

VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE IN A KIT – ALPHA

Executive Summary

DISCUSSION:

Deterrence is a primary objective of U.S. Strategic Command and can be indirectly achieved by creating opportunities for development, stability, and strategic alliances with underserved populaces. As mentioned by experts, individuals often participate in terroristic activities as a means of generating income to support his or her family, or village. A Village Infrastructure in a Kit – Alpha (VIKA) provides essential services and meets humanitarian needs, presenting an alternative to committing acts of terrorism. Specifically, VIKA would contain a method of energy generation, water production or purification, and telecommunications, all of which have been linked to increased development and stability. Furthermore, VIKA could lessen the odds of anti-U.S. sentiments and attacks as it would be provided by the U.S. to underserved populaces by means of the deterrence mission. However, the three basic components of energy, water, and telecommunications are not the only factors to be considered when implementing VIKA. The local political, economic, and social climates must also be addressed in order to assure acceptance and successful implementation occurs.

OBSERVATION & METHODS:

The initial focus of the project was to identify available technologies that could be used in VIKA which should cost less than \$40,000, consist of sustainable technologies, and serve 500 – 1000 people.

After speaking with experts ranging from international development to sustainable technology, it became clear to the team that a significant obstacle to the success of VIKA would depend heavily on the acceptance of the technology and U.S. intervention. Because an analysis of a community's socio-cultural elements must take place prior to implementation, the team developed the CROPS framework, standing for culture, religion, organizational patterns, perception of U.S., and societal markers. Additionally, in order to expedite the process of deploying VIKA, the team constructed a notional computer program called the VIKA Hardware Selector that would take into account geography, population size, climate, and other factors necessary in determining the composition of VIKA. Additions to the VIKA Selector could include cultural, political, and economic variables.

The team was allotted 120 days to conduct open-source research, write a comprehensive report, and provide an executive briefing to the U.S. Strategic Commander and Staff, U.S. Government agencies, academia, industry, and contributors.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The team proposed six strategies for successful implementation of VIKA:

- Analyze existing economic and political conditions of states and villages
- Incorporate CROPS analysis into existing PMESII framework
- Utilize VIKA Hardware Selector to choose appropriate technology
- Establish efficient supply chain to ensure quick implementation of VIKA
- Generate community ownership with methods such as microfinance
- Cooperate with U.S. government agencies and non-governmental agencies to sustain VIKA