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## Austrian Concept for Civil-Military-Cooperation



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(Austrian Armed Forces International Centre)**

## Foreword

This CCOE CIMIC Messenger provides an insight into Austrian CIMIC concept and its national implementation. This should be seen as an initial attempt to exchange information amongst the CIMIC family and our civilian counterparts in missions to come. Knowledge on basic national interpretations and prerogatives is seen as a key for the right mindset and attitude to comprehensive solution.

The CCOE is therefore offering its publication platform for a series on national basics or developments to come. Nations, representatives or individuals are therefore encouraged to provide the respective inputs to a wider audience.

Kassermann  
Director CCOE



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Austria - as member of the European Union and NATO/PfP - is orienting itself in the area of Civil-Military-Cooperation towards EU and NATO standards. The Austrian concept for Civil-Military-Cooperation is part of the military strategic concept of the Austrian Armed Forces.

### 1. The Austrian CIMIC concept

CIMIC is the cooperation and coordination focused on the civil/military mission between civil actors (local population and people in positions of responsibility, international, national and non-governmental organisations and authorities) and military forces in military operations abroad.

Although it is called the same in German "Zivil-Militärische Zusammenarbeit" (**ZMZ**) and in English "Civil-Military-Cooperation" (CIMIC), in the Austrian Concept there is a differentiation between Civil-Military-Cooperation/**National** on one hand and Civil-Military-Cooperation/**International** on the other. CIMIC is - beside International Humanitarian and Disaster Relief - part of ZMZ/International in the Austrian concept. It is seen as a tool for international crisis management (see graphics below).

Basically Civil-Military-Cooperation/International encompasses a wide range of activities:

- CIMIC in Crisis Management Operations (CMO),
- Measures related to International Humanitarian and Disaster Response,
- Search and Rescue Operations, e.g. AFDRU (Austrian Forces Disaster Relief Unit), UNDAC (United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination) as well as

- Measures in connection with development cooperation.

### 2. The Austrian CIMIC Forces

#### a) National

Responsible for Civil-Military-Cooperation is

- on strategic level the Austrian Ministry for Defence and Sports,
- on operational level J9 section/Joint Forces Command,
- in a mission the NCC together with the respective commander and
- on tactical level in the field the deployed CIMIC units within the area of operation (AOO).

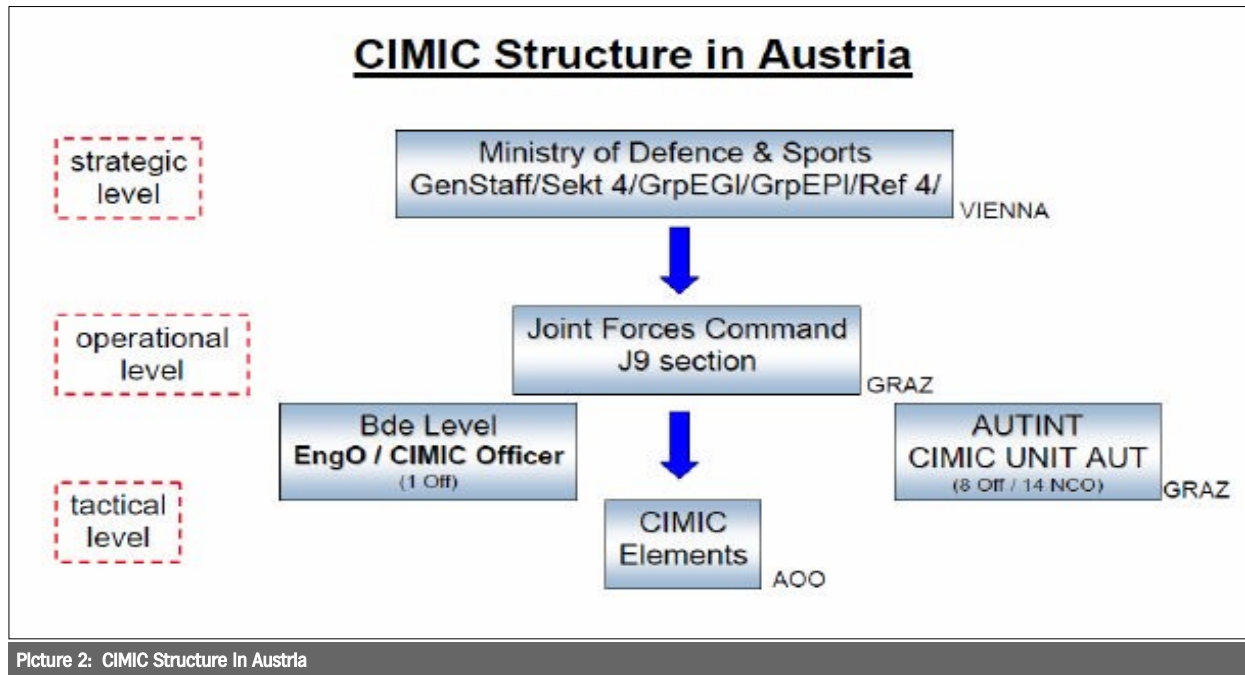
On brigade level there is one Engineer Officer/CIMIC Officer in each brigade staff.

