**What is ABI?**

Activity Based Intelligence (ABI) is a concept for intelligence analysis in which events and transactions are analyzed in their spatial and temporal context, analyzed in a manner that makes use of understanding underlying data properties, and analyzed in a forensic fashion that enables network analysis. The focus of ABI is typically a non-traditional hard target (e.g., terrorist, non-state weapon proliferator, transnational threat), and the application of ABI usually involves the processing of large quantities of data.

The formal NGA definition, consistent with USD(I) papers, defines ABI as, “a multi-INT approach to activity and transactional data analysis to resolve unknowns, develop object and network knowledge, and drive collection.” ABI has also been referred to in the past as geospatial multi-INT fusion (GMIF).

There are four “Pillars of ABI:”

- **Pillar 1: Georeference to Discover**: all reporting should be captured and georeferenced (“geotagged”) then made available in a single GIS application; this eliminates the need for multiple applications in the discovery phase; “plot it now, find it later.”
- **Pillar 2: Integration before Exploitation**: collection is decoupled from exploitation; tasking focus is not exploitation, not collection; ABI inherently relies on large-volume, incidentally collected data; raw data should be integrated spatially as close to the point of collection as possible;
- **Pillar 3: Data Neutrality**: all data sources are equally viable as long as they are adequately geotagged; each data source contains inherent strengths and weaknesses that must be understood by the analyst; the particular sensor or INT that collected the data is irrelevant.
- **Pillar 4: Sequence Neutrality**: forensic data can be as valuable or more valuable than data collected near-real time; data is collected and georeferenced before its relevance is known; the collection net is very broad; past events (even dating back years) can give context and provide new transactions; data collected for one purpose may inadvertently lead to answer other types of questions; never throw anything away.