



Volume 6
Issue 4

June 2014

CIMIC MESSENGER

Inside this Issue

Foreword	1
Introduction	2
Historical Background of Civil-Military Co-operation	2
CIMIC Elements in Action	2 - 5
CIMIC in the Polish Armed Forces – Present Day	5 - 6
Conclusion	6

Civil-Military Cooperation in Polish Armed Forces



Foreword

The CIMIC messenger role is to inform the CIMIC family and our civilian partners on relevant and current issues within the world of Civil Military Interaction and CIMIC.

CCOE started in 2013 and continues in 2014 to focus on national approaches on CIMIC and related concepts focusing on our Sponsoring Nations and US Civil Affairs. But CCOE also encouraged other nations, representatives etc. to provide similar inputs using the "CIMIC Messenger" as a platform to convey the information.

This fourth issue will focus on CIMIC from a Polish point of view informing on the development of CIMIC capability in Poland.

M. Braterschofsky
Deputy Director CCOE

www.cimic-coe.org





This article is written by Sebastian Sarna, Major POL (A) CIMIC Specialist at General Command of the Polish Armed Forces.

INTRODUCTION

Polish Army, both for historical reasons and probably because of national characteristics attributed to the Poles such as openness and hospitality, always was in close relations with the civilians. Soldiers, whether in the partitions or during World War II, were for the Polish nation the only hope to regain freedom and independence. Even in the Polish People's Republic period, during communist rule, the military was wildly respected and hold a big public trust. In these years The United Nations entrusted polish soldiers with tasks associated with keeping the peace in different places in the world. Inseparably it connected with establishing partnerships with representatives of the civilians of various nations.

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF CIVIL – MILITARY COOPERATION

Polish Armed Forces have very extensive, dating back to the fifties of the last century, experiences from stabilization missions - in 2013 the sixtieth anniversary of polish peacekeeping involvement was celebrated. During expeditionary operations maintaining peace enduring or peace enforcement, in order to ensure safety and proper functioning of the contingents, it was necessary to conduct activities, which currently could be named as civil – military interactions. Already at that time there were ideas of creation a specialist units capable of establishing relations with members of local environment.

However, it was joining the NATO, and allied idea of comprehensive approach, encompassing a broad spectrum of relationships between the Alliance and civil authorities, what sparked developing and implementing plan of creation in the Polish Armed Forces a Civil – Military Cooperation (CIMIC) unit. A unit with the scope of tasks covering undertakings connected with coordination of joint actions of commander and civil elements. By civil elements should be understood civilians, local authorities and international organizations, governmental and non-governmental acting in their areas of competence and responsibility.

The Unit of General Support for Civil – Military Cooperation (CIMIC UGS) was brought to life in 2001. Its task was to monitor the situation of the NATO, the United Nations (UN) and the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) areas of interest, train CIMIC staff, support commanders, cooperate and coordinate actions with local authorities and international organizations, provide assistance in solving problems of the local population as well as planning and organizing activities of introducing experts for stabilization and reconstruction of system of local administration in area of responsibility.



Picture: First badge of Polish CIMIC Unit.

As a result of organizational changes, in 2004 UGSC-MC was transformed in Central Support Group for Civil – Military Cooperation (CIMIC CSG). As the unit still was relatively new, some commanders wasn't sure, how they can take advantage of knowledge and capabilities of CIMIC soldiers. Commanders' awareness, and consequently CIMIC CSG meaning increased definitely, since unit has begun its participation in military operations.

Currently CIMIC is one of the basic elements of each military operation which is conducted by Poland as part of the NATO commitment or international initiative.

2. CIMIC ELEMENTS IN ACTION

Considering the involvement of the Armed Forces in international expeditionary operations, Poland faced the necessity of taking into account social, political, cultural, religious, economic, environmental and humanitarian factors of area of responsibility and interest, in the planning and conduct of operations processes. It was necessary to include in the structures of operational forces, basic elements of Civil – Military Cooperation.



Picture: One of the first Polish CIMIC patrols.

CIMIC sub-units commenced their participation in military operations in 2003. It was the first rotation of the Polish Military Contingent (PMC) in Iraq. From the very beginning they became a great liaison between local people and deployed forces. It has become clear as well, that participation in the missions is the best way to raise the level of training, both for individuals and for units. That's why, CIMIC elements were involved in almost all Polish contingents in Iraq, Afghanistan and Chad. CIMIC soldiers were gaining experience being part of military operations in Bosnia, Kosovo, Syria and Lebanon and they were acting as military observers in Sudan and Ivory Coast.

