

## **Roles of Intelligence Agencies in Present World: A Quest to Meet the Challenges of Newly Global Bio- Security Threats in Covid-19 Pandemic**

MOHAMMAD KAMRUL AHSAN  
Bangladesh University of Professionals

### **INTRODUCTION**

1.1.1. An intelligence agency is a government agency responsible for the collection, analysis and exploitation of information in support of law enforcement, national security, military and foreign policy objectives. Basically, any types of intelligence start with the direction or directives and after collecting, processing or evaluating the data, intelligence can be derived basing on the direction. Intelligence agency is likely to be a government organization and works for the overall security and sovereignty of the country. Intelligence agency serves national interest and defense against the efforts of other national intelligence agencies. The insight work of intelligence agencies involves the social occasion, assessment and spread of data pertinent to dynamic, and may incorporate forecast dependent on such data, just as getting ready for future possibilities. Peace-time intelligence; that covers security aspects of point of interests, security of personnel, information and material. Peace-time intelligence also includes combat intelligence gathering on potential threat, trans-frontier and intelligence on Hostile Intelligence Services. War time intelligence is particularly related to combat intelligence focusing conventional military threat.

1.1.2. Basically, intelligence agencies deal with the existing and probable threats. They have number of tiers and bureau and each bureau has specific role to play. With the changes of time, threat has also changed its forms and it has many branches as well as link up. Like traditional espionage, subversion, sabotage and terrorism threats

the whole world is also facing the bio-terrorism threats and various new diseases.

1.1.3. With the able direction or directives, intelligence organizations of different countries are combating the bio terrorism threats worldwide. Though it's a costly matter and the era is new, even intelligence organizations need to prepare themselves for facing these challenges. COVID-19 spreading in the whole world and other few global security threats are also popping up around each corner of the world. Time has come for few of the intelligence organizations to change their mission, task, operating system and force structure. For this, they need to add up many tasks with their traditional intelligence task.

## 2.1. **Traditional Roles of Intelligence Agencies**

2.1.1. This is not suggested that the functions, missions and tasks of intelligence will remain unchanged. These will be continuously changing as per existing and future threats. However, all the intelligence agency has their own traditional roles which are slightly differ from country to country. The basic traditional roles of intelligence agencies are:

2.1.1.1. **Collection.** Assortment, as an element of knowledge, shows up straight forward, and its need isn't truly tested. Intelligence agencies collect information by various means about persons, places, events, and activities that is needed by the higher authority. Senior policy officials must be involved in this process as they transmit the direction or directives.

2.1.1.2. **Analysis.** After collecting the necessary information and data, the intelligence organization goes for analyzing the all data. By analyzing they try to get the maximum required information and intelligence out of it.

2.1.1.3. **Covert Action.** Covert actions are used to influence political, military, or economic conditions or situations abroad as per the guidance from government. These might comprise of purposeful publicity exercises, backing to political or military groups inside a

specific nation, specialized and calculated help to different governments to manage issues inside their nations, or activities embraced to upset illegal exercises that compromise own advantages. As per the requirement of policy makers, covert action is a continuous process inside or outside of the country.

**2.1.1.4. Counter Intelligence.** The counter insight work includes securing the own nation, just as different knowledge offices, from the exercises of unfamiliar insight administrations. Intelligence is essential in countering terrorism, in diminishing its tactical effects and strategic importance. All the intelligence organization agencies have principal responsibility for countering the activities of foreign intelligence services within their own domain. Every one of the military divisions likewise has a counterintelligence component that works locally and abroad.

**2.1.1.5 Other Services.** Means of information gathering may include overt operation, espionage, communication interception, cryptanalysis, cooperation with other institutions, and evaluation of public sources. The assembly and propagation of this information is known as intelligence assessment. Intelligence agencies can provide the following services for their national governments.

