



OIE FAN

BLUF: Operations in the Information Environment (OIE) are the primary actions for affecting "gray zone" conflicts where adversaries seek advantage without conventional war. The vast majority of expertise, capabilities, and authorities to implement the "I" in DIME reside beyond the direct authority of the Department of War (DoW). The OIE Functional Area Network (FAN) serves as a collaborative hub to synchronize these external resources and unique authorities to operationalize Irregular Warfare (IW) concepts.

What is the OIE FAN?

The OIE Functional Area Network (FAN) serves as a force multiplier that unites military professionals, interagency experts, academics, and private sector leaders. It is designed to:

- **Operationalize Ideas:** Acting as a "battle lab" to validate strategic concepts before they are deployed.
- **Bridge Instruction to Operations:** Using next-generation techniques and concepts from the Network to enhance the lethality & effectiveness of the force.

Key Facts About OIE



Nature and Character of War

While the nature of war remains the imposition of will, OIE has shifted its character from physical destruction to maneuver within the cognitive domain.



Weaponizing the Cognitive Domain

Russia and China utilize Reflexive Control and the Three Warfares to manipulate narratives in a state of persistent gray-zone competition.



Industrialization

There are more connected devices than humans. Artificial intelligence (AI), mobile device saturation, and social media networks industrialize influence campaigns at a speed, scale, and precision that rival traditional military domains.

Real Life Examples

Russia

Russian OIE Network: "Doppelgänger"

In late 2024 and throughout 2025, a Russian-linked influence operation known as "Doppelgänger" manufactured thousands of fake news articles and spoofed dozens of legitimate U.S. media domains.

This network exploited domestic political polarization to weaken U.S. internal cohesion—a direct assault on the "cognitive front" of homeland defense.

Philippines

Assertive, Measured Transparency: Manila's answer to CCP Grey Zone activities

Manila's campaign utilizes systematic, purposeful visual evidence to narrow the "understanding gap" that enables gray-zone coercion.

By publicizing Chinese "Illegal, Coercive, Aggressive, and Deceptive" (ICAD) tactics in real-time, the Philippines counters cognitive manipulation and complicates an adversary's ability to operate below the threshold of open conflict.



How does OIE impact the DoW's key LOEs?

LOE 01: Defend the U.S. Homeland



Frontline Defense Against Subversion

OIE serves as the initial barrier against foreign "gray-zone" incursions that target domestic stability.



Neutralizing the "Doppelganger" Network

Identify and counter operations that manufacture fake news and spoof media domains to exploit political polarization.



Hardening Cognitive Infrastructure

Building institutional resilience to ensure U.S. structures are as durable as physical ones.

LOE 2: Deter China in the Indo-Pacific



Strength, Not Confrontation

Deterrence is achieved by operationalizing OIE to expose Chinese maritime coercion without escalating to open conflict.



Measured, Assertive Transparency

Using real-time visual evidence to publicize "illegal, Coercive, Aggressive, and Deceptive" (ICAD) tactics in the West Philippine Sea.



Enabling "Denial Defense"

By exposing activities in real-time, the U.S. imposes significant reputational costs on Beijing, undermining its ability to leverage secrecy for strategic gain.

LOE 3: Increase Burden-Sharing



Shifting to Partner Capacity

The FAN acts as a force multiplier by moving away from U.S. dependency and towards genuine ally self-sufficiency.



Global Coordination of Narratives

Sharing OIE methodologies with frontline partners in Taiwan, the Baltics and the Philippines help marshal a collective response to adversaries.



Reducing the Singular Burden on DoW

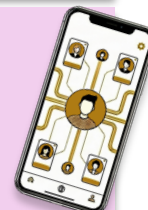
Ensuring allies take primary responsibility in their respective theaters through shared information power.

LOE 4: Supercharge the U.S. Defense Industrial Base



The Broadened Creative Ecosystem

Modern strategic power relies on more than hardware; it encompasses entertainment, independent media, and social networks.



The New "Arsenal of Democracy"

The OIE FAN recruits innovators from the tech and entertainment sectors to contribute unique perspectives to narrative strength.



Media as Strategic Assets

Social platforms and independent media are recognized as critical infrastructure that can either project influence or be exploited to weaken cohesion.

Shifting Character of Warfare

Traditional Warfare		Information Age Warfare (OIE)
Physical (Land, Sea, Air)	Primary Domain	Cognitive (Human Mind)
Physical Destruction	Main Objective	Cognitive Maneuver / Imposition of Will
Industrial Manufacturing	Key "Arsenal"	Creative Ecosystem (Media, Tech, Social)
War vs. Peace	Conflict State	Persistent Gray-Zone Competition

