

It has also been argued that the military is not even “an appropriate and legitimate humanitarian actor.”⁶ This has especially become true when dealing with CIMIC doctrines, which are clearly militarily driven concepts. To better understand this context, we must review the military origins of CIMIC in order to grasp the broader policy landscape in which it operates.

CIMIC: THE MILITARY DOCTRINAL PERSPECTIVE

When it comes to peacekeeping, the successful management of the operation requires “clear political objectives, a unified command structure and firm political control of the military.”⁷ This ideal by default applies to CIMIC related activities and operations, hence the advent of CIMIC doctrine.

The origin of the CF’s CIMIC doctrine is “primarily based on NATO CIMIC doctrine, but also relies on U.S. Civil Affairs doctrine and UK experiences, CF lessons learned and a wide source of reference material.”⁸ The main document that defines CIMIC doctrine is written at an operational level and “constitutes an amplifying doctrinal publication to Chapter 30 of B-GG-005-004/AF-000, CANADIAN FORCES OPERATIONS Manual.”⁹ This means that CIMIC doctrine is an extension of the written ‘guidance and direction’ given to the military commanders and organizers of the CF’s international operations.¹⁰ It is relevant to note that the operational aspect is of importance here, that it is the ‘doing’ rather than the larger strategic picture, the ‘thinking.’ So before a serious discussion of the place that CIMIC doctrine has in the larger scope of public policy in Canada, we must focus on the importance of the concept of ‘doctrine’ in terms of the military definition.

WHAT IS DOCTRINE?

The CF defines military doctrine as “the fundamental tenants for the employment of military forces to translate the CF mission and strategic objectives into action.”¹¹ The Canadian Air