

# **The Awareness-Order-Action Cycle and Battlespace Awareness**

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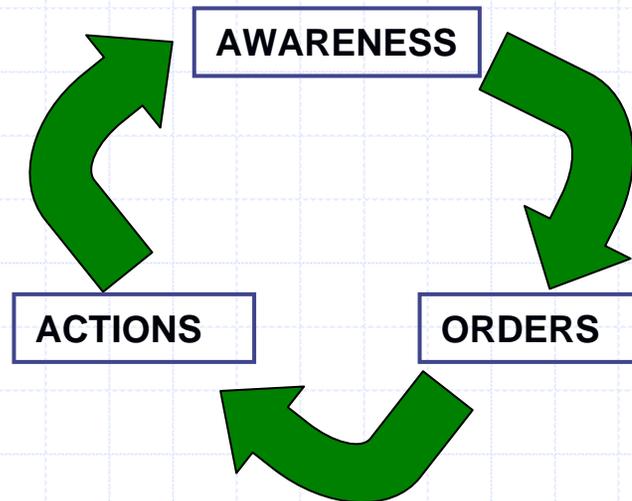
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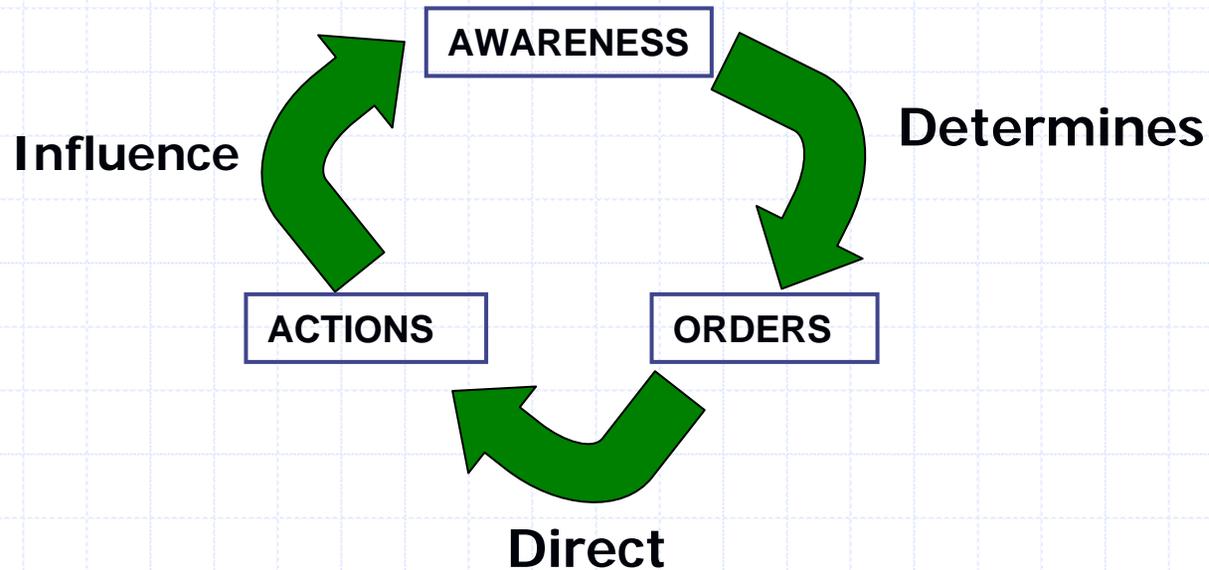
## The Argument:

- 1 – Awareness is a individual mental construct  
*An internal view of the external world*
- 2 – If the external world is a battlespace, then:  
*Battlespace Awareness* is the best term
- 3 – Many factors can and will influence awareness
- 4 – Two major influences on the military mind are:  
Culture and Doctrine
- 5 – For any command group, there is a cycle through:  
Awareness Orders and Actions

# The AOA Cycle



# The AOA Cycle



# Awareness

- 1 – Any dynamic model of awareness fits the cycle:  
(accepting awareness as a cognitive construct  
and thus open to potential change)**
- 2 – Culture and Doctrine can influence:**
  - Our cognitive construct**
  - The orders that result**
  - How those orders are effected**
- 3 – Result can be a change to the factors that led to  
the original cognitive construct**

