

CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION (CIMIC) PRE-DEPLOYMENT AND ORIENTATION COURSES IN EUROPE – PART 2.

In this article I would like to continue to give a short summary about CIMIC pre-deployment and orientation courses available in Europe, and in the European Union at different institutions and training centers. The descriptions are based on some personal experience, also some are collected across interviews from other participants, and of course via open sources, like course catalogues. The aim of the article is to collect the special kind of courses and demonstrate the wide range of similarities as fact of integration and harmonization, but also try to highlight some small differences. I would like to make a short list of institutions, course thematic, lecturers and duration of these courses. There are no scientific result in this article as standing alone, but my wider research area is a comparative essey on the European Union member states and compare their relation to Common Security and Defence Policy, their participation in EUFOR (ongoing, military) missions, CIMIC activity and institutions and try to find the similarities and differences.

Recognizing the fact, that a CIMIC activity and the role of CIMIC team and CIMIC liaison officers are became like a „trademark”, CIMIC activity is having an enhanced impact for the peace support operations (PSO). While PSO is unimaginable without cooperation with the civilian environment, CIMIC has to be examined in the complex operational theatre and as an individual element as well. Before deployment CIMIC team members has to be prepared not only for the military context but personal skills, their proper education (that are the CIMIC Courses), their training (exercise participation), their language skills (English) and their capability of using interpreters. CIMIC has an important role in secure the operational environment. I would like to give a short review of these Educational and Training Centers incomplete, across random examples to see, what do these CIMIC courses offer as pre-deployment training for military persons/civilians.

The article contains the below-listed institutions and places:

1. Multinational Peace Support Operation Training Center (MPSOTC), Kilkis, Greece
2. Peace Keeping Operation Center (PKOC), Belgrade, Serbia
3. Military Training Centre for Peace Support Operations (MTCFPSO), Kielce, Poland
4. KROSS, Romania, Bucharest

1. MULTINATIONAL PEACE SUPPORT OPERATION TRAINING CENTER (MPSOTC), KILKIS, GREECE

MPSOTC's primary mission is to provide academic and field training on the specialized field of PSOs, to national and multinational personnel in accordance with the most current international accepted standards. Additionally, to support the pre-deployment mission-specific training of national contingents, which are tasked to participate in PSOs. With highly professional lectures, realistic field training and appropriate administrative and logistics support our center aims at high professionalism to meet the students' expectations. The principal aim of the Training Center (TC) is to exploit the experience being gained from the long lasting participation of the troops in PSO's, by providing high standards, realistic and updated training to multinational personnel and to national contingents, during their preparation for a mission deployment. Participation at MPSOTC courses are open to all, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and Partnership for Peace (PfP) countries, furthermore, Mediterranean Dialogue and any other interested country are invited

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to participate.¹ The primary mission of the Training Centre, is to provide a multifaceted academic and realistic practical training to civilian multinational students as well on PSOs related issues, in accordance with current international standards. In addition, to support the national contingents' training and the education of Staff elements during the mission tailored pre-deployment preparation for United Nations (UN), NATO and European Union (EU) led missions. The training aims to prepare Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) as: CIMIC specialists, staff elements in multinational formations, and battalion/platoon commanders in PSOs.²

While working language is English requirement for participation is: English language proficiency described in STANAG 6001/3-2-3-2. In general there is a must to have good level of comprehension, reading, speaking and writing skills. External instructors, as well as guest speakers are from national and international institutions, are invited to assist the training effort.³ More than 2600 trainees from 77 countries attended MPSOTC courses from the beginning up till 2012.⁴

a. BASIC AND ADVANCED PSO COURSE⁵

The two week course can be attended once a year. Tuition fee is 200 Euros. Minimum number of participants: five, maximum 25 seats available. The purpose of the course is: to prepare officers from different countries for assignment as Platoon Leaders and / or Company Commanders, for the conduct of PSO led by NATO, UN, EU or other regional security organizations. The contents are: background knowledge of PSOs, international preparations of national contingents, hostage survival entry level experiences, code of conduct, media relations, negotiation-mediation, orientation techniques (GPS⁶ training included), introduction to CIMIC. Advanced course contains furthermore: process design and analysis of operational missions, rules of engagement (ROE), plans and orders of execution in PSO, lessons learned from processed PSOs.

