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## Directed Study in Support of SOJTF-A: The Future Utilization of SOF in Afghanistan

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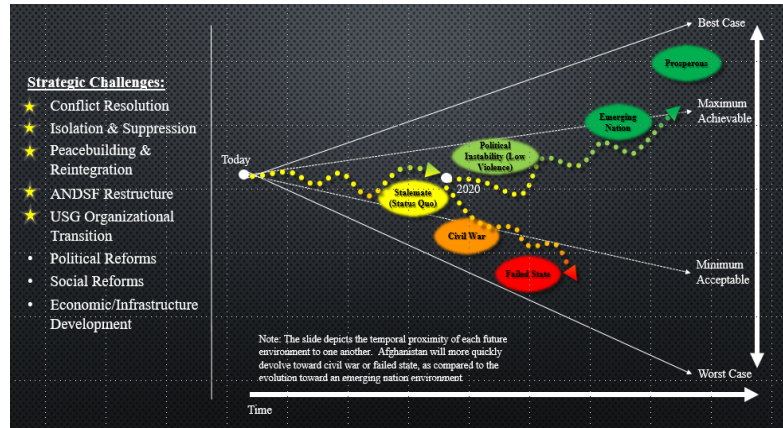
# Directed Study in Support of SOJTF-A: The Future Utilization of SOF in Afghanistan



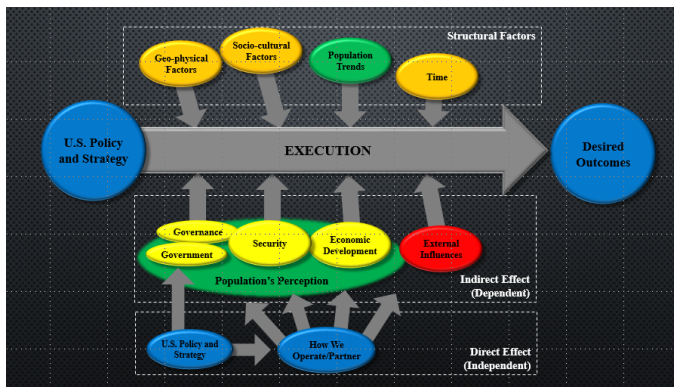
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## What we were asked to do:

- Develop a set of considerations to support future SOJTF-A planning
- A narrative that explains the justice of the shared US-Afghan cause and undermines the Taliban's narrative
- Develop creative concepts for the future utilization of SOF in Afghanistan



Range of Future Environments in Afghanistan



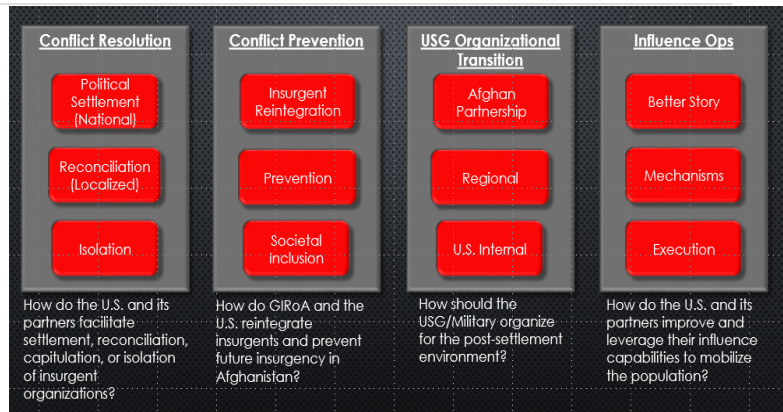
Depiction of the Problem Environment

## Methodology

- The team employed the Stanford Design Methodology in conjunction with members' operational experiences in various theaters of operation, field research in Afghanistan, and discussions with over 90 subject matter experts ranging from Ambassador Hamdullah Mohib (Afghanistan's Ambassador to the United States), Mrs. Laurel Miller (Former SRAP), Mr. Michael Lumpkin (former ASD/SOLIC), and Professor Tom Barfield.

## Results Considerations

- "Afghan Way"
- Afghan sustainable
- Grass Roots Application/Execution
- Enabled by National and Provincial Governments
- Consistent Implementation
- Durable vagaries of U.S. National Leadership
- Transcends cultural proclivities



"Creative" Solutions

## The "So What"

Existential threat to success: The U.S. must develop and implement a long-term strategy for Afghanistan (>10 yrs) and clearly demonstrate its commitment to Afghanistan, Coalition Partners, and Regional Actors.

## Next Steps

- What is the Afghan environment in 2050?
- Does the U.S. have an Afghanistan strategy? Or a Central Asia strategy that includes Afghanistan?



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