

A Civil Information Battalion Enables Effective Integration of Civil Knowledge

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Civil affairs (CA) needs an active duty Civil Information Battalion (CIB). Sound strategic and tactical military decisions cannot be made without credible and comprehensive civil information and knowledge. A unit dedicated to Human Network Analysis, Network Engagement, and Continuity will focus efforts to gain and maintain primacy in the current and future civil information environment.

Joint Chairman General Dunford recognized this knowledge gap and demanded information be built into “Joint Force thinking from the ground up.” The current reality of the information environment is trending to where the US may not enjoy military overmatch against adversaries. To meet this challenge, CA forces must provide commanders with credible civil information to shape the competitive environment up to and including Large Scale Combat in Multi-Domain Operations (MDO). The CA Corps has updated doctrine and provided an ambitious future vision (*CA 2025 White Paper*); however, it must now reorganize to prioritize the production and integration of civil information/ knowledge.

CA requires a dedicated CIB to focus on three lines of effort:

- Human (or Civil) Network Analysis
 - Technology/Innovation focus, CA Team/CMOC and S/G/J9 support
 - Integration of Joint, Interorganizational, and Multinational (JIM) and NGO data
- Network Engagement
 - “Active Engagement” (for MDO); Direct support to CA Operations
 - Provide political and governance context in coordination with JIM partners
- Continuity
 - Manage/ Develop Measures of Effectiveness, Civil Network maintenance, Future Operations, Long-term analysis, Contingency Operations Planning

A CIB construct would perform a civil information/knowledge integration function for the wider CA Corps (SOF/Conventional/Active/Reserves) and with JIM partners. The CIB would pull together expertise, combine information, and enable professionalization. It is also a logical node to maintain a Civil COP to generate shared understanding for credible, reliable, and realistic assessments of the civil information environment could be achieved.