



# **Documenting Conflicts in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Society of American Archivists  
2011 Research Forum**

*Chicago August 23, 2011*

**Heather Soyka** University of Pittsburgh  
**Eliot Wilczek** Simmons College & Tufts University

## **Introduction**

### **COIN & Its Documentary Challenges**

### **Current Documentary Efforts**

### **Unity of Documentary Effort**

### **Next Steps**

### **Transferrable Lessons**

Helen Samuels.  
“Who Controls the Past.”  
*American Archivist*. 49(2)  
Spring 1986.

How many archival  
repositories does it  
take to document the  
complexities of the  
**moon shot?**

## **Introduction**

### **COIN & Its Documentary Challenges**

### **Current Documentary Efforts**

### **Unity of Documentary Effort**

### **Next Steps**

### **Transferrable Lessons**

How many archival  
repositories does it  
take to document the  
complexities of the  
**Iraq and Afghanistan  
Wars?**

## **Introduction**

### **COIN & Its Documentary Challenges**

### **Current Documentary Efforts**

### **Unity of Documentary Effort**

### **Next Steps**

### **Transferrable Lessons**

## ***Describing* Grand Challenge**



**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

# Ambiguity

# Actors

# Information

**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

# Ambiguity

*standard*  
**Fog of War**





*element of*  
**enemy-centric  
kinetic warfighting**





*focus on*  
**population-centric  
operations**





**COIN**  
**fought here**





**How do we  
document this?**





## Introduction

## COIN & Its Documentary Challenges

## Current Documentary Efforts

## Unity of Documentary Effort

## Next Steps

## Transferrable Lessons



<http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/>

## Introduction

## COIN & Its Documentary Challenges

## Current Documentary Efforts

## Unity of Documentary Effort

## Next Steps

## Transferrable Lessons

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

National Edition  
Mostly cloudy. Periods of rain east.  
Cool. Highs 50s and 60s. Rain and  
drizzle east tonight. Partly cloudy  
west. Partly sunny tomorrow.  
Warmer. Weather map, Page D6.

VOL. CLX... No. 55,393 ©2011 The New York Times MONDAY, MAY 2, 2011 Printed in Dubai \$2.00

## BIN LADEN KILLED BY U.S. FORCES IN PAKISTAN, OBAMA SAYS, DECLARING JUSTICE HAS BEEN DONE



بالجزيرة  
مسجل

### Qaeda Leader Reported Dead in 'Targeted Assault'

By PETER BAKER  
and HELENE COOPER

WASHINGTON — Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the most devastating attack on American soil in modern times and the most hunted man in the world, was killed in a firefight with United States forces in Pakistan on Sunday, President Obama announced.

In a dramatic late-night appearance in the East Room of the White House, Mr. Obama declared that "justice has been done" as he disclosed that American military and C.I.A. operatives had finally cornered Mr. bin Laden, the Al Qaeda leader who had eluded them for nearly a decade, and shot him to death at a compound in Pakistan.

"For over two decades, bin Laden has been Al Qaeda's leader and symbol," the president said in a statement carried on television around the world. "The death of bin Laden marks the most significant achievement to date in our nation's effort to defeat Al Qaeda. But his death does not mean the end of our fight."



PHOTO: MICHAEL MORAES/REUTERS/PHOTO PHASE

President Obama announced that Bin Laden was killed in a firefight earlier Sunday.

The death of Mr. bin Laden came nearly 10 years after Al Qaeda terrorists hijacked three American passenger jets and crashed them into the World Trade Center towers in New York City.

