



CIMIC 360 Degrees

*Concepts, Interoperability and Capability Branch
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INTRODUCTION

Intense experience and cooperation in response to crisis have brought NATO and other organisations closer together than ever before. International organisations now invite each other to participate in training and their staffs informally consult each other frequently, both regarding operations and when developing policy and doctrine. Additionally, an increasing importance has been put on the essential responsibilities of national governments and the role of civil society providing stability, resilience and resolving crises.

The Warsaw Summit has marked a defining moment for NATO in responding to an increasingly complex and continuously changing security environment. The summit concluded with the decision to increase security in and around Europe, based on two pillars: protecting its citizens through modern defense and deterrence, and projecting stability beyond NATO's borders.

NATO CIMIC is a joint function, which is applicable to the three NATO core tasks and integral to all types of NATO operations. In the time sensitive context of quick response, or very quick response operations, or in highly dynamic and complex mission environments, the ability to provide thorough and instant situational awareness and advice becomes an even more demanding requirement.

Understanding potential crisis incentives and regional particularities, including the preparation of operational frameworks based on permanent consultation, is called CIMIC 360°. This comprehension will prepare NATO CIMIC staff, and their non-military counterparts, ahead of time for their tasks before they meet each other in a mission environment and it provide them with the procedural tools needed to be ready for instant reaction.

HOW DOES CCOE UNDERSTAND CIMIC 360°?

The current and future strategic environment is increasingly dynamic and complex. An arc of insecurity is stretching along NATO's borders and its periphery, as defined by the two strategic directions East and South. At the Wales Summit 2014, NATO re-stated its commitment to all three strategic tasks of the alliance, but also agreed on a re-newed emphasis on collective defense.

For CIMIC, the previous conceptual focus on stability operations has thus become insufficient. The demands on CIMIC, and with it the overall conduct of Civil-Military Interaction, are continuously growing. Those will presumably shift from reconstruction efforts towards coordination and de-confliction, as any military presence and operation within the Alliance will have direct effects on the civil society of the particular NATO member nation.



ADAPTATION AND ASSURANCE MEASURES

NATO's early and ongoing support to individual member states in the field of civil preparedness and strengthening resilience, is a responsibility of the Civil Emergency Planning Committee (CEPC). Situated at NATO Headquarters in BRUSSELS, it is the top Alliance advisory body for the protection of civilian populations and the use of civil resources in support of NATO's objectives.

NATO's implementation of the Adaption and Assurance Measures following the Warsaw summit, does have a direct impact on the planning and conduct of NATO operations within this environment.

NATO CEPC, the Force Integration Units (NFIU) and alliance member agencies will therefore become the a point for coordination for CIMIC during exercises and operations. The delimitation of responsibilities among NATO CEPC and CIMIC calls for the development of theatre relevant Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and conceptional development, required at the current brink of change from peacetime to NATO operations.

CIMIC information requirements now depend on the understanding of individual member-states, civilian contingency planning and the member states' standing cooperation agreements with other international organizations. Paired with a sound comprehension of national military territorial responsibilities, and of the capabilities to enable quick situational awareness, will facilitate a friction-free operating of NATO Forces.

Proper preparations also require individual and organizational training and education, as well as joint combined exercises supported by coordination-mechanisms, which might lead to a standing "comprehensive approach framework" for certain geographical regions.

Considering all of these aspects describes the requirements to adopt a 360 degree perspective on CIMIC specifics. NATO's early and ongoing support to individual member states in the field of civil preparedness and strengthening resilience, is a responsibility of the Civil Emergency Planning Committee (CEPC). Situated at NATO Headquarters in BRUSSELS, it is the top Alliance advisory body for the protection of civilian populations and the use of civil resources in support of NATO's objectives. For CIMIC, the previous conceptual focus on stability operations has thus become insufficient. The demands on CIMIC, and with it the overall conduct of Civil-Military Interaction, are continously growing.



