Remote Civil Information Management: A Concept For How US Army Reserve Civil Affairs Subject Matter Experts Can Bring Relevant Civilian Skill Set Support To Combatant Commanders

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Remote CIM as a Concept

• ATP 3-57.50, *Civil Affairs Civil Information Management*, highlights planning, collection, collation, processing, analysis, production of products, and dissemination as vital to successfully supporting the commanders CMO objectives.

• Current doctrine falls short on recommending ways that CIM planning information can be shared with allies and coalition partners to support strategic objectives.

• Many legacy CIM systems feed into classified or secured networks, making it almost impossible for coalition, allied partners, or even a TPU USAR CA Soldier in CONUS to access. Meanwhile, most CIM data is unclassified in nature.

• Remote CIM concept aligns well with gathering techniques many of our coalition and allied partners security forces use. Direct CAO/CMO action on this data is a great way USAR CA SMEs can support COCOMs with limited expenditure and no boots on ground.
Functional Specialty (FxSP): Trying to Find the Right Soldier at the Right Place at the Right Time

- FM 3-57, *Civil Affairs Operations*, USAR FxSPs should have subject matter experts at the BN and BDE level in public health and welfare, rule of law, infrastructure, and governance. Additionally at the CACOM and above level the FxSP should also have specialists in economic stability and public education and information.

- Current FxSP specialties do not align within the Army, Joint, and DOS stability framework and has also historically proven notoriously difficult to man with qualified Soldiers.

- ATP 3-57.70, *Civil-Military Operations Center*, identifies that, “By fiscal year 2016 all FxSP functional specialists positions identified in the USAR will be recoded to 38G.”

- Despite these coming changes, the inherent low density of these new 38G SMEs in any formation makes it more critical for them to be relevant even in a TPU status.

- USAR CA Soldiers have struggled historically to prove how they are a value added asset to a commander. Often they are marginalized if they can't effectively action CIM data and utilize their supposed FxSP SME to support CAO/CMO goals.
What is APAN?

Collaborative solutions for the DOD

APAN is a collection of communities developed to foster information and knowledge sharing between the U.S. Department of Defense and non-DOD entities who do not have access to traditional DOD networks.

Find a Community  Request a Community

Who We Are

The All Partners Access Network (APAN) is the Unclassified Information Sharing Service (UISS) for the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)

What We Do

Whether you’re planning an event, executing an exercise, or responding to a disaster, APAN provides flexible solutions to meet your needs

How It’s Done

APAN offers a variety of collaboration tools that can be used alone or in conjunction with other tools to develop your unique community space

Tools

APAN offers a variety of collaboration tools that can be used alone or in conjunction with other tools to develop your unique community space.

Communities  Translate  Chat  Connect  Maps

Communities

APAN Communities are online spaces where groups of people or teams can interact and collaborate on specific topics or events. As a community owner, you control all aspects of your community including design, membership, access and tools. APAN provides two types of communities: APAN Groups and APAN Sites. With both types of communities, community owners have the ability to incorporate other APAN tools like chat, translation and maps into their community to create their unique collaboration environment.
Implementing a Remote CIM Portal would require a threefold effort:

1. **Development of Portal.** Use existing APAN community structure that can be accessed from any unclassified COTS automation platform via low bandwidth ‘dirty’ commercial internet

2. **Training and Registration.** Develop a training software package for this portal in a variety of languages. Require all USAR CA Soldiers to establish user accounts. Input fields should include registration of civilian skill set or SME into FxSP database.

3. **Create a project office.** Assign this office to USACAPOC or SOCOM with full time staff. They will manage the portal database, track response times on incoming/outgoing CIM RFIs, communicate with the applicable command for responses, and offer software /technical help desk support.
Remote CIM Portal Applications are Limitless

- Portal database would record USAR CA SMEs but also could link active duty CA counterparts, interagency experts, NGOs, and other government agencies.
- Same day responses are not required. Since most CIM RFI deal with longer term civil sector challenges, responses are not as time sensitive. This makes it particularly usefully for USAR CA units and their TPU Soldiers who only drill once a month.
- Different hierarchies could be created in the database for support of COCOM AORs, aligning them with USAR CACOMs already focused at particular regions.
Conclusions

• In a time of fiscal constraints due to sequestration, finding relevancy for keeping organizations manned and equipped in the force structure is critical.

• With a relatively modest initial expenditure for portal design development, training plus initial registration, and creation of a project office manager, a lasting USAR CA SME effect can directly impact COCOM missions to defeat violent extremist organizations and build civil component capacity without ever having to set additional boots on ground.