

## **Private Sector Developed Capabilities, Not Readiness, The Key for Civil Affairs Future**

By MAJ Giancarlo Newsome, COL (Ret.) Douglas R. Hurst, and COL Bradford Hughes

\*\*\* Readiness for a battle that will never be fought assures defeat. \*\*\*

This paper argues that U.S. Army civil affairs is pursuing readiness without relevant capabilities. The U.S. Army's civil affairs branch does not have modern capabilities to effectively assess or defeat the complex digital and social threats within the civil considerations of tomorrow's battlespace.

To solve this challenge, the CA Corps must learn how civil affairs should work with a team of Congressional champions and the Army Futures Command to help civil affairs build a private sector industrial base and program management infrastructure similar to Army Aviation. It should learn how a competing private sector, developed from the cadre of 38G Military Government Specialists, can help the CA branch better understand tomorrow's human domain threats with more depth and from more perspectives.

It should explore how a competing private sector will produce for civil affairs, as occurs for Army Aviation, a steady stream of new threat-defeating capabilities. As Army Aviation has leveraged private sector expertise and technology to advance air domain capabilities and synchronize interoperability, the civil affairs enterprise is in need of similar mission-related expertise and technology development.

Creating an industrial base to help civil affairs will not only create a Congressional basis of support that civil affairs severely lacks, but will also expand U.S. economic and security cooperation beyond just military hardware and training. The return on investment lethality of deployed private industry civil affairs capabilities will far exceed that of traditional military hardware and their related foreign military sales (FMS). Civil affairs lethality disarms and neutralizes threats to stability, security, and U.S. interests. Seizing opportunities and defeating threats in the human domain of military conflict saves the most lives and protects well long-term U.S. economic and security interests.