

Working with the Military

Friday 18th November, 2005

9:00 – 10:30



2.1

Working with the Military

Civil-military cooperation: This ?



...or this?



OBJECTIVES:

- Discuss ways in which humanitarians and the military sometimes work together
- Be aware of possible dangers of working with the military
- Be aware of guidelines and considerations for deciding when cooperation is appropriate
- Understand how “military culture” differs from “humanitarian culture”

Military Forces:

One size does not fit all!

Different categories of military forces...

- UN (“Blue Helmets”)
- Armed Forces of the host country
- Other national armed forces
- National paramilitary forces and militias
- Non-state armed forces (e.g., rebel armies, irregular militias)
- Child soldiers

There are many different categories and types of military forces such as the national armed forces, child soldiers, or the UN military forces. Although some of these military forces can support the humanitarian operations by the NGOs in many ways, there are also dangers and risks involved in working with them due to the possible difference in goals and priorities. It is also dangerous for the NGOs to be dependent on the support of the military forces as well, since that will decrease the NGOs’ degree of independence in their own operations.

Cooperation with Military Forces

Ways in which the military supports humanitarian...

- Security of staff and beneficiaries
- Ensuring safe areas, weapon-free zones
- Escorts
- Mine action
- Logistic support: transport, airlift
- Logistics: engineering and infrastructure
- Crisis response
- Evacuation and medical evacuation (MEDEVAC)
- Information sharing (in support of needs of beneficiaries and security of staff)

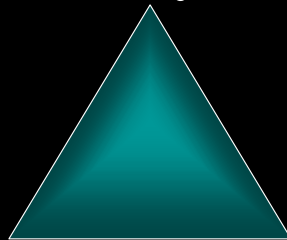
Cooperation with Military Forces

But there are dangers in working with the military...

- It can compromise neutrality and impartiality of humanitarian staff (or the perception)
- It can blur the role of the military and humanitarian actors
- It can reduce independence of action - control
- Military forces may not share the same goals or priorities
- It can lead to local dependence on the military - resources

Principles of Humanitarian Assistance

Humanity: protect life and health, ensure respect for human beings as individuals



Impartiality: to be guided solely by needs; to make no discrimination on the basis of nationality, race, gender, class or religious/political beliefs

Neutrality: to take no sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature

Working with the military forces can cause the NGOs to lose the balance between the *Principles of Humanitarian Assistance*: Humanity, Impartiality, and Neutrality.

Cooperation with Military Forces: issues to consider:

- What will be the impact of cooperation on your organization's perception of impartiality and neutrality?
 - Will it compromise your organization's access to beneficiary populations?
 - Will it potentially make your staff a target?
- Are the military's goals compatible with your organization's?
- Will it limit your independence of action?
- Will it lead to dependence on the military?
- Are there other means available?

Group Exercise (4 groups, 6persons/group)

Each group is to decide, for 8 cases, if the proposed cooperation by the military with your NGO acceptable or not acceptable, and to decide the issues or concerns that led to their decisions.

Case 1:

Aceh province, Indonesia, just after the Tsunami (January 2005): your organization is delivering food to people in urgent need, but the needs are greater than your organization can handle. The Australian Armed Forces propose to deliver food in sectors that you cannot reach.

Case 2:

Indonesia, just after the Tsunami (January 2005): your agency has the opportunity to join an assessment mission overflying Aceh Province using a military helicopter donated by the Government of Switzerland, however, the helicopter is painted in typical military colors (olive drab) and has military markings.

Case 3:

Northwestern Burundi: refugees in a camp near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are in danger of ethnically motivated armed attacks from groups operating in DRC. The UN peacekeeping mission in Burundi (ONUB) proposes to station a battalion of South African soldiers adjacent to the camps.

Case 4:

Heart, Afghanistan: Your agency and a Coalition Forces Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) both have plans to rebuild a certain rural school. The Commander of the PRT proposes that your agency and his team accomplish the task together as a joint project

Case 5:

Nazran, Russian Federation: operating from Nazran, your organization conducts periodic road missions into Chechnya to assist populations affected by war. Russian Federation authorities say that, in order to assist them in fulfilling their mandate of ensuring your safety, you should share with them information on any military equipment or activities you see during your visits.

Case 6:

Eastern Nepal: You have planned a registration exercise in Beldangi Refugee Camp, near Damak. However, heavy rains have washed out the roads, making them impossible for your organization's vehicles. The Nepalese armed forces propose to transport you to the camp using their armored all-terrain vehicles.

