

Information Paper

SUBJECT: Culture for COIN Mission Planning, Operations, and Training and for Foreign Language Training

1.0 Introduction

Integrated Training Solutions, Inc (ITS), a NC-based veteran-owned small business founded in 1999, provides research based solutions to integrate culture into COIN mission planning, operations, and training, and in support of foreign language training. Using company internal research and development funding, ITS has developed Language-Culture DataSet (LCDS) technology (patent pending), Data Architecture Requirements Tool (DART) technology (patent pending), and methods for technology based assessments. These technologies and methods are being used to provide relevant cultural information for COIN Mission Planning, Operations, and Training and for Foreign Language Training.

2.0 Culture Support for COIN Panning, Operations, and Training

ITS has completed a Proof of Principle for the Mission-based Culture Assessment Toolkit™. This toolkit is a structured process for determining and providing mission based quantitative cultural data for COIN mission planning, operations, and training. It consists of two primary tools:

- Mission-based Culture Assessment Requirement Tool (M-CART™) determines cultural requirements and obtains data for COIN categories, attributes, and parameters, levels of importance, and support for achieving end-state goals. The M-CART™ includes web based capabilities enabling SMEs on-site worldwide to quickly provide input for their functional areas of expertise, and to refresh data.
- Mission-based Culture Assessment Tool (M-CAT™) compiles, maintains, retrieves, and processes quantitative cultural data for cultural assessments and action plans.

Together, these tools process, integrate and operationalize cultural data for the COIN dynamics and doctrine of FM 3-24, *Counterinsurgency*, with the tactics, techniques, and procedures of FM 3-24.2, *Tactics in Counterinsurgency*. The resulting data support quantitative based assessments for the impact of culture on accomplishing military objectives along lines of effort and achieving COIN end-state goals. These assessments are made at the level of fidelity tailored to mission requirements of military organizations at all echelons. The design supports the inclusion and assessments of additional missions, lines of effort, military objectives, and cultural data elements.

3.0 Culture Support for Foreign Language Training

The integration of culture in foreign language training results in a more complete learning experience and increase efficiency. ITS has applied DART and LCDS technologies with assessment methods for a structured and repeatable process integrating relevant culture data and information for foreign language training. The process uses Intercultural Proficiency Levels (IPL) tied to Interagency Language Requirements (ILR) for determining cultural information required for different levels of language training. Web based capabilities support quickly obtaining cultural data input from sources worldwide for functional areas and to refresh data. The technologies compile, maintain, retrieve, and process data to support preparing the Culture for Foreign Language Training Module which informs the learner of culture information matching the foreign language being studied and the context within which it is being studied. Meta-tagging techniques are used to identify, store, refresh and retrieve cultural data. These techniques support the transfer and reuse of common data elements between cultures and foreign languages for greater efficiencies.

4.0 ITS Point of Contact: Robert F. Helms II, 919-353-1870, helmsrfh@itsnc.net