b. MULTINATIONAL CIMIC BASIC COURSE (MNCBC)⁷

The two week course can be attended once a year. Tuition fee is 200 Euros. Minimum number of participants: five, maximum 25 seats available. The purpose of the course is: The purpose of the course is: to provide officers, NCOs and equivalent civilians and improve the knowledge and skills of military and civilian personnel by examining the concepts, techniques and analysis/assessment tools regarding civil-military cooperation and the civil dimension. Learning topics contains: legal consideration, basic knowledge of CIMIC, CIMIC organisation, activity and doctrines, structure and functionality of International Organisations (IOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to work with, principles and core functions of CIMIC, staff duties, techniques and procedures, working with interpreters, working with the media, negotiation skills and meeting procedure, working method in CIMIC Centre.

c. MULTINATIONAL CIMIC FIELD WORKER COURSE (MNCFWC)⁸

The two week course can be attended once a year. Tuition fee is 200 Euros. Minimum number of participants: five, maximum 25 seats available. The purpose of the course is: to provide field workers (officers, NCOs and equivalent civilians) and improve the knowledge and skills of military and civilian personnel by examining and putting into practice

¹ in: <http://www.mpsotc.gr/history.en.aspx>, time of download: 220018DEC2012

² in: <http://www.mpsotc.gr/E4E27CD9.en.aspx>, time of download: 221518DEC2012

³ 2013 course catalogue in: <http://mpsotc.gr/dat/8FB71727/file.pdf> pp. 4-5., time of download: 225018DEC2012

⁴ 2013 course catalogue in: <http://mpsotc.gr/dat/8FB71727/file.pdf> p. 6., time of download: 225018DEC2012

⁵ in: <http://www.mpsotc.gr/03F01762.en.aspx>, time of download: 223018DEC2012

⁶ GPS – Global Positioning System (in: <http://www.gps.gov/>, time of download: 224018DEC2012)

⁷ in: <http://mpsotc.gr/dat/8B208B96/file.pdf>, time of download: 224018DEC2012

⁸ in: <http://mpsotc.gr/dat/8B208B96/file.pdf>, time of download: 225018DEC2012

the concepts, techniques and analysis/assessment tools regarding civil-military cooperation and the civil dimension. Learning topics contains: background knowledge of CIMIC, CIMIC organisation, activity and doctrines, structure and functionality of International Organisations (IOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to work with, principles and core functions of CIMIC, staff duties, techniques and procedures, working with interpreters, working with the media, negotiation skills and meeting procedure, working method in CIMIC Centre. Complete first week is held in classroom. Second week is in syndicate groups and closing with a 2-days CIMIC exercise. Responding to the EU initiative to model quick reaction Battle Groups able to deploy and operate virtually anywhere in the world, MPSOTC is contributing by organizing and conducting, when necessary, tentative Training Courses EUFOR contingents as well.

2. PEACE KEEPING OPERATION CENTER (PKOC), BELGRADE, SERBIA

Peacekeeping Operations Center is an organizational unit with the purpose to select, shortlist, train and prepare personnel and to participate in training and preparing units for deployment in multinational operations, as well as to monitor deployed personnel in multinational operations abroad.

The main tasks of PKOC are:

- Selection, training and preparation of individuals for multinational operations,
- Participation in the training and preparation of units for multinational operations,
- Monitoring of individuals and units deployed in multinational operations,
- Participation in the planning, organizing, coordinating, controlling and evaluating capabilities to participate in multinational operations,
- Implementation of lessons learned in the participation in multinational operations.⁹

Serbian Armed Forces PKOC courses are focusing on PSOs, counterinsurgency (COIN), law of armed conflict, gender advisors, and as special regional training, for Balcan Staff Officers.