IRAQ

Danger that Saddam Hussein's regime posed, focused attention of the international community on the potential threat to world peace and security from Iraq's chemical and biological weapons which might have contributed to the terrorist attacks or destabilization of the entire region. Under Resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council in May 2003, Poland decided to deploy 2.5 thousand military personnel within the operation 'Iraqi Freedom' and was the frame nation of Multinational Division Central – South (MND-C-S). Over time, the focus of the operation 'Iraqi Freedom' gradually shifted from stabilization to training and advising mission, including both logistics and special operations as well, with the aim of establishing stable and democratic governance system.

Mission in Iraq for the newly formed Civil – Military Cooperation unit was the baptism of fire, indeed. Initially CIMIC Support Group consisted of:

4 Tactical Support Teams (TST), 3 Governance Support Teams (GST) attached to Coalitional Provincial Authorities, CIMIC Centre, Civilian Functional Specialists section and Support Platoon.

The main CIMIC task executed by CIMIC soldiers was establishing civil – military relationships in MND-C-S Area of Responsibility, and the aims were assessing and monitoring situation of civil environment. Detailed tasks of CIMIC Support Group involved:

- restoration and monitoring public safety and security;
- building capacity and supporting the growth of local governance structures as well as creating conditions for conducting elections accepted by the international community;
- assistance in reconstruction and rebuilding the infrastructure;
- provision of humanitarian aid and cooperation with international organisations;
- creating and sustaining conditions that contributed to the development of such sectors and services as: administration and public affairs, medical services, culture and education, public safety and law enforcement, finance and banking, economy and commerce, construction and infrastructure, environment protection, agriculture and irrigation, as well as heritage preservation and archaeology.



Picture: PMC Iraq - control of the project

Carrying out above mentioned tasks CIMIC Group executed approximately 1500 patrols, and 8000 meetings during the mission. Many of these undertakings were oriented to conduct projects which were financed with CERP fund (Commander's Emergency Response Program).



The total numbers of CIMIC projects conducted by CIMIC Group in Iraq during whole mission was 2547 projects for the total cost more than 141 million dollars.

Operation “Iraqi Freedom” required an extensive engagement of Coalition Forces, including Multinational Division Central-South under Polish command, in restoring governance structures dominated by former supporters of Saddam Hussein’s regime and in rebuilding critical infrastructure damaged or destroyed by military operations. CIMIC efforts and experience developed in Iraq would play a key role in other peace support operations, in either Afghanistan or other places in the world.

AFGHANISTAN

Suicide attacks on 11th September 2001 have become the main reason why many countries in the world have involved in the global antiterrorist campaign in the area of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. In December 2001 under the United Nations Security Council Resolution, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was brought to life.



Picture: PMC Afghanistan – comprehensive activities: data collecting and humanitarian assistance

In February 2004 Polish Army joined the ISAF and is still present there. At first deploying officers assigned to the service in ISAF HQ and then, in spring 2007, the Polish Military Contingent consisting of about 1000 soldiers was deployed to the area of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. On 31st October 2008 it took control over the Ghazni Province.

The main tasks of the Contingent have involved not only maintenance of the security and protection of the population against the rebellion within the area of the province but mainly preparation of Afghan authorities and the Afghan National Security

Forces (ANSF) to perform their functions after they take over the responsibility for the province.



Picture: PMC Afghanistan – comprehensive activities: data collecting and humanitarian assistance

In result of experiences coming from mission in Iraq, presence of Civil – Military units was unquestionable. The main element deployed by CIMIC CSG remained CIMIC Support Group. These sub-unit, during the period of greatest involvement, consisted of 4 TSTs. Additionally, CIMIC CSG ensured soldiers for: ISAF Command – CJ9, PMC Command – S-5 Section, Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) and District Development Group (DDG).

Tasks conducted by CIMIC components included in the PMC in Afghanistan were actually the same as those fulfilled during the operation in Iraq, except that their scope was broaden of planning, development and completion of projects financed by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These projects were the main domain of the PRT and were long-term activities and long-lasting developments, whereas short-term activities and Quick Impact Projects were CIMIC Group’s priorities. In total, 194 projects amounting to approximately 27 million dollars were completed in the area of Ghazni Province between 2008 and 2012.

The engagement of CIMIC components in tasks conducted by PMC in Afghanistan was of a great importance in the process of transitioning the Ghazni Province from ISAF to Afghan leadership and the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

CHAD

A humanitarian disaster and armed conflicts in the area of Sudanese Darfur at the beginning of the XXI century and thousands of refugees reached the



neighboring countries like Chad and the Central African Republic caused a significant instability in these countries what resulted in actions taken by the UN. In August 2006 the UN Security Council decided to extend the UN mandate fulfilled in the south of Sudan and approved deployment of additional soldiers to peacekeeping mission UNAMID (United Nations Assistance Mission in Darfur).



