



# Human Terrain System



*Human Terrain System*

## HTS Special Ops Summit

**Information as of:  
12 December 2011**



*...to whatever degree is possible in the near-term, ISR officers should take the time and expand their efforts to become more knowledgeable in the human terrain and cultural features of their areas of responsibility in order to be more responsive to operational commanders. This knowledge will enable them to provide those supported commanders a richer understanding of the situation - an understanding that includes the context in which decision must be made as well as the numbers of things in the area. (Defense Science Board 2011)*

**Overall Brief is**

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# Capability Gap Solution



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- **Operational need (05-07)**
  - Multiple ONS & JUONS submitted for IZ & AF
- **Proof of Concept (FY06-7)**
  - 5 teams (3 IZ; 2 AF)
  - JIEDDO approved & Funded
  - Development of HTS infrastructure
- **CENTCOM JUONS (FY07)**
  - Iraq surge & additional teams for AF (26 team total)
    - Human Terrain Teams at BCT/RCT/DIV/MEF level
    - Reachback capability
    - MAP-HT socio-cultural toolkit
  - Joint Staff validated; JRAC funded
- **New RFF requirements (FY08-10)**
  - Afghanistan: 31 teams
    - Includes support to NATO BCTs, PRTs, RCs
    - HTS support to AF/PK Tribal Knowledge Base
  - Iraq support: 10 teams (departed AUG 11)

*\*31 HTS teams deployed*

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# Intelligence Support to Counterinsurgency



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- Intelligence in COIN: facilitate understanding of the operational environment, with emphasis on the **populace**, host nation, and insurgents.
- Intelligence in COIN is about **people**. U.S. forces must **understand the people of the host nation**, the insurgents, and the host-nation (HN) government.
- Commanders and planners require insight into **cultures, perceptions, values, beliefs, interests and decision-making processes** of individuals and groups.
- **Socio-cultural considerations** are often the most important factors to consider during military decision-making.
- Integrate staffs and **draw on the knowledge of non-intelligence personnel and external experts** with local and regional knowledge...critical to effective preparation.



# Human Terrain System Mission



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Task: Recruit, train, deploy, and support an embedded, operationally focused sociocultural capability; conduct operationally relevant, sociocultural research and analysis; develop and maintain a sociocultural knowledge base

Purpose: to support operational decision-making, enhance operational effectiveness, and preserve and share sociocultural institutional knowledge.

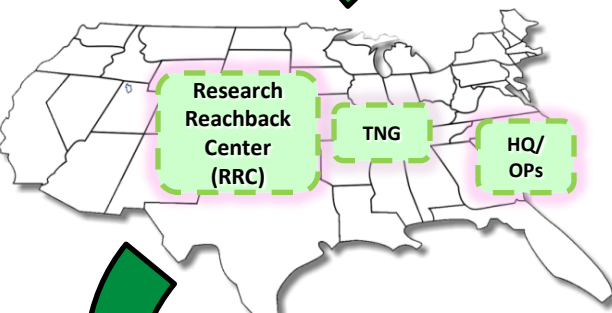


# How US Army has addressed this challenge?



## Human Terrain System

### POM Funded Capabilities



### Enduring Capabilities:

FY 11-15 Army Base Budget.:

- HTS Project Management
- Reachback Research Center
- Team training
- Project management, admin support
- KM (MAP-HT and data repositories)

Admin & RRC Research Support

Team Research & Support Requests

HTS  
Admin & logistics  
support

HTS Products  
posted on: NIPR,  
SIPR, SharePoint,  
CENTRIX, CIDNE

Human Terrain  
Team  
(HTT)

- Gather data in respective geographic areas
- Conduct sociocultural analysis to support unit operational decision making process

### Contingency Funded Capabilities:

CMIP interface; integrate, aggregate and archive team products

Theater Support  
Office  
(TSO)

Theater  
Coordination  
Element  
(TCE)

Human Terrain  
Analysis Team  
(HTAT)

