STATEMENT OF:

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<u>Introduction</u>

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Members of the House Armed Services Committee and the Science & Technology Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify how mission-critical Irregular Warfare, non-traditional, and non-kinetic enabling capabilities and technology are achieving desired **<u>effects</u>** in Afghanistan. Having just 10-days ago returned from a 15-month deployment in Afghanistan, let me first thank the Congress and the Nation for your continued support as we persevere against a determined, adaptable enemy. The context for my comments today will be the 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 82d Airborne Division experience in Afghanistan, and specifically the significant non-kinetic effects the pilot Human Terrain System (HTS) program provided to our combat leaders at all levels within the Brigade.

Let me first explain what HTS is. It is a capability to assist Commanders and Soldiers to better understand the "human terrain" they are surrounded by and discern "soft power" means of achieving desired effects. It is built around a 5 to 8 person Human Terrain Team (HTT) at the Brigade Combat Team level comprised of social scientists, anthropological experts, and other trained military personnel. They use a Mapping Human Terrain Tool Kit (MAP HT) to assist with research and analysis and maintaining a human terrain data repository concerning local population social groups, interests, beliefs, motivating factors, leaders, etc. HTTs do not merely serve as embedded cultural advisors for BCT Commanders – but they assist Commanders at every level to maneuver formations within tribal communities in such a manner that reduces the threat to all involved parties. To help with this, there is a Theater-specific,

"Reach-Back Research Center" (RRC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, which provides 24/7 subject matter expert support for deployed teams.

So, what did all this mean for our deployment? It meant -- by better understanding the human terrain, we reduced the number of kinetic operations that otherwise would have occurred. Not only did we reduce the risk to our soldiers, but we reduced the risk significantly to the communities that we operated within. Subsequently, we were able to assist linking the people of Afghanistan to their government at an incredibly accelerated rate. Bottom Line: My Headquarters is uniquely qualified to focus on the enemy as the Center of Gravity. However, today the people are the Center of Gravity – not the enemy; and BCT Headquarters require enablers to optimize their effectiveness. One of these enablers is the HTS capability, which allows the Headquarters to better focus its efforts on the Center of Gravity.

Now, let me tell you what an HTT is not. The Team is not an intelligence-gathering tool which is used to "target" individuals. My Staff is uniquely organized to run the targeting process and link intelligence systems to time sensitive targeting. The HTT, sourced with Anthropologists and Social Scientists, is not qualified or trained to provide targeting support.

Last year, the Army fielded an HTT to my unit as a proof of concept. The HTT was immediately value added and became mission critical. The Team's impacts were exponentially powerful: reduced our kinetic operations, assisted in developing more effective non-kinetic courses of action, improved the unit's overall situational awareness, improved consequence management, increased host nation government

support, improved the Brigade's humanitarian assistance efforts, improved village assessments, improved information operations capabilities, decreased enemy forces attacks, and decreased ordinary crime in our area of operations. Without the HTT filter on courses of action and the alternative maneuver tools they identified to create the exact same effect, we would have lost double the lives. Using HTT capabilities, we reduced kinetic operations by 60-70%.

To illustrate the HTT's effectiveness, I would like to share a few vignettes:

- In the words of one of my company commanders, "Without the HTT, our actions would not have been as precise. If the [Team] weren't there, I would have cordoned off the village, gathered local elders and told them what we were doing, I would have told them to show me their personally-owned weapons, and if they didn't show us their weapons we would [have] taken them. Because of the HTT, I understood my alternatives. If you could have one for every company command, they would be a phenomenal asset."

- According to the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Commander, "Their [HTT] expertise rapidly identified who to talk to in the village. We were just ricocheting around before they got here, talking to random people. HTT saved me an enormous amount of time – 10-20 hours per village -- in terms of who to talk to. I would take those guys any day of the week."

- The HTT helped the 203rd Afghanistan National Army (ANA) Corps and our Brigade develop non-kinetic courses of action. To provide a specific example: in Ghazni Province, the Taliban had regularly attacked the Government of Afghanistan leaders, Coalition, ANA and Afghanistan National Police for over five years, despite a

very aggressive outreach effort to village elders. The HTT questioned the use of kinetic Courses of Action in the area, observing that the true power brokers in the area were the mullahs, and not the village elders (who were mostly Taliban supporters). After redirecting their outreach effort to the mullahs, the Brigade experienced a rapid and dramatic decrease in Taliban attacks, to the point where this area is currently attack free. Bottom-line: "For five years, we got nothing from the community. After meeting with the mullahs, we had no more bullets for 28 days; captured 80 Afghan-born Taliban … and 32 Foreign Fighters. As a result of this operation last June, Ghanzi Province no longer harbors the "shadow Taliban government – it no longer exists."

What was the net effect? When we took over in early 2007, only 19 of 86 formal and informal districts supported the government. Today, we assess 72 of those same Districts support their government. I absolutely attribute some of that change to the HTT.

I could elaborate with more metrics and examples of HTT success, but let me conclude. We learned that the population is the key Center of Gravity, the enemy is hiding "among the people," and we must understand the culture to win. However, it is more than just the culture; it is understanding their norms and values from an operational standpoint that creates a bridge between the people and their government, which currently does not exist. The HTT's contribution to Brigades' ability to assess their operating environments, to routinely develop and consider non-lethal input to military planning, and to achieve greater operational success with less kinetic operations is invaluable.