## BUT ...

**Awareness is not isolated to any one individual:**

**In 2008, a commander does not act alone:**

**“Multi-force ... ..”**

**“Multi-national ... ..”**

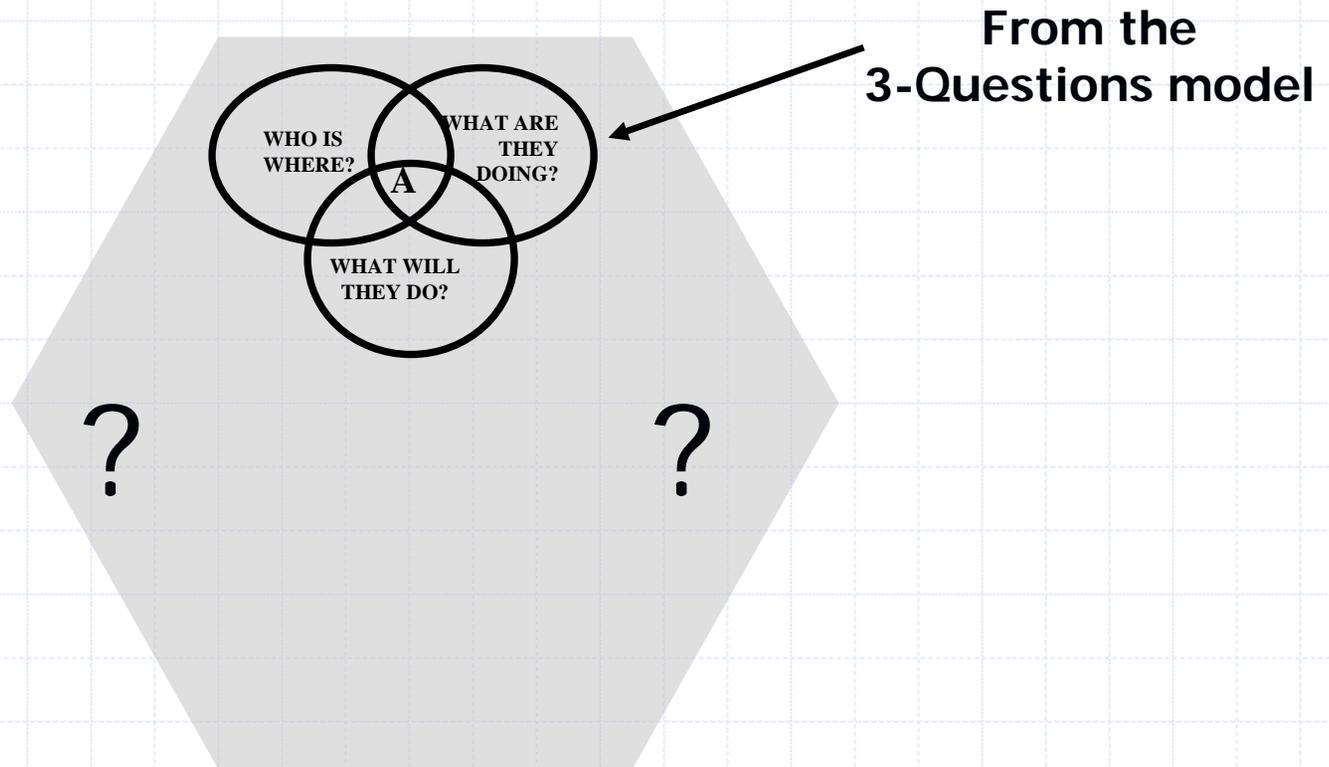
e.g. NATO  
SEATO  
Coalition

**And this introduces a new complication:**

**Language**

## Awareness

is part of something greater



# Battlespace Awareness

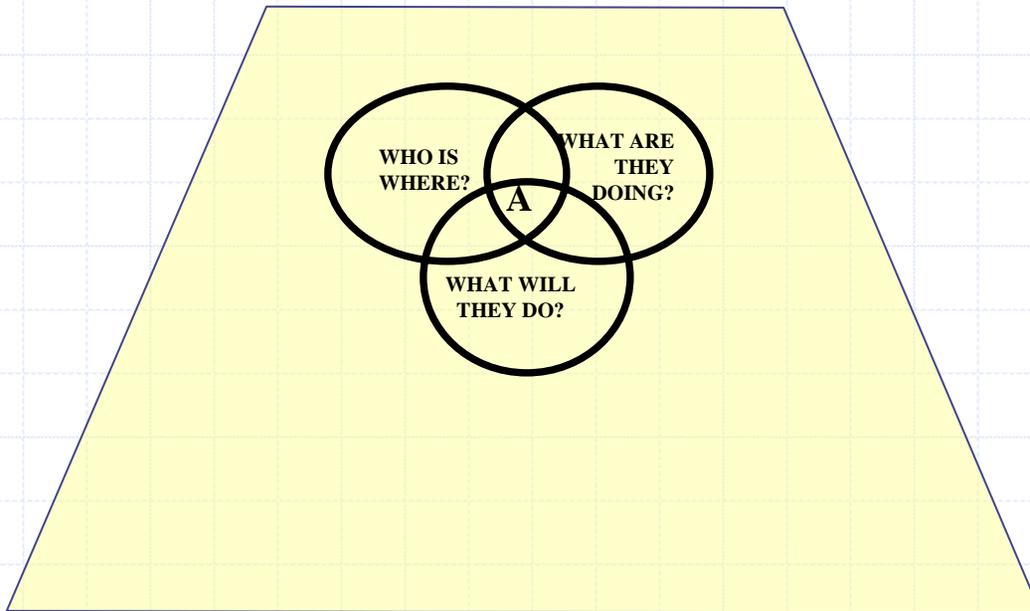
Any commander, any rank, anywhere, needs answers to three questions ...