- Aggregate and integrate HTT information & conduct further analysis
- SOIC coordination

Social Science  
Research & Analysis  
(SSRA)

Contracted indigenous, theater-wide survey capability



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# Human Terrain Teams



*Human Terrain System*

- **HTS provides:** embedded, operationally focused sociocultural capability; operationally relevant, sociocultural research and analysis; sociocultural knowledge base
- **Regionally focused, modular, special staff capability**
  - Attached on orders to and in direct support of the BCT / RCT, Division/MEF/Regional Command, & Corps/Theatre
  - Support Coalition Forces (Regional Command, BCT, PRT)
- **Team composition:** Team Leader, Social Scientist (1-2), Research Manager (1-2), Human Terrain Analyst (1-2)
- **Teams remain in place; staggered individual replacement**
- **Tour Length: Nine (9) months**
- **Dedicated support from SSRA & RRC**



**Focus on the local population**



# HTS Team Research & Analysis



*Human Terrain System*

- Teams use a mixed methodology approach (qualitative and quantitative) for a complex analytical approach to research
- Qualitative methods more predominant for teams; SSRA predominantly quantitative methods.
- Every effort made to acquire a true local perspective and not just that of village leaders
- Qualitative analysis considers the contextual meaning of villager statements while accounting for demographics and other variables. The quest for the “so what” and “why”.

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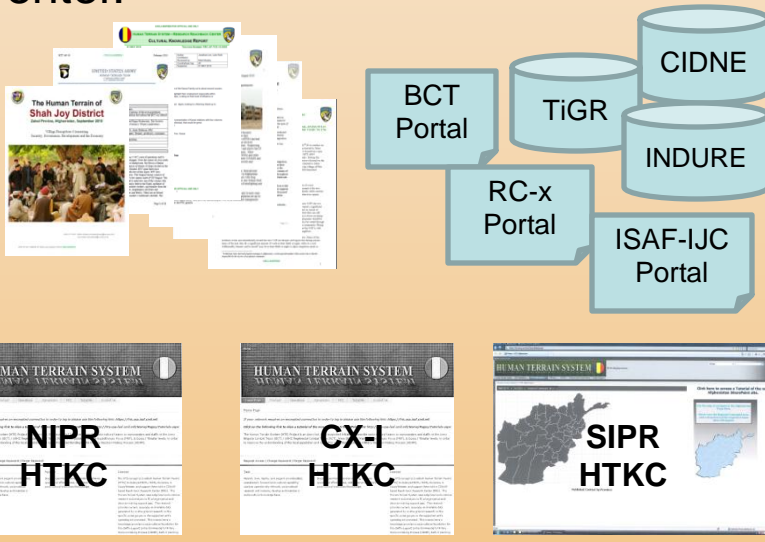
# Human Terrain Information and Data



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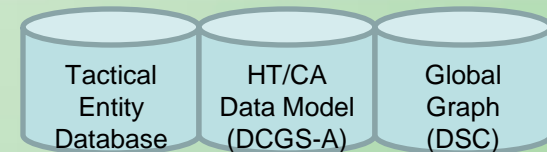
## Unstructured Information

- Published reports, flat files
- Teams disseminate to multiple repositories
- Way Ahead: Single repository posting, Human Terrain Knowledge Center.



## Structured Data

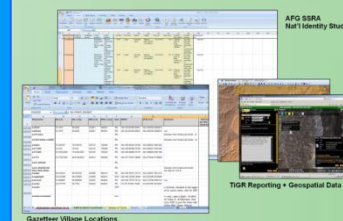
- Utilizing existing community standards for data schemas.
- Maintaining consistency with DCGS-A data standards.
- Data sets support logical build and opportunity for temporal analysis.



