Title: Civil Information Sharing (CIS) Project

Subject: Building civil-military collaboration with a focus on better information sharing in order to improve stability and reconstruction efforts.
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Objective:
The Civil Information Sharing (CIS) Project works to improve the sharing of information between military organizations and between military and civilian organizations engaged in stability and reconstruction efforts in post-conflict/post-disaster environments. This includes the sharing of civil information and analysis for improved situational awareness and mission planning, as well as information sharing necessary to improve civil-military coordination of stability and reconstruction efforts. The CIS Project also works to improve data collection and analysis methods.

Project Background:
The Civil Information Sharing (CIS) Project was initially launched through the Network Science Center at West Point as the ADT Project. The project took its name from the National Guard’s Agribusiness Development Teams (ADTs) that were a key part of the military’s reconstruction mission in Afghanistan. ADTs were quite successful in initiating reconstruction efforts. However, the lack of civil-military information sharing and coordination of effort – a long-term problem in reconstruction and stability efforts – hampered the sustainability of the successes made by the ADT mission. The ADT Project recognized the need to improve this coordination of effort through better sharing of information.

As the ADT Project grew, its focus expanded beyond supporting the ADT mission into a consortium of military and civilian organizations working to improve the collection, analysis and sharing of civil information. To reflect this broader focus beyond agriculture missions, the ADT Project became the CIS Project. Civil information is valuable to both military and civilian organizations because it helps each better understand the situation on the ground in post-disaster and post-conflict environments. Understanding the situation is the first step to planning courses of action for reconstruction efforts. And the sharing of information is critical for civil-military coordination of effort.

Impacts:
As a result of CIS efforts, data from the ADT mission in Afghanistan has been made available to researchers who have conducted analysis and published papers on military reconstruction strategies. In addition, CIS efforts to share ADT data have provided support to military personnel conducting training for reconstruction missions. CIS support of West Point Cadet Capstone projects has resulted in the development of data collection and assessment tools that will not only be tested for use by U.S. military units but also by British units conduction stability operations. The CIS Project is currently working with both military and civilian partners to expand data collection and sharing efforts.

For more information visit the CIS Project website at www.cisproject.org.