**WHO IS WHERE?**

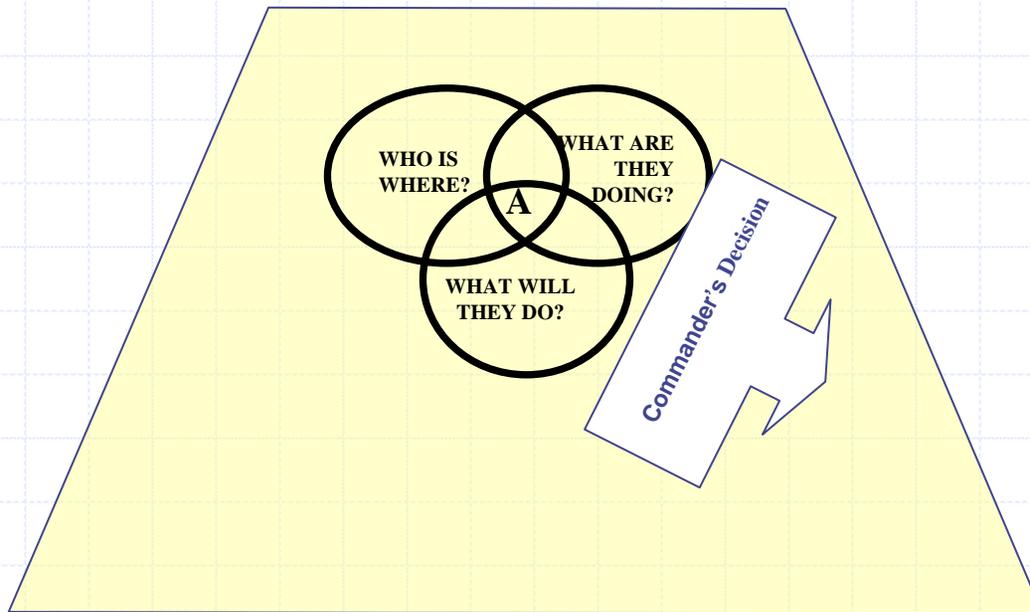
**WHAT ARE THEY DOING?**

**WHAT WILL THEY DO?**

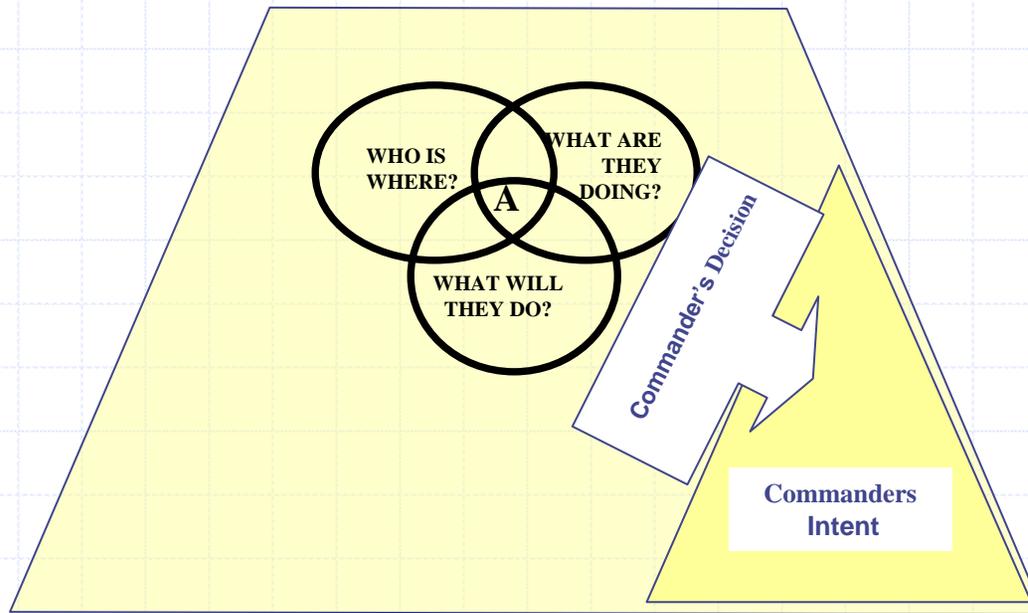
# Awareness



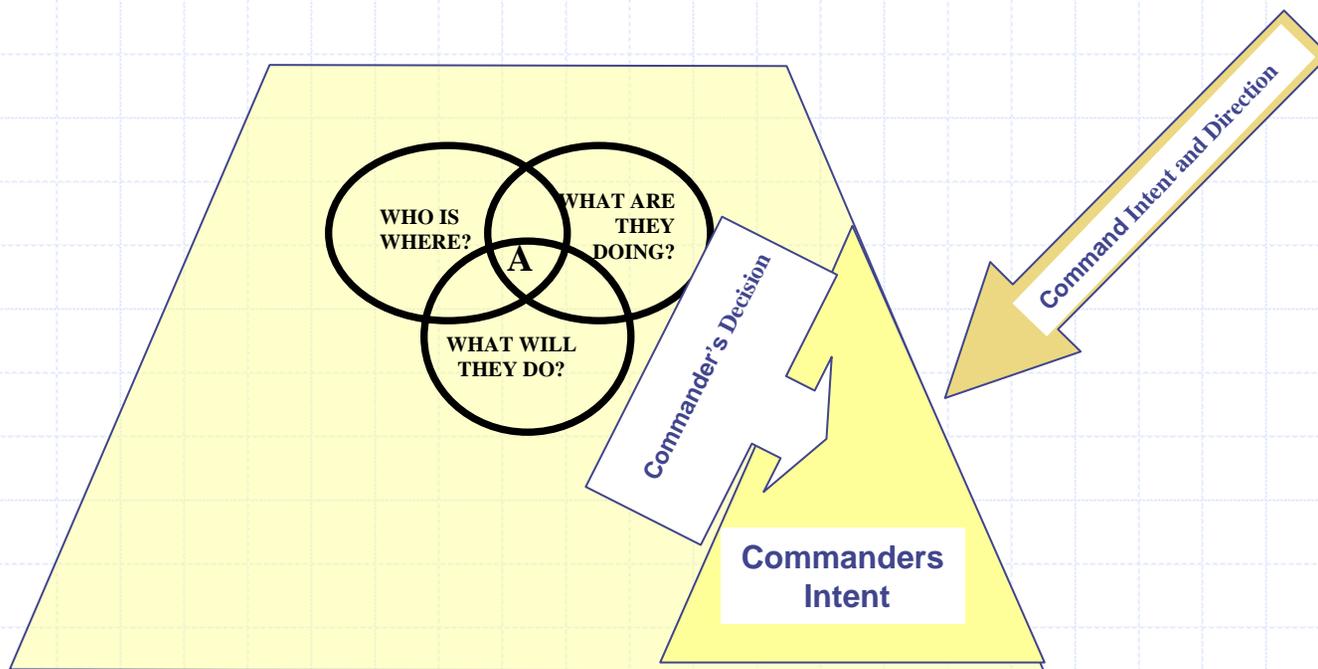
# Awareness



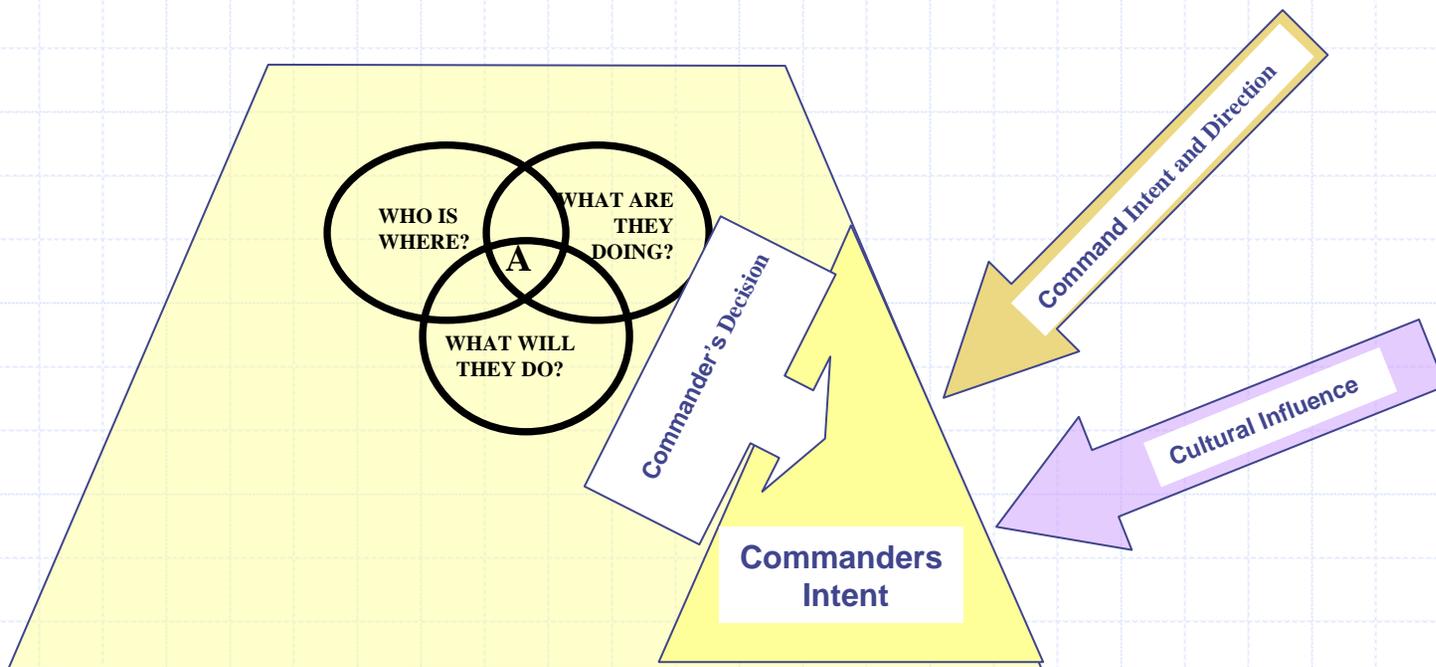
# Awareness



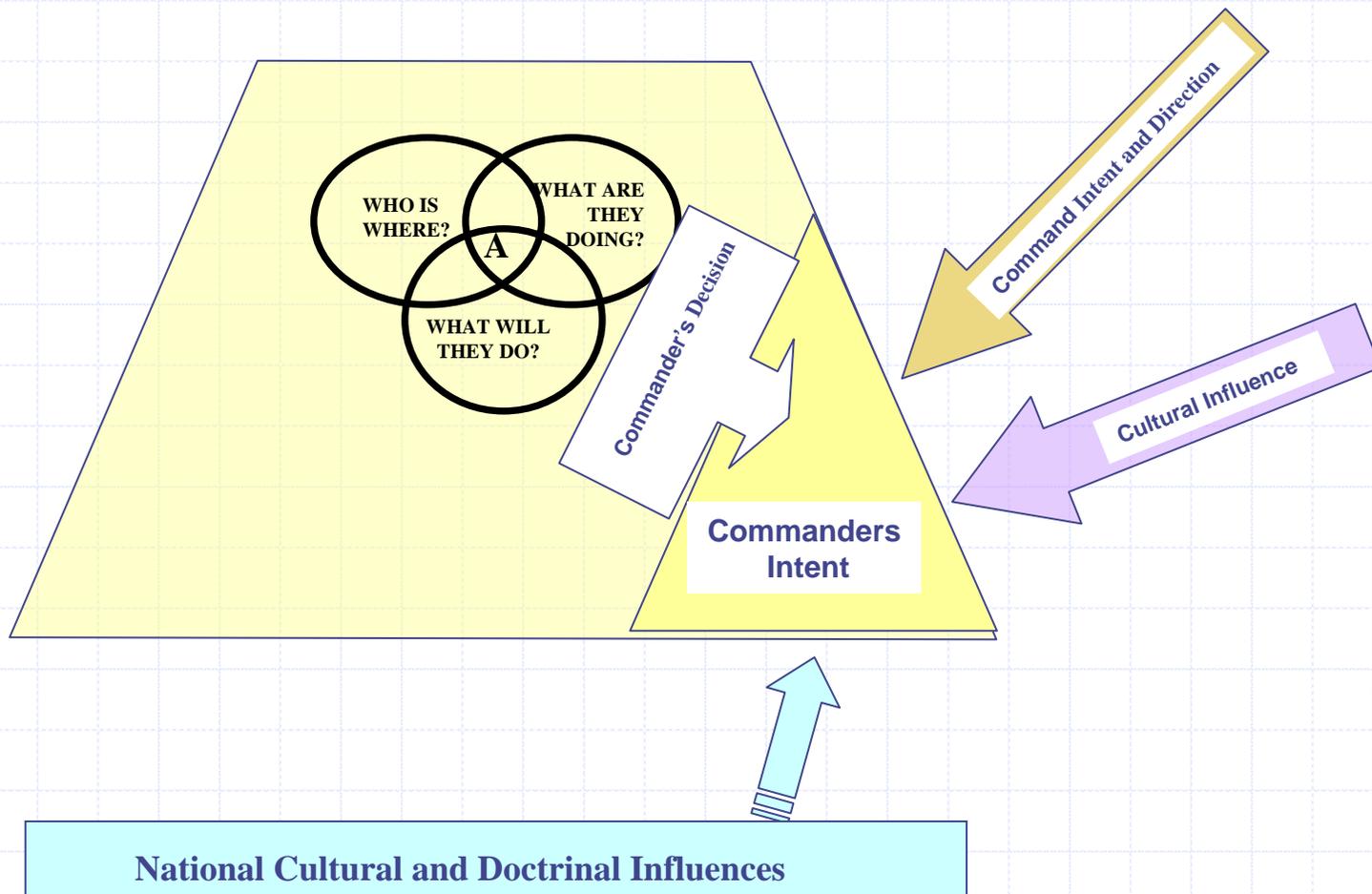
## Awareness-



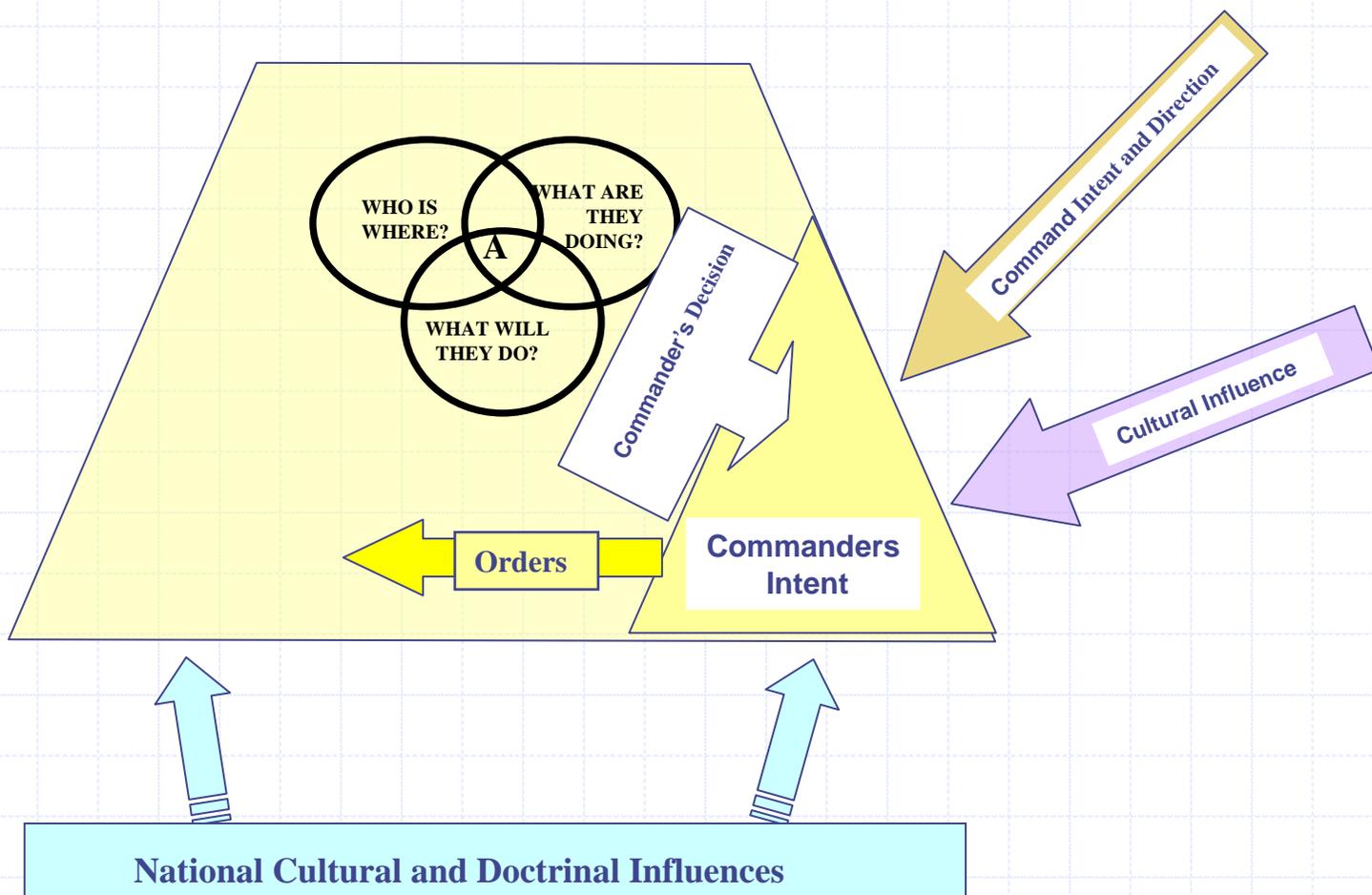
## Awareness-Order



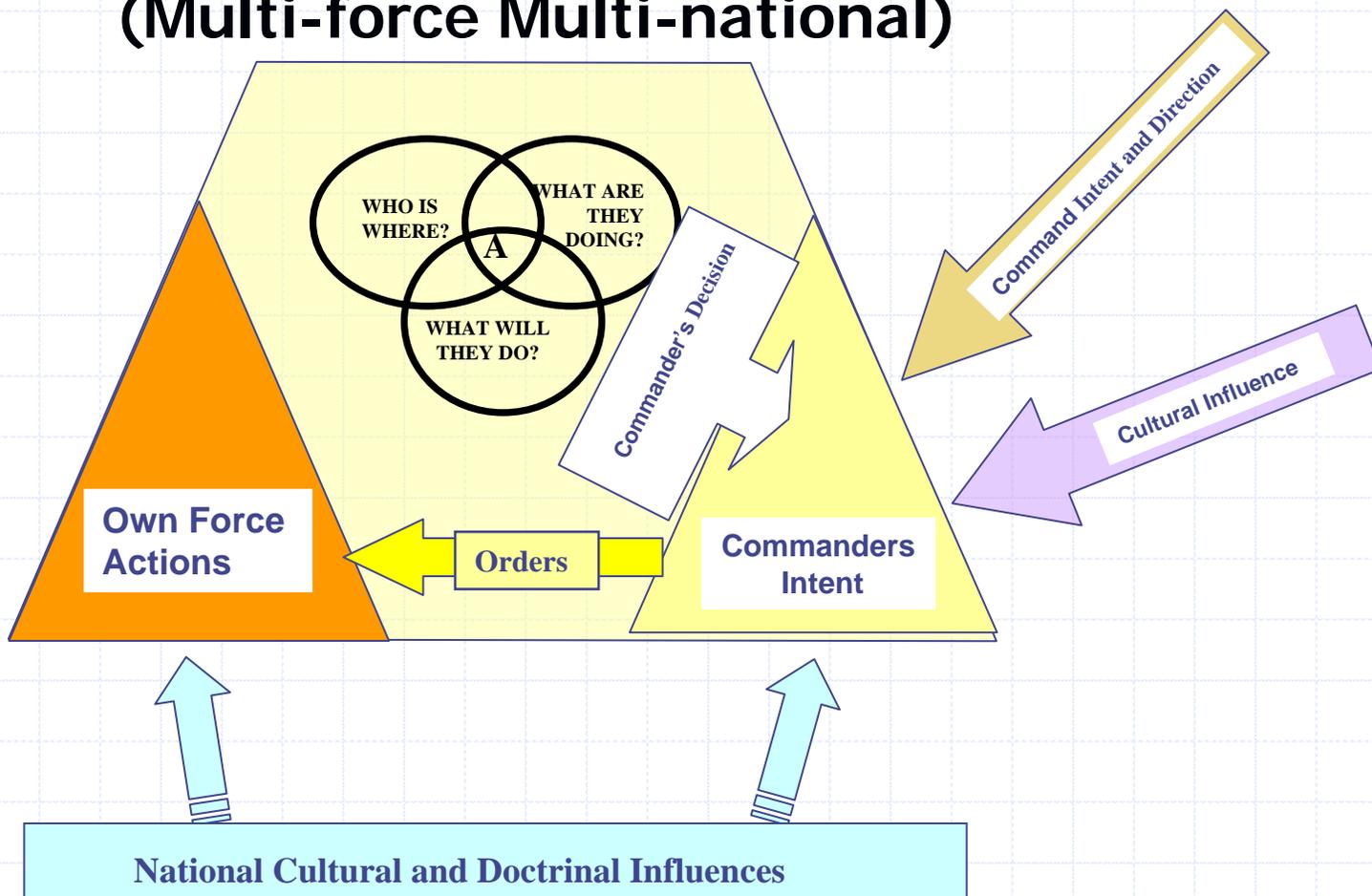
