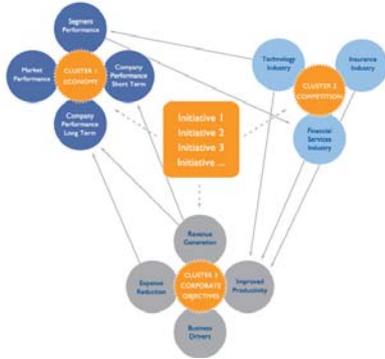# Decision Software Support

*Analytic Network Process Model
-- Decision Lens*

"FirstLink representatives were instrumental in the communication of our software capabilities to the Department of Defense. The support we received was invaluable in helping Decision Lens to secure a contract to provide a support tool that will help analyze courses of action in situations where responses have high stakes."

*Daniel Saaty
Vice President, DecisionLens*

The Studies Analysis and Gaming Division (SAGD) of the Department of Defense Joint Chiefs of Staff is tasked with analyzing influences in order to understand the effects of actions, including military actions, that might be taken around the world. This effort is accomplished through war games conducted with relevant participants. Following a demonstration of technology from Decision Lens Inc., the SAGD approved a contract for Decision Lens to customize software as a decision support tool for identifying, assessing, and prioritizing joint U.S. military force capabilities.

At the invitation of Decision Lens, FirstLink co-authored and presented the white paper for the SAGD in which Decision Lens used their decision support tool for the mid-term assessment of forces in 2007. Additionally, the Chilean defense invited a FirstLink representative to present the findings on behalf of Decision Lens and the SAGD. The purpose of the assessment was to focus on the interdependences of planned Global War of Terror efforts. The demonstration and SAGD's Request for Proposal resulted in a $500,000 contract for Decision Lens to provide their software for future SAGD use.

One of the desired outcomes of the software's use was a quantification of the relationships among factors considered. In this War Games demonstration, Decision Lens used their Analytical Network Process (ANP) as a bridging mechanism to bring in other forms of analysis, many of which had not been tried before. By using a modeling system that integrates intangibles and loose concepts such as values, objectives and risks, ANP is able to translate human understanding and judgment in a software support tool.

The application of such software can provide similar valuable support in the decision making process for emergency responders tasked with managing a range of domestic disasters or crisis situations.

The Studies, Analysis and Gaming Division (SAGD) is responsible for conducting joint war games, integrated analyses and assessments that address joint capabilities, force management, and resource allocation issues in order to continuously provide the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other offices with the best military advice.

FirstLink is the Department of Defense's National Center of Excellence for First Responder Technologies, supporting first responder needs through the development of commercial pathways between Department of Defense Science & Technology, private industry and universities.

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