

RMR Scotland CIMIC Course 2010

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RMR Scotland conducted their final Civil Military Co-operation (CIMIC) exercise on Barry Buddon training area near Dundee, which was designed to train reservists in the skills necessary for conducting CIMIC operations in Afghanistan. The primary function of CIMIC Operators is to be the military interface with the civilian community and through this to resolve the many and varied issues which they create and which could adversely affect the military mission. This requires a tool box of skills ranging from negotiation techniques and project management to impact crater analysis but are underpinned with defensive training specific to the role including close quarter defence and IED recognition. One of the key skills they require to master is the use of interpreters, which as can be imagined, makes communication more difficult when working with the local community. For training purposes, any language is sufficient and for this exercise we were delighted to welcome three members of the Gaelic speaking community from Glasgow. Their input and expertise, not only as Gaelic speakers, but as role players, was a major contributor to the overall success of the exercise.

Recent positive negotiations with the Military Stabilisation Support Group (MSSG) to enable more RMR to deploy operationally has meant that all future training will be conducted by MSSG in their training facility in Ludgershall. Instructors from the RMR/RNR will assist with the training using the substantial assets, which are currently available to MSSG. The imminent amalgamation of the RNR and RMR CIMIC cells into Maritime Reserves CIMIC will ensure that both organisations pool and standardise CIMIC training



Impact Crater Analysis

techniques and procedures and with MSSG conducting practitioner courses (Basic CIMIC/Stabilisation course) the opportunities for both RNR and RMR trained ranks to deploy operationally will be greatly increased. The attraction for any reservist - Army, Navy, or Air Force - is that after successful completion of training, he/she will be one of the CIMIC subject matter experts in their Military Stabilisation Support Team (MSST) for their respective location. It provides a vital service to the mission at sub unit level, which is largely the preserve of the reservist. Although not always the intention of the reservist, their civilian skills are sometimes employed on the mission to great effect such as police officers training

the Afghan National Police, agriculturalists assisting farmers with crop selection and production, and civil servants assisting local authorities with administration and governance. The reservist ('twice a citizen'), has not always felt appreciated by their regular counterparts; however, operations *Telic* and *Herrick* have shown that with pre-deployment training - and in this case the specialist CIMIC skill - there is, quite frankly, little if any discernable difference.



A disarming demonstration



A 'shura' with local nationals - at Barry Buddon