Case 7:

Jalallabad, Afghanistan: the Commander of a Coalition Forces Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) has invited you to attend a planning meeting to share information on projects proposed for the year 2006.

Case 8:

Guiglo, western Ivory Coast: there has been an increase in cases of domestic violence and sexual exploitation among the population of Niela camp, mostly Liberian refugees. A Nigerian infantry battalion under the UN peacekeeping mission (MINUCI) is available to deploy in and around the camp.



Cooperation with Military Forces: issues to consider:

For each scenario...

- *Is the proposed cooperation acceptable?*
- *What are the issues or concerns (why did you decide the way you did)?*

Moderate Concerns

CASE	ISSUES	CONCERNS
Indonesia: delivery of aid by Australian Armed Forces during Tsunami	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Urgency of need •Consent of all parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Some potential for blurring of roles •Distribution handover plan?
Indonesia: Use of Swiss military helicopter during Tsunami	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Urgent need •Consent of all parties •Reputation of Swiss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Potential for blurring of roles •Safety, insurance issues?
NW Burundi: deployment of PK forces near camp in danger of armed attack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Serious danger •Military only force that can deter •PK forces have international mandate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Affect of PK presence on camp population?
Afghanistan: information-sharing on plans with PRT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Information sharing can avoid conflicts later •Opportunity to positively influence counterparts' efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will local population know of meeting? What will be perception of purpose?

Serious Concerns

CASE	ISSUES/CONCERNS
Chechnya: information sharing on military equipment and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Usually inappropriate to share information with direct military utility •May compromise neutrality •May compromise access to beneficiaries •May make you a target
Nepal: transportation in military vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •May compromise perception of neutrality •May make you a target •What is the urgency of the mission?
Afghanistan: joint project with PRT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Blurring of roles/humanitarian identity •May compromise perception of neutrality •May compromise independence of action •May make you a target
Ivory Coast: deployment of PK forces in response to domestic violence, sexual exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Are military forces the most appropriately trained/qualified choice for the mission? •Are they the lowest level of force needed to accomplish the mission?

Cooperation with Military Forces

Solutions must be adapted to the environment -- impact of cooperation on impartiality and neutrality is paramount

Consider effects on your independence and whether your goals are compatible

Consider whether there are other means to accomplish the task

Humanitarian culture, military culture



How professional cultures differ...
What we can learn

Otherwise known as...

