelligence briefing usually falls into the *essential* information category, since its *primary* purpose is *to inform*. The intelligence briefer is responsible for bringing together a vast number of pertinent facts and details; and if the briefing has been properly researched, organized, and prepared, the briefer can present many facts and details to a large number of people in a short time.

The established principles and techniques for effective speaking apply to intelligence briefings, and since the purpose for briefings is to minimize the amount of time used, they’re always tailored to the users requirements. Briefings must be concise—usually limited to bare, unbiased facts—and they must present the minimum amount of information needed for comprehension.

Briefing styles

Military briefings provide information, obtain a decision, exchange information, or review important details. Within the military, two briefing styles are used: formal and informal.

Formal

For formal briefings, formats are prescribed, strict time limits are set, and the content is fully coordinated and staffed. The presenter is usually dressed in blues or service dress uniform, and audience participation is not normally allowed. Since this type of briefing is usually given to higher-ranking individuals, it should be well rehearsed. A unit mission briefing to a visiting general is an example of a formal briefing you may be required to give.

Informal

Informal briefings are given at all levels of command. The presenter is usually dressed in the uniform of the day, and the briefing may be delivered with little or no preparation. Audience participation is

allowed during this type of briefing, although it doesn't always occur. A premission briefing to aircrews is an example of an informal intelligence briefing you may be required to give.

Briefing checklists

Most intelligence units construct briefing checklists to follow when preparing various types of briefings. These checklists contain items which should be checked both during preparation of the briefing and just before the briefing. Normally they include items identified in figure 1-1.

Suggested Items for Briefing Checklists	
Latest information	Most intelligence briefings are based on current intelligence. Consequently, it is necessary that you check your sources at the last minute to see if any new information on your subject has been obtained.
Briefing time	You must find out exactly what time the briefing is scheduled to start. Time is precious in military operations—your late arrival could have some strong adverse effects.
Briefing place	Know where the briefing is to be given. Check the briefing room for cleanliness and arrangement. Check the lighting and ventilation. Check for the proper location of audiovisual equipment.
Security	Check the security of the briefing room. You may need to prepare an access list of those persons authorized to hear your briefing and ensure a security guard is posted outside the entrance of the briefing room, to check visitors as they arrive. Check all briefing aids and materials to be sure they are properly marked with the appropriate classifications. Be sure to announce the classification of your briefing both at the beginning and at the end of your presentation.
Equipment	Check all of the equipment you plan to use, such as projectors, tape recorders, sliding panels, and sound equipment, to ensure they are in good working order.
Other briefers	If others are going to present briefings before or after your presentation, check with them to be sure of their schedules and time allotted. Also, you may want to ask about the content of their briefings to ensure there is no wasteful overlap of information.

Figure 1-1. Suggested items for briefing checklist.

Suggestions for briefing commanders, staff, and aircrews

Since your audiences will primarily be flying personnel, there are a few do's and don'ts you might consider before presenting a briefing to them. These people are professionals, and they expect their briefings to be done in a professional manner. The following suggestions may help you provide better briefings and improve your rapport with the audience:

- Become as thoroughly knowledgeable about the subject as possible. There is no substitute for having the gut feeling that you are the expert on the subject and that the audience is going to benefit from what you have to say.
- Actively seek information you feel the aircrews need. If you can't answer a question, state that you don't know, but that you will research it and get the answer to them as soon as possible. "My sources don't say," or "I'm sorry, but that wasn't in the message traffic," may be true answers to questions, but they sound flimsy.
- Organize your briefing in much the same way you organize an intelligence report. Identify the required content and begin with an outline. Always use visual aids to reduce the verbal density of your briefing. Don't use four pages of script for one slide. Maximize the use of slides when you can.
- Aircrews are busy and must endure many briefings, so stick to the allotted time. Rehearse your briefing repeatedly. Try to anticipate where questions may arise, and be prepared to clarify or answer them. Even after many practice runs or during the actual presentation, some briefers tend to speed up while others tend to slow down; try to determine which kind of

