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**From your perspective, what is Activity Based Intelligence?**

ABI is the best of all the Multi-INT Fusion concepts rolled into one methodology. It's an integrated intelligence process that's applicable to every type of problem set.

I think that ABI is the process of developing intelligence using information organized by entity and event. I tend to follow the definition outlined by Stephen Ryan, the Co-Chair of the ABI Training and Tradecraft Working Group within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Ryan's says "Activity-based intelligence (ABI) is the study of types of activity and the associated spatial and temporal data in order to discover unknown entities and understand networks. ABI focuses on a holistic understanding of spatial intelligence, using all different forms of intelligence in a spatial and temporal context to understand the past and present, allocate resources effectively against current intelligence problems, and make assessments about future events."

**What spurred the need for ABI?**

The need for ABI and where it came from has been argued and discussed more times than I can count and there are examples dating back to the Civil War about how data was being used to support knowledge of the battle space. The Intelligence Community identified a need for advanced analytics of collected data, and therefore began to define ways that Human Domain Analytics and its integration with other intelligence could begin to define or pick out the opaque actors and groups associated with different organizations and their intentions.

I think that the need for ABI has always been there. ABI is very similar to police work such as interdiction and investigation.

**What advantages does ABI offer?**

BAE Systems' ABI solution provides analysts with a platform where all of their collected data can be uniquely visualized geotemporally. Multi-INT Fusion of the battle space has been done for years, but one of the analytic techniques we were lacking was the ability to visualize the temporal aspect. Just recently, I was engaged in a collaboration session with a respected analyst in the community and he commented that "we don't need to visualize data that way." My response was: "We actually don't know that yet because we've never had this capability before." The visualization of data in different ways can provide a pathway to increased analytics we've yet to experience. We can do that now with the ABI capability and it's changing the way analysts see the question and the pathway to the answer.

ABI provides organizes intelligence data by the entities and events of interest. This makes it easy to provide not just a summary, but a complete history or dossier of an entity. It also attempts to exploit multiple disparate sources and collect activity-based information before anyone knows that it is needed.