### NGA Human Geography Themes

Demographics  
Religion  
Language  
Ethnicity  
Transportation  
Economy  
Education  
Land Use  
Medical/Health  
Political/Ideological  
Communication/Media  
Significant Events  
Water

### Map-HT Baseline Data Framework



### DSF COP Layers

	P	M	E	S	I	I
A						
S						
C						
O						
P						
E						

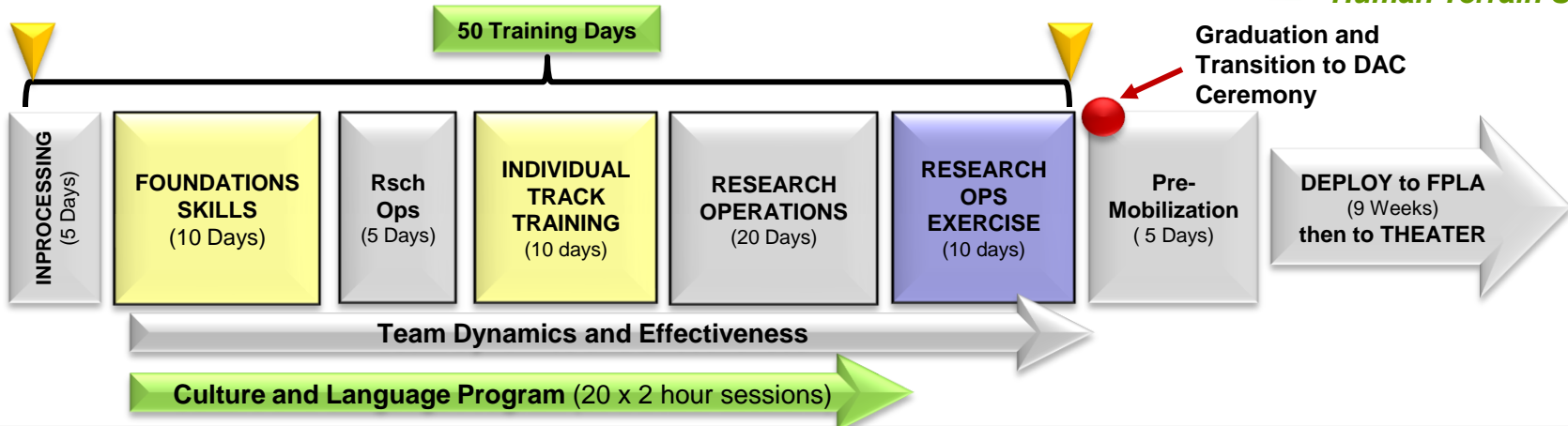




# HTS Core Curriculum Overview



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**Foundations (10 days):** mission & organization of HTS, Army organization & values, how BCT commanders and staffs see the world, process information, and make decisions, & team dynamics (including practical exercises)

**Research Operations (25 days):** the HTS Core Competency – how to design, conduct, and report operationally relevant socio-cultural research as part of an HTS team; ethics in research.

**Individual Track Training (10 days):** the individual skills and knowledge required by each respective position.

**Research Operations Exercise (10 days):** students form into teams; learning, demonstrating, and being assessed on the HTT collective and individual tasks.

**Culture and Language (20 sessions threaded throughout):** relevant culture and regional language.

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# HTS Ethics Training & Standards



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## Before Deployment

- Eight hours (14 modules) come from online CITI training accompanied by two hours for broad overview of federal standards
- Approximately 22 hours of ethics training for social scientists and about 10 hours all other positions
- **Social Scientists, additional 12 hours of individual classroom and practical exercise instruction**
  - Ethical Research Planning and Design
  - Additional Ethics Based Practical Exercises
  - Training for Protect Tracker and Compliance Review Form (PTCRF)