- speaker you are. It might be a good idea to have some additional information for last-minute inclusion if you have time during training sessions; and delete it if you are running too long.
- For a short briefing, you don't have time for a long overview and summary. You normally include these in the briefing, but make them short and to the point.
 - Know your limitations; be aware of what you know and what you do not know. Be prepared to defend your statements with logic and evidence. But remember that it is better to lose an argument than to lose your credibility.
 - Take the time to learn aviation terminology. You have to be able to speak the aircrews' language, and this involves knowing a lot of slang and jargon. On the job, talk with the flyers and look at their flight manuals or tactic guides. You won't gain much respect if you mispronounce pitot tube or ask about the A-10 radar.
 - Be sure of the pronunciations of foreign words and names. As a rule, use the locally accepted pronunciation, even though it may be linguistically incorrect. To do otherwise may sound either unintelligible or pretentious. Also keep in mind that all dictionaries show how any word listed is pronounced.
 - Have a sense of humor; aircrews hate dry, lifeless briefings. Include some humor if it seems appropriate, but maintain your professionalism and don't make light of your topic or your position. Try for a mix of formal authority and informal friendliness.
 - Don't mention or display on a visual aid a term that you can't explain. If you can't find the definition, simply omit that term from the briefing and choose a simpler term or explanation. Also, double-check all visual aids for spelling errors. If something is spelled wrong, an aircrew audience will let you know, loudly and without mercy.
 - Don't show a visual aid unless you are prepared to give the aircrew members adequate time to view it. A common error is to mention the names of several aircraft while flashing a picture of each for half a second.
 - Don't mention names of obscure places without either labeling them on a map or pointing out their locations. When the name of a place is not important or well known, omit the name and save it for potential questions after the presentation.

Summary

Preparing for and presenting a briefing is not an easy task. If you think back to technical school, you may, or may not, have fond memories of your first briefing. Contrary to popular belief, you do not have to be a "toastmaster" to be a good briefer. In fact, being prepared is probably the single most important factor when it comes to being proficient at briefings. Now that we've covered how to prepare a briefing, let's look at some of the primary types of briefings given in the intelligence field.

Self-Test Questions

After you complete these questions, you may check your answers at the end of the unit.

201. Identifying the different styles of briefings

1. What is the primary purpose of an intelligence briefing?

2. Which style of briefing doesn't normally allow for audience participation?

3. What style of briefing would you normally use to brief aircrews—formal or informal?

1-2. Types of Intelligence Briefings

Briefings are given at all units and at all levels of command each and every day throughout the world. We, in the intelligence field, are expected to perform this task in a professional manner, and the information provided is, more often than not, of vital importance to the mission of the Air Force. A poorly developed briefing could miss critical information that could lead to mission failure, or even loss of life. That is why you should take your briefing responsibilities very seriously, and ensure that what you provide your audience is accurate, complete, and leaves no questions unanswered. This section will cover some of the common intelligence briefing types within the field.

202. Identify primary types of briefings

You could be called on to present many different types of briefings during your career; but for this course, we concentrate on the several different types of briefings that are given most often by intelligence personnel. A word of caution before we go any further: Different major commands (MAJCOMs) have different briefing requirements for intelligence briefings; they may even have different titles for these mentioned briefings. What we present in this unit should be considered a generic guideline. Check your MAJCOM publications to determine the exact requirements for the preparation and presentation of the different types of intelligence briefings. We'll start this unit by discussing one of the most common briefings in the intelligence field, the current intelligence briefing.

Current intelligence briefings

During peacetime, the current intelligence briefing (CIB) is probably the most common type of intelligence briefing you'll present. CIBs are conducted to keep your personnel (your commander, staff, and aircrews) informed and up-to-date on current events that may affect US military operations. Such briefings may be worldwide in scope, and they may cover numerous topics that range from civil unrest in South Korea to new missile developments in another country.

Sources of information

To be proficient at giving CIBs, you must have a good knowledge of current events in the world. Most briefers use various forms of news media to keep current in world affairs. This includes major network news reports and local daily newspapers, INTELINK, or the Internet. In addition, most intelligence libraries stock weekly news periodicals. Your credibility as a CIB breifer can diminish quickly if you can't answer simple questions about current world events, especially those events that may affect your unit's mission and area of responsibility (AOR). Your supervisor can't force you to watch the TV nightly news, but having the initiative to keep informed of world events will enhance your reputation as a knowledgeable breifer in the eyes of your commander, staff, and aircrew members.

