

## **Integrating Civil Affairs Through the Application of Battlefield Relevant Civil Information Management**

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The U.S. military excels at achieving tactical victory on the battlefield. However, translating these victories at the operational level to achieve strategic objectives, remains elusive. The single most important factor for effective decision-making is the quantity and quality of information that the decision-maker has available at the time the decision is made. Superior information drives superior decisions. Within civil affairs the organization that is tasked with managing information applicable to the civil domain is the Civil Information Management (CIM) cell.

While civil affairs CIM cells do an admirable job of collecting and processing relevant civil information, they are not manned or equipped to collect and evaluate the totality required to inform modern crisis managers. This problem is further compounded by the fact that the majority of civil information is produced by non-military entities, and flows over many and disparate, unclassified systems. No one agency is tasked with civil information as their primary mission. There is, in effect, a strategic civil information gap which prevents the total force from making timely and accurate decisions in the civil domain through each phase, and across the Range of Military Operations (ROMO).

In this paper we present an abbreviated conceptual model capable of capturing the preponderance of civil information, integrating civil affairs across the joint community as well as United Action Partners, and generating outputs so significant at each phase-- and throughout the ROMO – that every COCOM will demand civil affairs forces for every mission. The model presented in this paper is platform agnostic. It is built on transportable code that can be ingested into the individual user's platform of choice for viewing outputs. The model is capable of ingesting inputs from other systems in any standard format. For purposes of this model the authors divide civil information stakeholders into three broad classifications: 1) Those who produce civil information 2) Those who consume civil information 3) Those which do both. The proposed model connects all of these groups in an unclassified environment which allows each participant to provide information within their sphere of expertise, and consume information relevant to their specific mission.