



CIMIC in the Land-domain

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THE LAND DOMAIN

Civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) is described in AJP 0.1 as part of the Joint Function Framework. As a Joint Function, CIMIC must be recognized in every domain and in all dimensions - virtual, cognitive, and physical. This publication aims to explain the relationship between CIMIC and the land domain, providing examples for clarification.

The complex and dynamic land domain encompasses capabilities and activities related to operating on and directly above the Earth's land mass, ending at the high-water mark. It overlaps with the maritime domain in the landward segment of the littorals. The land domain has the greatest ability to create operational friction among all the domains. The environment informed Clausewitz's warning that "Everything in war is very simple, but the simplest thing is difficult." The land operating environment is where humans live, and the land domain almost certainly has to interact with them – for better or worse. The main components of the land environment are:

Geography: This encompasses the interactions between people and their surroundings, including the distribution of landforms, bodies of water, and urban areas.

Land use: This refers to how land is used for different purposes, such as agriculture, forestry, and urban development. Effective land use planning is crucial for sustainable development and resource management.

Ecosystems entail the intricate interactions between living organisms and their physical environment.

The land domain is also characterised by the forces employed in it and their operations, which do have some specifics compared to forces in other domains:

- Vastly land forces, which can be large formations consuming many resources.
- They require local infrastructure within the land operating environment(rails, roads, barracks ,stocks, etc.)
- Land forces have the highest impact on the civil environment and, of course, the highest need for coordination and de-confliction with the civil environment.



THREATS AND DISRUPTIONS

People are at the heart of all conflicts and their resolutions. Competing for territory and resources and issues such as injustice and lack of representation are often the leading causes of conflicts.

The physical capture and occupation of territory, or the credible threat to do so, has historically been considered decisive. The land environment is influenced by the exchange of information between groups and individuals and physical factors that shape constraints and freedoms. This requires different capabilities from people and equipment in specific areas.

Cyber threats are increasing, and they are not only land-based; however, they are becoming more critical as cyberspace becomes the arena where competitors seek space to manoeuvre. This threat refers to actions that compromise data integrity, information systems, and essential information structures, focusing on command and control systems and communications of joint and multinational land formations and the civil parts of the land operating environment.

The impact of natural or man-made disasters quickly affects the land domain by complicating access to essential needs. This can cause mass movements of people, as they will relocate to areas where their basic needs can be met. These movements can negatively affect movements, manoeuvres and actions of military forces in the land domain.

CIVIL-MILITARY INTERDEPENDENCIES

Land operations have to deal with the complexity of an environment characterized by the presence of people and infrastructure. It is a challenge in land operations to interface with the wide range of actors - working towards, across or against Alliance aims and operational objectives. CIMIC planners must focus on the critical factors of the civil environment that will likely impact the military mission. These factors are very often directly related to the local population's basic needs, including water, sanitation, power, health, food, shelter and a secure environment. Further, these factors are often dual-use resources and/ or assets.

NATO CIMIC IN THE LAND DOMAIN

NATO CIMIC has a strong focus on operations on land. It recognizes that military land forces will always have an impact on the civilian aspects of the area and vice versa. Therefore, CIMIC considers political, administrative, social, and cultural boundaries to ensure effective communication and cooperation between the military and civilians. This involves adjusting communication channels to minimize any negative impact on civilians and military operations, through cooperation, coordination, or de-confliction. It's important to have an authorized and effective mechanism for outreach, communication, and coordination in place.



NATO CIMIC AT THE LAND TACTICAL LEVEL

Land forces' roles normally entail seizing and/ or holding terrain, neutralizing enemy forces, regaining lost territory and influencing the audience relevant to the attainment of NATO's end state, including their role in deterring adversaries by credibly demonstrating to have the capabilities to execute all the activities above. They can conduct simultaneous and synchronized activities, utilizing fires, manoeuvre, information, and CIMIC for defensive, offensive, and stability operations. Land forces may execute various missions, ranging from security tasks supporting stabilization activities and reconstruction efforts to combat operations. The different operations and activities are often conducted concurrently or in close succession. As different types of operations and activities come with different characteristics and factors of the operating environment and its civil parts, this requires high flexibility in mindsets for CIMIC tasks.

The joint function CIMIC is applied across all NATO core tasks, campaign-/ operations themes and tactical operations and activities. The tactical operations and their activities have a significant impact on CIMIC. At a glance, it can be recognised that the main contribution of CIMIC comes with stability activities. However, all kinetic activities also need CIMIC support regarding freedom of manoeuvre, freedom of action and stability in the rear of land tactical formations.

This includes (but is not limited to):

- Coordination between the tactical battle space boundaries and the local administrative areas.
- De-confliction of military and civilian movements, e.g. Attack avenues of approach and counterattack routes, target discrimination, possible staging areas and fire support areas, etc.
- Coordinate and/ or de-conflict host nation civil defense/ -emergency plans (including evacuation plans and CNI) with military operations.
- Coordination and de-confliction of actions with civil logistics and other civil partners like police forces, fire brigades, etc.
- Coordination of battle space management especially in the rear.

This CIMIC support has to be considered in relation to some particular factors for land operations.

Use of force and its lethality – Considering its impacts on the civil environment and the ability of the CIMIC personnel to operate under force protection measures, e.g. impact is significantly higher in offensive operations than in stability operations.



The tempo of operations (friendly or enemy driven) – Considering the time available to interact with non-military actors, establish networks, collect information, analyse, assess and react, respectively, to cooperate, coordinate or de-conflict; e.g. significantly more time in stable operations/ activities than in offensive operations/ activities.

Capability and capacity of non-military actors (in particular HN) – Considering their capability and capacity to manage the respective civil environment situation in the different geographic and administrative areas – grades can range from fully capable to non-existent, e.g. a long time in warfighting might degrade a HN capacity and intense warfighting might restrict humanitarian access of IOs/ NGOs. Closer to the frontline, HNs' capabilities might be more limited than further in the rear.

Capacity of own troops - Considering support to the civil environment in terms of medical-, transport-, engineer-, administrative, security support or even water, food and energy if other actors are not capable or unwilling, e.g. in warfighting, own troops need rather all capacities for themselves and rely even on non-military support (e.g. host nation support HNS) than in peace support, when a force can be tailored for its mission, including capacities to support civilians.

Battle Space Management (BSM) – Considering moving boundaries and possible rifts with civil environment administrative areas, plus the need for coordination between units. For example, the BSM in warfighting (offensive/ defensive) is much more dynamic and complex than in peace support/ stability operations.

These factors need to be considered throughout all themes, types of operations and land tactical activities. It is essential to understand that all these factors range from high to low, from fully capable to non-existent, and from one end to the other.

CONCLUSION

Due to its natural characteristics, the land domain is CIMIC's primary but not the only focus. It also presents the most significant challenges. The land domain connects a wide range of non-military actors and military units at different command levels through liaison and coordination structures and processes. These connections are essential for sharing information, leveraging synergies, facilitating cooperation, coordinating activities, and resolving conflicts between non-military activities and military operations to achieve military objectives while upholding human security and other essential themes for moral obligations and NATO values.



REFERENCES

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