Although there are a wide variety of sources for information presented in the CIB, the primary source for this material is intelligence message traffic. The daily intelligence summary (DISUM) is an excellent source for CIBs. The articles in the DISUM are short and contain all the necessary facts. Very little editing is needed to include these short articles in your briefing. Other types of message traffic may need to be edited for your briefing.

Normally, a good article for a CIB may be very short and contain only 5 to 10 sentences. Some units may even use open source publications for briefing articles. If this is the case, the audience must be informed that the information is not necessarily a confirmed fact, nor is it the opinion of the government or the intelligence community.

Content

The CIB will normally contain several articles. When you're reviewing source material to include in the CIB, try to gather information that bears on your unit's mission. Irrelevant material wastes time for both you and your audience. For example, the results of a political election in Italy should not be

briefed to aircrew members of a fighter unit in Japan, unless it's likely to affect the unit's mission or our basic military strategy.

The CIB consists of an introduction, body, and conclusion. During the introduction, identify yourself and tell the audience the briefing's classification. It's also a good idea to give an overview of your briefing, maybe in a briefing aid. The body consists of your briefing articles. At the conclusion, you remind your audience of the briefing classification and open the floor to questions, if appropriate. Most CIBs are delivered in less than 10 minutes.

CIBs can be delivered either formally or informally. A formal CIB, for example, could be delivered to the commander and key staff personnel. Quite often, this will be a scripted briefing that has been well rehearsed before delivery. Most of the CIBs we give to aircrews, on the other hand, are somewhat informal. They usually are given in a relaxed atmosphere, and questions may be asked at any time during the briefing.

Deployment briefings

When your unit deploys for actual war or for exercises, you have a requirement to brief important intelligence information to your aircrews before their departure. The purpose of the briefing is to acquaint them with the military and political situation causing the deployment, any possible threats along the deployment route, and an overview of the ground and air situation in the employment area.

Sources of information

You can prepare much of the deployment briefing well before the actual deployment by using the operation plan (OPLAN) and updating it just before presentation. Other sources you should look to for developing your deployment briefing should be message traffic including DISUMS, INTSUMS, and open source information. Even a phone call to your higher command headquarters can help you provide the latest information.

Content

Most deployment briefings contain the topics identified in figure 1-2.

Suggested Topics for Deployment Briefings	
Situation	This is a summary of the military and political situation generating the deployment action. This information can be taken from the tasking message or the situation briefing previously given to your commander.
Military activity	Provide an overview of the ground and air situation in the employment area. Give a quick summary of enemy defensive capabilities and possible ECM activity. Also, be sure to cover any naval threat that may be in the area.
Enemy reaction	Inform the aircrews of any possible or anticipated enemy reaction to the deployment. Cover any indications that the enemy will take offensive action against deploying aircraft en route or at the deployment base. This includes any enemy naval or ground force activity, such as exercises and deployments.
Area threat	Include any known threats by terrorists or regular military forces in the vicinity of the planned employment bed-down base. Cover threats or actual incidents of terrorist activity, commando raids, sabotage, subversion threats, and base perimeter probes.
En route flight hazards	Cover any recent spectrum interference resolution (SIR) incidents, giving type and location or source that have recently occurred in the vicinity of the deployment route. Also, display the location of any defensive capabilities, such as a naval surface action group, that pose a potential threat to the deploying aircraft.
Evasion and recovery	If deemed necessary, brief peacetime conduct of aircrew members, selected areas for evasion (SAFE) areas, and search and rescue (SAR) operating locations along the deployment route. Also brief classified material disposition

Suggested Topics for Deployment Briefings	
	for bailouts or forced landings.
Reporting requirement	Discuss any possible reports that could be required during or after the deployment, to include in-flight reports and SIR. Present essential elements of information (EELs), as directed or if applicable.

Figure 1-2. Suggested Deployment Briefing Topics.

