WORKSHEET ON POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION – INFRASTRUCTURE

Defination: Armed conflict destroys or disrupts the physical elements of a modern society, such as transportation systems (roads, bridges, railroads, airports, etc.), power supplies, water and wastewater treatment, telecommunications, and basic sanitation.

1. With regard to the infrastructure, what are the special needs within Afghanistan since 2001? What has caused these problems with the infrastructure? In what areas has the destruction been worst?

2. What are the major groups in Afghanistan, and what are their determining characteristics (language, religion, etc.)? Have any of these groups suffered more than others because of the war (either because of their geographical location or because they were victims of persecution)? How would you make sure that rebuilding the infrastructure proceeds fairly so that all groups of people and all geographic areas are treated equally?

3. Which international organizations have been involved in providing humanitarian aid to the country? What have they accomplished, and what still needs to be done?

4. What natural and human resources does the country have that can be used in rebuilding? How would you make sure that these resources are used effectively?

5. Why is the improvement of the infrastructure necessary for the growth of the economy, security, etc.? Conversely, why are improvements in the economy, security, governance, etc. necessary to improve the infrastructure?

6. If you could suggest **THREE** changes or courses of action, what would you do and how would you do it? What kind of support (political, financial, organizational) would you need to be successful?

Some websites that may help you:
- A great short piece about USAID efforts: http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACG278.pdf
- http://library.iit.edu/govdocs/afghanistan/Infrastructure.html
- problems when U.S. improvements made & then Afghanistan takes control: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/03/AR2011010302175.html