- Give early warning of impending crises;
- Serve national and international crisis management by helping to discern the intentions of current or potential opponents;
- Inform national defense planning and military operations (military intelligence);
- Protect sensitive information secrets, both of their own sources and activities, and those of other state agencies;
- Covertly influence the outcome of events in favor of national interests, or influence international security; and
- Defense against the efforts of other national intelligence agencies (counter-intelligence).

There is a distinction between "security intelligence" and "foreign intelligence". Security intelligence pertains to domestic threats (e.g., terrorism, espionage). Foreign intelligence involves information

assortment relating to the political, or economic activities of foreign states.

### **3.1. Prevailing and Effects of Global Bio Terrorism Threats**

3.1.1. **Bio- Terrorism** Bioterrorism is psychological warfare including the deliberate delivery or scattering of organic specialists. These specialists are microorganisms, infections, creepy crawlies, parasites, or poisons, and might be in a normally happening or a human-altered structure, similarly in organic fighting. The potential for bioterrorism is of specific worry, since it can cause sickness, demise, and frenzy—in incredible disparity to the assets exhausted. It is a term utilized for deliberate utilization of pathogenic strains of organisms to cause infection or passing in living things or potentially to offer damage to climate. Again, it is the intentional release of viruses, bacteria, or other germs that can sicken or kill people, livestock, or crops. *Bacillus anthracis*, the bacteria that causes anthrax, is one of the most likely agents to be used in a biological attack.

3.1.2. **Disease Surveillance** Disease surveillance is an information-based activity involving the collection, analysis and interpretation of large volumes of data originating from a variety of sources. The information collated is then used in a number of ways to. Evaluate the effectiveness of control and preventative health measures. General wellbeing divisions at the government, state, and neighborhood levels utilize various kinds of observation frameworks to advance wellbeing and forestall illness. These frameworks can be utilized to screen sickness patterns and plan general wellbeing programs. There are two essential sorts of illness reconnaissance: detached and dynamic.

3.1.3. **Vaccine Research for COVID-19** A Coronavirus antibody is any of a few diverse immunization innovations expected to give obtained insusceptibility against sickness of Coronavirus. Past work to build up an antibody against the COVID-19 infections Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) set up information about the structure and capacity of COVID-19, which quickened advancement during mid 2020 of changed innovation stages for a Coronavirus immunization. The World Health

Organization (WHO), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), and the Gates Foundation (GF) are committing money and organizational resources for the prospect that several vaccines will be needed to prevent continuing COVID-19 infection. The CEPI, which is organizing a US billion worldwide fund for rapid investment and development of vaccine candidates, indicated in September that clinical data to support licensure may be available by the end of 2020. On 4 May 2020, the WHO organized a telethon which received US\$8.1 billion in pledges from forty countries to support rapid development of vaccines to prevent COVID-19 infections. At the same time, the WHO also announced the deployment of an international "Solidarity trial" for simultaneous evaluation of several vaccine candidates reaching Phase II–III clinical trials.

3.1.4. **Terrorism and Bio terrorism** Terrorism is an ever-evolving subject. Terrorism is finally coming to be recognized as a strategic threat to the internal stability and even survival of many countries—this in addition to its being a danger to the security of the international community. Illegal intimidation is, in the broadest sense, the utilization of deliberate savagery for political or strict purposes. It is utilized in such manner fundamentally to allude to brutality during peacetime or with regards to battle against non-warriors (generally regular people and impartial military work force). With the need, outcome, desired result and effect terrorism changes its forms very often. In general, terrorism is an effect-based operation which has the greater effect in the society. Bio illegal intimidation is a recently imagined thought in current world. Bioterrorism is psychological warfare including the purposeful delivery or spread of organic specialists. These specialists are microbes, infections, bugs, organisms, or poisons and might be in a normally happening or a human-changed structure, similarly in natural fighting. In general, the use of infectious agents or other harmful biological or biochemical substances as weapons of terrorism is called bio terrorism.

