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A Case Study: Operationalizing Open-Source Intelligence on the Korean Peninsula

S.C. Song

Department of Systems Engineering
United States Military Academy
West Point, NY, USA

Corresponding author's Email: steven.song@usma.edu

Author Note: Steven C. Song is an Army major and operations research/systems analyst at the United States Military Academy (USMA) in West Point, NY. He graduated from the United States Military Academy with a B.S. in engineering management, and he holds an M.S. in engineering and management from Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) School of Engineering and Sloan School of Management. He teaches system dynamics, data analysis, systems design and management. His research interests include enterprise transformation, systems architecture, and the application of systems tools for solving real-world problems.

Abstract: With today's "Information Age", the amount of publicly available information (open-source data) has grown significantly faster than the ability for the Intelligence Community (IC) and the U.S. Army to fully exploit the potential of open-source intelligence (OSINT). Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT), or intelligence derived from publicly available information (PAI), has unique advantages over traditional intelligence disciplines like signals intelligence (SIGINT) and human intelligence (HUMINT). Yet, OSINT is still undervalued and underutilized. This paper highlights the current state of the U.S. Army OSINT enterprise on the Korean peninsula, captures the OSINT gaps between strategy and implementation, and provides recommendations for better operationalizing OSINT. By using site visits and surveys, this research effort analyzed the gaps in OSINT in terms of policy, process, people, training, tools, and technology. Key findings suggest additional personnel, training, and partnership with Republic of Korea (ROK) intelligence and defense community is necessary to exploit PAI to its maximum potential.

Keywords: OSINT, Gap Analysis, Strategy