Force defines doctrine more specifically:

> Simply stated, military doctrine is comprised of principles, theories and policies, accepted as valid and reliable, which offer military forces good chances for success when applied in periods of tension, crisis or war. Military doctrine explains in broad terms how operations should be conducted so that operational objectives can be realized. Doctrine is, in essence, "that which is taught." It is an accumulation of knowledge which is gained primarily from the study and analysis of experience. As such, doctrine reflects what works best.[12]

Given that CIMIC doctrine is based on NATO and US doctrines, these respective definitions should also be considered. The US military defines doctrine as the "Fundamental principles by which the military forces or elements thereof guide their actions in support of national objectives. It is authoritative but requires judgment in application."[13] While NATO, on the other hand, defines doctrine as the "fundamental principles by which the military forces guide their actions in support of objectives. It is authoritative but requires judgement in application. [14] As we can see they are essentially the same idea.

In light of these definitions, it is important to note that military doctrine is neither mandatory nor is it meant to be dogmatic. However, this latter point can become the reality of military doctrine, as noted during the Proceedings of the Conference on Ethics in Canadian Defence:

> This system of military doctrine serves a useful purpose in that it provides a framework for the initial education of neophyte military thinkers, but may make it difficult to change our organization. After this initial introduction reliance on a doctrinal system hinders the building of an intellectually strong, powerful, creative, and ethical officer corps.[15]

The problem with military doctrines of any kind is that they attempt to influence the thinking of military personnel into an accepted and established framework "*within which military operations can be understood.*"[16] The problem stems from the fact that the framework offered by a doctrine can, over time, become the accepted mode of operating, and in fact can become a