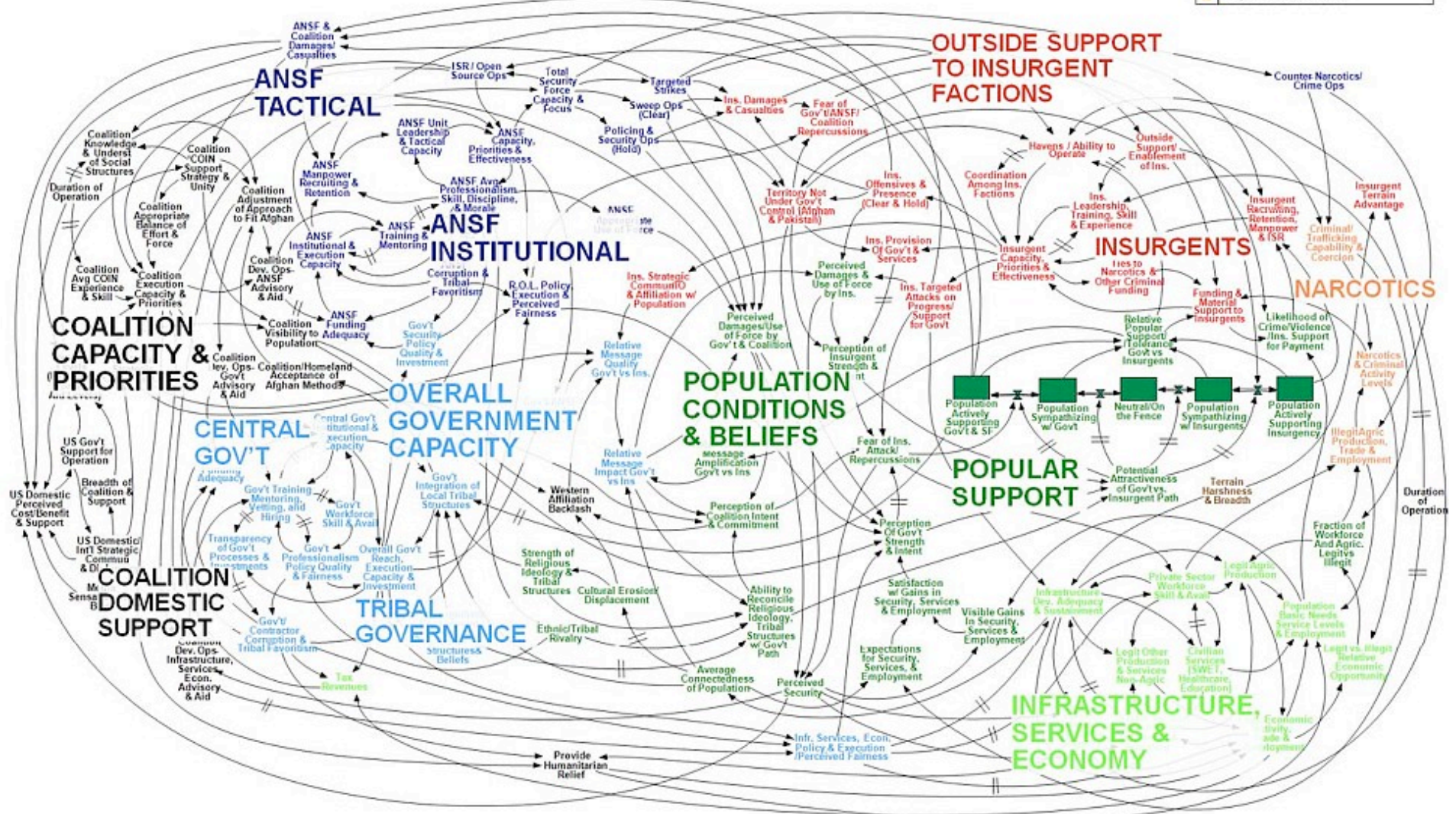
As the leader of Al Qaeda, Osama bin Laden, here in video recorded in 2003, waged a terror war against the United States.



# Afghanistan Stability / COIN Dynamics

// = Significant Delay

- Population/Popular Support
- Infrastructure, Economy, & Services
- Government
- Afghanistan Security Forces
- Insurgents
- Crime and Narcotics
- Coalition Forces & Actions
- Physical Environment