# Awareness-Order



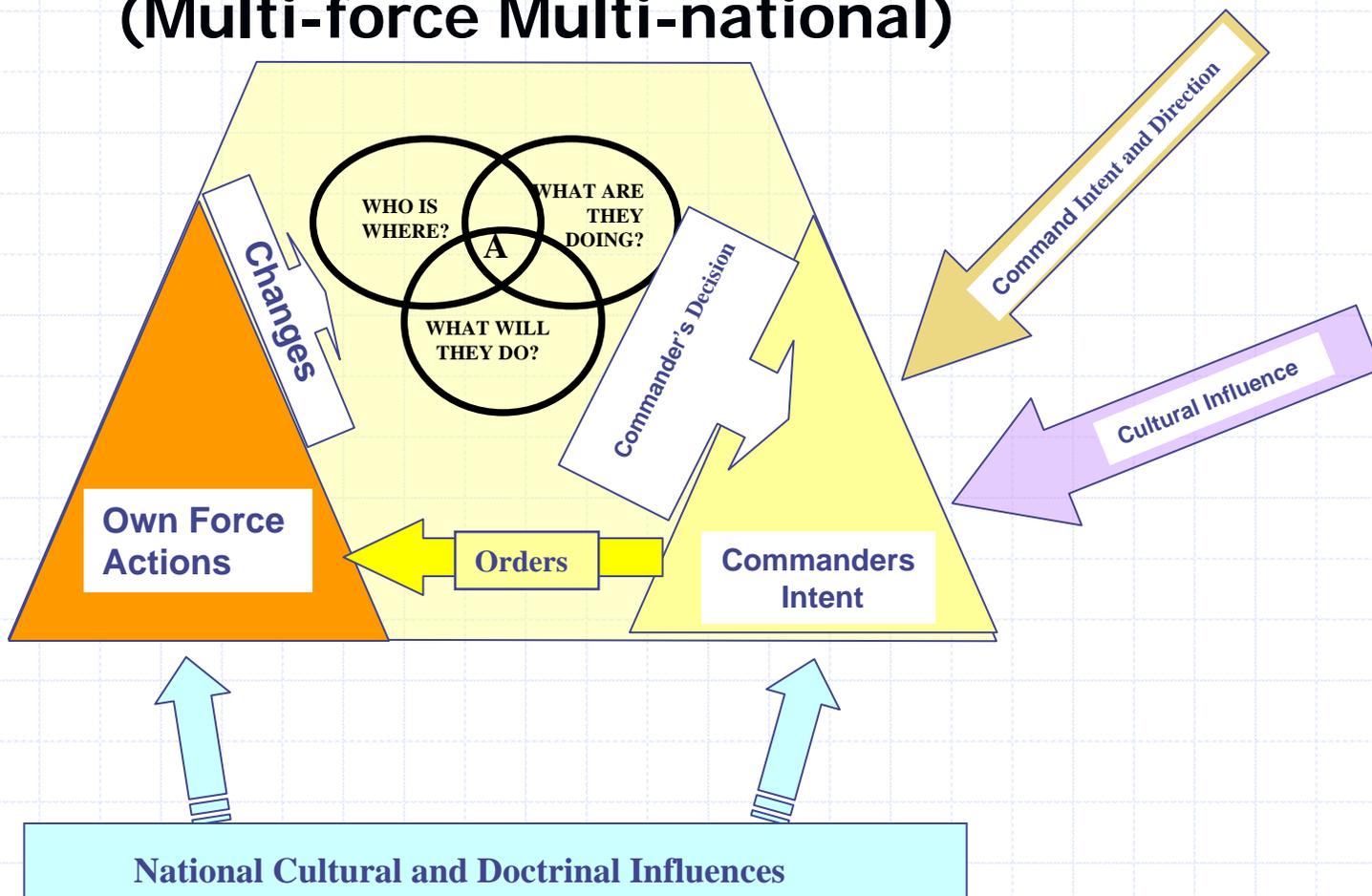
# Awareness-Order-



## Awareness-Order-Action Cycle (Multi-force Multi-national)

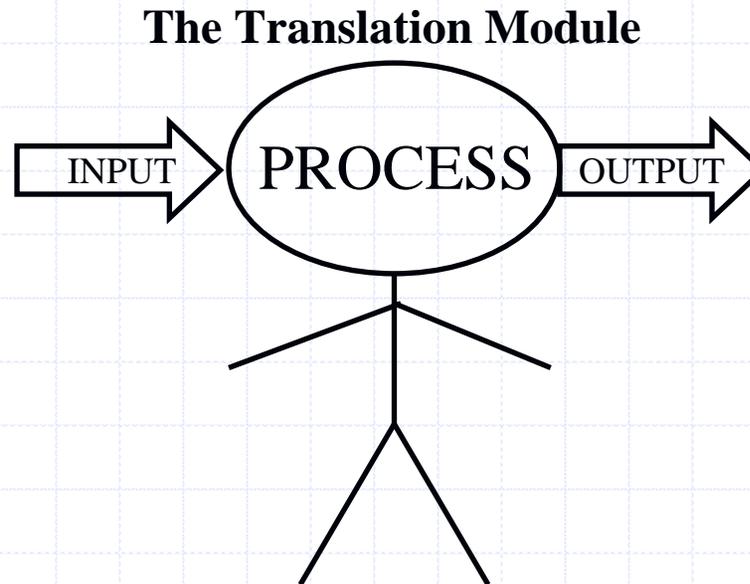


## Awareness-Order-Action Cycle (Multi-force Multi-national)



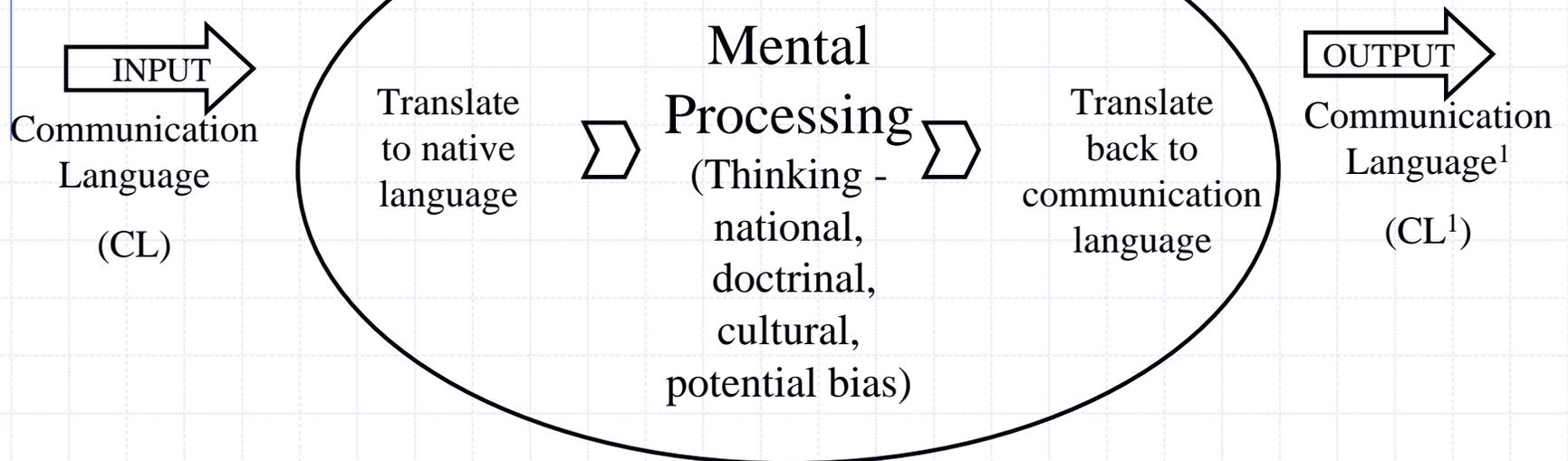
# First – the language problem

All multi-national staff come with a translation module \*



\* Limited warranty  