Soldiers are from

Mars

...Humanitarians are from

Venus

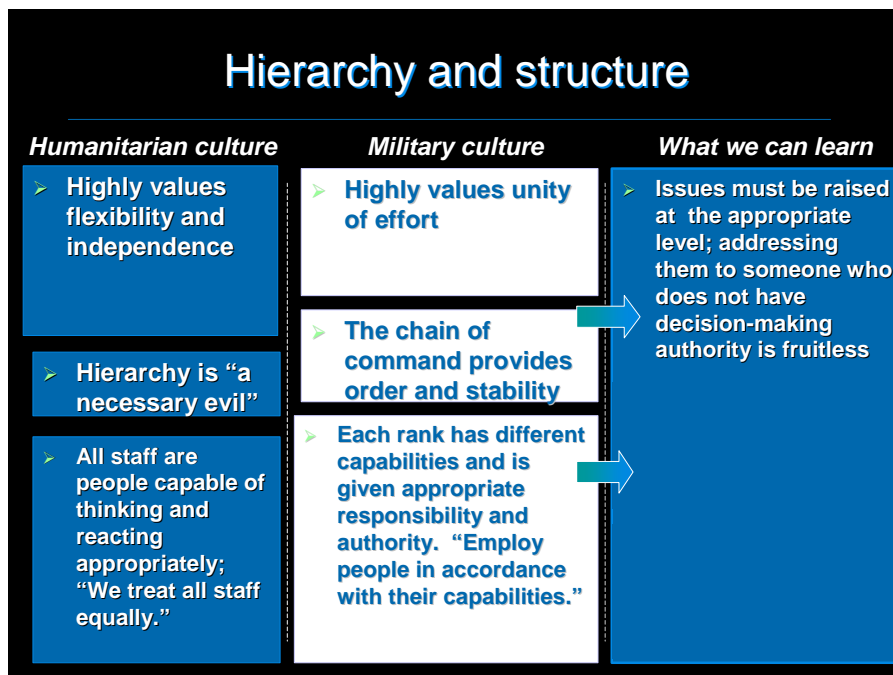
Humanitarian culture, Military culture

How professional cultures differ
What we can learn

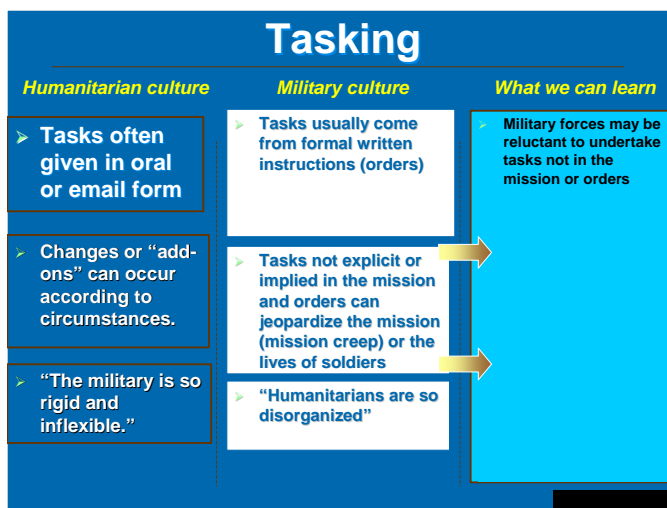
Humanitarian culture, military culture

Four reminders:

- Humanitarian agencies and militaries are not all alike
- Many humanitarian and military organizations are seeking to change old habits
- Each person is an amalgamation of many “cultures”
- Each person is a unique individual



What and how can we learn from this difference in “Hierarchy and Structure” between the *Humanitarian culture* and *Military culture*? It is important to recognize the difference in order to have an effective cooperation for both sides.



Difference in “Tasking” between the *Humanitarian culture* and *Military culture*

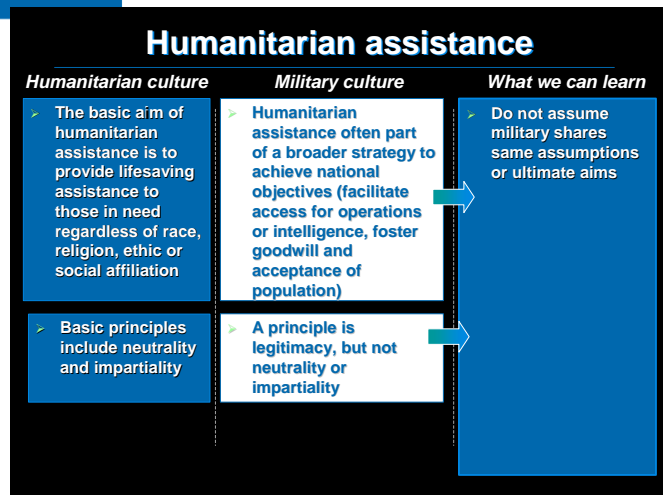
Difference in “Decision-making” between the *Humanitarian culture* and *Military culture*