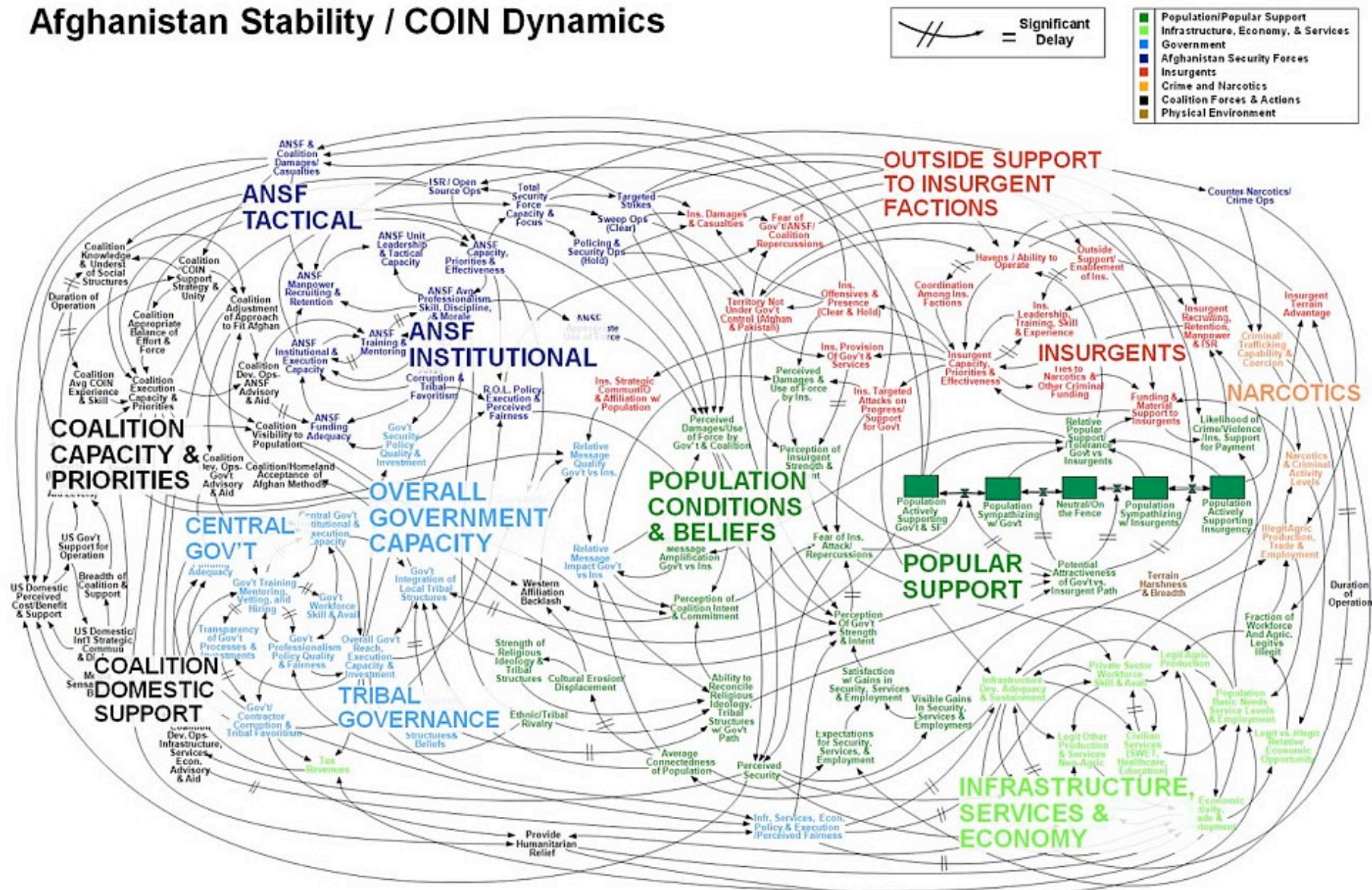
WORKING DRAFT - V3



**“When we understand that slide, we'll have won the war.”**

**General Stanley McCrystal, 2009**  
 Commander, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and  
 Commander, U.S. Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A) 2009 – 2010

## Afghanistan Stability / COIN Dynamics



**WORKING DRAFT – V3**



**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

# Actors

**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

US military personnel served  
Iraq or Afghanistan

**~2,000,000**

**Introduction**

US military personnel served  
Iraq or Afghanistan

**~2,000,000**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

Countries sent  
forces to Afghanistan

**47**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**



**Introduction**

US military personnel served  
Iraq or Afghanistan

**~2,000,000**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

Countries sent  
forces to Afghanistan

**47**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

Countries sent military  
personnel Iraq

**41**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

**Introduction**

US military personnel served  
Iraq or Afghanistan

**~2,000,000**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

Countries sent  
forces to Afghanistan

**47**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

Countries sent military  
personnel Iraq

**41**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

NGOs active  
Afghanistan

**1,550**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

**Introduction**

US military personnel served  
Iraq or Afghanistan

**~2,000,000**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

Countries sent  
forces to Afghanistan

**47**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

Countries sent military  
personnel Iraq

**41**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

NGOs active  
Afghanistan

**1,550**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

NGOs active  
Iraq

**6,000+**

## Introduction

## COIN & Its Documentary Challenges

## Current Documentary Efforts

## Unity of Documentary Effort

## Next Steps

## Transferrable Lessons

## Documenting Localities

Base in Kandahar  
13,000 from 17 countries



**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

# Information



## **Introduction**

## **COIN & Its Documentary Challenges**

## **Current Documentary Efforts**

## **Unity of Documentary Effort**

## **Next Steps**

## **Transferrable Lessons**

## **US Military**

Knowledge Management Tools  
Battle Command Knowledge  
Systems

Land Warrior System

TiGRNET

Centers for Lessons Learned  
Forums

CompanyCommand  
Platoon Leader

## **Doctrine & Regulations**

Information Operations *JP 3-13*

Knowledge Management *FM 6-01.1*

Army Lessons Learned Program  
*AR 11-33*

The Army Records Information  
Management System *AR 25-400-2*  
Military History: Responsibilities,  
Policies, and Procedures *AR 870-5*

PowerPoint Culture

**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

**Military Personnel**

**Social Media**

Email

Blogs

Twitter

Facebook

Online Forums

[www.milblogging.com](http://www.milblogging.com)

