Overview

• Problem Statement

• Literature Review

• Proposal
  ▫ Counter-Drug Teams (CDTs)
  ▫ Key areas of focus
  ▫ Key Assumptions

• Questions
Problem Statement

- UNODC - Afghanistan grows more opium than any other nation
  - 157,000 hectares in 2008
  - Helmand Province

- Sale of Opium funds the Taliban insurgency
  - Approx $439 mil. in 2007
  - Taliban have become fragmented and criminalized

Problem Statement

• Growth of legal crops is no longer feasible
  ▫ Economic limitations
  ▫ Infrastructure limitations
  ▫ Experience limitations

• Hawala – Informal financial networks
  ▫ Utilized by criminal periphery
  ▫ Difficulty monitoring flow of currency


Literature Review

• Experts Agree:
  ▫ Links between Taliban and Opium traffickers are genuine
  ▫ Extermination is not effective

• Several proposed solutions...
Literature Review

• “Security First” Mentality:
  ▫ Illicit activities flourish in insecure societies
  ▫ Security and rule of law should be the main priority
  ▫ Opium issue should not be addressed until this is achieved

• Can security be attained?


Literature Review

• “Alternative Livelihood” Mentality
  ▫ Incentivize/Subsidize legal agriculture
  ▫ Build agricultural infrastructure
  ▫ Educate farmers on alternatives to Opium Poppy

• Problems:
  ▫ Indefinite subsidies
  ▫ Interferes with development of independent Afghan economy

Medler, James D. “Afghan Heroin: Terrain, Tradition, and Turmoil” Foreign Policy Research Institute, (Spring, 2005)

Proposal

- **Counter-Drug Teams**
  - Modeled after Afghan PRTs

- **Structure of CDTs based on three key focus areas**
  - Targeting Criminals and Drug Traffickers
  - Offering Alternative Crops
  - Obstructing the Flow of Drug Money
Targeting Criminals and Drug Traffickers

- CIA, DEA, DoD
  - Utilize technologies to pursue key individuals
  - Create human networks to gather intelligence
  - Kill or capture targets for trial in Afghan justice system
- CDT Commander will be a senior military officer
Offer Alternative Crops

- USAID and USDA
  - Provide funds and materials to rebuild infrastructure and incentivize legal agriculture
  - Provide expertise and education on effective and responsible agricultural practices
Obstructing the Flow of Drug Money

- US Dept. of the Treasury, Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (OFTI)
  - Locate, track and cut off lanes for illegal funds
  - Cooperate with *Hawaladars* and local govs. to update and formalize money lending
  - Create a national *Hawaladar* licensing body
  - Maintain traditional trust-based money lending network
Key Assumptions

- **Support of the Military**
  - Necessary for security, basing and transportation

- **Personnel needs will be met**
  - Approx. 670 individuals (not including DoD)

- **No further deterioration of security**
  - CDTs need a relatively secure environment
  - Discretion of CDT Commander is crucial

- **Price of Opium remains stable**
  - Spike in farm-gate prices
  - Caches and stores must be located
Review

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Proposal
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- Key areas of focus
- Key Assumptions
Questions?