## In the field

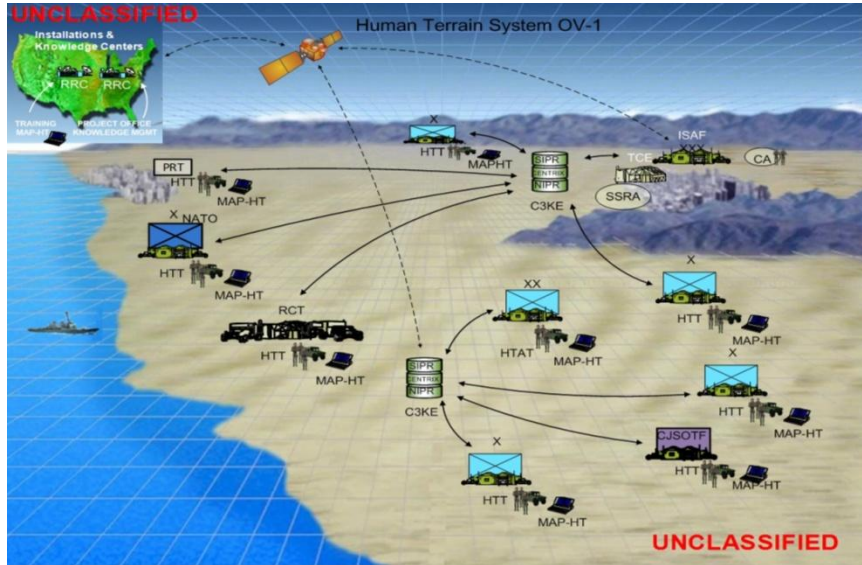
- **SSD Communications with Teams**
  - Emails, Telephone, Teleconference
  - Quarter analysis of finished products
- **Social Science Mobile Knowledge Team**
  - Purpose: To provides on-site assistance and mentoring to deployed Human Terrain Teams (HTTs) and Human Terrain Analysis Teams (HTATs)
  - Five objectives to better assist teams directing in the field



# MAP-HT Tool Kit



## Human Terrain System



A data collection, consolidation, analysis and production tool kit designed to support Mapping of the Human Terrain.

- TiGR, Web Research, DCGS-A
- Text Extraction, Import Wizard
- Link Analysis, 2D Map, Visual Tools
- Finished Product in Multiple Formats
- Entity and Product Dissemination
- Federated Database

## Current Capability

- USFOR-A
  - 7 HTS Teams producing with MAP-HT (client /server and standalone)
  - Mobile Training Team embeds with HTS deployed Teams (>10,000 entities posted)
- Reachback Research Center (RRC)
  - Data ingest for AFG baseline build
  - CONUS ATO for NIPR and SIPR
  - Server operational on CX-I
- Training
  - Instructing HTS Research Manager and included in HTS training exercise
- Cultural Knowledge Consortium (CKC)
  - Establishing data access for Army and civilians
  - [www.culturalknowledge.org](http://www.culturalknowledge.org)