#### b) International

The Austrian Armed Forces' main focus within enhanced Partnership for Peace is the achievement of interoperability, primarily for crisis response operations. The Austrian Armed Forces have long-term experience within multinational forces on battalion-level. They participate in international NATO-, UN-, EU-, and OSCE- led operations.

<b>ZMZ (Zivil-Militärische Zusammenarbeit)</b>		
<b>ZMZ/National</b>	<b>ZMZ/International</b>	
e.g. national disaster relief	International humanitarian and disaster relief	Crisis management
		<b>CIMIC</b>
	CMCoord (UN)	
	Development cooperation	

Picture 1: Austrian concept of "ZMZ"



**The Austrian International Forces (AUTINT)** are the Austrian Partnership for Peace Training Centre. This includes:

- Conducting crisis response operations training with international participation and specific training assistance,
- conducting major parts of mission-specific crisis response operations training and preparation "pre-deployment training", including key-personnel,
- administering aptitude testing and deployment as well as acting as rotation centre for crisis response operations ,implementing crisis response operations specific
- personnel, national logistics and resupply as well as recreation and welfare.

#### Introduction of CIMIC UNIT AUSTRIA

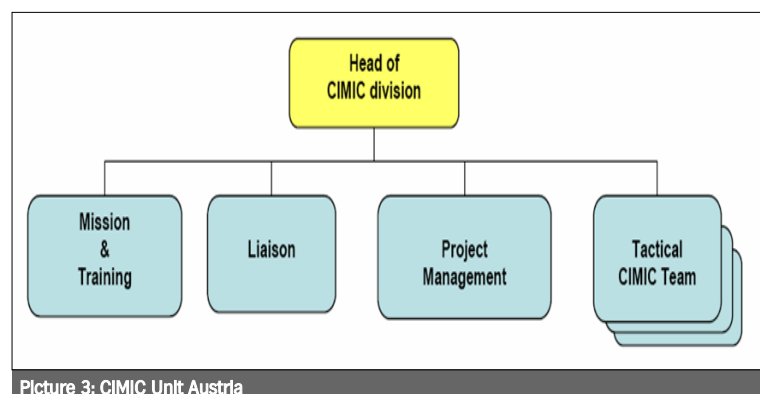
The CIMIC UNIT AUSTRIA is located in GRAZ (south-eastern part of Austria) and is a subordinated division of the Austrian Armed Forces International Centre (AUTINT) located in GOETZEN-DORF/LEITHA (near VIENNA).

The unit has a total strength of 22 personnel working in different sections:

- Mission & Training Section
- Liaison Section
- Project Management Section
- Three Tactical CIMIC Teams

Tasks of the CIMIC UNIT AUSTRIA are as follows:

- The education of CIMIC personnel,
- The civil/humanitarian situation inputs to the decision making process
- the further development of AUT CIMIC documents and standards, for the Austrian Armed





Forces (AAF). Therefore the CIMIC Unit AUT is also conducting CIMIC courses and pre-deployment trainings for CIMIC personnel. (For further Information see report "Introduction of CIMIC UNIT AUSTRIA")

- Conducting CIMIC Courses (national CIMIC Basic Course as well as international CIMIC-Course/ PSO)
- Allocation of personnel for the CIMIC Support Unit/EUBG 2012-2
- Pre-deployment training for CIMIC personnel
- Participation at national and international exercises
- Providing information for the Civil Situation Update

#### Evaluation of the CIMIC Support Unit/EUBG 2012-2

Within the framework of the NATO OCC E&F (Operational Capabilities Concept Evaluation & Feedback) programme, the Austrian part of the multinational CIMIC Support Unit (CSU) for the EUBG 2012-2 was evaluated during NATO Evaluation Level 1 (NEL1) exercise in MAUTERN (Lower Austria) from 21nov11 to 02dec11.

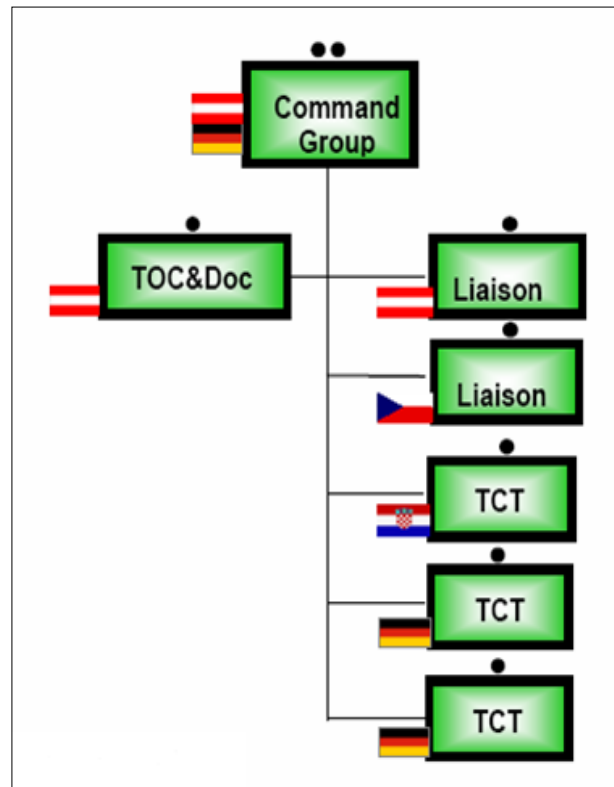
The multinational CSU (AUT, CRO, CZE, GER) has a total strength of 25 personnel under Austrian lead and is structured as shown in picture 4.

