

CIMIC PATROLS VS PATROLS DOING CIMIC

AND ATMOSPHERICS

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CAPT BENSON ARINEITWE

S03 CIMIC J9

AIM

To enhance participant's understanding on CIMIC patrols and patrol doing CIMIC.

To enable participants differentiate between CIMIC patrols and patrol doing CIMIC.

To enhance participant's understanding on atmospherics and their importance to peace keepers.

OBJECTIVES

Participants should be able to;

Define the terms; CIMIC patrols and atmospherics.

Give and explain reasons why these are important in AMISOM operations.

CIMIC PATROLS

1. What is a patrol doing CIMIC?

CIMIC PATROL

A CIMIC patrol is a planned patrol with a specific CIMIC task, rehearsed in advance, with a well defined AIM – conduct a meeting, engage the civilians in X village, do a Rapid Needs Assessment, etc.

A PATROL DOING CIMIC

CIMIC PATROL

A patrol doing CIMIC is **ANY** patrol that engages with the civilians!

ALL patrols engages civilians, in one form or the other!

EVEN when the soldiers and the civilians only look at each other.

A PATROL DOING CIMIC

The way the soldiers behave towards the civilians DETERMINES whether they are **GOOD or BAD CIMIC “Ambassadors”!**

That is the REASON WHY having and implementing **CIMIC SOPs** is so important!

AN ECP DOING CIMIC

ALL ECPs (Entry Control Point) engages civilians!

EVEN if the civilians only pass the ECP outside the gate. They will **SEE** the soldiers behaviour –and **TELL STORIES** about it!

Do you want GOOD or BAD stories?

(**AGGRESSIVE SEARCH** of people who wants to engage with you?)

(**OPENING FIRE** at people who are seeking your help?)

TACTICAL TOP TIPS

1. Never make promises what you cannot keep. Always keep your promises.
2. Always maintain interaction with the local population. Even if it's only a smile or a nod in passing.
3. Be aware of local culture – it may NOT be appropriate for a male soldier to greet a female civilian.
4. Do not be too impressed or depressed by initial assessments/results.
5. Liberated populations may become very dissatisfied more quickly than anticipated.
6. Be aware that some civilians may seek to manipulate you for their advantage, or tell you what they think you want to hear.
7. Build up prestige of local authorities. Use indirect, rather than direct influence over the population (use local administrations)
8. Always employ expectation management.
9. DO NO HARM

THE BOTTOM LINE!

ALL PATROLS ARE CIMIC AMBASSADORS!

ALL ECPS ARE CIMIC AMBASSADORS!

**ALL INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS ARE CIMIC
AMBASSADORS!**

YOU ARE ALL AMBASSADORS!

ON BEHALF OF THE MISSION MANDATE!

ON BEHALF OF YOUR COMMANDER!

ON BEHALF OF YOUR COUNTRY!

ATMOSPHERICS

Means testing the ATMOSPHERE in the area – “taking the temperature” of the situation.

This is BEST DONE by engaging the population by talking to them.

EVEN IF your soldiers, for various reasons, cannot engage in talks with the local population – THEY CAN STILL DO ATMOSPHERICS!

By observing the behaviour of the locals – the looks, the body language, the number of people in the streets, etc.

ATMOSPHERICS are THE MOST VALUABLE TOOL for the CIMIC Officer!

Doing ATMOSPHERICS should be point number ONE in the CIMIC SOP folder, which the S9 officer should prepare, rehearse with, and instruct ALL soldiers to carry with him/her at all times!

After EVERY patrol, and/or incident at an ECP, the soldiers should be instructed in filling out and handing in to the local CIMIC officer an ATMOSPHERICS REPORT!

By **consistently** doing that, the CIMIC officer establishes a **PICTURE OF WHAT IS NORMAL** in his/hers area of responsibility.

And if something **VARIABLES** from the picture of normality, the CIMIC officer will know about it immediately.

And can start to investigate **WHY – EARLY WARNING INDICATOR!**

Of deteriorating humanitarian situations

Of enemy influences on civilian population

As ALWAYS, the CIMIC officer must be **PROACTIVE!**

If your patrols DO NOT hand in ATMOSPHERICS reports, DO SOMETHING!

Go and **MEET** them when they return from the patrol – stand them up, and go through the ATMOSPHERICS Report, point by point, with them.

Make it **CLEAR** that they will do an ATMOSPHERICS Report, no matter what!