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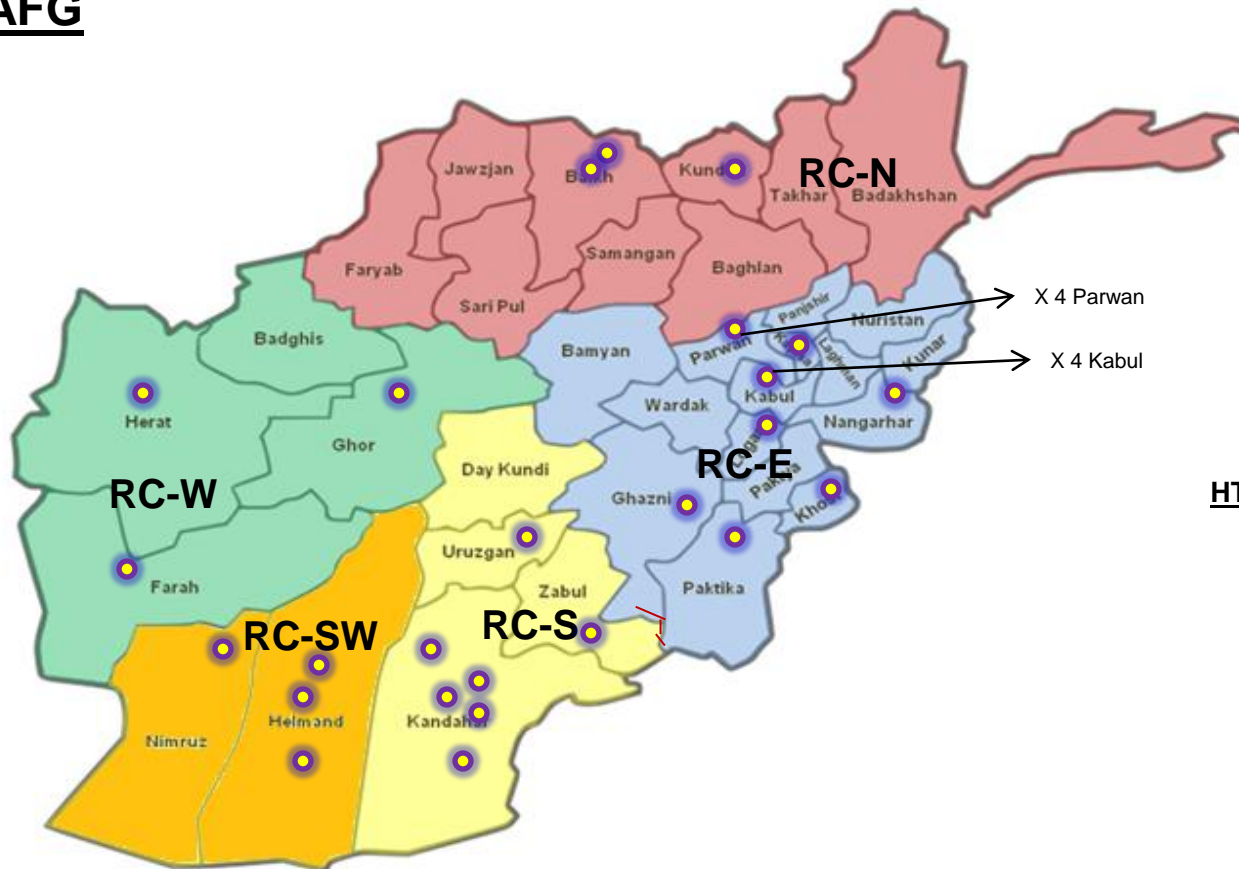
# Human Terrain System Support to ISAF



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## HTS Teams in AFG

TCE – 1  
HTAT- 7  
HTT - 23



## HTS supported allies:





# FY 11 VCSA Directed Assessment of HTS Teams in Afghanistan



## *Human Terrain System*

“The true value of our HTT members is the day to day support they provide our VSO teams with information on the human environment as they accompany them on local engagements.” CJSOTF, AFG, MAR 11

“They provide a ground level perspective of human terrain related dynamics that we lack at the Regional Command HQs level...The HTAT helps us make population related assessments decisions. ”  
Regional Command, AFG, MAR 11

“...a good balance of historical data, general information, and analysis... providing key information on local population that have assisted in providing a more robust understanding of the environment. The products and in-depth understanding are used to focus on the critical matters of the sub-strata of the society...analysis reaches into a multitude of COIN facets.”  
US BCT, AFG, MAR 11

“Outstanding... the team participate in every aspect of our mission planning ad provide well thought out and timely advice on the impact of our potential actions...The HTT provided invaluable continuity of knowledge on the local cultural, political, and social dynamics of our area of operations. We were able to hit the ground running in large part because this team was here and done solid work to document the human terrain...The work they have done...in many cases is the only reporting we have on people and organizations within our area.”  
USMC RCT, AFG, MAR 11

“Overall, the products of the HTAT are outstanding... high quality, well thought-out, and appropriately presented...The perception polling and field research that the HTAT provides directly affects decisions that are made in RC...provided outstanding continuity of the human terrain when (the) Div arrived...”  
US Division, AFG, MAR 11