Picture: PMC Chad – meeting with refugees

The EUFOR operation in Chad and the Central African Republic (EUFOR TCHAD/RCA) was the fifth military operation of the European Union as a part of the European Security and Defence Policy. The main goal of the European Union was to support UN mission in order to secure stabilization in the area of Darfur and to enable UN and AU (the African Union) forces thoroughly fulfil their tasks. Therefore, the main duties of PMC Chad were among others: preparing necessary conditions to humanitarian relief delivery and providing the free movement and safety of UN personnel.

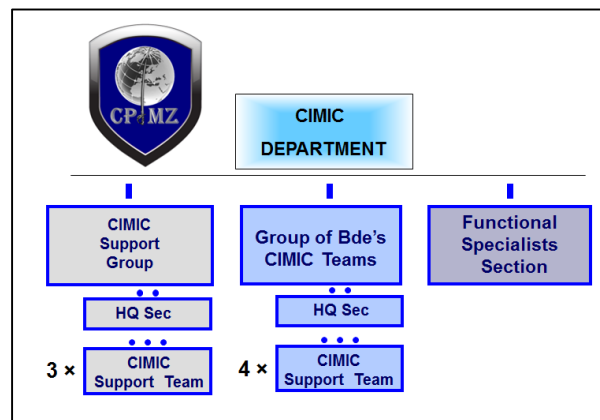
In 2008 Multinational Battalion – North was located in Iriba, with 1 Tactical Support Team on board. Civil – Military cooperation sub-unit was responsible for monitoring situation of civil environment, cooperation with representatives of humanitarian, governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as distributing humanitarian aid. As a result of the actions taken it was possible to increase security of refugees and enable their movement safer and more efficient. It was crucial for Governmental Organization's (GO's) and Non-Governmental Organization's (NGO's) activities.

As a result of continuous, since 2003, participation in military operation, 95 % personnel of Polish CIMIC unit fulfilled their duties in war zone at least 6 months. Other 5 % are newly arrived soldier who prepares for deployment. It is necessary to mention,

that 7 % took part in different operations four times or more, which means they spent in war zones over 26 months. It is safe to conclude, that experience gained during all these years couldn't be achieved in result of courses, training and exercises.

Lessons learned coming from military missions help to create future structures of the Polish Armed Forces, develop equipment and operational procedures, and above all training process in order to prepare soldiers for requirements of modern battlefield as well as to shape individual and team capabilities required for fulfilling the NATO standards.

3. CIMIC in Polish Armed Forces – Present Day



Picture: The MTC badge and CIMIC Department structure.

Nowadays CIMIC sub-units are part of Military Training Centre for Foreign Operations (MTC), which was established in 2011. The MTC reports directly to the General Command of the Polish Armed Forces. This brand new unit is located in Kielce, the city which is well known in the international military society due to annual International Defence Industry Exhibition.

The most important building blocks of the MTC are two sub-units: Training Department and CIMIC Department. Other elements: General Department and Support, Logistics, Welfare, Health Service Sections maintain current activities. CIMIC Department is the biggest of the inner MTC cells, and consists of three elements:

- CIMIC Support Group,
- Group of Brigades' CIMIC Teams and
- Functional Specialists Section.

These sub-units provide combat support in the Civil – Military Cooperation field for divisions and



brigades. Their activities are planned and coordinated by staff cells (G/S-5), which are incorporated in the most crucial Polish military units of the land component.

The main task of the Centre is to train military and civilian personnel for conducting their duties within Polish Military Contingents, Commands and Headquarters of multinational operations within NATO, European Union and the United Nations. Additional responsibility of the MTC is to form and prepare CIMIC components, detached from its own structure, i.e. MTC personnel, for NATO Response Force, European Union Battle Groups and CIMIC Teams included in Polish Military Contingents.

Military Training Centre for Foreign Operations provide a wide range of training for military and civilian personnel who is appointed to participation in international peace and stabilization operations. An example would be training in cultural awareness, Counter Improvised Explosive devices (IED) Course, Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) Course or the United Nation Military Observer (UNMO) Course. The latter was conducted over twenty times and representatives of several nations from Europe, Asia, Africa and South America took part in it. Additionally, the MTC offers NATO CIMIC Field Worker / NATO CIMIC Staff Worker Course (NCFWC/NCSWC), which were certified by CIMIC Centre of Excellence (CCOE).



Picture: 'The Afghan Room' – one of the indoor training facilities in the MTC.

As a result of the reform of command and control structures of the Polish Armed Forces, since January 2014 the Non-kinetic Activities Division J9 was created in the General Command. This staff cell coordinates CIMIC implementation through Civil – Military Cooperation Branch (C-MCB) and PSYOPS and Info Ops implementation through Information and Psychological Operations Branch.

