By Lyndee Kemmet

In the three years since the Network Science Center launched the ADT Project, the project has become the central node in an ever expanding network that now includes partnerships with a number of organizations. The main mission of the ADT project since its inception is to improve the collection and sharing of civil information in order to assist stability efforts. Initially, the project focused on assisting National Guard Agribusiness Development Teams operating in Afghanistan, hence the project name of ADT. The work of the project now supports any military operation in the realm of civil affairs and stability. The initial teams focused on information sharing efforts. The NIEM model is already widely used throughout the US at the local and state levels to share data, particularly in the areas of law enforcement and security. DoD is looking to expand use of the model into other data domains, such as collecting information on infrastructure in host nations. The long-term goal of DoD is to bring some standardization to data collection in order to ease the transfer of information from system to system and one of the initial tests being developed by the DoDiCIO could involve use of the APAN site managed by the ADT Project as a data transfer point.

As the central node in this growing network of partnerships, the ADT Project has more and more become the link that brings together scattered efforts throughout the military that are working toward similar goals but unaware of one another. As military organizations become more aware of the importance of civil information and socio-cultural analysis for planning for security and stability operations, they expand support for these efforts. But often these efforts are working independently without knowledge of other similar efforts. The ADT Project has taken on the role of finding these efforts and linking them together so that they can share knowledge and leverage the work of one another. Because many of these socio-cultural data efforts are focused not just on data collection but also analysis, this is also leading the ADT Project to move from the initial focus of civil information collection and sharing into partnering on socio-cultural analysis projects.

One of the more successful efforts in this area of analysis is a two-year West Point cadet capstone project. In the 2012-13 academic year, a four-cadet team comprised of Michael Regan, Tom Ott, Armando Pena, and Travis Hinds developed an app for handheld tools that will allow soldiers to use the cadet tool in the field. The cadet agriculture assessment model was designed to help a civil affairs team gather ground and situational data for military commanders to determine if agricultural issues were contributing factors to instability. As part of this effort, Army CERDEC has developed an app for handheld tools that will allow soldiers to use the cadet tool in the field. The cadet agriculture stability assessment model is being used for assessing the model in one of the military’s coalition with NSC’s ADT Project at the West Point Civil Affairs Cadet Program, are also expressing an interest in assisting with testing and development of the revised cadet model. Therefore, the ADT Project is looking to be another interesting year. On the agenda for the year is expansion of the APAN Civil Information site as a location for hosting information on open sources of socio-cultural data, as well as being a portal by which unclassified military data can be shared with the civilian world. The ADT Project will also continue its efforts with both CERDEC and ARL to promote civil information sharing with partners and use of civil information to improve training and mission planning for security and stability missions. This partnership with CERDEC and ARL will also continue efforts in 2014 to expand support to Comberent Command (COCOMS) in socio-cultural data collection and analysis efforts. Most important of all, 2014 will see the year drawing to a close for many of the central organizations working to improve the sharing of socio-cultural data and analysis in training and mission planning; it is an ever increasing coalition with NSC’s ADT Project at the center.