



CIMIC in Enablement

*Concepts, Interoperability and Capabilities Branch
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INTRODUCTION

Civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) is an integral part of NATO's Joint Function Framework, as described in AJP-01. It plays a vital role across all operational domains – land, air, maritime, cyber, and space – and in all physical, virtual, and cognitive dimensions. For any mission to succeed, certain key conditions must be met. Successful military operations depend on enabling conditions, such as access to civilian infrastructure, support from the local population, and coordination with non-military actors. Some of these conditions enable progress, while others, if not addressed, can become obstacles that hinder or even derail the mission. This factsheet explains how CIMIC contributes to operational enablement by identifying and shaping these critical conditions, reducing risks, and enhancing mission outcomes.

THE ENABLEMENT AND NATO CIMIC

Enablement is an integrated whole-of-government activity that underpins NATO's planning to set the conditions for Reinforcement by Forces (RbyFo) and Sustainment flow in peacetime through transition to crisis and/or conflict. An important part of enablement is setting the preconditions that allow reinforcement by forces and sustainment. With that, the Alliance can project forces where needed (RbyFo) and keep those forces operable as long as necessary (Sustainment). A sufficiently resilient system can deliver these services continuously, not only for support to the civil sector, but also to support military operations.

The CIMIC contributions to the enablement may take the form of gaining information on infrastructure, services, routes, capacities, and, of course, the identification of the key stakeholders, entities, and organizations involved in military planning already in peacetime. In crisis or conflict, CIMIC supports the military operation via enhanced cooperation and information sharing with the previously mentioned actors, maintaining Situational Awareness (SA) on the Civil Environment (CE), and assessing the possible effects of the CE on military operations and vice versa. In connection with the Reinforcement and Sustainment Network (RSN), CIMIC facilitates access to the Physical elements and the connected civil resources and capabilities, and contributes to the creating and developing of the Functional elements, such as facilitating negotiations for Host Nation Support (HNS) or supporting contracting across logistics functions, making it particularly important to understand the interdependencies between areas.



CENTRE OF GRAVITY – THE TRANSPORT

One of the pillars of the enabled Reinforcement and Sustainment Network is the Physical element. In this context, the aim is to ensure that NATO forces can rapidly move across Alliance territory and that civil services can rely on transportation networks in crisis or conflict. To move troops and heavy military equipment, bridges need to be solid, roads, railways, and waterways need to be accessible, telecommunication networks need to be reliable, and supply chains need to be safe. For this task, the key infrastructure nodes must be identified and protected.

A resilient transport system provides diversified transport options with sufficient backup capabilities. In many cases, military capabilities and capacities may not be enough to carry out the tasks, so civil services are essential. With the support of CIMIC, planners and commanders can get an accurate picture of the key players (companies, agencies) and installations that can provide the necessary support for our military operations. Creating the appropriate legal environment and signing the required contracts (parts of the functional elements) is much easier with this assessment. These are essential preparatory steps for providing the necessary civil services. Due to the proximity to the transportation, CIMIC is in the lead, as a facilitator, to cooperate with the EU Military Staff under the given guidance and Direct Liaison Authorization (DIRLAUTH) from SHAPE. The EU has regulatory power and budget to develop its Trans European Transport Network (TEN-T). This cooperation aims to coordinate and harmonize the efforts to build the transportation networks (avoid duplications and close the “gaps”).

INFRASTRUCTURE – THE KEY ELEMENT

Recognising that key infrastructure is a critical enabler for military operations and an essential element of credible defensive and retaliatory capabilities, a resilient military infrastructure is vital to fulfilling these requirements. Military infrastructure heavily depends on civil infrastructure, including utilities, energy, transport, industry, and communications. CIMIC, with its focus on political, administrative, social, and cultural factors, plays a pivotal role in ensuring effective communication and cooperation between civilians and the military (CIV-MIL) and, next to it, in many cases between the NATO military and Allies' military (MIL-MIL), as we are talking about fully functioning sovereign allied nations. The Civil-Military Interaction (CMI), as one of CIMIC's core activities, is instrumental in ensuring that the military infrastructure receives the necessary support from the civil sector promptly and appropriately. Since the resilience system's basic functioning is based on mutual support and assistance, NATO provides guidance (such as the Seven Baseline Requirements; Alliance Resilience Objectives) to help the nations improve their resilience system and, as a part of it, to increase the resilience of the infrastructure and utility systems.



ESSENTIAL FACTOR: THE INDIVIDUALS

Personnel support is also a critical enabler. It includes planning, coordinating, and executing all efforts undertaken to sustain the moral component of a joint task force on operations. This support is not limited to human resources management, welfare, religious support, and legal aspects of people management. It also ensures soldiers have balanced bio-psycho-social capabilities crucial for resilience and performance. In the increasing complexity of modern warfare, perseverance (as a collective term for these skills) becomes even more critical, highlighting the evolving nature of military operations. Medical support is essential for developing these skills to the right level. This type of support encompasses the full range of medical planning and provision of medical and health services to maintain the force's strength through disease prevention, evacuation, rapid treatment of the sick, injured, and wounded, recovery, and return to duty. Many factors can be identified through the core CIMIC activities [CMI and Civil Factor Integration (CFI)] to facilitate the easier and more effective implementation of personnel support. Through the four activities of CMI (outreach, engagement, CIV-MIL liaison and consultation), CIMIC can provide a better picture of this aspect and identify the potential gaps in the medical and health services, which can significantly impact military operations. With this information, J9 can provide a proper assessment for the planning to bridge the identified capacity gaps.

MILENG AND NATO CIMIC

Military engineering (MILENG) is a function that encompasses the full range of planning and the provision of MILENG capabilities to maintain the force's capabilities throughout all stages of an operation. However, to maximize MILENG capabilities, a proper CIMIC estimate, developed in close collaboration with other branches and sections, is essential to help identify the critical points where MILENG support is most needed.

DAY ZERO INTEGRATION AND THE BROAD PARTNER NETWORK

The Day Zero Integration (DZI) concept will improve understanding of NATO's current level of engagement with non-NATO entities (NNE), assess the needs and improvement avenues for NATO-NNE engagement in the future, develop processes, and identify recommendations to ensure adequate future integration. DZI will provide a comprehensive overview of civilian stakeholders through one of its annexes, the Broad Partner Network (BPN). In this way, the DZI will enhance CIMIC's ability to assess and integrate civil factors from the onset of operations, ensuring a coordinated approach between military and civil entities.



CONCLUSION

CIMIC contributes to enablement in all stages of the military operation by integrating the civil factors into the comprehensive understanding of the operating environment and ensuring the synchronization of military and non-military activities. Enablement and sustainment build on the complementary use of military and non-military resources and capabilities. By looking at the impact of the army operation on the civil environment and vice versa, CIMIC provides valuable inside and situational awareness necessary to complement the comprehensive understanding of the operational environment in which the military operates. The information CIMIC delivers is helpful for accurate planning, highlighting both opportunities and information gaps and thus contributing to the successful enablement of the effects of the operation.

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