



The Adversary Index — Glossary and Acronym Reference

Companion to the Adversary Index briefing · August 2026

Public release — inaugural quarterly catalog published July 15, 2026

How to read this reference

The reference travels with the briefing deck and follows the order a reader meets the language: acronyms and initialisms first, then the notation the deck relies on, then the product and scoring vocabulary, then the tradecraft terms. Definitions match the published methodology, and where a value is locked — tier boundaries, tolerance, probability bands — the entry states the locked value. Terms defined here appear in the deck body or the charts.

Acronyms and initialisms

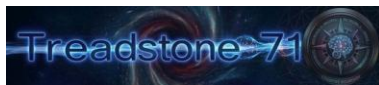
Acronym	Stands for	Meaning in the briefing
AEI	Adaptation / Evolution Index	Sub-index measuring an actor's adaptation pace under operational pressure.
AI	Artificial intelligence	Machine-generated content and automation; scored under ATA where operational use stands documented.
ASA	Adversary Scoring Architecture	The Treadstone 71 scoring architecture. The ASA Evidence Standard, its evidence-grading component, expands the NATO Admiralty Code into 30 factors across nine evidence clusters.
ATA	AI Tradecraft Adoption	Sub-index measuring documented operational AI integration; the widest discriminator in the model.
ATT&CK	Adversarial Tactics, Techniques, and Common Knowledge	The MITRE framework cataloging intrusion behavior — a shared vocabulary rather than an actor score.
CTI	Cyber threat intelligence	The market category covering technical threat reporting, feeds, and vendor analysis.
CVSS	Common Vulnerability Scoring System	The open standard scoring software flaws; cited in the briefing as a rating-standard precedent.
CWOS	Cognitive Warfare Operating System	Pillar 5. The method delivered as software, run continuously on an agentic stack.
CWTR	Cognitive Warfare Tradecraft Reference	Pillar 2. The named reference for cognitive warfare maneuvers; inaugural edition October 5, 2026.
CWV	Cognitive Warfare Velocity	Sub-index measuring the pace and reach of cognitive influence operations.
DAS	Pillar 4 designation	The T71 open intelligence-quality standard: defines the evidence bar for the discipline and certifies against it. Published materials use the designation without a letter-by-letter expansion.
DISARM	Disinformation Analysis and Risk Management	The open framework describing influence-operation behaviors. Every Tradecraft Reference entry carries a DISARM crosswalk — mapped, never cloned.



Acronym	Stands for	Meaning in the briefing
DM	Doctrinal Maturity	Sub-index measuring doctrinal depth and integration.
ECWO	Pillar 6 designation	The board-level cognitive warfare retainer: standing senior advisory for executives and directors. Published materials use the designation without a letter-by-letter expansion.
ICD 203	Intelligence Community Directive 203	The United States standard for analytic tradecraft; Treadstone 71 training builds to it.
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization	The alliance whose Admiralty grading code the ASA Evidence Standard expands.
NDA	Non-disclosure agreement	Governs analyst access to the Tier 1 Edition and the reproduction package.
NV	Narrative Volume	Sub-index measuring aggregate state-aligned or movement narrative production.
OPS	OPSEC Sophistication	Sub-index measuring operational security tradecraft maturity.
OPSEC	Operational security	The discipline of denying an observer insight into one's operations, plans, and infrastructure.
OT	Operational Tempo	Sub-index measuring sustained operational cadence. In the briefing, OT names the sub-index, never operational technology.
PAS	Public Attribution Series	Pillar 3. Evidence-graded public attributions, separated from adversary claims.
STC	Sectoral Targeting Concentration	Sub-index measuring targeting intensity and breadth across sectors.
STEMPLES Plus	Social, Technical, Economic, Military, Political, Legal, Educational, Security — plus religion, demographics, and psychology	The domain framework organizing the universal indicators behind every score.
STIX 2.1	Structured Threat Information Expression	The machine-readable threat-information standard on the Pillar 5 interoperability backlog.
T71	Treadstone 71	The firm, and the prefix naming the T71 Standard.
TAI	Treadstone 71 Adversary Index	Pillar 1. The quarterly adversary rating product at the center of the briefing.
TAXII	Trusted Automated Exchange of Intelligence Information	The transport standard paired with STIX; Pillar 5 interoperability backlog.

Notation

Notation	Meaning
P1 – P6	Pillar identifiers for the six product lines of the T71 Standard.
F01 – F09	Family identifiers for the nine Tradecraft Reference groupings, from narrative engineering (F01) to suppression and denial (F09). Family membership is metadata, never encoded in a maneuver identifier.



Notation	Meaning
Tier 0 – Tier 3	The four catalog bands: Tier 0 (80–100), Tier 1 (55–79), Tier 2 (35–54), Tier 3 (0–34).
B2	An evidence grade in the classic Admiralty style: a usually reliable source reporting probably true information. Inside the expanded ASA standard, a B2 lands in the Mature band, where most quality vendor reporting sits.
Q2 2026	The calendar quarter of the current catalog build, published as the inaugural release on July 15, 2026.