C-MCB exercises functional supervision over Military Training Centre for Foreign Operations and in particular over its CIMIC sub-units. It is also responsible, among others, for developing and updating guidelines, plans and procedures in accordance with national and allied normative documents and is to cooperate with governmental and local governmental administration as well as with non-governmental organizations in the field of its responsibility.

As part of the ongoing tasks Civil – Military Cooperation Branch collaborate with CIMIC Department of Operational Command on issues related to preparation and detachment of elements which are necessary to confirm a proper level of Civil – Military Cooperation in operations outside the country. CIMIC Department is responsible as well for coordination of planning, approval and conducting process of stabilization and reconstruction projects, which are financed by Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Projects are the tasks of Provincial Reconstruction Teams and CIMIC sub-units as part of PMC activities.

In spite of CIMIC structures created in Polish Armed Forces on all levels from brigade to the General Command, during next steps of the reform of command and control establishing the new non-kinetic (CIMIC included) cell in the General Staff is expected. This future structure is going to coordinate and plan all military projects in civil environment both in and outside the country. In addition Polish Army will strive to strengthen collaboration with governmental administration and to engage its representatives more actively in military training and exercises.

4. CONCLUSION

Since the creation in the Polish Armed Forces the first CIMIC sub-unit thirteen years passed. It was a period of hard work, gaining experience and developing habits for soldiers conducting Civil – Military Cooperation tasks. All indications are that the time was well spent and lessons learned helped to create structures which enable support for commanders and confirm taking into account, during planning process and taking action, the entire spectrum of relationships between military forces and local authorities and civilians.



CCOE Announcements

CCOE – The global hub for Civil-Military Cooperation

We are proud to announce that the CCOE will soon move to The Hague.

To ease Civil-Military Cooperation, to benefit from an excellent public transport system and to benefit from a multinational metropolis we are moving to a new facility in that international city.

The relocation will have a significant impact on the CCOE. The Hague, as the “*International City of Peace and Justice*”, is home to more than 150 international organizations and academic institutions.

Please note that **as of 07 July 2014**, our new address will be:

CCOE postal address:

Postbox: 90701
2509 LS **The Hague**
The Netherlands

CCOE visitors address:

Brasserskade 227 A
2497 NX **The Hague**
The Netherlands

Tel. +31 (0) 15 2844702



CCOE – The global hub for Civil-Military Cooperation

www.cimic-coe.org

In the period of **27 June 2014 until 04 July 2014** the CCOE will be closed. In case of emergency contact Branch Chief Planning and Coordination, LTC Lars Buur on +31 610 932 372.

Please make sure to update our contact details in your database and address books.

We look forward to welcoming you at our new location soon.



CCOE New Website 2014

In accordance with **The Move to The Hague** the CCOE will provide you a **new website**.

The new **modern website** will ease for you:

- to find CIMIC information, publications, news and events
- to register for CIMIC courses and
- to interact with other CIMIC professionals.

Our goal is to provide you a Website which is ***“a professional place where CMI / CIMIC interested civil and military personnel meet to inform and to interact.”***



You will be able to operate the new website with your smartphone, tablet or desktop computer.
The responsive design enables to have a perfect view and comfortable use on all devices.

Please note that in the period of **27 June 2014 until 07 July 2014** our current website will be offline.

The **new website** will be online as of **7 July 2014** at the known address:

www.cimic-coe.org.



Civil-Military Cooperation Centre of Excellence

At CCOE we believe that operations are both kinetic and non-kinetic. To facilitate this holistic view for the military the CCOE follows academic anthropological models and incorporates all relevant sectors of any society, as well as all influence factors to this society, which the military forces need to understand and imply in their planning and execution to enable success in Missions.

CCOE looks at the society divided into five segments:

- Physical dimension
- Economic dimension
- Social dimension
- Political dimension
- Identity dimension



CCOE aims for making the importance of understanding the culture in a mission understood. Resulting from that it is a part of our program to publish easy guidelines for each single segment, if not covered in other publications or doctrines. CCOE publishes the “....Makes Sense. A way to improve your mission” publications.

For more information, visit us at [CCOE-website](http://www.cimic-coe.org)

www.cimic-coe.org



Any comments or suggestions to this Messenger? Would you like to contribute an article?

Please contact Public Affairs Officer:

Tel.: +31 534 80 3477

pao@cimic-coe.org



The CCOE CIMIC MESSENGER is an electronic publication of the CIMIC Centre of Excellence.

Its dedicated aim is to provide a forum or platform for stimulating and presenting innovative and comprehensive thinking on NATO CIMIC and Civil-Military Interaction (CMI) related issues such as mission experiences, concepts, doctrine or lessons learned.

The views and opinions expressed or implied in the CCOE CIMIC MESSENGER are those of the authors and should not be construed as carrying the official sanction of NATO, of any national armed forces or those of CCOE.