3.1.5. **Bio-security and COVID-19** COVID-19 has played the great role in world economy, life style, threat perception and many more. Like COVID-19, many laboratory-based weapons are increasing day by day. Intelligence organization, need to combat these effectively. Organic

dangers can possibly slaughter millions, cost billions in financial misfortunes, and make political and monetary precariousness, regardless of whether normally happening, inadvertent, or synthetic. The threats have all the pandemic potentials to create unrest even in the whole world in short time. Threat forms is changing around the world and Bio-terrorism has come up with a potential threat perspective. Bio-security is creating to battle bio-psychological warfare. The danger of a disastrous organic occasion is amplified by worldwide travel, urbanization, fear-based oppressor interest in weapons of mass obliteration just as quick advances in innovation, including chances presented by recently created or controlled microorganisms with pandemic potential. The components taken together make a dire need to fortify biosecurity, lessen organic dangers presented by progresses in innovation, make new ways to deal with improve irresistible illness observation, and distinguish and fill holes to quantifiably reinforce worldwide wellbeing security capacities. In spite of these difficulties, biosecurity stays an under-accentuated and under-financed worldwide security need.

**3.1.6. Bio terrorism and Disease Surveillance** The bio terrorism threats are increasing than that of conventional weaponry attack threats. This will have a great effect in the world socio-economic system. Intelligence organizations are conducting disease surveillance method to combating the bio security threat. Disease surveillance is a data-based movement including the assortment, investigation and understanding of huge volumes of information beginning from an assortment of sources. The information collated is then used in a number of ways to evaluate the effectiveness of control and preventative health measures.

**4.1. Ways and Means to Meet the Challenges.** Bio-security can be reduced through effective education, training and adequate knowledge on disaster management and development of protection strategies. Intelligence organizations can identify the threats effectively and also defense it effectively. The numerous solutions are:

- By establishing number of contingencies plan to fight the bio terrorism threat.
- By identifying probable potential threats by all means.

- Taking appropriate measures to stop any biological spread.
- As part of offensive intelligence, identify the threat countries biological laboratories.
- Enrich the intelligence organizations by equipment, manpower, technical research center etc. for countering the threats.
- Identify the main causes of spread for specific bio-weapon and counter those effectively.
- Train the intelligence personnel to have overall idea about bio terrorism.

## **5.1. Conclusion**

5.1.1 The knowledge administrations of majority rule countries serve a vital capacity in distinguishing numerous kinds of transnational dangers. Intelligence agencies should be overseen and resourced independently to forestall their instrumentalization by tight, vested political interests. While data sharing can be controlled, the political administration of every organization should have the goal of guaranteeing the support of public and human security inside some random locale. An assortment of worldwide and local accepted procedures mirrors the agreement on guaranteeing the responsibility of insight offices and their non-obstruction in homegrown and global governmental issues. All the intelligence organizations have their own mission essential tasks. The tasks start from the direction given by the highest echelon. These organizations have their own traditional roles for defending their own country and maintaining the sovereignty.

5.1.2. The global security threats are evolving. World is entering in the era of bio-terrorism, disease surveillance and many more. With the new threats, the role of intelligence organizations is also changing. Rather, this is the time for changing their traditional role for combating the new threats.

5.1.3. Intelligence organizations need to prepare themselves. For this, a massive change in posture is required. The intelligence cycle decides the day by day exercises of the Insight People group. It begins with the requirements of the knowledge "buyers", for example, policymakers,

military authorities, and other chiefs who need insight for their exercises. These prerequisites are arranged and organized inside the Insight People group and are utilized to drive the assortment exercises of the Knowledge People group. The cycle, as portrayed in the figure beneath, is rehashed until a knowledge necessity has been fulfilled.

## **REFERENCES**

1. The Role of Intelligence in Counter-Terrorism by Ely Karmon.
2. COVID – 19 Vaccine by Wikipedia.
3. Bio terrorism by Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.
4. Intelligence Agencies by Wikipedia.