

Michael Apollo, Undergraduate Student, University of Albany

COMPETITIVE DIVISION – UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

Utilization of Open-Source Intelligence by Emergency Managers During Severe Weather Events

Open-source intelligence (OSINT) presents significant possibilities for decision making during crisis. Emergency managers utilize OSINT for building situational awareness, establishing a common operating picture, and adjusting tactical response operations for maximum effectiveness and impact. This research will study the utilization of OSINT (social media, news coverage, etc.) and its impact on decision making by emergency managers in Taiwan during severe weather events.

Research objectives include:

- Assessing information needs during each phase of the emergency management cycle (preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation).
- Identifying sources of OSINT relevant to emergency managers.
- Evaluating the process and standards used by emergency managers to verify information received via OSINT.
- Analyzing combinations of various information streams for the development of actionable intelligence that saves lives and property.

Field research techniques, such as interviews with emergency managers, and direct observation in active emergency operations centers, will be used to quantify and qualify OSINT implementation and impact in Taiwan.

This research will be conducted in Taiwan during the summer of 2019 as part of the U.S.-Taiwan Partnership for International Research and Education program at the University at Albany.