

The Civil Affairs Redefined Image (CARI) Model and Artificial Intelligence

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Civil affairs (CA) has struggled with establishing an effective narrative to define itself because it deals exclusively with one of the most complex variables of any military campaign, the human dimension. Humans are messy, impulsive, and unpredictable. Because of this, traditional rigid military mission analysis models often fail to provide the ‘so what’ civil component analysis to enable senior leader decision making. This paper argues that CA first needs to look to psychology for a suitable model to illustrate where its gaps exist in order to redefine itself.

The paper proposes modifying the Johari Window, a model used in psychology to illustrate an individual’s perception of themselves and others, into the Civil Affairs Redefined Image (CARI). The CARI model is then utilized to help understand the areas that are blind, hidden, and unknown to practitioners of the human domain. These are captured as self-awareness gaps, ultimately the CA practitioner “knowns and unknowns” boundaries.

The paper then proposes how artificial intelligence (AI) and U.S. Army Enterprise Large Language Model (LLM) workspaces such as Ask Sage can be leveraged to close the self-awareness gaps identified in the CARI model. It goes on to further present DOTMLPF-P recommendations in Doctrine, Training/Education, and Personnel for how AI & LLM tools can be leveraged in CA to help realize its full potential. Finally, it provides a call to action and recommendations for how to prioritize and implement them.

By enabling CA practitioners to ask the right questions, being open to understanding feedback received from others observations, providing share discovery, being open to identifying ways to provide self-disclosure and constructive feedback to others, and accepting the need to embrace self-discovery, we will truly be able to redefine CA in order to meet current requirements and best anticipate future imperatives.

The paper concludes that pairing AI & LLM tools with the CARI model provides an ability to operationalize the human dimension and close the CA practitioner self-awareness gap by shedding light on the areas that are blind, hidden, or unknown. It creates a window to reimagine CA and potentially improve the narrative it uses to explain itself and for civil component factors to be further considered in senior leader decision making.