

MORS Mini-symposium: Social Science Underpinnings of Complex Operations
Location: George Mason University, Arlington Campus
October 18-21, 2010

1. Purpose

The purpose of the *Social Science Underpinnings of Complex Operations* Mini-symposium (SSUCO *Mini-symposium*) is to:

- Introduce analysts to ongoing social science research that may be relevant to their work in complex operations.
- Expose analysts to important processes and practices of interagency activity in complex operations, and the social theory and research upon which these are built.
- Expose analysts to methods and approaches that may help apply social science, regional expertise, and knowledge on current policy topics to studies and other analytic efforts.

Sustained U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to focus significant attention on national security challenges where the markers of success are primarily non-military. Variously called irregular warfare (IW), hybrid warfare, non-traditional challenges, complex operations, or overseas contingency operations, such problem spaces have proved to be intractable within the current the DoD analytic capability. Complex operations are fraught with problems at multiple levels, and traditional analytic approaches (i.e. technology-centered, physics-based) are not proving up to the task.

As the DoD analysis community searches for new methods to ascertain the meanings and implications of concepts like culture, development, conflict prevention and interagency cooperation, the social sciences have become central to the thinking with regard to these critical areas. Still, “fixing” the analytic response to the complex challenges requires more than a mere sprinkling of some generic social science or subject matter expertise: it requires entirely new ways of framing DoD problems, inviting new people to the analytic table, and developing new work practices to support the effective spanning of the multiple disciplines required to tackle these problem sets. This mini-symposium seeks to address these analytic requirements.

2. Background

In the previous two years, MORS has conducted four special meetings related to many of these issues; a workshop on Irregular Warfare held at the Naval Postgraduate School in December 2007; a second workshop on the Impact of Emerging Societies on National Security held at the Argonne National Laboratory in April 2008; and a third Irregular Warfare conference in February 2009 and most recently, a fourth held in April of 2010.

Related to this increased attention to environments of irregular warfare, MORS has been organizing to accommodate increased interest in the role of social sciences in military operations research. The 76th MORS Symposium in 2008 at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT saw the creation of the MORS Social Science Community of Practice (CoP) that continues to meet monthly in the Washington, DC area. During

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the past two years, the interest in MORS Working Group 32 (Warfighter Performance and Social Science Methods) has also increased significantly— to the point that Computational Social Sciences and Human Behavior and Performance were pulled out of WG32 for the 78th MORSS and organized as separate focus sessions in order to accommodate the level of activity in the three areas.

At the same time, many members of the DoD analysis community are unfamiliar with how best to leverage social science for complex operations-related efforts. At the meeting of the Social Science CoP at the 77th MORSS, many attendees expressed frustration with not knowing how to best identify, locate and engage the social science expertise that they needed to support their work.

Successful complex operations are collaboration dependent. DoD must work closely with other federal agencies and key allies and partners to achieve their mission. To expand the breadth of social science expertise, the mini-symposium will recruit leading researchers, those applying social science in the operational context, and those studying or applying social science to the interagency context. The application domains for this mini-symposium will be: 1) emerging theory and research relevant for complex operations; 2) the interagency context; and 3) operational application of social science.

The *SSUCO Mini-symposium* builds on the efforts at the annual MORS symposiums in Work Groups (WG): WG 16 - Special Operations and Irregular Warfare; and WG 32 - Social Science Methods, as well as past MORS workshops.

3. Sponsor Interest

Three of the MORS sponsors have expressed strong support: OSD CAPE, A9, and MCCDC.

4. Approach

The meeting will be a three-day mini-symposium of presentations on various social science topics. The meeting will be unclassified for the widest audience possible.

5. Pre-conference session

On Monday, 18 October 2010, we will provide background for the mini-symposium with presentations of DoD analysis perspectives.

6. Workshop Planning and WG Chairs

Program Chairs:

Dr. Kim Cragin, RAND

Dr. Yuna Wong, MCCDC/OAD

Senior Advisor: Dr. Priscilla Glasow, FS, MITRE

Site Coordinator: Dr Allison Friendak-Blume, GMU.

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Administrative Coordinator: Ms. Krista Paternostro (Executive Vice-President, MORS),
krista@mors.org, 703-933-9075

MORS Bulldog: Dr. Bob Sheldon, FS, MCCDC OAD

Sponsor's introduction: Mr. James Bexfield, OSD CAPE
Plenary: Ambassador John E. Herbst, CCO

Day 1 – Emerging Social Science Research.

Chair: Ms. Danielle Miller. Co-chair: Dr Pauline Kusiak, OSD Policy

Description. The first day will provide insight into major themes of the social science disciplines and their potential application to complex operations. The focus will be on the type of questions each discipline can address. The similarities and differences among the various social science fields will be addressed as will advances in each field since September 11, 2001.

Day 2 – Interagency and Social Organizational Processes.

Chair: Ms. Karen Grattan, Group W, Inc. Co-chair: Dr Allison Frenck-Blume, GMU

Description. Making sense of operations, and organizing across multiple actors and priorities in order to 'get things done' is required in both planning for and conducting complex operations. Operations researchers are finding organizational factors and the social complexity inherent in IW/Complex environments to be key variables in their analyses. This day will explore some approaches to thinking about these problems.

