

# MEMORANDUM

**TO: Interested Parties**  
**FROM: Geoff Garin and Bill McInturff**  
**DATE: September 22, 2010**  
**RE: Key Findings From USGLC Survey Of Commissioned Officers**

*This memorandum highlights the key findings from a bipartisan, online survey conducted by Hart Research Associates (D) and Public Opinion Strategies (R) among 606 current and retired U.S. military officers. Interviews were conducted September 7 to 15, 2010.*

## **Development And Diplomacy Help Achieve National Security Objectives**

**The belief that in today’s world we cannot protect America through military strength alone and that we also need to use the tools of diplomacy and development to achieve our national security objectives is now well-established in the minds of America’s military officers. Many military officers, especially those who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan, come to this view through their own personal experiences of seeing these non-military tools contribute to their own military missions.**

Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: “In today’s world, a strong military alone is not enough to protect America. We also need to use the tools of diplomacy and development to achieve our national security objectives.”

	<u>%</u>
Strongly agree	55
Somewhat agree	34
Somewhat disagree	9
Strongly disagree	2

Thinking about your own experiences as a member of the U.S. armed services—was there ever a time when you personally saw the value of non-military tools, such as diplomacy and development assistance—a time when they helped make your work more effective or more efficient?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Served in</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>Iraq/ Afghanistan</u>
		<u>%</u>
Yes	71	75
No	29	25

## **Importance Of Non-Military Tools**

**The large majority of military officers say that non-military tools such as diplomacy, food assistance, and support for health, education, and economic development programs are important to achieving the country's national security objectives.**

In thinking about how the United States achieves its national security objectives, how important do you believe non-military tools such as diplomacy, food assistance, and support for health, education, and economic development programs are?

	<u>%</u>
Very important	43
Fairly important	40
Just somewhat important	13
Not very important	4
Not important at all	-

## **Increased Resources For Civilian-Led Tools**

**The large majority of military officers believe that a decision by Congress to increase funding for non-military tools such as diplomacy, food assistance, and support for health, education, and economic development programs, would help our national security and military objectives in the long run. Conversely, an equally large majority believes that Congress would injure our national security and military objectives if it cuts funding for these non-military tools.**

If Congress INCREASED funding for non-military tools such as diplomacy, food assistance, and support for health, education, and economic development programs, do you think that would help, hurt, or have no effect on our national security and military objectives in the long run?

	<u>%</u>
Would help our national security and military objectives	59
Would hurt our national security and military objectives	20
Would have no effect on our national security and military objectives	21

If Congress DECREASED funding for non-military tools such as diplomacy, food assistance, and support for health, education, and economic development programs, do you think that would help, hurt, or have no effect on our national security and military objectives in the long run?

	<u>%</u>
Would help our national security and military objectives	20
Would hurt our national security and military objectives	59
Would have no effect on our national security & military objectives	21

## Working Together

**Military officers perceive an important role for non-military tools to complement military power in specific goals related to achieving our national security objectives, including many functions on which they believe key goals can best be met by having the military and civilian agencies work together.**

Following are some objectives that might arise in countries where there is a serious threat to U.S. national security interests, through hostile insurgencies or the activities of terrorist organizations. For each one, please indicate who you think should be primarily responsibility for that objective.

	<u>The Military</u> %	<u>Civilian Agencies</u> %	<u>Both The Military And Civilian Agencies, Working Together</u> %	<u>Neither The Military Nor Civilian Agencies</u> %
Providing security for the local population	38	19	35	8
Helping train police and national armed forces	43	15	41	1
Providing assistance to strengthen the rule of law and civil institutions	17	42	36	5
Providing infrastructure for basic needs such as water and roads in countries	14	49	32	5
Working with local leaders on education, health care, and economic development	13	57	26	4

Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: "While the military is often called upon as a first responder to humanitarian crises such as the earthquake in Haiti, we should seek a quick and smooth transition to civilian responsibilities for the subsequent missions of reconstruction and stabilization."

	<u>%</u>
Strongly agree	59
Somewhat agree	33
Somewhat disagree	7
Strongly disagree	1