# JAN-SEP 11 HTS: Production by Entity

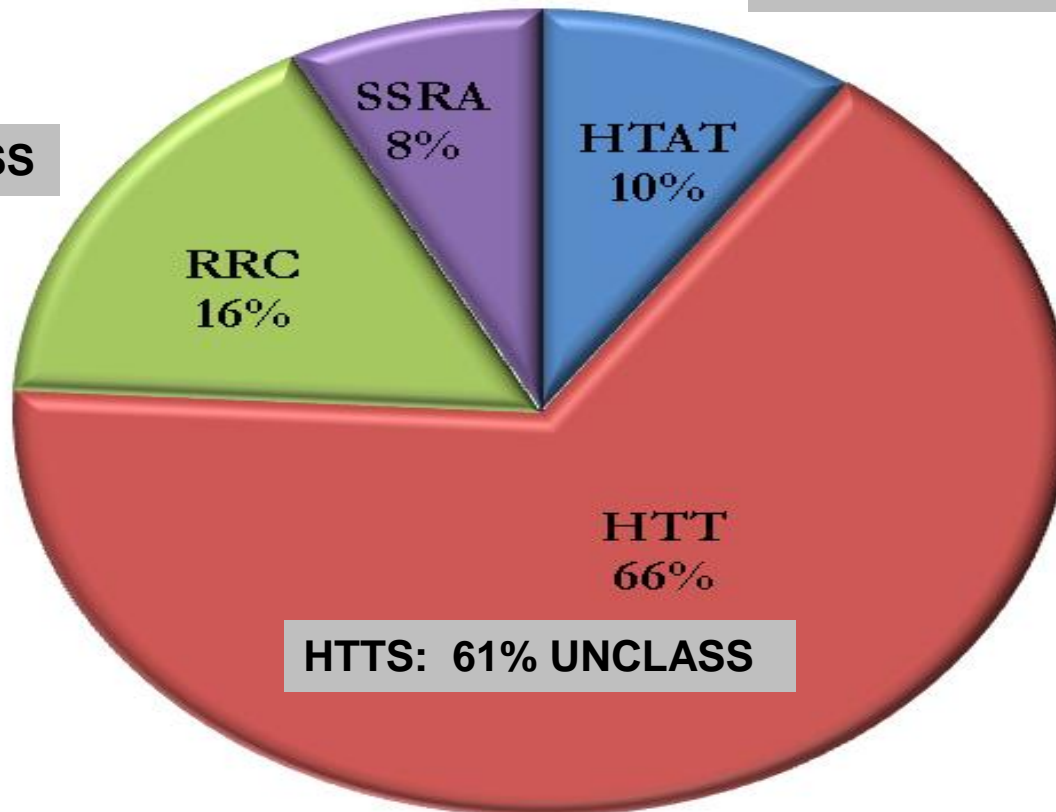


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**SSRA: 100% UNCLASS**

**HTATs: 58% UNCLASS**

**RRC: 28% UNCLASS**



**HTTs: 61% UNCLASS**

**Overall HTS products: 58% Unclassified**

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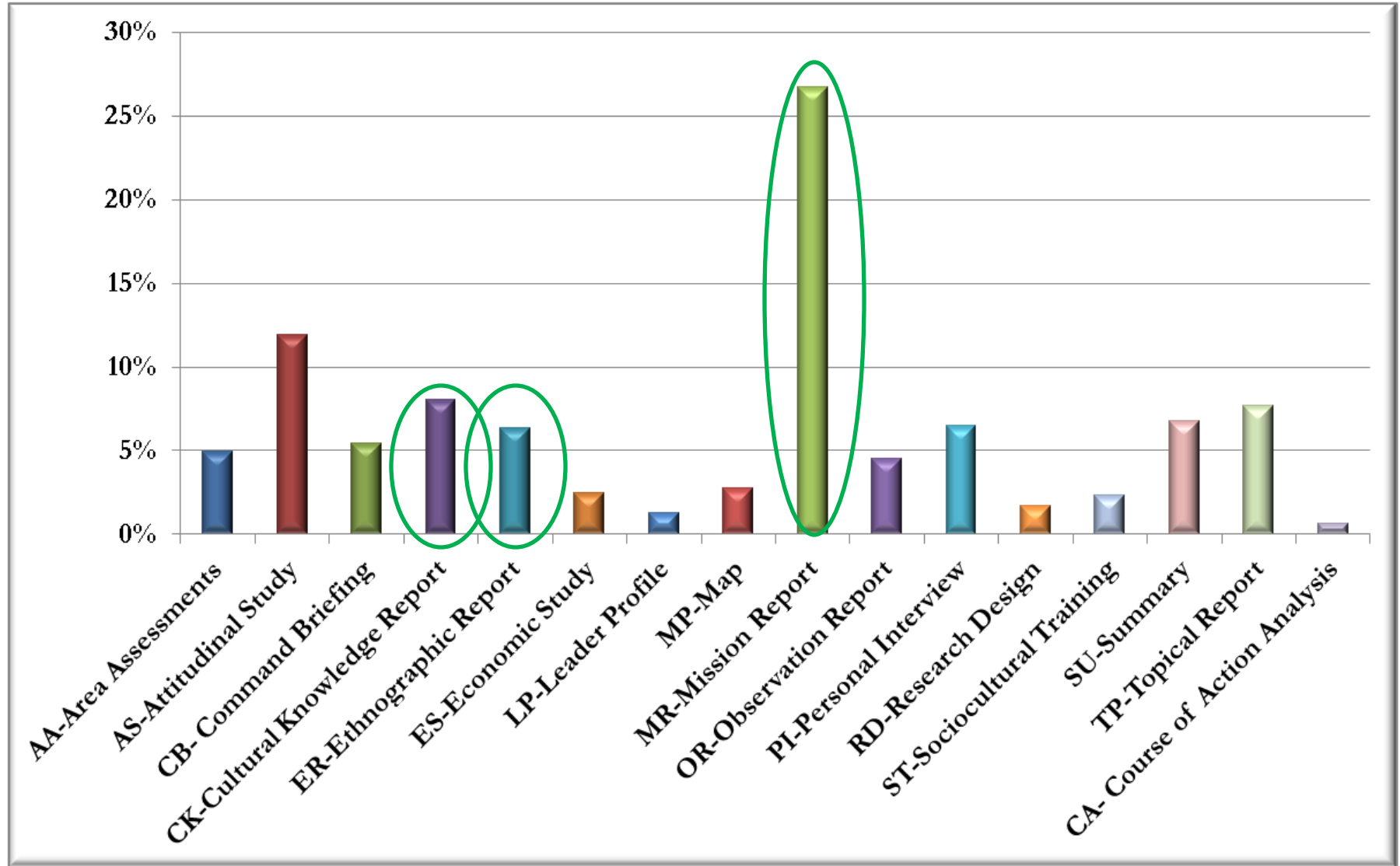




# JAN-SEP 11 HTS: Production by Report Type



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# Example HTS Team Products



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- **Elder Engagement**
  - **PI- Personal Interview:** In depth interview
  - **Purpose:** To interview leading district elder IOT elicit his assistance as a mediator between District Shura, GIRoA, ANSF/CF, and local population who accommodate or “align” with anti-government entities
- **Valley Leadership**
  - **LP- Leader Profile:** Details information regarding a known leader at the local, provincial, or national level
- **Displaced Civilian Relocation**
  - **CA-Course of Action (COA) Analysis:** Outlines one or more COA and details second and third order effects of specific COA
  - **Purpose:** To provide background on public opinion related to a COP closure and District Center relocation

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# Example HTS Products



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- **SSRA: Province Transition Survey**
  - **AS- Attitudinal Survey:** Details findings of structured qualitative question sets
  - **Purpose:** To examine specific questions regarding GIRoA readiness for transition to Afghan control
- **RRC: Governance Capacity Building Programs**
  - **TP- Topical Report:** Details information on a particular theme or topic of interest which has overarching application for multiple stakeholders
  - **PURPOSE:** To provide background on capacity building programs to assist in building functional, competent, non-corrupt governmental bodies



