Network Science Center at West Point

Title: ADT Mission Project
Subject: Building Civil-Military Collaboration in Development and Stabilization Efforts
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The ADT Mission project is a collaborative effort of the Network Science Center at West Point and the National Guard Bureau's ADT Mission. The project was initially created to support the development of information sharing technologies and to conduct research leading to improved strategies for success of National Guard Agribusiness Development Teams operating in Afghanistan. The work of the project now supports any military-led stability and development effort in post-conflict/post-disaster situations worldwide.

Objective:

Working with military units currently engaged in economic development efforts, the ADT Mission project seeks to use lessons learned from these missions to improve the success of current missions and to develop a more successful model for the future use of military units in stability and reconstruction efforts. A critical part of this model is a strategy for transitioning those efforts to civilian control. This requires better coordination from the start of military reconstruction and economic development missions so that the initial work of military units lay the foundation on which civilian efforts will build. For this reason, the ADT Mission is also engaged in efforts to improve information sharing and coordination of civil-military development efforts.

ADT Background:

The National Guard's Agribusiness Development Teams (ADTs) are currently the military's main model for military-led development efforts. The first teams were fielded in Afghanistan in 2006. ADTs are company-sized units of 55-70 Guard members who bring to the team both their civilian skills in agricultural and community development, their links to agricultural colleges and their military training. This makes it possible for ADTs to engage in economic development work in areas where security risks are too great for staff from non-governmental aid organizations, private sector businesses or for staff from civilian governmental aid organizations. As a result, the ADT is an ideal model for the initial stage of post-conflict/post-disaster reconstruction and economic development in unstable regions.

Impacts:

The ADT Mission has supported the development of two technologies that will ease the collection and sharing of data on development projects and missions undertaken by ADTs. The project is now working to make this data publicly accessible and searchable. By contributing to information sharing, the project hopes to increase the level of research that can lead to improved strategies for military-led economic development and to improved civil-military coordination in those development efforts.

For more information see their website: http://www.adtproject.org/