



# Lesson 3.5e

## Analysis of Information Terrain

# Lesson Content

- Understanding the peacekeeping information terrain
- Information requirements of the information terrain
- Analysis of the information terrain
- Working with the public information function

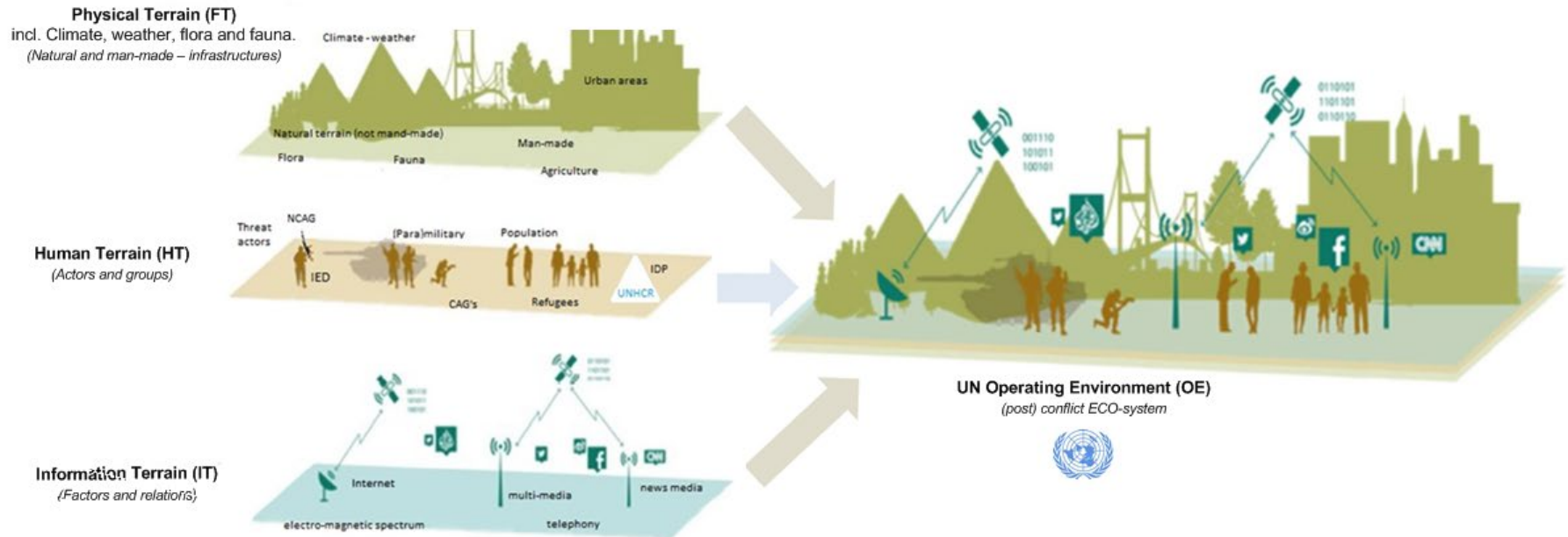
# Learning Outcomes

- Explain the peacekeeping information terrain
- Describe information requirements for the information terrain
- Apply techniques to analyze the information terrain
- Explain public information function

# Understanding Peacekeeping Information Terrain

- Information environment, is where individuals, organizations, systems collect, process, disseminate, or act on information
- Consists of 3 key elements: **actors, resources** and **the employment of resources** by actors to influence others

# Understanding the Peacekeeping Information Terrain



- Resides within air, land, sea and space domains
- 3 interrelated dimensions: physical, informational, and cognitive
- Close relationship with HT and PT

# Dimensions of the Information Terrain

## Physical Dimension

- Information environment overlaps with physical world
- Information systems and networks
- Computers and communications systems and supporting infrastructure

## Informational Dimension

- Information is collected, processed, stored , disseminated, displayed , protected
- Information itself and the medium
- Links physical and cognitive dimensions
- Where automated decision-making takes place

## Cognitive Dimension

- Where human decision-making takes place
- Dimensions of intangibles such as morale, public opinion, situational awareness
- Key characters : perceptions, emotions, awareness and understanding

# Understanding the Peacekeeping Information Terrain

- Not simple
- Associated technologies accessible to everyone
- Growing information operations (IO) capabilities for actors
- Actors capable of countering UN efforts through propaganda

## Learning Activity # 1

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### **Case 1:**

In 1994, a radio station, Radio Mille Collines, played a crucial role in launching, inciting and directing the Rwandan genocide and triggered conflict throughout the Great Lakes region

### **Instructions:**

Discuss how the information terrain of UN peacekeeping operations can impact mandate implementation. You will receive a detailed Handout for use in this case.