Within the Battle Group structure the CIMIC Support Unit is directly subordinated to the FHQ.

Aim of the NEL1 exercise was to evaluate the NATO-interoperability of the participating elements.

An international evaluator team has been on the spot to check the training level and whether the personnel

is working according to the NATO Task List specifications. The CIMIC team had to manage different tasks like meeting with a local authority, recce of a CIMIC centre as well as handling situations like negotiating with people at a road block, a truck accident with haz



Picture 4: CSU/EUBG 2012-2

TOC & Doc: Tactical Operation Centre & Documentation  
TCT: Tactical CIMIC Team

ardous material, a traffic accident with seriously injured soldiers and co-operation with helicopters.

Additionally there was an in-barracks inspection covering topics like TOC work (e.g. Situation Map), NATO Voice Procedure and communication security (COMSEC).

After the positive feedback for the participating CIMIC personnel from the evaluators, the team is looking forward to the challenges in 2012!





### 3. AUSTRIAN ARMED FORCES INTERNATIONAL CENTER - partnership day with mine awareness training

The following is describing a practical example on how civil-military interaction requirements are addressed.

CIMIC soldiers – like all other soldiers in a mission – always may be confronted with mines, IEDs and other threats. Therefore mine awareness training has a special importance. But also civilians, e.g. employees of companies that work in former conflict areas may be confronted with mines when working there.

The Austrian Armed Forces International Centre (AUTINT) to which the CIMIC Unit AUT is subordinated has a partnership with the Federal Economic Chamber of AUSTRIA and as a consequence the idea was born to organize a partnership day with mine awareness training for civilians.

The intention of this training was to sensitize employees of international acting Austrian companies working in former conflict areas of the present threats coming from explosives like mines and IEDs.

Two CIMIC NCOs from CIMIC UNIT AUT, WO Gerhard MAST and WO Gerhard MAYR – special educated mine awareness trainers – prepared and conducted this one-day event. During the training the instructors always stressed out the importance of the awareness how dangerous mines are and how important a good preparation for the deployment in an unknown area is.



Picture 5: Mine awareness parcours–UXO

At the beginning there was a theoretical part in the lecture room where the participants of the mine awareness training were shown how mines can look like and how dangerous areas can be marked (different mine warning signs etc).

In the second part the participants had the possibility to do some practical training in a special prepared training parcours where different kinds of hidden mines were placed to show the attendees always to keep the eyes open and to be aware of mines when being in an unknown area.



Picture 6: Mine awareness training boxes–working with the prod stick

The participants had the possibility to work with prod stick and knife in special training boxes filled with wood, gravel, dirt, etc. to get a feeling for the resistance of different materials. After that the attendees were shown what to do and how to get out of a mine field by themselves when there is no other possibility.

A debriefing concluded the day and because of the very positive feedback of the participants it is planned to organize another mine awareness training in co-operation with the Federal Economic Chamber of AUSTRIA in 2012.



#### 4. CIMIC course structure In the Austrian Armed Forces International Center/AUTINT:

The Austrian Armed Forces International Center/AUTINT offers two CIMIC courses a year, whereas each course lasts 16 days. While the focus at international CIMIC basic course is on CIMIC basics at tactical level, the international CIMIC course for Peace Support Operations (CIMIC/PSO course) is designed to enable officers as well as NCOs to carry out CIMIC duties in a staff of a national multinational contingent as well as CIMIC duties in a multinational HQ.

#### The national CIMIC Basic Course includes:

1. CIMIC basics:
  - - AUSTRIAN CIMIC Concept
  - - CIMIC in the international environment
  - - Basics about IOs/GOs/NGOs
2. Communication and cultural competence:
  - Negotiation and communication
  - Dealing with the media

- Working with interpreters
- Cultural awareness
- Cultural heritage

3. CIMIC TTPs (e.g. liaison, CIMIC assessment, CIMIC centre, project management, etc.) Additionally there are syndicate works and also a field training exercise including negotiations, meetings, media training, several briefings, etc.

#### Contents of the international CIMIC/PSO Course (among others):

CIMIC in the international environment

- CIMIC staff work
- Introduction of some organisations (e.g. OSCE, ICRC,
- Negotiation/communication skills
- Cultural awareness
- Dealing with the media

As with the CIMIC basic course there are also syndicate works and a field training exercise in the 2nd course week including negotiations, meetings, media training, different briefings, etc.

Any comments or suggestions to this information leaflet?

Would you like to contribute an article?

Please contact us!

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