

# ADVANCED INTELLIGENCE TRADECRAFT INTENSIVE



The below outline is indicative of the likely structure of the week. The exercise and injects used will be finalised closer to the date dependent on the makeup of course participants. The topics are delivered at an advanced level and the expectation is that participants will be able to demonstrate the translation of theory into practice throughout the course. The evolving exercise (which is at the core of the briefings) is designed to push participants intellectually and practically and makes up a significant focus of this course.

# 1



## **Day 1 - The Analyst's Mind**

*Understanding how you think before you try to improve it*

This day focuses on how analysts think in practice — not in theory. Participants examine their own cognitive approaches, how assumptions take hold, and how early judgements begin to shape outcomes.

Topics include: understanding decision-maker needs, critical thinking, critical reading, preparing effective presentation, hypothesis generation, exercise introduction

# 2



## **Day 2 - Breaking Assumptions**

*Challenging bias, pressure points and flawed reasoning*

Today, participants are pushed to challenge their own thinking. This includes identifying cognitive bias, questioning source reliability, and recognising where confidence is not supported by evidence. The day will begin with participants required to present a morning briefing. These briefings will continue and culminate with a formal, final briefing on Day 5.

Topics include: mindsets and perceptions, quality of information, analysis of competing hypotheses, evolving exercise

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# 3



## **Day 3 - Structured Analysis in Practice**

*Applying methodologies to real-world problems*

On Day 3, participants will explore core structured analytic techniques which are introduced and applied in a live scenario. Participants move from instinctive judgement to disciplined analysis using hypothesis testing, assumption checks and structured reasoning.

Topics include: writing effective briefings, cognitive errors, key assumptions check, evolving exercise (analysis development)

# 4



## **Day 4 - Testing the Assessment**

*Competing hypotheses, challenge, and analytical stress-testing*

Today, assessments are stress-tested using competing hypotheses, alternative analysis and peer challenge. Participants are required to defend, revise and refine their positions as new information and competing interpretations emerge.

Topics include: creative thinking, devil's advocacy/red teaming, finalisation of analysis for evolving exercise, short product draft

# 5



## **Day 5 - Defending the Judgement**

*Briefing, persuasion, and standing behind your analysis*

On this final day, participants prepare and deliver a formal decision-maker briefing. The focus is on clarity, defensibility and confidence under pressure — ensuring analysis can be explained, justified and acted upon.

Topics include: completion of group work, final briefing, final product review, course conclusion