CONCLUSIONS

It is not immediately evident how indicators should be developed to provide information on the status of complicated, or perhaps even simple, scenarios. Some guidance on appropriate political, economic, and other types properties that may provide a basis for the formation of of indicators could come from such sources as the European Commission checklist or the Columbia International Affairs website. Other guidance can come from a study of the dynamical properties of a system or systems of interest. In this case interest is placed on the dynamics of the types of behaviour that may occur rather than on specific numbers associated with the properties chosen as indicators.

The Swedish National Defence College has developed the NATO GOP procedure that embeds indicators with the DMSCupol software environment. This facility can be interfaced with formal computer-based simulations. Such facilities have been tested during a post-conflict stabilization study of Afghanistan held at the Swedish National Defence College in January 2003. This study demonstrated that indicators could be used with benefit to identify conditions that emerge in response to defined operational plans. The studies also pointed out the need to develop additional sets of indicators that represented additional properties of the operational environment as well as the need to undertake model and indicator validation and verification activities in order to create a trusted planning environment.

FUTURE WORK

Future work will focus on interfacing systems that export data from DMSCupol and import data and information to a Scenario Generator. Output from the Scenario Generator will then be sent to a client server-based version of the Strategic Management System (STRATMAS). These new capabilities would permit a staff to be distributed close to an operational or other functional area as well as permitting the staff to carry detailed modeling, analysis, and assessment activities with STRATMAS, perhaps located at a remote location.

Future work will also focus on providing the ability to support reporting on processes and activities that are actually taking place at operational and other locations and providing that information in a timely and precise manner to support modeling, analysis, and assessment-related activities.

At the Swedish National Defence College we will also interface the output generated by STRATMAS and other model-based facilities to custom-built stereoscopic presentation facilities. Use of those facilities will enhance the ability of a staff to obtain an appropriately detailed overview of new and emerging structures in the societal conflict environment.

REFERENCES

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