Pre-Deployment briefings

Most units will also conduct a predeployment briefing prior to the deployment briefing. This briefing is usually given very soon after the deployment alert/warning order is issued. It is more of a general overview of the current situation, and not as detailed as the deployment briefing. It is given to all personnel tasked to deploy, and covers items such as the tentative deployment itinerary, force protection issues, special equipment requirements, clothing items required for the deployed location, and other related information. The intelligence portion of the briefing is somewhat limited, but could include an overview of the situation (military and political), friendly and enemy force distribution, and other intelligence-related data. The major limiting factor in what can be covered during a pre-deployment briefing involves the security clearance levels of those being briefed.

Situation briefings

The purpose of a situation briefing is to keep the commander, battle staff, and aircrews informed of the progress and development of a crisis or hostilities. This type of briefing is presented during real-world contingencies, wartime operations, and exercises. They may be done anytime there's a significant change in the situation, or they may be at predetermined times and places.

The primary focus of an *initial* situation briefing is to provide the overall significant political and military developments your commander needs to understand what caused the current situation. This type of briefing reviews the indicators for impending hostilities. An initial situation briefing is given as soon as practical after an alert declaration or recall. For example, most units assemble their battle staff personnel and expect a battle staff situation briefing from intelligence personnel in less than 2 hours after the recall was initiated. This gives you very little time to prepare for a formal briefing. Most intelligence units have developed basic situation briefings, with accompanying slides and graphics, for all their primary contingency area taskings. These canned briefings are kept as current as possible to ensure availability for short-notice tasking.

Sources of information

The primary sources used for this information are the latest message traffic and updates from unit mission debriefings, or other timely information sources to which you have access. Supplementary sources include recurring and special intelligence publications, intelligence reports, studies, and situation estimates.

Content

The situation briefing is normally no longer than 5 to 10 minutes, but it must include the intelligence necessary to make informed decisions; so you can allow more time if necessary. Some basic information is normally included in the initial situation briefing. Of course, if the topics don't pertain to your unit operations, they shouldn't be included in the briefing. Figure 1-3 identifies topics that could be included.

Suggested Topics for Situation Briefings	
As-of time	The first thing normally presented is an information cutoff time. Your audience needs to know how current the information is so they can make decisions.
Significant political developments	Present the overall political situation. This might include why the unit has been committed to the operation at this time, how the situation is expected to develop, and what significant new political restrictions or other limitations could affect the unit mission.
Military situation	Present your commander with the events that have occurred around the unit's AOR and their impact on the unit mission. Give a brief overview of what has happened if war or hostilities have broken out. If hostilities have not yet commenced, present indicators that they will soon occur.
Disposition of enemy forces	Present the enemy's air, ground, naval, and missile order of battle (OB). This shouldn't be an in-depth analysis of the enemy OB, but the general locations and strength levels for your area of operations. Also, highlight any major changes, such as warning times, forward deployments, new weapon systems, or reserve activations. If hostilities have already commenced, you may need to depict the forward line of troops (FLOT) and forward edge of battle area (FEBA).
Disposition of friendly forces	Give the location of allied and US forces within the operational area. Although you present friendly OB, you should concentrate more on enemy forces during this briefing. If the ground commander has established a fire support coordination line (FSCL), this should also be shown.
Areas of major engagement	If hostilities have already commenced, present the areas of major engagements. Give the ratio of opposing forces, where appropriate; identify where the enemy is most threatening and why and identify where the enemy is most vulnerable and why. Tailor this information to the commander's needs so that he or she can prioritize a counterthreat to the enemy and provide support for friendly forces. You could also present air engagements, including tactics and battle damage assessment, and a summary of losses to both friendly and enemy forces.
Local area situation	Brief terrorist, commando, sabotage, and subversion threats in the rear area, particularly the threats around main and recovery bases. Include enemy air, ground, or naval attacks or their potential for attack in the local area. If your unit is being tasked to deploy, present the threat around the deployment base.
Probable enemy course of action	Provide the best estimates of probable enemy intentions. This analysis should be oriented toward your commander's needs. While analysis and estimates of probable enemy courses of action may be provided by higher headquarters message traffic, units must also be capable of performing their own analysis in the event no other analysis is immediately available.

