

MORS Mini-symposium: Social Science Underpinnings of Complex Operations
Location: George Mason University, Arlington Campus
October 19-21, 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 proposed meeting would be a three-day mini-symposium with a combination of invited presentations, contributed presentations, and panel discussions. The intent would be to have most of the meeting unclassified for the widest audience possible, with potentially classified presentations the Monday immediately before the mini-symposium.

5. Pre-conference session

On Monday, date TBD, classified presentations.

6. Workshop Planning and WG Chairs

Proponents: Mr. Jim Bexfield, FS, OSD CAPE, Dr. Jackie Henningsen, FS, A9, Dr. George Akst, MCCDC.

Program Chairs:

Dr. Kim Cragin, RAND

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Dr. Yuna Wong, MCCDC/OAD

Senior Advisor:

Dr. Priscilla Glasow, FS, MITRE

Site Coordinator: TBD.

Administrative Coordinators:

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

Others TBD

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

Sponsor/Service Reps:

Army: Mr. Touggy Orgeron

Navy: Mr. Herb Cupo

Air Force: Mr. Balf Calloway

Marines: Col Joe Smith (USMC)

Joint Staff: Mr. Joe Bonnet

CAPE: Mr. Jim Bexfield, FS

MORS Special Meetings Committee Chair: Mrs. Jane Krolewski

Sponsor's introduction: Mr. James Bexfield

Plenary: Dr. Janine Davidson, OSD Policy (?)

Day 1 – Emerging Social Science Research.

Chair: Ms. Danielle Miller. Co-chair: OSD Policy (?)

Description.

- Potential topics/speakers: Minerva Initiative recipient, PITF?, developmental econ theorist

Day 2 – Interagency and Social Organizational Processes.

Chair: Ms. Karen Grattan, Group W, Inc. Co-chair: State?

- S/CRS

Day 3 – Social Science Application.

Chair: Dr. Bill Young, N81 (ask about affiliation). Co-chair: TBD

Description.

- HTT - we can demonstrate tactical and operational application of social science for decision making through HTT
- Can we also demonstrate social science use for strategic-level decision making? It would show that social science is already influencing strategic decision makers.
- PRTs

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Analytic perspective:
Operational perspective: SOCOM?

Sponsor/Service Reps

- Army: TBD
- Navy: TBD
- Air Force: TBD
- Marines: TBD
- Joint Staff: TBD
- OSD CAPE: TBD

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.
- 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

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

10. Administrative

Name: Social Science Underpinnings of Complex Operations

Dates: TBD

Location: TBD

Fees: To be determined by the MORS office.

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

date TBD

location TBD

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Monday date TBD

1200-1700 pre-

Tuesday date TBD

0700 Registration and Continental Breakfast

0800 Intro: MORS President's Welcome

0810 Facility Host Welcome

0820 Sponsor's Welcome

0830 Keynote Address, TBD

0915 TBD

1000 Break

1015 Plenary address, TBD

1100 TBD

1200 Lunch

TBD

1700 Adjourn to mixer

Wednesday date TBD

0715 Continental Breakfast

0800 TBD

1200 Lunch

TBD

1700 Adjourn

Thursday date TBD

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0715 Continental Breakfast

0800 TBD

1200 TBD

1300 TBD

1630 Recognitions & Sponsors' Concluding Remarks

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