



Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

## Advanced Systems & Concepts

SUCCESS STORY

### Connecting Warfighters to the People — Mapping Human Terrain JCTD



Mapping Human Terrain (MAP-HT) JCTD will provide commanders and interagency organizations a tool-kit to collect, consolidate, visualize and understand open source socio-cultural information in operating areas. In asymmetric and urban operations, understanding human terrain is probably more important than understanding geographical terrain.

“It became rapidly apparent that we needed to develop a keen understanding of demographics as well as the cultural intricacies that drive the Iraqi population,” said Major General Peter W. Chiarelli in 2005. Joint Urgent Operational Needs Statements said the same.

Consequently, the U.S. Army launched the Human Terrain System to assign teams to Army and Marine brigade/regimental-level units that help them understand the local people.

These teams needed technical means to collect, store, and disseminate data. Thus, MAP-HT JCTD was initiated in 2007 to enable a common operating picture of socio-cultural terrain. The JCTD will provide architecture to support and improve analysis. Human Terrain Teams will use it to reach back to subject matter experts and to manage information.



The human terrain initiative is having impact as indicated by the following:

- “When we took over, of 83 formal and informal districts, 19 districts supported the government last year, and now it's 53...I absolutely attribute that change to the HTT” — brigade commander
- “We recommend to send teams like this type to all Iraqi cities to serve all citizens” — Sheiks of Al Tajy North, Iraq
- “The Human Terrain program ... is still in its infancy...But early results indicate that it is leading to alternative thinking — coming up with job-training programs for widows, or inviting local power-brokers to bless a mosque restored with coalition funds. These kinds of actions are the key to long-term success ...” — Secretary of Defense Robert Gates

For more information on the JCTD program, visit [www.acq.osd.mil/jctd](http://www.acq.osd.mil/jctd) .