



HTS Director's Notes



Amazingly, it's the beginning of Spring, 2011! I was blessed to end 2010 by visiting our teams deployed in Iraq and meeting the units they expertly support. The dedication, mission focus, and professionalism of our deployed HTS teammates is unwavering. Our support of Operation New Dawn (OND) continues and we are coordinating closely with the US Forces-Iraq leadership to determine the way ahead.

In Afghanistan, we continue to support US, Marine, and Allied forces from the brigade level to theater. In response to additional requirements, we are fielding four additional teams in Afghanistan to provide the deployed units with a baseline of socio-cultural understanding. We are working alongside key civil-military enablers to include civil affairs and female engagement teams. HTS teams continue to provide our unique, team-based, social science research methodology to support decision-makers.

Many exciting changes have occurred in the past seven months. We posted a new HTS website (<http://hts.army.mil>). It will provide accurate and useful information to all those seeking to learn more about HTS. We have coordinated with the ISAF J-2 leadership to fully engage our HTATs in the Stability Operations Integration Center construct. We now support nine different Allies in OEF with HTS teams. We redesigned our training curriculum to focus on the critical individual and collective skills required to support the OND and OEF unit missions. We successfully conducted a Social Science Mobile Knowledge Team deployment in Afghanistan to provide team mentoring and assistance on research design and planning, conflict resolution skills, and administrative support.

Each day, I am honored to serve as the Director of the Human Terrain System and I am looking forward to continuing our support to our operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.