# HTS Support to CJSOTF-A



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## **CJSOTF-A CDR mission guidance**

- Assess human terrain at candidate VSO sites, temporary human terrain element embed
- Assess population at current VSO sites, temporary human terrain element embed
- Determine “sustains” from populace perspective

## **Team structure**

TL x 1, Social Scientist x 3, Research Manager x 3, Human Terrain Analyst x 2

## **FY 12 Support**

- DS to CJSOTF-A teams in the field
- Support to military decision-making process (J2, CJSOTF-A analysts, DCO, DCO-O, J3, J5, J9, J10, MISO)
- Collaborate with and tasks HTS RRC and SSRA capability
- Coordinate with and provide training to cultural support team (CST)
- Lead White Green Working Group initiative to bring sociocultural enablers together
- Leverage relevant products from deployed HTS teams ISO CJSOTF-A missions
- Support CFSOCC-A product development

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# HTS Phase 0 COCOM Concept of Operations



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- OUSDI task to DA G2 to develop Phase 0 COCOM Concept of Operation (CONOP) for sociocultural research and analysis support
  - Battlespace Awareness FCB MAR 11: unanimous concurrence to move forward with USDI as lead agency for coordination
  - Army input to an Defense Intelligence Enterprise challenge
- HTS provides:
  - On ground, local population truth and verification of previous socio-cultural baselines
  - Embedded socio-cultural capability (tactical to theater levels)
  - Trained & experienced personnel using structured sociocultural research methods
- HTS has both the structure and flexibility (organizations and methods) to meet COCOM-specific requirements & environmental constraints
- HTS can augment existing COCOM Socio-Cultural assets, filling current or projected capability gaps.
  - Embedded teams, where and when needed (from theater or CONUS)
  - Sociocultural reachback research & analysis capability (with COCOM HQ or in CONUS)
  - Indigenous social science research & analysis capability (quantitative & qualitative)

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# Human Terrain System: Phase 0



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## POM Funded Capabilities:

Research  
Reachback  
Center  
(RRC)

TNG

HQ/  
OPs

## Enduring Capabilities:

Army Base Budget.:

- HTS Project Management
- Reachback Research
- Ind'l training
- Project management, admin support
- KM (MAP-HT and data repositories)

Admin & RRC Research Support

HTE Research & Support Requests

Human Terrain  
Team  
(HTT)

- Deploy SS, RM, or HTA TDY from RRC in response to COCOM requirement
- Gather data in response to COCOM identified gaps and HTS research design
- Conduct analysis to support unit operational decision making process.

## Contingency or COCOM Funded Capabilities:

- COCOM & ASCC embedded HTS Team leader and social scientist
- Participate in gap analysis
- Conduct HTS research design
- Aggregate and archive team products

Human Terrain  
Element  
(HTE)

Social Science  
Research & Analysis  
(SSRA)

Contracted indigenous, theater-specific survey capability

- HTS conducted ASCC Pilot HTE JUN-SEP 11
- HTS COCOM Phase 0 initiative submitted to USDI for FY12 support to SOCOM & NORTHCOM.

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# The Way Forward



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- **Continued support to OEF**
  - Civil Military Integration Program
  - Mission Transition
  - CJSOTF-A
- **Pilot Projects:**
  - COCOM Phase 0 Pilot Project (USD-I sponsor)
  - USMC FAO pre-deployment training
  - US Army Africa Support
- **Allied interoperability**
  - ABCA
  - NATO

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# Questions?



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**HTS Website:** <http://hts.army.mil>

## **Products:**

U.S. Secret (SIPR):

HTS SharePoint <https://hts.army.smil.mil/afghanistan/>

HTS Intellipedia (RRC)

[http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Human\\_Terrain\\_System](http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Human_Terrain_System)



COL SHARON R. HAMILTON

Director, HTS

[Sharon.r.hamilton.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Sharon.r.hamilton.mil@mail.mil)

[Sharon.r.hamilton@us.army.smil.mil](mailto:Sharon.r.hamilton@us.army.smil.mil)

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