Figure 1-3. Suggested Situation Briefing Topics.

Mission (premission) briefings

The mission briefing, also called a premission briefing, is the final intelligence briefing received by aircrews before takeoff. This briefing lets you provide aircrews the latest intelligence pertaining to their missions, and it could make the difference between mission success and failure. Your mission briefing serves one primary purpose—to inform the aircrews of intelligence affecting their mission—and they will be vitally interested in the information you provide. The aircrew members expect you to give them a serious and concise briefing on the latest information affecting their mission.

The mission briefing can be a joint effort by briefers from intelligence, operations, communications, and weather sections, meeting each section's responsibility for a briefing appropriate for all the specific combat missions. Sometimes, the information that's common to all missions is presented by each section as part of its initial situation briefing to all of the aircrews together. Operations personnel usually brief the rules of engagement (ROE), tactics, special flight procedures, and other operational information. Weather personnel present weather data to be expected along the route and in the target area. Intelligence personnel brief each specific mission route to and from the target, enemy defenses, evasion and recovery (E&R), and other intelligence data.

General requirements

A mission briefing should be tailored to be responsive to tasking and the sortie generation requirements. It may be conducted on either a formal or an informal basis, depending on the unit mission planning procedures, air tasking orders (ATO), and aircrew needs. It could be a quick, informal briefing to a single aircrew or a full-fledged briefing for several aircrews.

You must be intimately familiar with the mission planning activities to know the most efficient and effective way to meet the mission briefing requirements. This is particularly important in view of sortie surge requirements when mission briefings have to be conducted at planeside. Items that have already been briefed or were made available to the aircrews during the situation briefing should not be included in this abbreviated mission briefing. The exception would be target-specific material (target graphics, photos, etc.) or new and different information that has become available. In short, give aircrews only what they need, and don't waste time telling them things they already know.

Sources of information

The key to an effective mission briefing is preparation. You must research and compile all of the information you plan to brief to ensure that it is accurate and complete. The ATO is one of your main references, because it defines the mission by giving details about the targets, schedule, aiming points, bomb loads, and other facts needed by the aircrews. To ensure that it is accurate, you must review all of the current intelligence available, including message traffic and recent combat mission reports. The objective is to give the aircrews the latest information that could affect their mission.

Content

The mission briefing should not be used as an aircrew training session, but you may include quick reminders of the capabilities of enemy defensive systems. The actual content of mission briefings varies widely between MAJCOMs. Within a MAJCOM, the content for the briefing depends on the unit's mission. A mission briefing for a B-52 tasked for an interdiction mission would be quite different from a mission briefing for an F-16 tasked for a close air support (CAS) mission. The briefing can range from general to very detailed, depending on the specific needs of the aircrews, the particulars of the mission, and the extent of prior mission planning. You can determine the amount of detail needed by being an active participant in mission planning activities.

Strike, attack, or reconnaissance missions

For strike, attack, or reconnaissance missions, you might include the topics listed in figure 1-4.

