

The role of academic training in the Military Intelligence

"The real intelligence hero is Sherlock Holmes, not James Bond."

LT. GEN. SAMUEL WILSON,
Director of Defense Intelligence Agency, 1976.

In essence, intelligence analysis turns out to be a purely intellectual effort. Although it is true that the powerful technologies that currently facilitate the collection, processing and generation of added value to information, are valuable and necessary for the levels of competitiveness and threatens, "there is no better analytical tool than a real good analyst" (Lowenthal, cited by Moore, 2007, p. 3).

Indeed, strategic, prospective and competitive intelligence that require the decision makers of State only can be synthesized by analysts with the ability to interpret, correlate and integrate big volumes of diverse and dynamic information, ordering the significant and the insignificant by an exercise of pure reasoning that leads to assess the possibilities of strategic action in the future.

Therefore, the central question lies in how to strengthen the capacity of rational processing of intelligence analysts. That is exactly the role of academic training, which involves the development of knowledge, skills and abilities of cognition and metacognition, that is, that allow the analyst:

Reflect on the quality of the reasoning process simultaneously that think a conclusion. The thinker has two equally important goals: improving the way he thinks and arrive at a correct solution. What exactly is the 'right solution' depends on the topic and context. The important thing here is to improve the reasoning process (Moore, 2007, p. 7).

Process improvement (meta) cognitive, defined by David Moore (2007) as "Critical Thinking", seeks to encourage in analysts, a reasoning willing and inclined to observe and consider "new realities", so that the knowledge network about threats and competitors constantly adapts to mutations of the strategic scenario. The challenge of Critical Thinking lies as much in the institution responsible for encouraging this logic in their educational and work environments, and as much in the analysts responsible for the individual and creative initiative by new knowledge for the innovative problem solving.

As in the Allegory of the Cave (Plato), the transition towards enlightenment is a challenge that is painful to the ego and is infinite as the universe itself. Critical Thinking emerges from recognizing the incompleteness of all knowledge, when there is a doubt of known explanations and there is a recognition that there is a much bigger reality that the one that could encompass in multiple lives. Hence that the intelligence is conceived as a perpetual search, integration and knowledge generation. This approach involves the humility of the analyst, faced up to discover that "The more we study, the more we discover our ignorance." (Bysshe Shelley) How to improve the reasoning process if the analyst consider himself

omniscient and infallible? Therefore, the challenge lies in the systematic breakdown of the paradigms that govern the supra-logical processes of the organization of thought.

For this purpose, the proposals of Edgar Morin about Complex Thought are valuable, as proposing a methodology of reasoning that does not seek to reduce reality to a few determinants factors (reductionist paradigm), but on the contrary, expects to integrate the highest possible number of perspectives on this reality, with the conscious aim of understand the interrelations complex among multiple actors, interests, actions, etc.

Under this logic, the analyst is obliged to develop new knowledge outside their specialization (comfort zone), for this, it is required to interact with experts from diverse disciplines. In this context, the analyst's mind must have the ability to compare, correlate and integrate information from different fields, some of them apparently irreconcilable, but ultimately complementaries:

Throughout all my life, I could never resign to the knowledge split, I could never isolate an object of study of its context, its history, its evolution. I have always aspired to a multidimensional thinking. I've never been able to eliminate the inner contradiction: I have always felt that deep truths, antagonists from each other, were for me complementary, without stopping from being antagonistic. I've never wanted to reduce, by force, uncertainty and ambiguity (Morin, 1997, p. 2. 3).

In conclusion, the role of education in Military Intelligence is proposed that is not limited to the transmission of information and skills. Essentially its goal is to create thinkers and strategists with the critical ability to integrate and transform knowledge, so that a strategic, prospective and competitive intelligence propitious to the decision-making of State.

References

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2. Morin, E. (1997). Introduction to complex thought. Barcelona, Ediciones Gedisa.
3. Plato. (1994). The Republic. Madrid, Editorial Gredos.

Letter from the Director

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In 2015 the Military Intelligence of Colombia reach 51 years of existence, time during which an important strategic knowledge about the threats that, for more than half a century, have attempted seize the power of the State to subvert it, has been accumulated. Indeed, much of the developed doctrine and capabilities obtained by the Blue Badge in these decades have been directed for the purpose of obtaining and analyzing information about the enemies of the nation, in order to neutralize their criminal and terrorist activity. In this dynamic, Military Intelligence has obtained important results that caused the strengthening of the State in a way that, for the first time in the recent history of the country, there is a possibility of entering in a post-conflict scenario.