3,128 milblogs / 45 countries

**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

**Institutional  
Repositories**

NARA

US Army Center of Military History

Marine Corps History program

Naval History & Heritage

Command Archives

**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

**Institutional  
Repositories**

NARA

US Army Center of Military History

Marine Corps History program

Naval History & Heritage

Command Archives

**Additional  
Repositories**

National Security Archive

National Defense University

*Iraq war records*

Hoover Institution

*Iraq Baath Party records*

**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

**Institutional  
Repositories**

NARA

US Army Center of Military History

Marine Corps History program

Naval History & Heritage

Command Archives

**Additional  
Repositories**

National Security Archive

National Defense University

*Iraq war records*

Hoover Institution

*Iraq Baath Party records*

**Community &  
Other Archives**

WikiLeaks / Iraq War Logs

[www.milblogging.com](http://www.milblogging.com)

**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

***Demands***  
**Inter-institutional &  
international effort**



**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

**Context**

Rich description

Scalable

Exchangeable (cross-cultural)

**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

**Context**

Rich description  
Scalable  
Exchangeable (cross-cultural)

**Relationships**

Complex Network of Actors  
Relationships  
Core Descriptive Element  
Cooperative relationships  
institutions and communities

**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

**Context**

Rich description  
Scalable  
Exchangeable (cross-cultural)

**Relationships**

Complex Network of Actors  
Relationships  
Core Descriptive Element  
  
Cooperative relationships  
institutions and communities

**Trustworthiness**

Establish Authenticity  
Trustworthy Practices  
Contested Issue

**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

**Environmental  
Scan**

Archival Institutions

Community Archives

Users & Stakeholders

**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

**Environmental  
Scan**

Archival Institutions

Community Archives

Users & Stakeholders

**Conference**

Stakeholders

White Paper Gap Analysis

Documentary needs vs.

Current Practices & Capacity

**Introduction**

**COIN & Its  
Documentary  
Challenges**

**Current  
Documentary  
Efforts**

**Unity of  
Documentary  
Effort**

**Next Steps**

**Transferrable  
Lessons**

**Environmental  
Scan**

Archival Institutions  
Community Archives  
Users & Stakeholders

**Conference**

Stakeholders  
White Paper Gap Analysis  
Documentary needs vs.  
Current Practices & Capacity

**Project**

Documentary Framework  
Collaborative Framework  
InterPARES



## Introduction

## COIN & Its Documentary Challenges

## Current Documentary Efforts

## Unity of Documentary Effort

## Next Steps

## Transferrable Lessons



## Natural Disasters

## **Introduction**

## **COIN & Its Documentary Challenges**

## **Current Documentary Efforts**

## **Unity of Documentary Effort**

## **Next Steps**

## **Transferrable Lessons**

# **Political Revolution**





## **Introduction**

## **COIN & Its Documentary Challenges**

## **Current Documentary Efforts**

## **Unity of Documentary Effort**

## **Next Steps**

## **Transferrable Lessons**

# **Everyday Practices**





## Documenting Conflicts in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

SAA Research Forum August 23, 2011

Heather Soyka University of Pittsburgh  
Eliot Wilczek Simmons College & Tufts University



Albu Said, Iraq  
June 16, 2007  
Staff Sgt. Dallas Edwards, U.S. Air Force  
[U.S. Army]  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/761432580/>



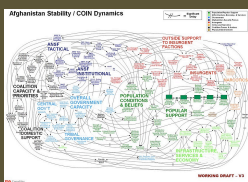
Adhamiyah neighborhood, Baghdad, Iraq  
June 16, 2007  
Sgt. Mike Pryor, 2nd BCT, 82nd Airborne  
Division Public Affairs, U.S. Army  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/660493710/>



Barawala Kalet valley, Kunar province,  
Afghanistan,  
March 29, 2011  
Pfc. Cameron Boyd, U.S. Army  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/5616370765/>



Near Forward Operating Base Lane,  
Zabul, Afghanistan,  
March 5, 2009  
Staff Sgt. Adam Mancini, U.S. Army  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/3342067638/>



Daily Mail  
"When we understand that slide, we'll have won the war:' US generals given baffling PowerPoint presentation to try to explain Afghanistan mess"  
April 28, 2010  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1269463/Afghanistan-PowerPoint-slide-Generals-left-baffled-PowerPoint-slide.html>



FOB Ramrod  
Kandahar, Afghanistan  
2008  
Cpt. Michael Soyka



Insurgent Recruiting Video  
Popular Military, Military Videos  
<http://www.popularmilitary.com/videos/video494.htm>



Wakuya, Japan  
March 17, 2011  
U.S. Navy  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usnavy/5534029429/>



Banyas, Syria  
May 6, 2011  
Syria Frames Of Freedom  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/syrian-freedom-captured/5736678914/>



CSUDH [California State University,  
Dominguez Hills] Archive  
November 30, 2007  
LWY  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/lwy/2076394371/>