Suggested Topics for Strike, Attack, or Reconnaissance Missions	
Battle situation	Graphically show the general battle situation for the target area as it affects the mission. Also summarize the ground, air, and naval situation, including the FEBA and FLOT and anticipated enemy and friendly activity.
Threat information	Cover the enemy threat, or threats, that the aircrews may encounter using the ingress and egress routes, with particular emphasis on the target area defenses. Usually the best presentation method is to indicate the threats in a time-order basis, from takeoff to landing. For example, you might first indicate where the aircrews first enter early warning (EW)/ground control intercept (GCI) coverage and what interceptors they might anticipate. As the mission routing is followed, the aircrews might then expect to have surface-to-air missile (SAM) or antiaircraft artillery (AAA) threat. The coverage of the threats should emphasize the best available information on enemy aircraft tactics, missile launch ranges, and the density of the threats. You should show the aircrews the map display that shows the applicable radar coverage and threat envelopes along their route. Brief any electronic countermeasures (ECM) threats and any recent spectrum interference resolution (SIR) incidents, formally known as meaconing, intrusion, jamming, and interference.
Target information	Much of the target information will be covered in the ATO and target folder for preplanned missions. Make sure the aircrews have the target name or number, location, and elevation, and that they know the elements of the target to be struck: desired mean point of impact (DMPI) or desired ground zero (DGZ). Show the aircrews a photograph of the target, if one is available, and brief the target significance.
Evasion and recovery	Inform the aircrews of the location of selected area for evasion (SAFE). In addition, review the aircrews' evasion plan of action (EPA). You'll want to point out the locations of search and rescue (SAR) forces and provide any special procedures they are using. If needed, you would have the aircrews review their isolated personnel reports (ISOPREP). You should cover the applicable E&R code letters, sanitation requirements, and available E&R aids. You also may want to mention any chemical, biological, and radiation (CBR) contaminated areas in proximity to the mission route. In any case, you must tailor the E&R discussion to each specific mission.
Collection and reporting requirements	Cover in-flight reporting procedures, including mission results and significant sightings, pertinent essential elements of information (EEI), and requirements for post mission debriefings. Ensure that the aircrews know the appropriate frequencies for in-flight reporting, if operations or communications personnel do not brief them.

Figure 1-4. Suggested Topics for Strike, Attack and Recon Missions.

Defensive Counterair (DCA), CAS, Forward Air Control (FAC), and Electronic Warfare (EW)

The briefing content for other types of missions, such as DCA, CAS, FAC, and EW is somewhat different from what we just discussed. These types of briefings are more general, since their tasking is primarily area-oriented rather than point target-oriented. You might include some of the topics identified in figure 1-5.

Suggested Topics for DCA, CAS, FAC, and EW Missions	
General battle situation	Summarize the general battle situation; include ground, air, and naval activity. Emphasize the activity within the target area. Also cover the location of the FEBA, FLOT, and FSCL in the immediate target area.
Threat information	Concentrate on the threat to the particular mission. For example, fighter and long-range SAM threat is briefed to an EW escort mission; interceptor and SAM threat is briefed to an air superiority mission; and the AAA, SAM, and small-arms threat is briefed to CAS or FAC missions. Details of the threats should emphasize the best available information on current enemy tactics from previous missions.
Target area information	If available, show photos or a detailed map of the target areas to CAS and FAC aircrews. Cover unique geography or other factors, such as large power lines or potential enemy choke points that could affect the mission.
Evasion and recovery	The E&R section of this type of briefing is the same as we discussed previously. Normally, if the mission doesn't penetrate hostile territory, such as a standoff jamming mission, you don't have much to brief on E&R.
Collection and reporting requirements	Collection and reporting requirements are the same for these types of missions as they are for strike or attack missions.

Figure 1-5. Suggested Topics for DCA, CAS, FAC and EW Missions.

Combat quick-turn missions

A combat quick-turn mission is one in which the aircraft is quickly regenerated for another mission, and is usually conducted while the aircrew remains in the cockpit. Present the initial situation briefing at the beginning of the duty day, as we previously discussed. Then, during the quick-turns, give the pilot or crew significant updates or changes since the initial briefing. Examples of topics you must be prepared to brief during the quick-turn include:

- Significant changes in the enemy threat in the target area.
- New information concerning chemical threats.
- New EEIs.
- Status of local area threats to the local area base.
- Changes in the safe passage routing.
- Changes in the status of alternate bases.
- Changes in call signs, mission numbers, time over target (TOT), or frequencies.

Step briefings

A step briefing is normally given to aircrews just before they depart the squadron operations building to board their aircraft. It is designed to provide vital, last minute information to the aircrew that was not available during their mission/pre-mission briefings. Information such as updates to the threat situation must be provided (including recently debriefed information from other, recently returned aircrews) as well as changes to escape and recovery (E&R) procedures. Failure to pass this type of information on to the aircrew could result in mission failure, loss of aircraft, and even worse, loss of aircrew lives.