Product and scoring terms

Term	Definition
Big Four	China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran — the four sovereign anchors that calibrate the scale. Every non-state actor scores through the same engine the anchors set.
Boundary zone	The band within five points of a tier boundary: 75–85, 50–60, and 30–40. A composite landing inside a zone goes to a senior analyst for review before publication. Also called a trigger zone.
Change control	The logged, signed record governing score movement. A rebuilt score moving past tolerance enters the catalog only with a written justification attached.
Component annex	A standalone profile riding under a parent actor rather than holding its own catalog line. The Q2 2026 catalog carries seven.
Composite score	An actor's headline 0-to-100 number: the rounded, equal-weight mean of the eight sub-indices. No composite is typed in; the number emerges from the arithmetic underneath it.
Cultural Nexus	The seven-dimension cultural-terrain layer — information control, institutional rigidity, symbolic power, elite cohesion, resistance culture, surveillance state, and technology adoption — blended into the sub-indices alongside the indicator domains.
Degradation pathway	The tracked route through which a weakening actor loses capability. Tier 3 profiles carry one, and Executive Desk subscribers receive the tracking.
Evidence grade	The ASA tri-score attached to every source and claim: source reliability, information credibility, and a counter-deception check. Grades print in line with the facts they support.
Falsifier	The named finding that forces a score revision. Every profile closes with one, turning each judgment into a testable claim rather than a fixed label.
Indicator	The base unit of scoring: universal indicators scored 0 to 6 across the STEMPLES Plus domains, 163 in the universal core plus per-actor extensions. Each requires three independent sources before scoring.
Mission weighting	The Executive Desk option replacing default equal sub-index weights with buyer-set weights summing to 100 percent — a bank defender lifts tempo and targeting; an influence-operations desk lifts velocity and volume.
Operational cluster	One of 10 groupings organizing the catalog by operating environment — the Iranian Axis of Resistance, the Salafi-jihadist band, gray-zone state cyber, cybercrime ecosystems, hacktivist networks, and so on. Distinct from the nine evidence clusters inside the ASA standard.
Patron-proxy rule	Proxies score on demonstrated independent capability. Access to a sponsor's arsenal counts only where independent operational use stands documented.
Reproduction package	The workbook-and-log set letting an external reviewer rebuild a composite from the evidence without Treadstone 71's help. Available to analysts under NDA.

Term	Definition
Sherman Kent estimative language	The probability vocabulary attached to every judgment, after the analyst who standardized it, on the house half-open spectrum: almost certain (95 to 99 percent), highly likely (85 to <95), likely (55 to <85), roughly even chance (45 to <55), unlikely (15 to <45), highly unlikely (5 to <15), almost no chance (1 to <5).
Sub-index	One of eight 0-to-100 capability measures per actor: CWV, OPS, AEI, NV, STC, ATA, DM, and OT. Two actors reaching the same composite through different strengths sit side by side, and the sub-index profile shows why.
Three-source triangulation	The evidence gate at the indicator level: three independent, bias-balanced sources before an indicator scores. Triangulation logs record the sourcing per indicator.
Tolerance	The five-point band around a cataloged composite. A rebuilt score moving further requires a signed written justification under change control.
Universal Indicator Framework	The 163-indicator core — 156 STEMPLES Plus indicators plus seven demographic indicators — extended per actor where the evidence warrants.

Tradecraft terms

Term	Definition
Cognitive warfare	Operations targeting perception, decision-making, and social cohesion rather than networks alone. The actor attacks how a population or a leadership thinks, not merely what a system runs.
Cyber-cognitive coupling	A single campaign fusing intrusion with narrative effect. Hack-and-leak is the canonical case: the breach supplies the material; the release supplies the influence.
Clone-site forgery	A fabricated replica of a legitimate news or government site carrying planted content, built to borrow the original's credibility.
Gray zone	State activity held below the threshold of open conflict — coercive, deniable, and continuous.
Hack-and-leak	Stolen material released, often curated or altered, for narrative effect rather than for the theft itself.
Influence operation	An organized effort to shape an audience's beliefs, emotions, or behavior toward an actor's objective.
Milblogger	A military-affiliated social media commentator. In the Russian case, a semi-independent amplification layer between state media and mass audiences.
Non-state band	Informal term for the seven non-sovereign actors holding Tier 1, led at a composite of 63 by the Houthi movement in the Q2 2026 build.
Provocation baiting	Engineering an opponent's overreaction, then harvesting the reaction as material for the next narrative cycle.
Reflexive control	Shaping an opponent's decision inputs so the opponent arrives, apparently freely, at the attacker's preferred choice. A Russian doctrinal lineage running back decades.
Tradecraft family	One of the nine Tradecraft Reference groupings (F01–F09) organizing 54 named maneuvers and their techniques.



Questions on any entry route to info@treadstone71.com. The full methodology white paper and the ASA Evidence Standard carry the complete definitions behind the summaries here.