In 2012 seven type of courses were available¹⁰:

- PSO staff officer and senior NCO orientation course
- Multinational operations train the trainer course
- Training course on Gender Advisors to national contingent commanders in multinational operations
- Basic multinational operations course
- Balkan staff officer course (BALSOC)
- COIN course
- Course on low of armed conflicts

CIMIC lectures are part of every above mentioned course type. COIN is a one week course, Train the trainer is 5 weeks, the rest are 2 weeks long. PKOC according to its bilateral/multilateral agreements has no tuition fees. Guest lecturers – mostly for BALSOC and COIN courses - are coming from PSOTC or other institutions. Courses contains: introduction of PSOs, COIN, CIMIC, knowledge of the operational environment, elements of the staff duties with principles, attributes, imperatives and paradoxes, framework and lines of effort, cultural and gender awareness, experiences and videos with analysis and discussion.¹¹

⁹ in: <http://www.vs.rs/index.php?content=5bddea21-04d3-102c-b61c-7e17f68cdaa3>, time of download: 082019DEC2012

¹⁰ in: <http://www.vs.rs/index.php?content=382086dc-aaef-102c-bd63-00199927eaa8>, time of download: 123019DEC2012

¹¹ source: thanks for the information for Robert Beljan (PSOTC) sent via e-mail for the author's request

3. MILITARY TRAINING CENTRE FOR PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS (MTCFPSO), KIELCE, POLAND

Military Training Centre for Peaces Support Operations and its Polish Central Group of Civil-Military Cooperation institute in cooperation with Civil-Military Co-operation Centre of Excellence (CCOE, Enschede, the Netherlands) is conducting CIMIC Basic Course and CIMIC Liaison Course once a year.

a. CIMIC BASIC COURSE

The complete course is two weeks (10 working days / 72 hours) contains seven days of class studying and syndicate work, and three days of field exercise. Minimum number of students: 15, maximum of the seats are 25. The primary purpose of the course is to enable military participants to accomplish the complete range of Tactical and Operational levels and CIMIC activities across the full spectrum of military engagement in a modern operational environment. Secondary purpose is to create awareness for those organizations and individuals who have a vested interest in CIMIC activities.

Subjects covered: CIMIC doctrines (NATO, UN), Governance and Development dynamics; CIMIC Interaction with civil dimension: Social and Economic Systems; Cultural and Gender awareness as key CIMIC Operational tools; Human terrain and atmospherics; CIMIC interrelations with PSYOPS and INFOPS; CIMIC meetings; Civil Dimension and Security support to civil agencies. International Law of Armed Conflicts (IHL); IO, NGOs and GOs landscape by civil actors; Assessment and reporting of CIMIC information, CIMIC projects; Advice military staff on various local/cultural aspects to raise cultural/situational awareness. Field Training Exercise based on an imaginary scenario on a complex ciris.

b. CIMIC LIAISON COURSE¹²

This type of course has four iterations per year. The duration is one week. Maximum twenty-four seats are available. Focuses of the course: principles and purpose of CIMIC liaison, coordination architecture, Liaison Officer (LO) activities and work, CIMIC Centre, purpose and characteristics of the meetings, CIMIC Liaison Team (CLT), Liaison matrix, Locally Hired Interpreters (LHI), Liaison with Military Forces, Advice for the Commander (CDR), Reporting. Also contains preparation elements for serving the EUFOR contingent within the framework of European Union operations, mostly ALTHEA in Bosnia and Hercegovina. During the course, students are acquainted, among others. from techniques of liaison tea, the region of the mission and the genesis of the conflict, the Balkan and their cultural, religious and geopolitical situation, dangers, rules and tasks of civil - military, psychological aspects during the service in the mission area.¹³

4. KROSS, ROMANIA, BUCHAREST

Kross is a Romanian think-tank connected to the global scientific and academic knowledge networks and with particular expertise in the wider Balkan region. Kross believes in transdisciplinarity as the most effective and efficient approach for scientific research and knowledge advancement. Kross has the mission to produce and connect the global knowledge community, valuable contributions from the Romanian research and education environments; also to bringing together public and private, civil and military sector.