Terms And Conditions apply

# Just what is this Process ?



# The Official Languages of NATO

## English:

- UK English
- US English
- Canadian English

## French:

- French French
- Canadian French
- Belgian French
- Italian French

? (???)

# Culture: A Simple Example

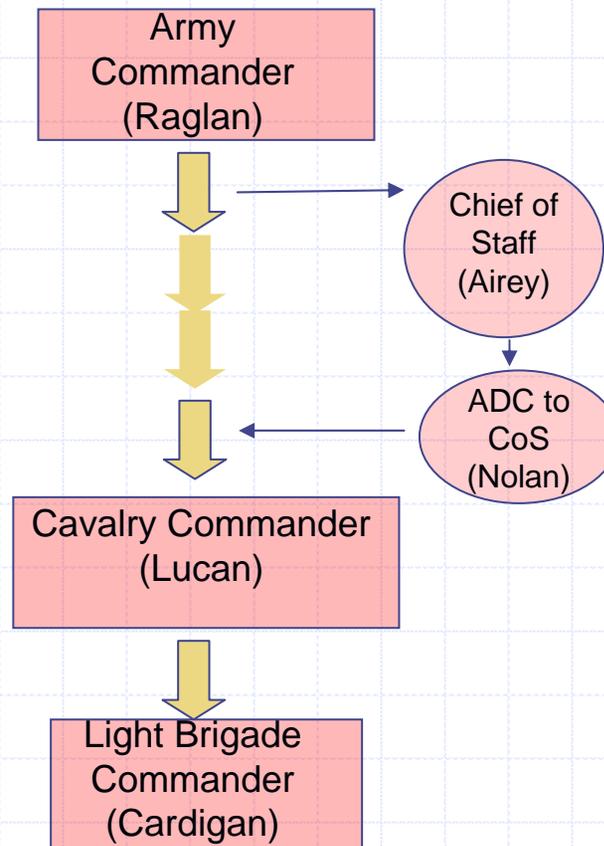
To take one single nation and one single event:

## Balaklava (or The Charge of the Light Brigade)

This was a very simple command structure, but a combination of culture, doctrine, and personality, coupled with a failure of awareness, led to a total disaster.

(No language problems)

# Balaklava – British Command Structure



# Balaklava (or The Charge of the Light Brigade)

## DISASTER!

Or, from a French observer:

*"C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre"*

# Doctrine

## *Unit A*

*"We do not fly helicopters at night"*

## *Unit B*

*"We do not operate without helicopter support"*

**Order Unit B to conduct a night patrol and see just what happens (probably nothing at all)**

## **Doctrinal Differences**

**These certainly go back to the Napoleonic era, and were also found within NATO at the end of the cold war. Potential problems at the boundaries between units were identified.**

**At a low level:**

**US and UK Armor/Armour have different ideas on when a vehicle commander should get his head down and close the hatch**

**Other studies of multinational command suggest:  
US Operations are Planner-driven  
UK Operations are Command-led**

## In conclusion

No force operates in a vacuum, so

Think **Battlespace**

but

Remember that units and nations have different cultures and doctrines as well as different languages.

Language Culture Doctrine

will all bear on the A-O-A Cycle