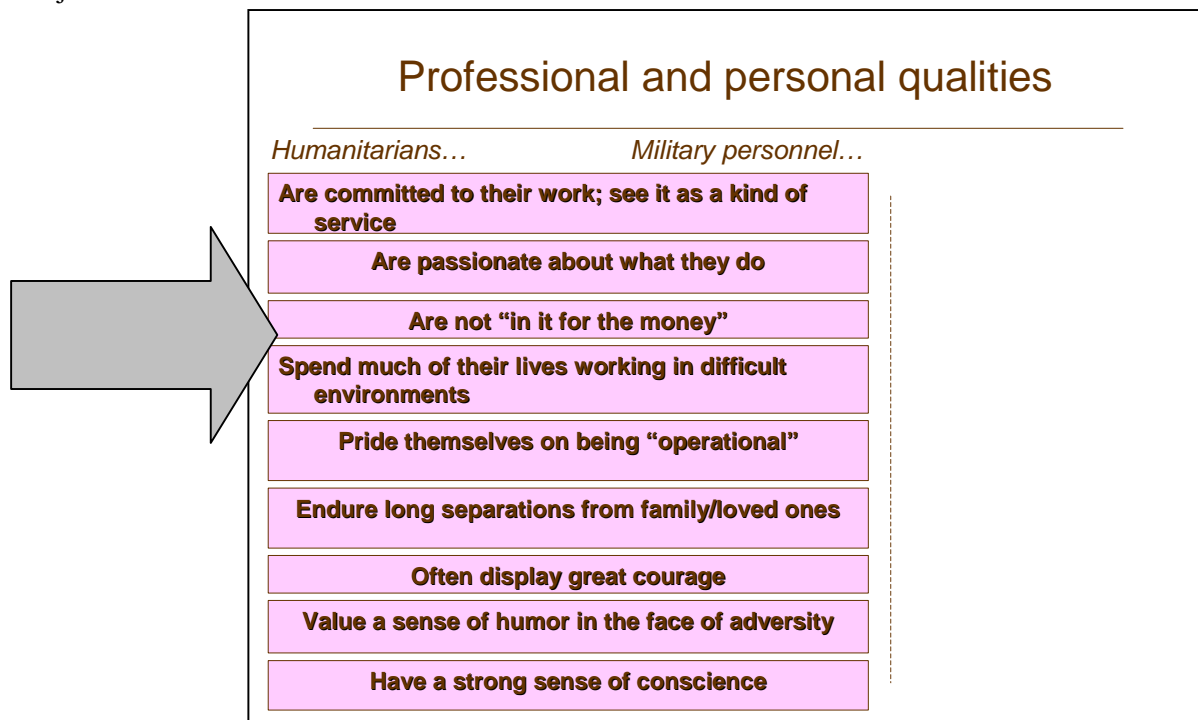


Difference in “Styles of Communication” between the *Humanitarian culture* and *Military culture*

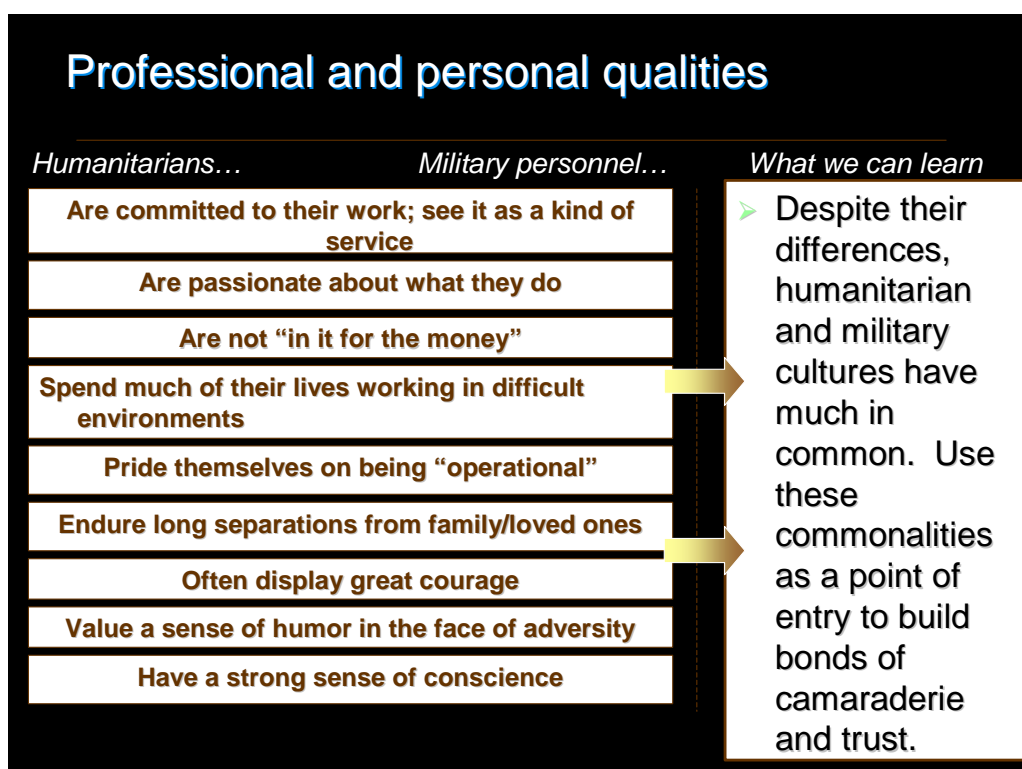
Difference in principles and operation aims of “Humanitarian Assistance” between the *Humanitarian culture* and *Military culture*



What about the difference in “Professional and Personal Qualities” of the Humanitarians and Military Personnel? Would there be any significant difference in their personalities or their attitudes toward their jobs?



We are all human beings... they are both similar to each other in their professional and personal qualities. So what can we learn from this “similarity” rather than the “difference”?



Questions ?



US Army photo

How do you regard co-operation with military forces ?

Summary

- Always consider the impact of cooperation on impartiality and neutrality
- Consider whether there are other means to accomplish the task
- Military and humanitarian cultures and objectives are different—this can cause difficulties....
- But, you have more in common that you may think, -- you can learn much from each other...
- Be aware of differing perspective, strengths and weaknesses – and keep a positive attitude!