¹² in: www.cimic-coe.org/te/Kielce_course_description.doc, time of download: 1755019DEC2012

¹³ in: http://www.cpdmz.wp.mil.pl/plik/file/Materialy_KURSY2012_CPdMZ/KURS_EUFOR_MMT.pdf, time of download: 214019DEC2012

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KROSS believes that strategy is not primarily about planning. It is about intentional, informed, and integrated choices in a competitive environment.¹⁴

a. HUMAN SECURITY AND CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION COURSE

Once a year Kross has a POTI¹⁵-COTIPSO¹⁶ residential CIMIC course for two weeks. 30 hours in classroom activity and 30 hours of self study, while students are tasked to participated in collaborative exercises and present their approaches on particular case studies, individually and in workgourp. Tuition fee is 250 Euros, open for all categories of participants.¹⁷

This course is designed to offer to the students an introduction to Human Security (HUMSEC) and Civil-military coordination (CIMIC) with the purpose to apply HUMSEC concepts to CIMIC. The theoretical framework is offered by a Critical Security Studies approach in which HUMSEC and CIMIC found their interaction in dealing with "complex emergencies". For the above reason the course is organized in four models. The first module covers the Critical Security Studies narrative and its evolution with the real world. The second module is dedicated to HUMSEC and covers the whole of the HUMSEC discourse and approach evolution. In this context two case studies will be analysed: Kosovo and illegal immigration in the Mediterranean. The third module, "Complex Emergencies", deals with the complexity in mapping the system and the role of violence in complex emergencies. The fourth module entitled CIMIC presents how Civil-military coordination provides the interface between the military component in a peace operation and the political, humanitarian, developmental, human rights and rule of law components of the mission, as well as others in the larger peacebuilding system. CIMIC is a crucial function in any complex peace operation because it is a 'force-multiplier' that contributes to the mission achieving a system-wide impact on the conflict system it is attempting to transform. Students will find this course useful as it will improve their understanding of the institutional cooperation that needs to occur between mission components, and between the mission and the rest of the system, in order to ensure a sustainable peace process.¹⁸

OVERALL VIEW AND SUMMARY

In the series of articles, in the first part I gave information about three institutions offering CIMIC pre-deployment courses. They were:

1. CIMIC Centre of Excellence (CCOE), Enschede, The Netherlands
2. Multinational CIMIC Group (MNCG), Motta di Livenza, Italy
3. Peace Support Operations Training Center (PSOTC), Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina

The institutions I described above, in the second part are not giving a complex and full answer for the question still, and there are some more institutions shall need to compare with each other and with the Hungarian pre-deployment courses for answering for my PhD hypothesis. But its evident, these CIMIC related courses have common elements, and similarities in the lecture structure, and in the field exercise system, but also vary according some tailor-made elements.

¹⁴ in: http://www.kross.ro/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=59&Itemid=69, time of download 002023DEC2012

¹⁵ POTI – Peace Operations Training Institute, in: http://www.kross.ro/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=111&Itemid=74, time of download: 072023DEC2012

¹⁶ COTIPSO – Certificate of Training in United Nations Peace Support Operations, , in:

http://www.kross.ro/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=111&Itemid=74, time of download: 072023DEC2012

¹⁷ in: http://www.kross.ro/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=111&Itemid=74, time of download: 082023DEC2012

¹⁸ in: http://www.kross.ro/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=112&Itemid=74, time of download: 103023DEC2012

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Unfortunately I did not had the opportunity to visit personally all of the courses and institutions, but the aim of the article was to collect and summerize the vary of the possibilities for pre-deployment CIMIC courses. In the next future I have to examine more European Union and European countries and their isstitutions and courses. Hopefully the will bring the required outcomes.

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