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**Robert E Burks\*** (reburks@np.edu), 1 University Circle, Defense Analysis Department, Monterey, CA 93940, and **Peter Wilcox** and **Jeff Applegat**. *Modeling the Human Terrain*. Preliminary report.

Decisions about policies involving the defeat of the Islamic State is a tug-and-pull between stakeholders' competing interests, whether it's the Iraqi government and its various federations, the international community, or special interest groups where each stakeholder's preference varies in scope and intensity. This complex tug-and pull scenario is just one of many examples of the expanding complexity of sub-national and cross-national threats to national security that strains the analytical capabilities of the Department of Defense (DOD), highlighting the need for methods and tools that can make this emergent complexity manageable. Today's computational power allows for sophisticated agent based simulations, with thousands of agents operating in a simulated environment to potentially address DOD shortcomings. This research effort looks at the potential use off the shelve technology to simulate the iterative political decision making calculus among stakeholders with different interests in and varying influence on the political process. This talk will review the current progress and the future potential to streamline and automate the necessary data collection for these models. (Received September 14, 2017)