Reference Information

RCAL Mission Statement:

Training the “Next Generation Analyst”

RCAL is designed to give students experience in analyzing real world problems and prepare them for the professional world by providing opportunities for both critical and adversarial thinking. We promote the research, practice, and application of structured analytics, critical thinking and visual analytics.

Social Media/Inter-Organization Communication:

Follow us on Social Media!

RCAL regularly updates its Social Media platforms with both critical and interesting information concerning club events such as meetings, socials, and other engagement opportunities.

Check us out on any of the following:

➢ Remind 101 Text Alerts - Text @eff4f8 to 81010
➢ Facebook - @RedCellPSU
➢ Twitter - @RedCellPSU
➢ Instagram - rcalpsu
➢ LinkedIn - Red Cell Analytics Lab

...or visit our Website: rcal.ist.psu.edu

Meeting Information:

RCAL’s system of meetings is unique; we offer our members a variety of meetings occurring on different days of the week to accommodate as many busy schedules as possible. These are RCAL’s main meeting types, although other engagement events will occur ad hoc throughout the semester.

**General Meetings:** These can include simulations, scenarios, team-oriented research projects, guest speakers, and professional development seminars. Each General Meeting will contain different content; scenarios and projects conducted at these meetings will not continue longer than one session.

**Red Team Meetings:** These can include both long- and short-term research projects focused on assessing a situation from the adversary’s point of view. In other words, Red Teaming.

**Current Events Meetings:** These can include both long- and short-term research projects involving, but not limited to, current events analysis and discussion, trend assessments, and network mapping. Past products have included BLUFs and reports concerning Russian Hybrid Warfare and a projected assessment of the U.S.-North Korea meeting outcome based on each country’s interests.
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Special Projects Officer Program (SPOP):
In order for RCAL to fulfill its mission of training the next generation analyst, we must give our members the opportunity to demonstrate their analytic skills in a setting the promotes producing real-world deliverables pertinent to the intelligence community.

See the attached document for more details or visit our website: rcal.ist.psu.edu for more information!

RCAL Divisions:

*Operations Division:* The Operations Division provides the hands-on experience for members necessary for analytic skills development. This exposure takes many forms and focuses on many different aspects of building a well-rounded analyst.

*Analysis Division:* The Analysis Division serves as the student-driven analysis portion of the organization. Long- and short-term research projects will be conducted at the discretion of student leaders and/or outside contacts.

*Technology Division:* The Science and Technology Division supplies the organization with innovative ideas regarding technology and identifies global trends and/or areas of technological advancement pertinent to membership projects or interest.

*Engagement Division:* The Engagement Division provides the means necessary to maintaining an committed and involved membership. Without membership support, the organization itself cannot operate and spread its mission. Engaging members will take many different forms and requires consistent effort of motivating the members to become active members.

Board Contact Information:

*Operations Division:*
Student Director: McKenzie Powell.................................Email: mcp5314@psu.edu
Deputy Director: Preston Scott Ward...............................Email: pvw5141@psu.edu
Operations Officer: Steven Waggoner..............................Email: sjw5458@psu.edu

*Analysis Division:*
Intelligence Officer: Jared Stoner.................................Email: jms8163@psu.edu

*Technology Division:*
Science and Technology Officer: Cody Holl......................Email: cch5257@psu.edu

*Engagement Division:*
Communications Officer: Jessica Tatone.........................Email: jat5650@psu.edu
Logistics Officer: Camdon Eveler.................................Email: cde5103@psu.edu
Finance Officer: Zach Ripka......................................Email: zvr5048@psu.edu
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RCAL Reading List:
❖ Dangerous Games by Margaret MacMillan
❖ For the President’s Eyes Only by Christopher Andrew
❖ Makers of Modern Strategy by Peter Paret
❖ The Main Enemy by Milt Bearden & James Risen
❖ Facts and Fears by James R. Clapper
❖ Fair Play by James M. Olson
❖ Confronting Terror by Dean Reuter & John Yoo
❖ Thinking in Time by Richard Neustadt & Ernest May
❖ Patton: A Genius for War by Carlo D’Este
❖ Peter the Great by Robert K. Massie
❖ Intelligence and the National Security Strategist by Roger Z. George & Robert D. Kline
❖ The Master of Disguise by Antonio J. Mendez

(Typically) Reliable News Sources
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Frequently Asked Questions

+ **Do I have to be an IST/SRA major to join Red Cell?**
  Absolutely not! We are affiliated with the College of IST, but our members range from political science and criminology, to international affairs and geography. All majors are welcome - especially if you’re joining us for fun! The skills we develop apply to a wide variety of jobs across the spectrum.

+ **I'm a Junior, Senior, Graduate Student, etc. - Is it too late to join RCAL?**
  Absolutely not! All Penn State students are welcome and encouraged to join.

+ **This club seems really intense… I don’t think I have the skills to join.**
  That’s the purpose of RCAL - to prepare our members for careers in analysis. By supplementing your academics with this hands-on exposure and practice, you will be one step ahead in the game. Plus, Red Cell has an excellent reputation among employers, both public and private sector. Being involved in a RCAL project will help you stand out to employers and give them an idea of your experience in this field.

+ **Why should I join Red Cell if I don’t want to go into intelligence analysis?**
  We promote the research, practice, and application of structured analytics, critical thinking, and visual analytics. These critical skills paired with the opportunities to gain experience in preparing deliverables such as briefs, reports, and visual presentations, help young students stand out to employers in both the public and private sector.

+ **Is it required to attend every meeting?**
  Although it is highly encouraged and welcomed, our members are not expected to attend every single meeting unless they are part of a Special Projects team that requires.

+ **What should I do if I need to miss a meeting? (Not a Special Projects Meeting)**
  Nothing! You don’t even have to let us know. It’s totally fine if you can’t make it to some meetings. General Meetings are typically different each time, so you won’t be impacted at the next meeting if you skip a week. If you’re part of a research team and need to miss a day, we can easily catch you up the next time you join us.

+ **What should I do if I need to miss a Special Projects Meeting?**
  Contact your Team Lead to let them know that you cannot make it. Continual absence may lead to your removal from the project, but will be decided case by case.
+ **Is Red Cell affiliated with any U.S. Government agencies?**
   No. RCAL is completely student-run through the College of IST at Penn State, University Park, and guided by its advisor, Colonel Graham, in order to supplement students’ analytical training for a career in threat assessment and analysis. Red Cell is in no way directly affiliated with any public or private sector entity.

+ **How do I prepare for meetings?**
   It depends- General Meetings typically require no prior knowledge and involve an interactive learning session. Those meetings need no preparation.

   However, for Current Events meetings and if you are on a Special Projects Team, you will likely want to do some outside research on current events or anything pertinent to your project at the time for discussion and/or final product development purposes.