**Time:** Approx. 20 minutes (group discussion)



# Information Requirements of the Information Terrain

- Physical properties
- Informational properties
- Cognitive properties

# Information Requirements of the Information Terrain

## Population/Local Nationals

- How do the local nationals communicate
- How do they influence / advertise
- Any media bias linked to demographics or religion

# Information Requirements of the Information Terrain

## Host Nation

- How do host nation security forces communicate
- Is this secure
- Do the host nation security forces conduct information operations / influence media or social media

# Information Requirements of the Information Terrain

## Threat Actors

- How does threat actor communicate?
- Is this secure
- How does threat actor communicate with local nationals
- Does threat actor conduct information operations / influence media or social media

# Information Requirements of the Information Terrain

## UN Forces

- Collect information from the opponent media
- Exploitation opportunities
- Communicate with local nationals via host nation media or social media
- Conduct information operations / influence media or social media

## Learning Activity # 2

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### Arguments for and against using social media for UNMMIG

#### 1. Situation

Use social media to support the mission by promoting the mission, enhancing communications and sharing information.

#### 2. Instruction

Conduct a short discussion about the Pro's and Con's regarding using social media by UNMMIG in Garland.

**3. Approx. Time: 20 minutes** Group work and discussion

# Analysis Techniques: ASCOPE – PMESII

	Political	Military	Economic	Social	Infrastructure	Information
Areas						
Structures						
Capabilities						
Organizations						
People						
Events						

- Completed from basic and current intelligence
- What is known become factors for further Analysis;
- What is unknown become Information Requirements

Ongoing process throughout the Mission life cycle

# Analysis Techniques: Three Column Format

- Find the known factors
- Drawn from basic and current intelligence:
  - List key physical factors- people, organizations, areas, structures, capabilities
  - List key informational factors- systems, penetration
  - List key cognitive factors- cultural, historical, social



# Column One – Known Factors

Factor	Deduction	Output
Ron influences Tribal Group A		

## Column Two – Deductions

Factor	Deduction	Output
Ron influences Tribal Group A	Tribal Group A likely to adhere to Ron's Political beliefs; Ron is a key leader in the UN AOR; Ron may be a target for Threat group B	

# Column Three – Outputs

Factor	Deduction	Output
Ron influences Tribal Group A	Tribal Group A likely to adhere to Ron's Political beliefs; Ron is a key leader in the UN AOR; Ron may be a target for Threat group B	IR. What are Ron's political beliefs? IR. What is Ron's attitude to the UN? IR,. What is Ron's attitude to threat group B?

## Learning Activity # 3

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What do you know about your sector (factors)?

What are your unknowns (IR)?

Consider:

Physical (areas, structures, people, organizations),  
informational (systems, penetration), cognitive  
dimensions (how people are influenced)

