**Structured Analytic Techniques**

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Analysts can employ various structured techniques to meet the needs of intelligence analysts. When tackling a given problem or project, analysts implement a framework to decide on the best techniques to use. Primer (2009) explains that structured analytic techniques are focused on enhancing the rigor analysis of various projects and help overcome human cognitive limitations, and addresses issues concerning outdated models and unquestioned assumptions. Besides, these techniques support the decision-making process and enhance information sharing and collaboration. In this project, I will be using three distinct structural analytic techniques; Devil’s Advocacy, Quality of Information Check, and Outside-In Thinking.

**Identifying Strategies**

**Devil’s Advocacy Technique**

These strategies are critical in intelligence analysis because they challenge analysts' thinking and facilitate the drawing of conclusions with the most logical sense. First, the Devil's Advocacy technique is crucial because it provides outcomes that discover the most logical choices (Pascovich, 2018). This method will test whether there are alternative outcomes and a fault if the logic is used. This is particularly useful when working with terrorist threats because the analyst should not get this data wrong.

**Quality of Information Check**

The quality of the information check strategy evaluates whether the available information sources are complete and sound since analysts need to evaluate the intel to ensure it is from a trusted and reputable source. Since open-source intelligence is often collected from public sources, including the Internet or media, they are likely to provide falsified or biased information that could lead analysts to draw inaccurate conclusions (Chang et al., 2018). Therefore, quality of information check ensures that analysts collect accurate intelligence with no gaps or evident deception from the source.

**Outside-In Thinking**

This strategy is facilitated by having undercover assets within the terrorist group, al-Qaeda, for instance, that provide human intelligence. Outside In-Thinking is capable of identifying an issue's factors, basic forces, and trends. This strategy purposes to determine the factors capable of influencing the situation and is crucial for analysts to determine the appropriate solutions and alternatives that could change the situation's course (Primer, 2009).

**Using the Strategies**

The Devil's Advocacy would be used by first outlining the primary judgment and key assumptions. This would then be followed by outlining the judgments and characterizing the supporting evidence for the current view. Next would be the selection of the key assumption and review of the information. Information review would be followed by highlighting the evidence supporting the alternative hypothesis. Finally, flawed assumptions would be identified after presenting the findings to the group to allow for the analysts to draw proper conclusions (Pascovich, 2018).

The quality of information check is applied by performing various periodic checks. This strategy would begin with database development to store the information and collection of much background data. The analysts would then determine the most crucial sources and recheck previously discarded information to identify the information's level of confidence. This process effectively ensures that valid information is not disregarded and only accurate information sources are used (Chang et al., 2018). This essentially enhances the proper drawing of conclusions.

Lastly, using the Outside In-Thinking strategy would begin with listing all the fundamental forces such as the political, social, economic, technological, and environmental to determine the possible influences on the situation. This would be followed by focusing on factors capable of being influences and accessing how this would happen. Lastly, the analyst would look at the evidence to determine any possible impact (Primer, 2009).

**Supporting Conclusions**

Structured analytical techniques (SATs) are effective tools that help analysts conduct intelligence analysis and draw proper conclusions. Besides, they enhance the testing of currently implemented theories and alternative solutions. Primer (2009) explains that SATs ensure that analysts apply logical thinking that leads them to draw proper conclusions based on the provided data for analysis. In particular, in the case scenario, when analysts try to determine imminent threats against the United States, they must ensure they have the proper answers because such situations do not call for guessing.

References

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