Threat-of-the-Day briefings

This type of briefing is conducted at most, if not all units that have a flying mission. The threat of the day is an integral part of aircrew intelligence training requirements. As the name implies, it is a briefing that covers specific information on an air defense system that could pose a threat to the aircrew within their AOR. For example, such a briefing might cover a particular surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, its acquisition and guidance system, its maximum and minimum effective ranges, altitudes, and rate of fire. You would also discuss how to recognize the type of missile by its exhaust trail (if applicable), as well as the recommended evasion tactics (i.e., “jinking”, chaff, flares, etc.). Most units build these types of briefings in advance, based on the threats prevalent in their AOR, and develop schedules as to when specific threat systems will be briefed. For example, one week the unit might brief surface-to-air missiles, the next week threat aircraft, and the next week threat radars. Your unit will have an established procedure to follow for your threat-of-the-day briefings.

Sources of information

Information for threat of the day briefs can be primarily obtained from ATTP 3-1. Most classified air defense weapons systems information will be listed within volume 2. You can also review the appropriate weapons systems handbooks for DIA, as well as message traffic for the latest updates on air defense weapons systems.

Content

Your threat of the day brief will vary depending on the air defense weapon system you are briefing. However, here are some common areas you should consider for threat of the day briefs on aircraft: combat radius, aircraft armament, air-to-air missile guidance, radar capabilities, tactics, countertactics, and strengths and weaknesses. For surface to air missiles, you may want to consider the missile range, guidance, color of smoke, tactics, and countertactics. Radar briefs will vary depending on the radar type and your squadron’s mission.

Theater or area indoctrination briefings

These briefings are conducted to familiarize aircrew members with their new AOR or area of operations. These briefings normally contain a situation update with new or unique enemy threats or tactics. They also include a brief description of the local geography and climatology, with specific E&R and SAR requirements for the theater of operations. Newly arriving aircrews must be given this briefing before they conduct any missions in the area.

Other intelligence briefings

These are just a few of the many different types of briefings you could be asked to present during your intelligence career. You could also be asked to provide estimate briefings on enemy forces or equipment or terrorist threat briefings. Although you could be tasked to give a threat briefing at your local noncommissioned officer (NCO) academy or commander’s call, you must remember that your primary audience is the commander, staff, and aircrews.

Summary

As you can see, there are several different types of briefings that you can expect to give during your career, and each has a specific purpose. We’ve covered only the most common briefings, but it should be obvious to you that they are all vital in support of the Air Force mission. Conducting briefings may seem a bit intimidating at first, but the simplest methods to overcome any fears you may have is to prepare and practice! In the next unit, we’ll look at debriefings, the “special” vernacular that aircrews are famous for, and reporting.

Self-Test Questions

After you complete these questions, you may check your answers at the end of the unit.

202. Identifying the different styles of briefings

1. What type of briefing will you present most frequently during peacetime?
2. What type of briefing would you be presenting if you covered a terrorist bombing in Japan, riots in Germany, fighting in Israel, and the President's stand on terrorism?
3. What type of briefing would you present to keep the commander and the battle staff informed about ongoing hostilities during real-world contingencies, wartime operations, or exercises?
4. How soon after an alert declaration or recall is an initial situation briefing given?
5. What type of briefing provides information on both friendly and enemy force disposition?
6. What type of briefing would you give to an aircrew before takeoff?
7. What types of information are available in an air tasking order?
8. A premission briefing is tailored to what?
9. What is a combat quick-turn mission?
10. What type of recurring briefing covers specific information on a system that could pose a threat to the aircrew in their assigned AOR?
11. What briefing is given to aircrew members just prior to departing for their aircraft that provides additional information not available during the premission briefing?
12. What type of briefing would you give to a unit before it deploys for war or for exercises?

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13. What type of briefing would you give to familiarize aircrew members with their new area of operations?

Answers to Self-Test Questions

201

1. To inform.
2. Formal.
3. Informal.

202

1. Current intelligence.
2. Current intelligence.
3. Situation.
4. As soon as practical; in most units, in less than two hours.
5. Situation.
6. Mission (or premission)
7. Target details, schedule, aim points, bomb loads, etc.
8. Unit mission and aircraft.
9. Where the aircraft is quickly regenerated for another mission after having returned from a mission.
10. Threat-of-the-Day.
11. Step.
12. Deployment.
13. Theater or area indoctrination.