Facing this future scenario, the military forces of Colombia have begun restructuration and innovation processes aimed to rethink, reorganize and expand military thinking so that the institution finds itself prepared to take on new challenges and threats against national security. In this process, the School of Intelligence and Counterintelligence has abrogated itself a leading role in successfully articulate the valuable experience of our officers and non-commissioned officers with the academic knowledge of important intellectuals in the various fields of interest for military intelligence. In a certain way, there has been a multidimensional and integral answer to the call for designing the Blue Badge in the coming decades. In this process, the School of Intelligence and Counterintelligence has abrogated itself a leading role in successfully assemble the valuable experience of our officers and non-commissioned officers with the academic knowledge of important intellectuals in the various fields of interest for military intelligence. In a certain way, there has been a multidimensional and integral answer to the call for designing the Blue Badge in the coming decades.

For this purpose, scientific research and technological development are set as essential elements for the continued strengthening of the Blue Badge capabilities; hence the importance of the Department of Science, Technology, Research and Doctrine (DECTID) of the School of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, where are assembled research projects that include the development of favorable innovative tools of analysis, till designing innovative tools for the proper execution of military intelligence operations. In this same department is where the editorial process of the journal Perspectives of Intelligence is performed, only Colombian publication specialized in issues of interest for the State Intelligence.

The institutional effort to achieve high quality standards for the magazine have yielded significant results in recent editions, impacting directly indexing requirements defined by the responsible international agencies for this purpose. As a result, in this 2015 the School of Intelligence and Counterintelligence has a stronger tool for the divulgation of knowledge in the academic field of security and defense.

For the reasons aforementioned, it is proud to present the Vol. 7, No. 15 of the journal Perspectives on Intelligence, with six (6) articles distributed in the two new permanent sections that will be part of the magazine since hereby edition. The first section is called "Strategic Intelligence and Military" created with the purpose of preserving the thematic nature of the magazine, specializing in specific issues of the Blue Badge. The second section is titled "Security and Defense", which covers issues of interest for strategic and military intelligence, but that do not involve it directly.

Section: Strategic Intelligence and Military

The first article is one of the results of the research project entitled "Technological Intelligence" developed by researchers at the School of Intelligence and Counterintelligence "BG. Ricardo Charry Solano ". In this document, Martha Isabel Hurtado Granada and the research assistant at the University Sergio Arboleda, Vivian Angelica Duarte Perez, analyze the role of science and technology in the security and defense of the State, where the role of Military Intelligence is essential to identify the scientific-technological trends of the competitors States.

The second article correspond to the investigation done by Luisa Fernanda López Bolaños, who presents a comparative analysis about the concepts of security and intelligence, in order to emphasize its deep historical and epistemological affinity, which leads to the conclusion that it is not possible to guarantee the national safety without specialized agencies in the State Intelligence.

The third article is the result of the research carried out by Colonel Darío Ruiz Tinoco of the National Army of Colombia, who develops an analysis of the historical evolution of the State terrorism phenomenon, seen from the theory of conspiracy as an illegitimate practice in the politics exercise and at the same time, as an instrument used to maintain the monopoly of power of some rulers, in an opposite position to the principles of free and peaceful political participation of the actors who express alternative positions in society, Which makes the treatment of international organizations carry out for peaceful growth in the world becomes complex.

Section: Security and Defence

The fourth article is production of Luis Alexander Montero Moncada, known academic of security and defense in Colombia, who presents a thorough historical investigation of the British and German perspectives about the operational and strategic development of the Campaign of North Africa in the second World War, which involved an important analysis of strategic factors additional to military , such as psychological, social and economic aspects.

The fifth article corresponds to the research developed by Lina María Castellanos, who studies the implications of gasoline smuggling on the Colombian-Venezuelan border, analyzing the policies that the governments of both countries have adopted to confront and counteract the threat to conclude by confirming that this Issue particularly causes serious consequences for the governance and internal governance of Colombia and Venezuela and also has repercussions on the governance of the borderland between the two countries.

The sixth article stems from the research conducted by Diego Enrique Cruz Mahecha about the implications of the reform to the anti-terrorist law in Colombia during 2003, going deeper into the constitutionality of legislative acts that allowed the government to implement new policies and strategies against the internal terrorist threats during the first decade of the century XXI.

Finally, the subject is of concern to the research developed by Gustavo Adolfo Solano Pachón, who examines the dynamics and effects of the migratory phenomenon on the Colombian-Venezuelan border, after the crisis intensification between the two countries in the year 2015, which Generated the And the increase of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia, which has developed a phenomenon in the real challenge for the Colombian national security in recent times.