Day 3 – Social Science Applications.

Chair: Dr. Bill Young, Contractor (SAIC) with OPNAV N81. Co-chair: Dr. Paula Holmes-Eber, MCU

Description. This session will demonstrate how social science methods are being applied in theater to support data collection and training. It will include discussions of: efforts by social scientists to adapt their methods for acquiring a better knowledge and understanding of the human environment; efforts to identify and provide the kinds of cultural training needed by servicemen and servicewomen; experiences by military end-users with social scientists operating in theater; and reflections by commanders about the contributions that social scientists have made to complex operations.

7. Attendance

Attendance will be capped at about 200 people. The goal is to seek a blend of US and allied participants.

8. Deliverables

Three products will be generated from the workshop:

- An Executive Summary will be presented to the sponsors at the next JADM Steering Committee meeting subsequent to the workshop. The summary will address the mini-symposium's deliberations.

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- An article summarizing the meeting will be produced and submitted to *PHALANX* in time for the next deadline after the meeting.
- A general session presentation will be made at the 79th MORSS.

9. Milestones

Done	Draft TOR
Done	Initial Organizing Committee meeting
Done	EC approves TOR
Done	Identify Chairs and Stakeholders
Done	Coordination meeting during MORSS
date TBD	Pre-Planning mini-symposium products due
date TBD	Mini-symposium team arrival, coord meeting
18 Oct 2010	Monday
19-21 Oct 2010	Mini-symposium
Nov 2010	Post brief to sponsors at JADM SC
Nov 2010	Draft article to <i>PHALANX</i>
21 June 2011	Brief at MORSS Special Session

10. Administrative

Name: Social Science Underpinnings of Complex Operations

Dates: 18-21 Oct 2010

Location: George Mason University, Arlington Campus, Original Building, 3401 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA.

Fees: US Federal Government - MORS Member: \$575; MORS Non-Member: \$640.

Non US Government - MORS Member: \$675; MORS Non-Member: \$750.

Attendance: Up to 200 people, by invitation.

Classification: The mini-symposium will be unclassified. Presentations with FOUO and/or limited distribution markings will not be distributed electronically or made available as a printed copy to the general audience. Distribution of these materials will be determined by the originator. Post mini-symposium products such as the *PHALANX* article, executive outbrief, and MORSS presentation will be cleared for public release and may be posted on the website.

11. Agenda

MORS Workshop: Social Science Underpinnings of Complex Operations

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Monday, 18 October 2010

0800-0900: Registration and Continental Breakfast

0900-0915: Intro - Dr Andy Loerch, GMU

0915-1015: ORSA perspective, CAA reps TBD

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1015-1030: Break
1030-1130: Intelligence community perspective – TBD
1130-1230: Lunch
1230-1315: Policy analysis perspective – Dr Pauline Kusiak, OSD Policy
1315-1400: Media analysis – Prof Steven Livingston, GWU
1400-1415: Break
1415-1500: DoD analysis/intel/social science researcher perspective, Dr Kim Cragin, RAND
1500-1545: DoD analytic perspective, Dr Paul Davis, RAND
1545-1600: Day 0 wrap-up, Dr Andy Loerch

Tuesday, 19 October 2010

0700 Registration and Continental Breakfast
0830 Intro: MORS President's Welcome
0840 Facility Host Welcome
0850 Sponsor's Welcome
0900 Keynote speaker: Ambassador John E. Herbst, CCO (tentative)
0945 Break
1000 Prof Rob Albro, Anthropology, American University
1045 Prof Elisa Bienenstock, Mathematical Sociology, Georgetown University
1130 Lunch
1230 TBD
1315 TBD
1400 Break
1415 Mr Aaron Frank, Computational Social Science, George Mason University
1500 TBD
1545 Break
1600 Panel: speakers 1-6
1700 Adjourn to mixer

Wednesday, 20 October 2010

0715 Continental Breakfast
0830 Intro
0835 Dr R. Scott Moore, CCO (Civ-Mil/Interagency & Complex Ops)
0900 Mr Elon Weinstein, IS2 ('Environment Shaping')
0945 Ms Julia Nelson, S/CRS CP (Judicious Response & CP)
1030 Break
1045 Mr Mick Crnkovich, USAID OMA (TCAPF and planning)
1130 Mr Graham Kessler, Logos (MNE 6 Obj. 3.1)
1215 Lunch
1315 TBD
1400 TBD
1445 Break
1500 TBD
1600 Panel: speakers 1-6
1700 Adjourn

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Thursday, 21 October 2010

0715 Continental Breakfast

0830 Intro

0845 Tag-team 1 (team of end-user commentary with social science tutorial) TBD

1015 Break

1030 Tag-team 2 TBD

1200 Lunch

1300 Tag-team 3 TBD

1530 Break

1545 Synthesis – Dr Paul Davis, RAND

1615 SOCOM speaker, operational social science customer perspective

1645 Closing remarks

1700 Adjourn

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