

CIMIC

The acronym CIMIC stands for civil and military co-operation.

We can define CIMIC as follows:

In peace, crises or war, all measures undertaken between a military commander and national authorities, civil and military which concern the relationship between military forces, the national government and civilian population in an area where military forces are employed.

Such measures could also include co-operation between military commanders, non-governmental organizations, international agencies, organizations and authorities.

Talking about the aim of CIMIC activities, we can recognize the short term and the long term aims.

The short term aim of CIMIC is to establish and maintain full co-operation of the civilian population and institutions within a commander's area of operation in order to create the civil/military conditions that offer him the greatest possible moral, material and tactical advantages.

The long term purpose of CIMIC is to create and sustain conditions that will support the achievements of a lasting solution to the crises.

Contemporary military operations take place in complex environments populated by multiple civilian and humanitarian institutions and a challenging array of issues that are not precisely 'military' in nature. This has increased the importance of managing the civil-military interface, particularly that between the military and the humanitarian community. This process of management is frequently described as Civil-Military Co-operation (or CIMIC). It is necessary to manage both the relationship with and separateness of the humanitarian community; however, the military tend to focus on the former at the expense of the latter.