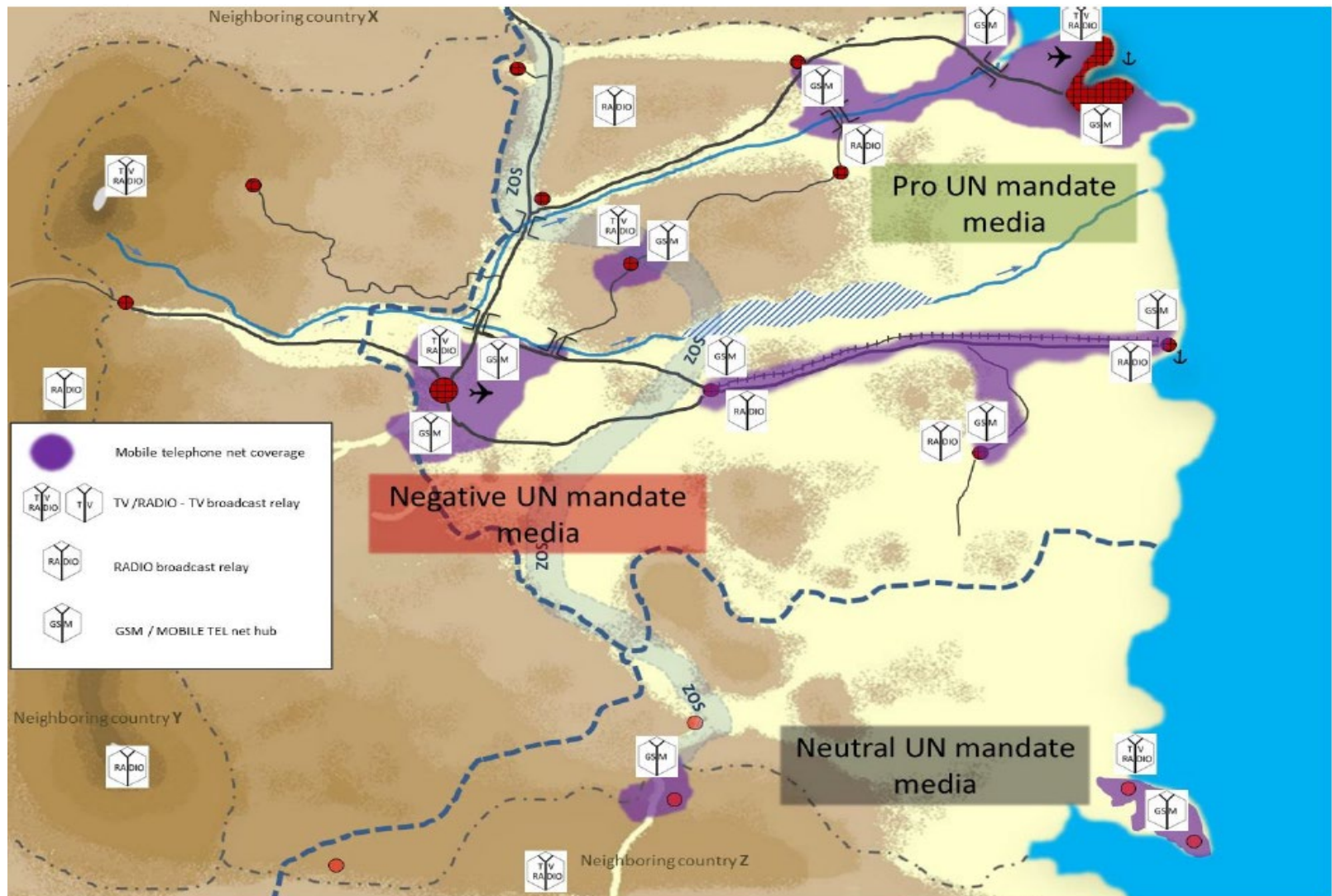
**Approx. Time: 15 min**

# Information Terrain Mapping

Intelligence staff should consider producing the following overlays:

- Telecommunications infrastructure
- Cell-phone blackspots, internet blackspots
- Locations of group meeting areas
- Pro-UN media and extent of coverage
- Anti-UN media and extent of coverage
- Electromagnetic spectrum usage and overview

# Information Terrain Mapping



# Support to Public Information Functions

Input / advice in the PI planning process:

- Physical dimension
- Informational dimension
- Cognitive dimension

## Learning Activity # 4

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**Tasks:** - Identify Knowns

- Identify IRs

- Analyze using 3-column format

**Outputs:** List of IRs; record of relevant deductions;  
Terrain overlay.

**Tip:** Have one-member recording IRs, and another recording deductions; put two students preparing the overlay based on knowns and deductions

**Time:** 1.5 hours



# Take Away

- The success of peacekeeping operations depends on information and information systems
- An effective information strategy is an operational necessity
- Analysis of the information terrain is key to understanding the peacekeeping information environment and decision-making
- Intelligence staff must work closely with the public information function for planning and executing operations

# Questions