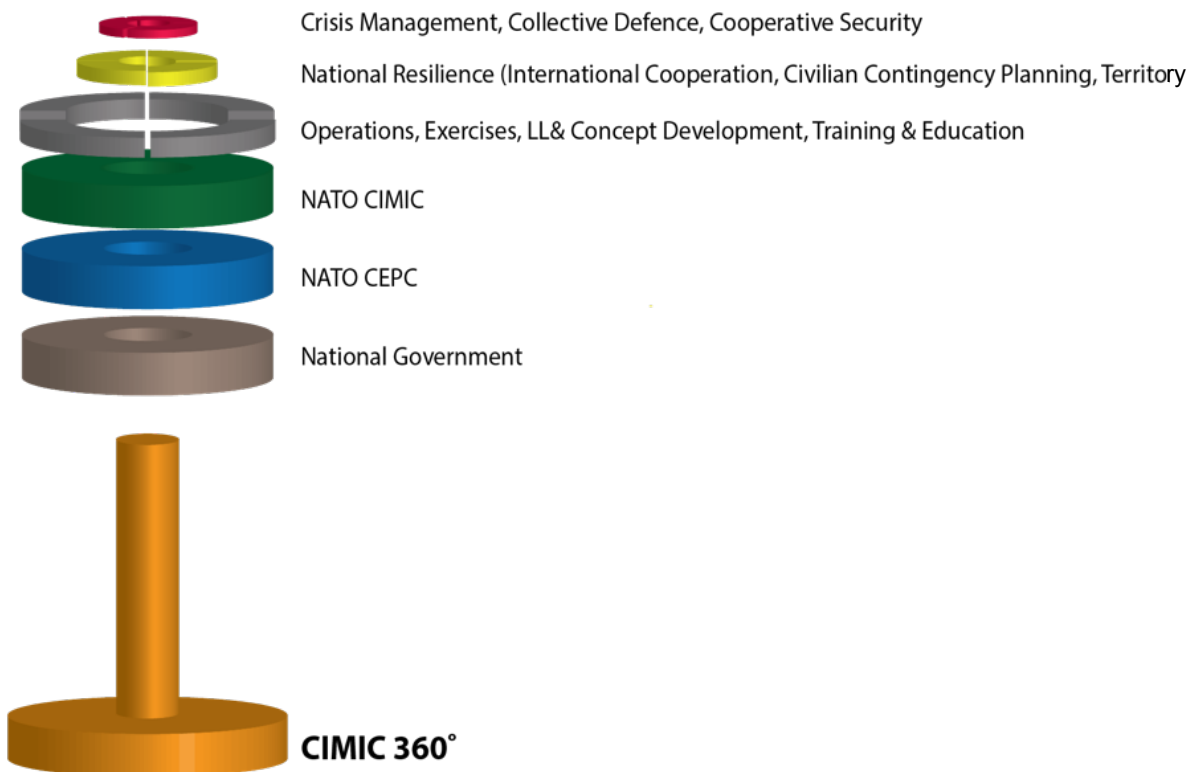


WHAT IS CCOE'S ROLE?

With its "BALTIC CIMIC INITIATIVE" of October 2016, a CCOE fact-finding team embarked on a consultative tour through the Baltic partner states LITHUANIA, LATVIA and ESTONIA, to analyse the regional tactical implications for CIMIC following the implementation of NATO's Assurance and Adaptation measures. The findings led to the report on "CIMIC Considerations in Support of Collective Defence", published in December 2016.

In order to further refine this analysis and to gain a comprehensive overview on the related situation in other five NATO countries hosting a NFIU, a questionnaire-based survey has been conducted during March and April 2017. The results of this additional survey will contribute to the discussions at the upcoming CCOE Community of Interest Conference in May, 2017. This conference will be conducted jointly with other stakeholders and will highlight topics related to Comprehensive Resilience and Collective Defense.

FURTHER INFORMATION



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